

Nailsea and District Croquet Club
Minutes of committee Meeting held on 19th June 2023

Present: S. Durston, A. Wimshurst, G. McCausland, S.Morgan, E.Malaiperuman, D.Hunt

Apologies: P.Arbos, B.Roynon

Minutes of the last meeting: Agreed and signed by Steve

Matters Arising:

- The Burco has been sold. We have two new dispensing thermoses, yet to be used.

Treasurer's Report: noted and discussed

1. Richard Broad (archivist) has purchased a memory device for £58.00
2. A concrete plinth for the water tank has been installed at a cost of £2280.00
3. David has, at the request of the Valuation Office Agency, given details of the club's lease of the lawns and pavilion in connection with a review of Business Rates.
4. We are now registered with Defra as a User of Planr Protection Products. The registration is solely in respect of the application by a third party contractor of weed killer.
5. Our insurance is due for renewal at the end of July. After renewal David suggests that we take a close look at whether our present policy reflects the our current requirements. Paul Arbos has experience in this area, this will be discussed with Paul on his return from holiday.

Steve and Erica to source a cash card machine which will be fit for our purposes. i.e. small amounts by different people, no mobile phone needed. (cost per per purchase to be around 1.69% as in other clubs)

Membership Report:

One new interested player having lessons with Steve. Keen to join.

The exact number of U25 players needs to be ascertained. Linda will contact coaches

Property Report:

The work morning on the 9th was attended by 9 members, the youngest was James and the oldest was Terry at 90 years.

We managed to:

Cut the carpark and outfield, strim around stop boards, cut and tidy the bushes and clear the ivy from the pavilion.

New boundary boards: We have been offered 3 old flooring boards which can be used for boundary boards around the new irrigation plinth. Erica to collect. Steve to discuss with Brian John and Tony. At present old plastic containers are around the pinth to stop balls going into the hedge.

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Social

The first social booking took place on the 13th June with 12 people from the 24 intended turning up. Everyone enjoyed the experience and as they are a new group we can hope they will return another year.

The club made £90 less £2.50 for the milk and biscuits.
Thank you to Steve and Graham for their assistance to run the event.
1 new booking has been confirmed.

Reverse parking: Peter has suggested that reverse parking would reduce the amount of contamination from exhaust pipes. Steve to ask members to park in this way if possible.
(monthly update)

Lawn management:

- Golf hoop holes will be put in place when there has been more rain.
- Finding volunteers who will continue the work of John Wallace :

The committee have a plan in place for this coming year to complete the necessary spraying, irrigation and tea compost spraying that John has put in place.

However, this is not an answer to how we can maintain the lawns to the present standard in the future. Raising subs and using contractors is not an option for our members. we must have a plan for going forward which takes into account the age and number of our members and their attitude and commitment towards volunteering.

Recruitment: Kathy's report read and noted. See below

As Kathy says, we cant allow our coaches to spend precious time coaching with nothing to show for it.

“It has been a disappointing season on this front. The coaches have expended huge amounts of time and energy and we have nothing to show for it. Should we ask new people to join the club for, say, £100 before they are entitled to lessons? Perhaps the first lesson could then be on the basis of money returned if they aren't happy. We do need the payment in first though, or it will be abused and we will spend the year giving free tasters to people just wanting a day out or an “experience”. For myself, I have decided to have time off from coaching.” Kathy

The committee feel that we must try and find a better solution to recruit and keep new players. We hope to pool ideas from the coaches and players who have come through our system, at the end of the season. It may be that we need a completely new approach.

League Fixtures: For all results look on SWCF website.

Competitions and Tournaments. Kathy's notes read and discussed.

Timed advantage golf games will be needed for the semi finals and finals. Graham will liase with players and Kathy to come up with a satisfactory conclusion and instruct the players on how to play and score a timed game.

Tournaments Kathy's notes read and discussed

- **August 12th/13th Open Advanced Tournament** – Marcus to organise volunteers to help set up lawns, etc. He will also organise lunches and refreshments. (At present, 3 need lunches)

- **August 15th B lass GC tournament.** - Steve and Andrew to manage the tournament and find volunteers to help set up and put away lawns. **Graham** in overall charge of lawn management for the tournament. **Sandra** to organise refreshments.

Safeguarding: There are legal reasons why we should have a record of all the U18 players. **Marcus** to send details to Linda.

Linda has successfully completed the on-line training for role as LSO and am in the process of writing up the notes and considering the implications it has for us.

A.O.B.

D.O.N.M. .

July 18th. 9.30 in the club house

Signed as a true and accurate account

Name and Signature.....

Kathy's recruitment and tournaments and competition reports

It continues to be difficult to find people to help with lawn work at tournaments. With the complete dearth of willing volunteers to ever do anything, it's not easy to organise an event. Most members just aren't interested in tournaments. They do however expect there always to be lawns and hoops, and a clean clubhouse etc for them when they want to play croquet. Many also expect competitions for them to enter. The situation just isn't fair and has become much worse in recent times. Some members need to learn a few home truths..

I would like to remind the Committee that a year ago, I withdrew from all involvement in the two August tournaments, apart from co-ordinating the list of entries for the GC event. This still stands for 2023. The Committee agreed some time ago that each manager would organise the help required for his/her tournament. As manager, I did the May Tournament rota. I also did the June Tournament as it's difficult for Robert who isn't at the Club much and doesn't know enough members.

I have no idea what bookings for lawn preparation, or arrangements for GC Club Afternoon have been made for the week of the August GC Tournament. I would recommend that all the halfway markers are put in place on the Monday evening. It's a time-consuming job and I believe that it was done late on the Tuesday morning last year. The balls should be swapped over before the hoops are set - another Monday job.

I am unsure whether Graham is still in overall charge of lawn preparation for tournaments or whether Tony H is still in overall charge of mowing

Recruitment

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For myself, I have decided to have time off from coaching.

Kathy Wallace 15 June 2023