

MINUTES OF THE CROQUET SECTION COMMITTEE MEETING		
HELD ON MONDAY 6th November 2023		
1	Present: Sue Dent, Ed Dolphin, Marian Gadian, Peter Nelson, Peter Regan, Richard Thurlow.	
2	Apologies: Julie Sorrell	
3	Minutes The minutes of 2 nd October 2023 were approved.	Action
4	Matters arising I. Investigation of installing a semi-permanent shelter between lawns 2 and 3 is ongoing.	PN, RT
5	Feedback I The AGM ran smoothly with 49 members attending, 35 staying on for the meal which was enjoyed greatly. It was unfortunate that details of the Christmas meal were not available in time. II Alan Gadian has taken over Duncan Hasell's finance role while Peter Nelson has taken charge of the Section's Cash Fund cash box. Roger Mills and Chris Donovan had also offered and thanks for their offer were noted. III £154 was raised for Colin Whitehall on his retirement, this was made up to £200 from the Section's Cash Fund. £50 from the Section's Cash Fund will be passed to Toby as a Christmas gift. IV Toby has been granted a full time contract as groundsman with basic pay and performance related bonuses. Discussions are ongoing between the three club sections on a work schedule for different areas of the grounds. V All trophies have now been engraved. Choice of engravers will be reviewed next year.	
6	Christmas Lunch I Details are still not finalised, members will be sent a reminder to save the date while the Belmont is contacted.	SD
7	SWF AGM I. Ed will be the sole delegate. II. Ed is mandated to vote in favour of all 8 proposals and the election of the committee. III. We await the application form for club membership of the SWF for 2024. The form will be forwarded to Sue.	ED ED, SD
8	SWF Leagues I Entries are expected to be unchanged from last year providing a manager can be found for the SC team, Richard Wood will be notified. II Kelvin Dent is prepared to manage the Intermediate team but the other AC 9-18 handicap players will be asked if they would like to do so. III A new manager is needed for the SC team. Richard Croft has been asked to canvass team members.	SD SD

9	<p>Open Tournaments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I It was decided that the late June AC Advanced HC event will not run. II The possible reduction in entry places for the AC Midsummer HC Tournament was put on hold pending a possible group entry from Yorkshire. This will be settled early in the year to allow a decision on how many lawns will be booked. III The GC Teams event is fixed at 11/12th May. IV It was agreed that we will bid for the final of the English National GC Competition, the Ascot Cup, to be held on 19/20th September 2026. V It was agreed that we will bid for the England Spain GC International match to be held on 19/20th June 2026. 	PN
10	<p>2024 Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I The draft programme was reviewed. II Jane Babbage will be asked to manage the AC Seagull against Budleigh. III There will be no Finals Weekend in 2024. IV There will be a Spring Social event, possibly a lunch. V The Taster Session will be Saturday 6th April. Manager to be decided at a later date. VI Richard will manage the Charity One Ball event. VII Richard will manage the Wine and Buffet event for one more time, Marian will work with him with a view to taking over. VIII The revised format for the Skills Afternoon will be repeated. Marian will organise tea and cakes. 	SD MG JS RT, MG MG
11	<p>Hut 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I Philip and Marian are now supervising the catering. II Members will be invited to help with an end of season clean up. III It was decided that the gate leg table will be replaced with a built in kitchen base unit paid for from the Chair's discretionary allowance. 	RT RT
12	<p>Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I The possibility of a winter SC competition will be explored. II A summer block SC competition will be arranged. III Guidance on the internal competitions' eligibility will be reviewed. IV The possibility of further coffee drop-in sessions will be explored. V It was decided that only players with existing club level play will be accepted as new members before the start of next season. 	RT RT RT, MG MG
	<p>The date of the next meeting will be Monday 4th December at 10.00 at Red Leaf, Knowle Drive.</p> <p>The first meeting of 2024 will be Monday 8th January.</p>	

MINUTES OF THE CROQUET SECTION COMMITTEE MEETING		
HELD ON MONDAY 4th December 2023		
1	Present: Sue Dent, Ed Dolphin, Marian Gadian, Peter Nelson, Peter Regan, Richard Thurlow.	
2	Apologies: Julie Sorrell	
3	Minutes The minutes of 6 th November 2023 were approved with minor amendments.	Action
4	<p>Matters arising</p> <p>II. The possibility of a permanent rather than a removable shelter for lawn 2 is being investigated.</p> <p>III. Alan has taken over the section finances. Peter Nelson will arrange to hand over the paying in card.</p> <p>IV. We have received a thank you card from Colin Whitehall. A card and £50 Christmas gift will be given to Toby.</p> <p>V. It was agreed that we will recommend that Toby's wage is raised to at least the official Living Wage plus a performance bonus. A letter will be sent to the Main Club Chairman.</p> <p>VI. It was agreed that the responsibilities structure of the committee will be reviewed in January.</p> <p>VII. The hut 3 clean up will be on Wednesday 6th December. There was a limited but sufficient response. The mugs and glasses will be put through a dishwasher. Rob Matthews and his group have cleaned the garden tool store.</p> <p>VIII. A trial coffee drop in session will be held on Monday 11th December and hopefully on a weekly basis through the winter season. The first session will be free then a £1 charge to cover the costs. The sessions will be reviewed with consultation of the members.</p>	<p>RT PN</p> <p>PN</p> <p>SD</p> <p>ED</p> <p>MG</p> <p>MG</p>
5	<p>Forthcoming Events</p> <p>VI There are 42 people booked for the Christmas Lunch. Diners will collect a named place card with their menu choices on the back as they arrive, they will then use that to reserve a seat at table. Coffee will be served in the residents' lounge after the meal. It was decided that, if the coffee has not been included in the price, the Section Cash Fund will cover the cost. The event was over subscribed and some people are having a refund.</p>	JS
6	<p>CA/CE Membership</p> <p>II Jon Ball and Philip Harris have recorded 99 playing members out 107 actual members for CE Associate Membership at a total cost of £1,683.</p>	
7	<p>Grounds and Lawns</p> <p>IV. Switching the open lawns is scheduled for 13th December, weather permitting.</p> <p>V. One lawn will be set for short croquet each Friday.</p> <p>VI. The regular group of players on Mondays are rotating their time on the lawn to stay within the recommended maximum.</p> <p>VII. The meeting with Richard from Budleigh Salterton is still to be arranged.</p>	<p>PN</p> <p>ED</p>

	VIII. Andrew will be consulted on preparing a written maintenance schedule for the lawns.	
8	SWF IV The SWF AGM was very long and Ed had to leave after 2 hours before the voting was completed. The minutes have not been published yet. V Kelvin Dent has agreed to manage the AC Intermediate Team. VI We have not entered a team for the SC League because of a lack of manager.	
9	Open Tournaments VI The open tournaments for 2024 as agreed previously have been sent to Croquet England. VII We will bid to host the GC Ascot Cup competition in 2026.	ED
10	GMC IX We welcome the appointment of a new Chairman and Treasurer for the main club. X It was agreed that we will propose a membership fee increase for 2024 of £12 if applied to all sections. XI It was agreed that items to be included in a capital expenditure bid for the next 3 years would include: a. Sets of primary and secondary colour balls, one set of 4+4 per year. b. A set of hoops for one lawn each year. c. New doors for hut 3. d. A permanent shelter for lawn 2 subject to planning approval.	
11	2024 Programme IV The Charity One Ball is in support of the British Heart Foundation. V The Treasure Hunt is in hand. VI The programme will be circulated to members after Christmas. VII A programme of occasional talks to bring members together and to make better winter use of the pavilion will be explored.	JS ED MG
12	Other Business VI The council is considering changing the Fortfield Terrace parking to pay as you go with a 2 hour limit. This may impact on space availability. Our concerns will be registered. VII Sue was pleased to report that she and Muriel had a delightful meeting with Nancy Temple who was on excellent form in her new residence. A Christmas card will be sent.	PN PN
	The date of the next meeting will be Monday 8 th January at 10.00 at-Redleaf, Knowle Drive. The meeting after that will be Monday 5 th February. The first Mondays of April and May will be Bank Holidays.	

MINUTES OF THE CROQUET SECTION COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 8th JANUARY 2024		
1	Present: Sue Dent, Ed Dolphin, Marian Gadian, Peter Nelson, Peter Regan, Richard Thurlow. Andrew Thomas joined the meeting briefly to discuss changes to Hut 3.	
2	Apologies: none	
3	Minutes The minutes of 4 th December 2023 were approved.	Action
4	<p>Matters arising</p> <p>IX. A Post Office account has been opened for the Section's Cash Fund.</p> <p>X. Toby was very grateful when he received his Christmas gift.</p> <p>XI. Thanks were offered to those who helped with the clean up of Hut 3.</p> <p>XII. The coffee drop in was very successful and they will be held weekly until the start of the season. More volunteers will be needed to facilitate this. The catering manager Jackie Yeabsley will be consulted about a key to the kitchen for Marian.</p> <p>XIII. It was decided that we will join with Budleigh to bid for the 2026 GC Top 8 Competitions in preference to the Ascot Cup decided at the previous meeting. The Ascot Cup bid will stand if the Top 8 bid fails.</p> <p>XIV. The proposal for a membership fee to increase from £193 to £205 was submitted to the GMC. The Cricket section have submitted a much higher increase from £125 to £160.</p> <p>XV. The issue of bar management is ongoing.</p> <p>XVI. The Charity One Ball is for the benefit of the British Heart Foundation, Richard will manage the event.</p> <p>XVII. The Laidlers have decided to retire from running a Walking Treasure Hunt. A message of appreciation for their past efforts has been sent.</p> <p>XVIII. The date for the Spring Lunch has been moved to Tuesday 26th March if caterers can be found.</p> <p>XIX. The Yearly Programme will be circulated now and with the membership pack in March.</p> <p>XX. The Croquet Section's complaint about the Fortfield Terrace parking has contributed to the Council amending the proposal.</p> <p>XXI. Peter Regan was thanked for the detailed plans drawn up. Various possibilities for a lawn 2 shelter were discussed. It was agreed that the first step will be to dig out the flower bed and replace the retaining timbers and the existing floor which are now rotten. Thanks to Andrew Thomas, Peter Regan and Richard Thurlow for all their work on this. The GMC will be consulted.</p> <p>XXII. A work schedule for maintaining the croquet lawns will be drawn up for inclusion in Toby's Responsibilities list.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">MG/PN</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ED</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SD</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SD</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SD</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SD</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SD</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PN</p>

5	<p>Feedback</p> <p>VII The Christmas Lunch was a success. 42 people enjoyed an excellent meal.</p> <p>VIII Flowers were presented to Julie Sorrell.</p> <p>IX Next year the seat allocation and catering for diabetics will be reviewed.</p> <p>X It was agreed that we will make a provisional booking for 50 places ideally for Tuesday 10th December 2024 with The Belmont.</p>	MG
6	<p>South West Federation</p> <p>I. We have paid £17 club membership fee and £103 team registration.</p> <p>II. At the AGM, it was decided that the AC Intermediate League will be played from Base 6 but the Federation league remains normal handicap. Pairings for singles games in the Federation League will be by random draw with correction to avoid repeat pairings.</p> <p>III. There has been a good response to the call for GC teams but several members only wish to play home matches. Team practice sessions will be arranged after the season start.</p> <p>IV. We will be hosting the SWF Short Croquet Final on Sunday 22nd September.</p> <p>V. Peter Regan reported receiving 12 expressions of interest to date for his GC leagues. Some do not want to travel.</p>	
7	<p>Social Secretary</p> <p>IX. Julie Sorrell has stood down from the Committee as well as Social Secretary. A message of thanks will be sent. Marian Gadian will take on the role.</p> <p>X. It was agreed that Julie's spreadsheet will be accepted as a record for the cash to be passed to the Club.</p>	SD
8	<p>New Season's Documents</p> <p>I. Jon Ball will be asked to work up the Subscription documents for the February committee meeting, to be signed off in March and be issued on 7th March. Returns required by 31st March.</p> <p>II. Similar timescales requested for the Internal Tournament details and Entry forms</p> <p>III. Discussion of the Taster Session was deferred until the next meeting.</p>	SD RT
9	<p>AOB</p> <p>VIII The Winter Short Croquet Tournament should be starting soon.</p>	
	<p>The date of the next meeting will be Monday 5th February.</p> <p>The first Mondays of April and May will be Bank Holidays and the meetings for those months will be 8th April and 13th May.</p>	

MINUTES OF THE CROQUET SECTION COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 6th FEBRUARY 2024		
	Present: Sue Dent, Ed Dolphin, Marian Gadian, Peter Regan, Richard Thurlow.	
1	Apologies: Peter Nelson	
2	Minutes The minutes of 8 th January 2024 were approved.	Action
3	<p>Matters arising</p> <p>XXIII. The Monday Coffee Mornings are going very well. They will continue until the start of club roll ups. The extra bookings to be put in the diary. All club members will be invited to come along.</p> <p>XXIV. Toby's lawn maintenance schedule is now in place.</p> <p>XXV. The Belmont is closed currently and so the Christmas meal has not been booked yet.</p> <p>XXVI. Julie has been reimbursed, she has returned her keys, and she appreciated the letter of thanks.</p>	MG SD
4	<p>Forthcoming Events</p> <p>XI There is no caterer available for the Quiz. Tea and cake will be provided for a nominal cost.</p> <p>XII As there is no caterer, a decision on the Spring Lunch was deferred until the next meeting.</p>	MG/SD
5	<p>South West Federation</p> <p>VI. The SWF league matches have been set. A copy will be posted in Hut 3.</p> <p>VII. We will not be hosting the SC Final in September.</p> <p>VIII. Details from the GC Advantage Zoom have been circulated. Ed will continue to represent Sidmouth at future Zoom meetings.</p>	SD ED
6	<p>GMC</p> <p>XI. The membership fee has been increased by £10.</p> <p>XII. The section's capital expenditure, including the gate and replacement door, has been approved.</p> <p>XIII. The Bradford's invoice for building materials will be checked when it is paid.</p> <p>XIV. The issue of ground ownership is still unresolved.</p> <p>XV. There will be a major tennis event on June 1st but practicalities remain unresolved.</p>	PR
7	<p>Cash Fund</p> <p>IV. A statement presented on behalf of Peter was noted.</p>	
8	<p>Taster Session</p> <p>IX The session will be 10.00 on Saturday 6th April. The arrangements will be the same as last year.</p> <p>X The banner will be displayed on the Station Road fence subject to GMC approval. Notices will be sent to the Herald and Sid Valley Radio.</p>	RT

	<p>XI A price will be sought for a Croquet section flag banner.</p> <p>XII Coaching sessions will run to a similar programme as last year beginning Thursday 18th April.</p> <p>XIII Sessions for younger people will be explored with local schools when the season is underway with a possible link to Duke of Edinburgh Awards.</p>	<p>RT</p> <p>RT, ED</p> <p>MG</p>
9	<p>New Season Documents</p> <p>I The membership pack is in progress. Jon and Alan will need to discuss how payments are tracked and how cash and cheques are handled if not paid electronically.</p> <p>II Richard was thanked for his revision of the internal tournaments paperwork. Any comments need to be sent to Richard in time for amendments to be ready for distribution. A guide for inexperienced members on which tournament s might be suitable will be included.</p> <p>III It was agreed that we will run a new SC Block competition with matches being best of 3, but the 3 games can be played over more than one session. A trophy will be decided later.</p> <p>IV A reminder about GC handicaps has been circulated.</p> <p>V The New Season Information is to be updated</p>	<p>SD</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>RT</p> <p>SD</p>
10	<p>Match Expenses</p> <p>I It was agreed that nominated drivers for away matches will be entitled to claim travel expenses from the Section Cash Fund according to an updated version of the previously used list of amounts for each away venue. In the unlikely event that the Cash Fund cannot meet the demand, this will be covered by the Section budget.</p> <p>II It was agreed that visiting teams will be offered free tea, coffee and biscuits, and home captains will be reimbursed up to £10 from the Tea Fund if they provide cakes, subject to the need for a receipt.</p>	<p>SD</p>
11	<p>AOB</p> <p>I It was agreed that we will accommodate a taster session for Primley WI later in the season, with usual charge of £5 per head.</p> <p>II A decision on the purchase of two storage units was deferred until next meeting.</p> <p>III Bradfords will be approached to see if they can provide a second hand kitchen unit for hut 3.</p> <p>IV Membership cards have been supplied.</p> <p>V Julie will be asked if she has a template for participation cards.</p> <p>VI 19 people have come forward for the GC teams.</p> <p>VII The funeral and wake for Shiela Adams was well attended and the club's provision was appreciated by the family.</p>	<p>ED</p> <p>MG</p> <p>MG</p> <p>SD</p>
	<p>The date of the next meeting will be Monday 4th March.</p> <p>The first Mondays of April and May will be Bank Holidays and the meetings for those months will be 8th April and 13th May.</p>	

MINUTES OF THE CROQUET SECTION COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 8TH APRIL 2024

Present: Sue Dent, Ed Dolphin, Peter Regan, Richard Thurlow.

1	Apologies, Marian Gadian, Peter Nelson	
2	The Minutes of the meeting on 4 th March were approved.	Action
3	<p>Matters Arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I The chair locker is in place. The receipt has gone to Myles for payment. II It was agreed that it was not worth buying a card reader for the section. III There has been no response positive or negative to the team travel arrangements. The £100 float has not been arranged yet. IV Distribution of the participation cards has been deferred for a few weeks. 	MG
4	<p>Feedback</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I The afternoon quiz was very successful with 32 people attending and generous donations of cakes. II The taster session was very successful with over 40 people turning up and 20 people either signing up for coaching or showing interest with arrangements to be made later. Talking with people showed that the Herald articles were a good source of possible recruits. Points to note, lawn repair tools and more mugs should be available. It was agreed that 20 copies of the Know the Game book will be ordered and email addresses will be collected at the coaching sessions. III The coffee and chat sessions are coming to their end and have been a great success with particular thanks going to Marian and Margaret. 	MG, ED, RT
5	<p>Forthcoming Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I Arrangements for the new member coaching are in place. Lawns 3 & 4 will be booked. An arrangement needs to be made for the 30th April because of a GC match on the same day. II Seventeen people have signed up for the Charity One Ball. III Amanda Haste will present the trophy for the Haste Cup Open Tournament on 20/21st April. IV Everything is ready for club sessions to begin on Monday 22nd April. V The spring lunch has 19 people booked. VI The GC Team Challenge is ready to go. 	ED
6	<p>GMC feedback</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I The club has secured catering and bar management. II The new defibrillator has been installed. 	
7	<p>Finance</p> <p>I. It was agreed the section social fund will cover free refreshments for the new member coaching.</p>	
8	<p>General updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I To date 86 people have paid their membership, 6 have not renewed for a number of different reasons. 	

	<p>II Internal tournament entries have been collated. It was agreed that the high HC Devonia, Ladies' Fermor, and Woodward competitions would not run. Attempts will be made to secure more entries to the GC MacAdam.</p> <p>III The rough sleeper appears to have moved on.</p> <p>IV An experimental training programme for GC high HC players will be tried with the GC Team Development afternoons.</p> <p>V An isolation switch for the external socket has been installed in the kitchen area of hut 3.</p> <p>VI The under-sink water filter has been cleaned. It was agreed that there was no justification for an upgrade to the main filter system and its certification.</p> <p>VII The CqE Tournament Committee has allocated the GC 1st Eight to us and the 2nd and 3rd Eights to Budleigh for the 29th-31st August 2026. With the AC President's Cup in 2025, that means Sidmouth has the top competitions for the two codes on consecutive years, a significant accolade for our facilities.</p> <p>VIII It was agreed that we will not add a CqE Handicap Event to our calendar.</p> <p>IX Three members have signed up for SWF training to become Club level Coaches.</p> <p>X Several recently joined members are coming forward to help with events which is good news.</p>	<p>RT</p> <p>ED</p>
<p>9</p>	<p>Individual Committee Members' Matters & AOB</p> <p>I Recruitment for the GC teams is progressing but has revealed the need for SWF to remind clubs that they should review players' handicaps as well as relying on automatic points scores. This is particularly important for players who whose handicaps have not moved either because they play very few competitive games or they play mainly doubles, but their skills have improved because they have played a lot of uncounted games. Beginners start at 14.</p> <p>II A Budleigh member recently made a point of passing on thanks for the friendly matches that have been organised.</p> <p>III Members to be asked to supply more details on lawn booking.</p>	<p>ED</p> <p>SD</p>

The date of the next meeting will be Monday 13th May.

Several people will be unavailable for 3rd June, it was agreed the June meeting will be on Monday 10th.

MINUTES OF THE CROQUET SECTION COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 13th MAY 2024

Present: Sue Dent, Ed Dolphin, Marian Gadian, Peter Nelson, Peter Regan, Richard Thurlow.

1	Apologies	
2	The Minutes of the meeting on 8 th April were approved.	Action
3	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>I Richard has been reimbursed for the chair locker.</p> <p>II Membership cards have been issued.</p> <p>III The GC improvers' training is ongoing and popular.</p> <p>IV It was decided that there was no call to upgrade the hut 3 water filter.</p>	
4	<p>Feedback</p> <p>I The Coffee Morning season has concluded and was considered a great success with a lovely atmosphere created. It is unsure if it will be possible next winter because of changes to the catering arrangements.</p> <p>II The new member coaching was disrupted by the weather but appreciated greatly by the participants. Spare Know the Game books will be stored by Sue. New members will be contacted next month to see how they are progressing. Note for next year, collect contact details at the Taster Day.</p> <p>III The One Ball competition was won by Jane Bell and the Haste Cup Stuart Smith, the GC Team Challenge was won by Budleigh's SAS, Sidmouth Sharks were a close second.</p> <p>IV There was some feedback from the Spring Lunch and this has been discussed with the relevant people.</p>	SD, RT, ED
5	<p>Forthcoming Events</p> <p>I The Medics are fielding a team of ten. Sue will manage, it is hoped Pam will be well enough to help.</p> <p>II The Dorothy Toye competition has 14 entries and will be played in two blocks.</p> <p>III The Canton Trophy only has 5 entries confirmed.</p> <p>IV Arrangements for the AC for experienced GC players will be set to suit numbers. A reminder will be sent out.</p> <p>V Arrangements are in place for the new members' evening. Vouchers for a free drink will be given out at the door and covered by the money from the coffee mornings. A reminder will be sent out.</p> <p>VI A flyer advertising the Wine and Buffet Evening will be circulated.</p>	SD MG RT RT
6	<p>Finance</p> <p>I. The cash float and tea and coffee fund are still in surplus.</p> <p>II. A system for cashless payments will need to be in place at some point in the future.</p>	

7	<p>General updates</p> <p>I To date 103 people have enrolled as members, 12 have not renewed for a number of different reasons. Additional new members are expected</p> <p>II GC club sessions are attracting up to 30 people, thanks to Roz Bradley who is standing for Pam at present.</p> <p>III Sue is the only member who can make the SWF Coaching Course.</p> <p>IV April Arnatt is keen to do more for the club and will be approached to join the committee.</p> <p>V More volunteers are needed for the Chairman's Garden.</p> <p>VI The possibility of a board/table games afternoon will be explored.</p>	<p>SD</p> <p>SD</p> <p>MG</p>
8	<p>Individual Committee Members' Matters & AOB</p> <p>I The issue of advertising banners on the outer fence was discussed.</p> <p>II A reminder that we need people to fill in the names of players when booking courts will be circulated.</p> <p>III GC A level tournament is fully booked. The Open GC tournament is fully booked. The GC C level has 15/16 entries, the B level is full with two reserves. The Open GC tournament is fully booked.</p> <p>IV There are only 7 entries for the AC Midsummer HC tournament but 14 for the Class Singles. The B Level Advanced AC Tournament has 12/16 entries.</p> <p>V The lawn bookings for tournaments will be adjusted if it is possible to free up lawns.</p> <p>VI It was noted that we need to be training more people to manage tournaments.</p> <p>VII It was agreed that Marian will explore the possibility of developing a youth section for the club.</p> <p>VIII The committee supported the creation of a flag for the Festival of Flags but considered it should represent the whole SCTCC and the timescales were likely to be too tight for summer 2024. Margaret Regan to be consulted.</p>	<p>ED</p> <p>PN</p> <p>MG</p> <p>SD</p>

The date of the next meeting will be Monday 10th June.

Several people will be unavailable for early July, it was agreed the July meeting will be on Monday 22nd.

MINUTES OF THE CROQUET SECTION COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 10th JUNE 2024

Present: Sue Dent, Ed Dolphin, Marian Gadian, Peter Nelson, Peter Regan, Richard Thurlow.

1	Apologies	
2	The Minutes of the meeting on 13 th May were approved.	Action
3	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>I Peter Norman has joined the volunteers caring for the Chairman's Garden.</p> <p>II The confusion over the community group banner on the fence has been resolved.</p> <p>III The board game sessions have been deferred until the autumn.</p>	MG
4	<p>Feedback</p> <p>I The Medics visit went well, it was better for having been moved to a Thursday to avoid club sessions.</p> <p>II The Dorothy Toye Short Croquet tournament suffered from late withdrawals but was still enjoyed by the players.</p> <p>III There was a small turnout for the AC for GC players.</p> <p>IV The new members' evening was enjoyed by all who attended.</p> <p>V The Canton Trophy AC 14 point tournament has been cancelled for this year.</p> <p>VI The GC A-level tournament was a success.</p> <p>VII The AC Midsummer tournament was a mix, the HC entry was disappointing and will be reviewed next year, the level play tournament was a success and won by Roger Mills.</p>	
5	<p>Forthcoming Events</p> <p>I The Corbett Spoons One Ball event has drawn a disappointing entry particularly among low HC players.</p> <p>II The wine and shared buffet evening is in hand.</p> <p>III The Cunningham Salver and Hatherley Cup GC events have attracted disappointing entries. Richard will brief Peter Regan who is managing his first event.</p> <p>IV There is insufficient interest to run the AC skills afternoon event. The GC event is to be reformatted as a 'Skills Competition' on lawn 3 as part of the Wednesday morning roll yup. Philip to manage this event and send an email.</p> <p>V The GC Open Series event in July is in hand.</p> <p>VI The AC HC Doubles event in July will be before the next meeting but is in hand.</p>	RT, PR PH
6	<p>Finance</p> <p>I The travel petty cash is working. A budget will need to be devised in the future as the fund is depleted.</p> <p>II A tea and coffee honesty system to cater for members who do not carry cash will need to be considered at some point in the future.</p>	SD SD

7	Membership updates I To date we have 107 members including only 8 from the 40+ who attended the taster event.	
8	Youth Section I New CqE requirements mean any organised youth coaching scheme will need to be led by a CqE recognised youth level coach. II There has been no response from the College. It was decided that it would not be appropriate to try the primary school. But the International School and Exeter University will be approached.	ED MG
9	CqE Diplomas I. It was decided that we will not propose any Diploma recipients this year.	
10	Catering Issues I. The kitchen is now running to the satisfaction of the club's catering overseer. II. There has been a request for sections to consider running more social events in the pavilion. There will be a rounders event on 29 th August and a jazz event on 28 th September. III. The large scale tennis event postponed from this summer will now be on Sunday May 18 th , 2025.	
11	Individual Committee Members' Matters & AOB I. The GC league is showing some progress with player development. II. There is a problem with Dollar Spot fungus on lawn one, and an annual weed Slender Parsley-piert on lawns 2, 3 & 4. Toby has sought advice and is working to deal with them. III. Members are still not always filling in the booking page correctly. Another explanation and reminder will be circulated. IV. The wall of the Sidmouth Club adjacent to lawn one is to be painted but it should not interfere with play. Members will be alerted. V. Sue's Club Level Coaching course requires her to deliver 5 sessions, these will be offered to new members as an extension of their induction.	RT, ED RT SD

The date of the next two meetings will be Monday 22nd July and 2nd September

MINUTES OF THE CROQUET SECTION COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 22nd July 2024

Present: Ed Dolphin, Marian Gadian, Peter Nelson, Peter Regan.

1	Apologies Sue Dent, Richard Thurlow	
2	The Minutes of the meeting on 10 th June were approved.	Action
3	Matters Arising None	
4	<p>Feedback</p> <p>I The AC One Ball (Corbett Spoons), GC Handicap Singles (Cunningham Salver) and GC Level (Hatherley Cup) Tournaments all ran successfully thanks to the efforts of Richard and Peter R.</p> <p>II The Wine and Shared Buffet event benefitted from good weather and was well attended.</p> <p>III The reconfigured Skills Event was a great success in its new slot linked to a roll up, Philip reports that over 30 players competed and thanked Paul Bradley and Steve Pearson for their help. There was some discussion about whether it was better on lawn 2 or 3, it was agreed that lawn 3 meant more people being drawn into participation. Gill Powell and new member Alan Parrish were the winners.</p> <p>IV The CqE GC Open Series attracted a number of spectators from the club who enjoyed watching some high level play. The tournament manager commented that the lawns were very slow, something that was endorsed by Peter and Ed. There was a discussion about the progress of the lawn care regime which still hasn't caught up with the effects of the bad weather in April. One particular is that the verti-cutting is still only happening because Andrew is doing it. The matter will be referred to Andrew and Doug Yeabsley.</p> <p>V The AC Handicap Doubles (Colclough and Sidmouth Cups) did not run because of lack of support. It was agreed that the internal tournaments programme should be reviewed before the end of the season to allow good time for any changes to be planned.</p>	<p>ED</p> <p>SD</p>
5	<p>Forthcoming Events</p> <p>I The CqE AC B-level Tournament has 10 entries, two people have withdrawn because their handicaps have improved out of the permitted range.</p> <p>II The CqE GC C-level tournament is fully subscribed and the B-level is almost full. Sadly, there are very few entries from Sidmouth members.</p> <p>III Peter Regan is to manage the GC Handicap Doubles (Cunningham Salver and Cup) and Level Doubles (Salcombe and Peak Hill Cups). Peter will discuss the management with Richard. It was agreed that Sue would promote the competitions at a roll up session, with help from Marian.</p> <p>IV It was agreed that the Croquet Section General Meeting is a good idea. Topics could include the internal tournaments and the need for more volunteers at all levels of the club's activities.</p> <p>V The GC and AC Seagull matches are in hand.</p> <p>VI Members have been notified about the Christmas meal. It was agreed that drinks will not be included in the price and members will order their own on the day.</p>	<p>PR, SD, MG</p> <p>SD</p>

<p>6 Finance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I Small, unaccounted sums of money are still being put in the Hut 3 box, presumably guest fees. These will be added to the Section Cash Fund. II The Christmas meal needs a £400 deposit. This will be arranged between Alan Gadian and Peter Nelson. III Travel claims to mid-June totalled £153 and have been settled. IV The main club Quickbooks system is experiencing difficulties but the club treasurer is looking into it. 	<p>PN</p>
<p>7 Membership updates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I Two recently joined members have paid the reduced rate in line with the agreed policy. We also have two new junior members. II Philip Harris now has administrator rights on the membership system to assist Jon Ball. 	
<p>8 Youth Section</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I Ed will show his newly acquired DBS Certificate to Marian. II Marian will clarify if the junior members need to be accompanied by a responsible adult at roll-up sessions if neither she nor Ed are present. 	<p>ED MG</p>
<p>9 GMC Issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I 84 participation cards have been collected, this has been reported to the club treasurer. II The Tennis section has asked us to promote their two events, a Rounders Day on 29th August, and a Jazz Night on 28th September. III There will be changes to the catering and bar provision at the end of the season. Concerns were expressed that attendance at the AGM will be affected if there is no meal available. IV There will be a trial of a whole club newsletter. Sue will provide a contribution from our section. V The Main Club AGM will be on Saturday 28th September at 11am. 	<p>SD SD</p>
<p>10 Committee 2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I Committee members present said they are willing to continue for next year but there is an urgent need to recruit new volunteers. There is hope that several of last year's new members are taking a more active role. 	
<p>11 Individual Committee Members' Matters & AOB</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I The committee was delighted that a group of GC players want more organised sessions. It was agreed that lawns 2 & 3 will be block booked for a GC Roll up session 10-1 on Saturdays when there are no tournaments. Those attending will be responsible for any organisation. II An occasional visitor has offered to run a session inviting GC players to try AC but it would be difficult to fix arrangements and uptake for our own sessions shows there is limited appetite. III Daphne's funeral was attended by several club members and the family were very appreciative. 	<p>ED</p>

The date of the next two meetings will be Monday 2nd September and 7th October. The section AGM will be Tuesday 15th October at 6pm.

NOTES OF THE CROQUET SECTION OPEN MEETING

TUESDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER 2024

Purpose - to share information and receive suggestions for the year ahead.

40 members attended the meeting.

Lawns

- Ed described the potential impact of the Dollar Spot Fungus which may involve lawns being closed at short notice
- A request was made for the GC Club sessions to continue over the winter.

It was explained that 2 lawns will be closed on October 1st for winter maintenance so only 2 lawns will be available for play. As the weather may deteriorate there could be fewer attendees at the club sessions. Club sessions can continue and have been booked on the booking system. Lawns could be closed at short notice for bad weather. Please continue to assess if this is working reasonably for everyone.

When the clocks change on October 27th, our winter rules come into force to protect the lawns. Sessions begin at 10.30 and only 4 can play on a lawn at any one time. (Philip will issue the winter rules nearer the time.) This obviously poses difficulties for club sessions. Please talk amongst yourselves for possible solutions.

Suggestions received after the meeting were:

- a) divide the players into 2 groups, say names A-J able to play on a Monday, and K-Z on a Wednesday.
- b) ensure players wanting to play over the winter (especially those who are not computer literate) have contact details of others interested to join them in friendly games. Marian has offered to support those who struggle with IT.

Coaching

- suggestion made that a skills coaching session be held at the start of the year. Several members thought this could be useful. Philip will take this forward.

Internal Tournaments

- suggestion that additional competitions be held – maybe a knockout format - singles or doubles.

Little support received. Noted that as it is, players are not completing the blocks on time.

Finances

- Folk Week

100 members helped with parking and front of house duties. Mike Dibble sends his thanks. Over £56,000 was taken in car park and camper van fees. A donation of approximately £5,000 is given to the Festival committee. The net income was therefore over £50,000. Were it not for that income, our subscription fees would be much higher.

- The Cricket section is active in generating sponsorship from local organizations, totaling £17,000 this year. The SCTCC requests a member of the croquet section to join a subgroup to take this forward. Following the meeting John Cowling has offered to do this.
- The SCTCC is wishing to form a subgroup to include a croquet member to work up grant applications from national bodies. Richard Thurlow has offered to do this.

Volunteers

- The Chairman's Garden project beyond lawn 3 was set up by Rob and Liz Matthews with Mike Hide 17 years ago. There are regularly four other workers but extra volunteers are requested

please for alternate Thursday mornings from 9.30 am. The next sessions are 10th October and 24th October.

Social Matters

- Completed participation cards and handicap cards are required please. To be left in the boxes in hut 3.
- The Christmas Lunch menu was available to view. Orders will be taken at the AGM and details circulated at that time.
- The Coffee and Chat sessions will resume after the clocks change. A rota was circulated for signup starting on Monday October 28th.
- Marian, in response to a suggestion last year for a board games afternoon, is asking for ideas and helpers. An ideas sheet was circulated.
- A suggestion was made that, based on the success of the rounders event and jazz evening organized by the Tennis section but available to all sections, we as a croquet section could organize an event open to all. One idea is a coquet competitive evening with teams comprising a member from each section.

The Croquet Section AGM - Tuesday 15th October at 6pm

- The formal meeting will include the presentation of trophies for the Internal Tournaments. Roy Hubbard will be making those presentations. The bar will be open but we will not be offering a meal this year.
- At that meeting the committee is elected. We have only 6 members currently and are in need of two (or even three) GC players to join the committee. One role would specifically be to support Richard Thurlow in arranging the GC Internal Tournaments with a view to taking on the full role in future. The other would be a watching brief- to see how the committee functions and provide useful GC input and consider a more specific role next year. The vast majority of our members play GC, yet the committee and others performing essential roles are largely AC. This must change. Please sign up in the sheet outside hut 3 – a proposer and seconder can be found.

The SCTCC AGM – this Saturday 28th September at 11am

- The formal meeting will be followed by a presentation by Roger Mills on progress being made regarding the Ground Trust. This has huge significance for all our sections. I hope Roger will provide a paper which can be shared.

GC Handicaps

- Some members are aware there have been issues with GC handicaps towards the end of the playing season. The Handicap committee (which is independent of the main committee) will be considering options when they review handicap cards and may be re-assessing cards more frequently. Ed identified that Croquet England are considering alterations in how handicaps can be assessed and how doubles play can contribute to the scorecards.

Wearing Of White Clothing for Tournaments

- A view was expressed that where players wear whites their space is respected and they will not be troubled on the lawn. The general consensus was that white clothing is preferable but more casual clothing is allowed where an individual match is taking place.

SD 25/08/24

MINUTES OF THE CROQUET SECTION COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 2nd September 2024

Present: Sue Dent, Ed Dolphin, Marian Gadian, Peter Nelson, Peter Regan, Richard Thurlow.

1	Apologies	
2	The Minutes of the meeting on 22 nd July were approved.	Action
3	<p>Matters Arising</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discussion of next year's internal tournaments was deferred to the next meeting. 2. Our current junior members do not need special provision if they attend roll ups. 3. The rounders event was a success, 15 people from the croquet section took part. 4. It was agreed that we will not take up the offer of GC-AC coaching. 	
4	<p>Feedback</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The AC B Level event went well. 2. The GC B and C level events went well. Philip and Steve managed although this appeared to be a late decision. The situation needs to be clear next year. 3. There was a good response to the GC Doubles events. 4. SWF Leagues need to be reviewed, especially as teams are having to travel further afield because local clubs are dropping out. Next year Chris Donovan will take over the Advanced second team from Jane Babbage. 	
5	<p>Forthcoming Events</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The GC and AC Seagulls are coming up. It was agreed that it would be better if there was a signing up sheet in line with the AC event. 2. The preliminary email about the Christmas Lunch has been circulated. The deposit is yet to be sorted. 3. The GC A Level event at the end of September may need only three lawns, Peter Nelson is in discussion with Chris Roberts of CqE. 	<p style="text-align: center;">SD</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MG</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PN</p>
6	<p>Finance</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The cash fund stands at £881 with final travel claims to be paid before the end of the season. 2. The Social Fund is breaking even. 3. There are still issues with Alan accessing the main club Quickbooks system. 4. It was agreed that drivers who carry a whole team of more than four players to an away match may claim extra travel expenses if they need to. 	

7	Membership updates <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The latest membership list needs to be circulated. 2. The arrangements for welcoming new members joining mid-year need to be reviewed to ensure they receive all the necessary material. 	SD SD
8	Requests from members <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The request for winter GC roll ups will be discussed at the Open Meeting. Issues are, potential wear on the lawns needs to be controlled, only four players are allowed on a lawn in winter and there will be extended closures for maintenance, sometimes at short notice. 2. The morning timing for lawn closure notices needs to be clarified to avoid members arriving but being unable to play. 3. Difficulties with parking permits are to be discussed at GMC. It was agreed that we support allowing the tennis coach to park on site so that she does not take up a permit. 4. There was no support for a suggestion to have a CqE Diploma Honours Board. 	SD
9	Accident <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It was noted that all future structural, electrical and plumbing work should follow proper procedures of planning and signing off with the grounds manager. A paper will be prepared for the GMC November meeting. 2. The club's health and safety policy will be circulated to the committee. 	RT ED
10	GMC Issues <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. It was agreed that we will ask the GMC to ensure there is a clear plan for repair and maintenance of the lawns to deal with Dollar Spot fungus. II. There was no support for the idea that membership fees should rise significantly to finance a full time club manager. 	SD
11	General Meeting <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The informal general meeting will be at 4.00 on Tuesday 24th September. Members will be invited to raise issues in advance. 	SD
12	AGM <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The current committee members will continue next year but there is a need to prepare future replacements, particularly from the new GC playing members. 2. The role of internal tournament organiser will be shared into a GC and AC role. 3. Richard has sent apologies but he will not be attending to supervise the trophies on the night. Roy Hubbard will be invited to present the trophies. 4. Deceased former members include Shiela Adams, Ann Holbeche, John Davies and Daphne Snape. 	SD

	5. Fraser will be asked to open the bar and to prepare a buffet. If he is not able to offer the buffet we will organise our own either from Waitrose or by member donations as with the wine and buffet evening.	PN, MG
13	Individual Committee Members' Matters & AOB 1. The committee was delighted that several members have signed up to a new volunteer list to help manage the water and milk. 2. CqE Open Tournaments have earned the club £2,262 with a further £89 to be collected from Louise Smith. 3. A system for the sale of club clothing is to be investigated. 4. Managing the internal tournaments has been frustrating with some players withdrawing and others unable to complete their matches. Block tournament results will be reviewed to ensure the correct players go through to semi-finals and finals.	MG PN RT

The date of the next meeting will be Monday 7th October. The section AGM will be Tuesday 15th October at 6pm.