

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>	PN

	<p>VII. The meeting with Richard from Budleigh Salterton is still to be arranged.</p> <p>VIII. Andrew will be consulted on preparing a written maintenance schedule for the lawns.</p>	ED
8	<p>SWF</p> <p>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.</p> <p>V Kelvin Dent has agreed to manage the AC Intermediate Team.</p> <p>VI We have not entered a team for the SC League because of a lack of manager.</p>	
9	<p>Open Tournaments</p> <p>VI The open tournaments for 2024 as agreed previously have been sent to Croquet England.</p> <p>VII We will bid to host the GC Ascot Cup competition in 2026.</p>	ED
10	<p>GMC</p> <p>IX We welcome the appointment of a new Chairman and Treasurer for the main club.</p> <p>X It was agreed that we will propose a membership fee increase for 2024 of £12 if applied to all sections.</p> <p>XI It was agreed that items to be included in a capital expenditure bid for the next 3 years would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<p>2024 Programme</p> <p>IV The Charity One Ball is in support of the British Heart Foundation.</p> <p>V The Treasure Hunt is in hand.</p> <p>VI The programme will be circulated to members after Christmas.</p> <p>VII A programme of occasional talks to bring members together and to make better winter use of the pavilion will be explored.</p>	JS ED MG
12	<p>Other Business</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	PN PN
	<p>The date of the next meeting will be Monday 8th January at 10.00 at Redleaf, Knowle Drive.</p> <p>The meeting after that will be Monday 5th February.</p> <p>The first Mondays of April and May will be Bank Holidays.</p>	

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>MG/PN</p> <p>ED</p> <p>RT</p> <p>SD</p> <p>SD</p> <p>SD</p> <p>SD</p> <p>SD</p> <p>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>	