

MINUTES

CROQUET SECTION COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY NOVEMBER 5th 2018 at 9:30 am at 92, PEASLANDS ROAD

Present: Peter Nelson, Philip Harris, Julie Horsley, Julie Sorrell, Paul Bradley, Andrew Thomas, Chris Donovan, Penny Ball. Sue Dent attended as a non-committee member.

Apologies: Steve Pearson, David Scrace.

Welcome to new members. The chairman welcomed Chris Donovan to the committee.

Minutes of the meeting held on 15th October 2018: Were signed by the chairman.

Matters Arising: No matters were discussed.

Feedback from AGM: Was positive. No issues were raised.

SW Fed. AGM: 18th November: PH and JH will be attending.

The proposals received were discussed and a decision made as to which way to vote at the AGM.

Proposal 1: That in future all league semi-finals and finals should be played at a neutral club which had lawns of, and prepared to, an appropriate standard.

PH has consulted with Richard Wood and he agreed with the committee that the first three proposals should be supported.

With reference to proposal 2: That the play-off game between the top team in Parkstone Division 3 and the bottom team in Division 2 is abandoned from 2019 and that these two teams are promoted and relegated as a matter of right: The committee thought that this should also apply to the play-off between Divisions 1 and 2 and that our delegates should mention this.

Proposals 4 and 5 were also supported by the committee.

Proposal 6: That the time limit for golf doubles games be increased to 60mins: The committee felt that our delegates should vote against this.

It was also agreed that they should vote against proposal 7 which specifies a new format for the golf croquet level play league.

Proposals 8, 9, and 10, which aim to make golf level play more manageable for clubs with only 1 lawn were supported by the committee.

CD pointed out that the workshop is aimed at being more supportive of social play and that we should support this. However, our delegates will not be attending this part of the meeting.

Christmas Lunch 12th Dec.

arrangements: JS will be away the week before the event so must have all menu choices in before that. 36 members have booked so far. There will be a raffle. **PH** will send out another reminder, including the menu, to all members.

paperwork: programme, membership renewal, tournament entry form:

PH has prepared the membership renewal forms.

Don Waterhouse from Honiton has expressed a wish to join Sidmouth.

Jan and Richard Barratt have been away for a year but will probably want to re-join. PJB asked whether members who did not join the CA last year should be offered a second chance to join. At the moment only new members get this offer. Only 72 of 125 are affiliated at present.

The membership fee will be decided at the GMC on 26th November. At the moment there is no extra cost for winter play. Payment must be received by 28th February.

All internal tournaments have been brought forward in time, to preserve the lawns for the President's cup in August.

A date was set for a quiz in March.

There will be no demonstration game prior to the Spring lunch as it is generally not of interest.

There will be a talk on etiquette at the start of the refresher days for both association and golf croquet.

Mike Taylor will manage the charity 1-ball.

PH will manage the CA Open golf.

The short croquet will be restricted to 24 entries. CD agreed to manage it.

The 14 point tournament will be run by PH and JH

JH will also manage the Midsummer tournament and the B-Level.

Hoops must be moved before the C-level but there will be no lawn closure the day before.

The new members welcome evening must be after the end of the coaching sessions. Colin will not be running these this year so we have yet to decide who will do this.

Sue Dent will send the tournament descriptions prior to the next meeting.

Chairman's Matters.

The fees last year were £174. The suggested increase was discussed and £2.50 was agreed as the first offer to the GMC.

Colin Whitehall is dealing with Shaldon Cricket club about their triple mower.

PN has asked him to chase this up.

PN has received a letter of thanks from Barbara Clarke.

There is enough money from Esme Owen's legacy for the new hut on lawn 1. The old hut has been dismantled.

There is encouraging use of the lawns so far this winter. Colin Whitehall is keeping a note of how many players are taking part.

Players should book lawns even if they come down on the day because we will then have a record.

Individual committee member's reports:

AT asked what colour the new hut on lawn 1 should be. A dark brown to match the clubhouse was agreed. CD recommended Sandolin. The hut will cost £900 plus VAT. The window sills and doors in the mallet room need repainting. AT asked for volunteers.

The hoops are to be sand-blasted and painted at £10 each.

4 lawns worth will be done this year.

New metal railings along the Fortfield Terrace boundary will be put up at a cost of £5000.

JS reported that members said they enjoyed the AGM supper.

CD will go along to the Sidmouth Herald meetings at Kennaway House to discuss his reports for the paper. He suggested printing some croquet facts every month.

He requested that team captains send him reports of their matches.

JH will cancel the advert for the High-Bisquers which is normally in the Swan magazine. The entry in the CA fixtures book for the Open Golf will clarify the fact that premium members have priority. There will be no priority given to members entering both events in the Midsummer Tournament, as this discourages higher handicap players.

PB has 10 Golf Croquet rule books from 2014 but is reluctant to buy more of the updated version. CD said there are changes on what to do when a wrong ball is played. PJB has 6 Association Law books, also out of date. It was suggested that an addendum could be added detailing the new regulations.

CD offered to do that. PJB handed the association books to him.

AOB:

PB pointed out that there is a banner flapping about on the fence by lawn 2. He offered to take it down and this was agreed.

Date of next meeting:

Monday 3rd December at 9:30am at 92 Peaslands Road.

MINUTES

CROQUET SECTION COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday 3rd December 2018 9:30am at 92, Peaslands Road.

Present: Peter Nelson, Chris Donovan, Philip Harris, Julie Horsley, Paul Bradley, Steve Pearson, David Scrace, Penny Ball.

Apologies for Absence: Julie Sorrell, Andrew Thomas

Minutes of the meeting held on November 5th: were signed by the chairman.

Matters Arising: PB has removed the flapping banner from the fence.

GMC feedback: The membership fees for this year have been set at £176 which is an increase of £2.

The provision of the netting for the esplanade end of the cricket pitch is still in progress. DS asked about higher netting to protect the croquet lawns. 6 metres is the recommended height. There have been in excess of 20 excursions of balls onto the lawns, recorded in the red book in hut 3, over the course of the last season.

SW Federation AGM: feedback: PH provided a breakdown of the meeting.

SWF membership fees are unchanged i.e. £36 for Sidmouth. The treasurer would like all payments to be made by on-line banking.

Next year's Swan magazine will be on their website, but a specified number of hard copies will be sent to clubs. The committee thought 25 copies would be sufficient. **PJB** will inform Maureen Smith of this when she e-mails.

Team manager details must be sent by 8th Feb. Richard Wood is responsible for this.

The list of coaches on the SWF website may not be accurate. (Does someone need to check this and if so who?)

The Budleigh Salterton handicap workshop which was abandoned due to snow last March will be rerun in 2019.

Proposals:

- 1: Re semi-finals at neutral clubs was defeated.
2. Re automatic promotion into Parkstone divisions 1 and 2 of winning teams from the divisions below, was accepted.
3. Re division squad rules was accepted.
4. Re replacing the word 'lawn' with 'court' was defeated.
5. Re removing unnecessary 'golf Croquet' titles was accepted.
6. Re increasing golf croquet time to a minimum of 60mins was defeated.
7. Re change of format of golf croquet level play league was defeated
8. Re golf croquet level play matches at clubs with only one lawn, reducing number of games was accepted.

There are some changes to the golf croquet rules. The SWFed. will ask the CA to publish them in the next Gazette. The fifth edition of the Golf Croquet Laws has just been printed. They will also issue a summary of the changes and hold a workshop for referees. There may be one for interested players too.

PN said that Roger Mills had contacted him about a course to be run by Cliff Jones on the implications of the new rules. It will cost £5-6. Team members should attend. This will be held at Budleigh on March 28th.

There will also be a handicapping course in the spring at Budleigh.

SP volunteered to replace Helen Pryor on the handicapping committee. He will speak to her about it. There should be three on the committee.

2019 Documents: Programme:

DS would like to add a 'Retired Clergymen croquet match' into the programme in June. Monday 17th at 2pm was arranged for that. Otherwise the programme was approved for sending out

Membership Renewal, CA membership:

PH will add the new fee to the renewal document and send it to **PJB** for photocopying.

PH will send an e-mail reminder to those who did not opt to join the CA last year to find out if they are willing to join now.

Internal Tournaments:

These documents supplied by Sue Dent were discussed, particularly with reference to the handicap limits of the tournaments. It was agreed that they should remain as written. The question of bisques for the new intermediate tournament was discussed. JH thought full bisques would make the games unbalanced and it was agreed that they should be normal handicap games.

Christmas lunch arrangements:

JS sent a message that 48 tickets had been sold. She will liaise with PN and PH upon her return about seating arrangements. She will be meeting with the dining room manager at the Bedford on Dec. 8th. Raffle prizes should be taken to the hotel on the day.

Chairman's Matters:

Colin Whitehall is away 7th-12th inc., 25th and 26th Dec., 1st and 9th-24th inc. Jan.

PH and **DS** offered to inspect the lawns and close them if necessary while he is away. There is no news on the acquisition of the ride-on mower.

PN and Richard Thurlow will start the construction of the new Dwerryhouse soon.

PN wants the sections to be treated with Sadolin before erection. Esme Owen's daughter will be invited to open it.

Individual Committee Members Reports:

CD reported that the Sidmouth Herald has changed the day it meets the public. The meeting now takes place in the library. He has written an insert for the association croquet law books to bring them up to date and put it in all our copies.

He has also produced a large updated copy of his own book to put in the mallet room. **CD** has also set out instructions for filling-in association handicap cards.

A laminated copy will be put in hut 3.

CD will e-mail SP a copy of his version of the CA A5 for golf croquet, for his appraisal and decision as to whether or not to print some for golf croquet members. Association croquet cards will also be printed.

PH reported that the hoops have been moved to lawns 1 and 2 with Rob Matthews help.

PB was concerned that the golf law books also need amending.

SP will speak to Rob Weeks at Budleigh to see if they have a suitable addendum.

SP has e-mailed golf croquet players to see how many want to play in teams. He has had 20 replies, 7 new recruits. Pam Bowra and Roy Hubbard, who are the team captains, will select the teams. There will be a golf croquet meeting soon.

JH reported that Jonathan Powe had phoned re a guidance document for the Golf Tournament in April. The final day should start at 9:00am with the lawns cut beforehand which will not be easy.

PH will e-mail him about this. The lawn hire fee is £34.

PJB received a communication about interclub competitions. We do not intend to enter so she has replied accordingly.

AOB: None.

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 4th February at 9:30 at 92, Peaslands Road.

MINUTES

CROQUET SECTION COMMITTEE MEETING

Friday 4th February 2019 9:30am at 92, Peaslands Road.

Present: Peter Nelson, Chris Donovan, Julie Horsley, Paul Bradley, Steve Pearson, Andrew Thomas, David Scrace, Penny Ball.

Apologies for Absence: Julie Sorrell, Philip Harris.

Minutes of the meeting held on December 3rd: were signed by the chairman.

Matters Arising:

PH sent a message saying he had e-mailed members who have joined this year but are not currently members of the CA. So far there have been 8 of whom 3 have agreed to join the CA.

DS asked about the height of the protective netting. PN said the council have approved the new retractable netting for the esplanade end of the cricket pitch. The height all round will be 6 metres, which is over a metre higher than it is now.

New golf croquet law books will be out soon.

PB will order some new ones. **SP** said they will discuss what to do with the old ones at the next meeting of the golfers.

CD has asked Rob Weeks for some crib cards which he will print out.

PN asked **SP** if he could recruit some more members to be golf referees. There are several courses at Budleigh.

CA club awards and bids:

It is too late to put forward anyone for an award but PN suggested we should put forward a certain person next year for all the work he has done at the club.

CD suggested that a framed certificate of appreciation would be acceptable in the interim.

It was agreed that no bids would be made for 2020 but that a bid for an event in 2021 would be a good idea, possibly a golf croquet event.

When the bids come out we will consider those which only require 4 lawns.

We have interest from two members who want to play in the All England Handicap tournaments. As 4 entrants are required for the preliminary round **PJB** will try to find out where our players may join in the first round, if possible. The alternative is to recruit more players.

SWF fixtures:

Richard Wood has completed the fixture list. PH has e-mailed a copy to Colin Whitehall and has entered the dates in the diary. **PJB** has asked him to send her a copy to send on to John Goodwin for the fixtures booklet.

Handicapping workshop: at Budleigh on March 24th.

Only 1 member from each discipline is invited to attend, with a possible third person if there is room.

Pam Bowra will be asked to go for golf croquet with **SP** as well if possible.

Colin Walls will be asked to attend for association croquet.

PJB will send these names in to Linda Shaw when they have agreed.

JH suggested that handicappers should ask for cards to be submitted during the season to check that they are being correctly filled in.

Forthcoming events:

Talk Feb. 19th: It was agreed that there should be a withdrawing collection rather than an entry fee with the whole of the money going to the Devon Air Ambulance.

PJB will ask JS about having tea and coffee available as it is an afternoon talk. It is open to non-members. A screen may be required.

PJB will contact JS about this.

Quiz and tea: March 14th: PN will set the quiz.

JS needs to know approximate numbers for the tea.

PH will send out a notice to members asking them to let her know.

Spring Lunch March 30th: Documents:

PJB will send the 'New Season's Information' document to the committee for comments. The lawn booking document may also need reviewing.

CD offered to do this as all bookings will now be on line. He will liaise with Colin Walls about the booking instructions by the tablet.

PB said some people are worried about booking on-line and may need a member to show them. It was suggested that this could be done at the roll-ups.

JH and Pam Bowra have written a document about etiquette. CD has compiled this into a booklet, with some additional material. It was agreed that this is a good format for sending out to members.

CD has offered to print copies to go out with the spring documents.

JH suggested that if any coach/referee sees a player infringing rules then they should have a quiet word with them. This was thought to be a good idea.

PJB will ask PH for the membership list when it is complete, and JS for participation cards. Colin Walls will provide the pin numbers.

Arrangements: There will be no demonstration matches.

The new hut on lawn 1 should be ready by the end of February.

PN suggested asking Esme's daughter to declare it open at the Spring Lunch.

PN will make a laminated plaque with Esme's and Iris's names on it.

Taster session: April 6th: Publicity: This will not be extensive this year as we are reaching capacity although some replacements will be needed. The banner will be put up and there will be a mention in the newspaper. Colin Walls has some leaflets which can be put in the library. There are few people who have expressed an interest. JH knows of one and PJB knows a couple. PH may also have a list. These people will be contacted.

Coaching schedule:

CD volunteered to coordinate the coaching schedule.

John Dixon used to run extra coaching for interested members on a Thursday afternoon at 4:00pm. CD offered to take this on as well.

'Know the Game' booklets: PB has 10 of these and can order more if necessary.

Chairman's Matters:

The overall club finances are sound. Fortfield Events Ltd has handed over £51,000, mostly from the folk festival car parking.

Three posts are still vacant on the committee: Secretary, clubhouse rep. and grounds rep. although the latter is probably filled.

Capital spending will be a bit restricted this year because of the cost of the netting.

The second-hand mower from Shaldon was unsuitable so a reconditioned one has been found and a place to store it. It will be used to cut the croquet lawns and grass tennis court.

The refurbishment of the clubhouse will commence in March. Next Wednesday the things on the walls will be taken down. Some will be discarded but there is still a shortage of space for the honours boards. It was suggested that new boards could be hinged onto the front of the old ones.

Two or three days painting will be required. Some folding tables are no longer required. It was agreed that some would be useful in hut 3 and could be stored in the shed behind it.

Individual Committee Members Reports:

PH sent a message to say the honours boards have been updated.

24 hoops have been sand-blasted and painted gloss white. The tops will be painted red and blue as appropriate.

30 members have renewed their membership so far.

JH reported 8 entries for the CA golf tournament so far, 4 for the June and 1 for the B-level association tournaments.

PB reported that renewal fees and entry fees for the internal tournaments are coming in, on target compared to last year.

The Croquet Association and the SW Federation fees have been paid.

PB asked that if lawns were closed it should be stated on the booking site. The tablet in the mallet room has been unusable lately. At present lawns 3 and 4 are being used alternately. Most of the winter play has been by a group of 10 or so golf croquet players.

AT pointed out that the new mower will require a new gate and ramp to get it onto lawn 1.

AOB

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 4th March at 9:30am 92, Peaslands Road.

MINUTES

CROQUET SECTION COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday March 4th 2019 9:30am at 92, Peaslands Road.

Present: Peter Nelson, Chris Donovan, David Scrace, Paul Bradley, Steve Pearson, Julie Horsley, Julie Sorrell, Philip Harris, Penny Ball, Andrew Thomas.

Apologies for Absence: None

Minutes of the meeting held on February 4th: were signed by the chairman.

Matters Arising:

Colin Walls, Pam Bowra and Steve Pearson are going to the handicapping workshop. JS would like to go too if there are places left. **PJB** will contact the organisers to find out.

The Devon Air Ambulance talk went well and raised over £200 in donations as well as recruiting new lottery members.

CD has compiled a very useful booklet including new seasons information, etiquette and lawn booking. There was some discussion of minor points in the booklet and of the code letters for various types of game on the booking website.

The dates in the booklet will need changing every year.

CD has agreed to print enough copies for the Spring mail-out which will save the secretary a lot of photocopying. **JH** will proof read the booklet before printing.

The new hut on lawn 1 is ready to be officially opened on March 30th before the Spring Lunch. **PN** will invite Esme Owens daughter Rosemary McGuire to open it. She has provided a photo of Esme which, along with a photo of Iris Dwerryhouse, will be put up in the hut along with some text. David Temple will be asked to advise about this as he knew them well.

CA Bid Document:

We will bid for some events in 2021 in the hope of getting one of them. The committee agreed to bid for the first and second eights golf events in August, the All England golf handicap final and the Golf C-level final in September. As for association events, we will put in a bid for any of the 4 lawn events in September plus the short croquet inter-club final.

PJB will let the CA know of these intentions.

Membership update:

PH reported that 85 renewals have been received so far. 11 members will not be renewing their membership. 31 have not yet replied and will be chased. There are 4 new members and a couple more to come from other clubs.

Forthcoming events:

Quiz and tea: March 14th:

PN has set the quiz. JS is selling tickets at £4 each.

PH will send out a reminder e-mail. The quiz will commence at 3pm

Spring Lunch March 30th:

Documents:

CD has incorporated the new seasons information into a booklet with etiquette and lawn-booking information.

The spring newsletter will go to new members after the coaching sessions.

PJB has sent the required information to John Goodwin for the overall club fixtures booklet and hopes to receive these soon.

PH will send the membership list to PJB for photocopying, when it is complete, at which point the pin numbers will be sought from Colin Walls.

Arrangements:

Rosemary McGuire will officially open the hut on lawn 1 at 12:30pm

PN will make a speech. **CD** will take photos to go in the Herald.

Tickets for the lunch can be obtained from JS or Pam Bowra.

Taster session: April 6th:

CD will put an article in the Herald a week before the event.

Club coaches and committee members will help.

PB and **PJB** will hand out forms to interested participants.

The session will run from 10:00am to 12:00.

Coaching sessions will cost £15 to be deducted from the membership fee if the participants want to join. There are usually 4 coaching sessions spread over 4 weeks with a choice of days.

PN and **CD** will set the coaching schedule. **JS** offered to send them last year's document. Coaching will take place on half lawns.

It was agreed that coaching should concentrate on general skills.

PB and **PJB** know of people who would like to attend. These will be contacted.

Refresher day April 10th:

Members are welcome to attend both morning and afternoon sessions.

PH and **SP** volunteered to run the golf session and will mention the new golf rules. **PN** and **CD** will run the association session and go through aspects of the rules and etiquette as well as setting up some situations to solve.

SP asked about a white board. We used to have one. **JH** has some appropriately coloured magnetic discs if a board can be found.

Chairman's Matters:

There has been no GMC meeting.

The dining area of the clubhouse has been redecorated. A timber floor will be going down and new furniture is due to arrive. It should be ready by April.

There was some discussion about the honours boards which take up a lot of space and are nearly full. **CD** suggested a master board with only recent winners on and a book for the previous names. **JS** suggested see-through acrylic boards with black writing and a photo album.

PN will speak to Martin Dawes (chairman of the tennis section).

Individual Committee Members Reports.

JH updated us on the CA tournament entries.

The Golf croquet tournament is full and there is one on the waiting list.

Two participants want hot lunch. **JS** will enquire if this is possible.

The Midsummer association tournament has 5 entries in the handicap and 11 in the class section. The B-level has 9 entries and the C-level only 2 so far.

PH reported that 6 more members have joined the CA.

SP has received new handicap cards from CD. He is meeting with Sue Dent to go through the tournament dates. The pre-season golf croquet meeting went well.

Pam Bowra and Roy Hubbard are allocating golf players to the teams and finding out when they are available.

PN asked **SP** to try to recruit people for the golf referee course. They don't have to be low handicap players.

AT has negotiated a deal with a builder to reconstruct the cricket club balcony at a cost of £3,900. There will be no access through the front door while he is doing the work. Half lawns will need to be set when the coaching starts. Rob Matthews will help PH set the hoops. Half lawns will remain available until May 12th.

PJB has contacted a number of clubs and found that Nailsea croquet club is willing to include Michael Gordon-Lee in their preliminary round of the All England golf handicap competition, which he is keen to enter. Dates will be confirmed in due course. A document about the CA Grass Roots tournament will be put on the notice boards and a copy given to SP.

PB reported that Doug Yeabsley will be the new grounds chairman.

He wants to know what changes the croquet club would like.

Higher netting was suggested as well as extra winter lawns in the out-field.

The use of lawns over the winter has been good.

AT said we need a new gate onto lawn 1 to allow access by the new mower.

CD gave out new handicap cards which will be available in the mallet room and hut 3. New cards need signing by a handicapper at some point.

AOB:

There was discussion about the next Christmas lunch which must be booked soon. Some members did not come because they felt it was too expensive though JS said numbers were only down by 10 on the previous year.

PN suggested dinner in the clubhouse but others were not in favour of this.

JH suggested a New Year lunch when people would not be so busy and the price might be less. JS will enquire at other hotels about prices.

There was also a suggestion that 2 courses would be cheaper but it might be difficult to agree on which 2.

PN will ask members at the Spring lunch what they would prefer.

Date of Next Meeting: Monday April 8th at 9:30 am at 92 Peaslands Rd.

MINUTES

CROQUET SECTION COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday April 8th 2019 at 9:30am at 92, Peaslands Road.

Present: Chris Donovan, Philip Harris, Paul Bradley, David Scrace, Julie Horsley, Andrew Thomas, Penny Ball, Peter Nelson, Pam Bowra (standing in for Steve Pearson).

Apologies for Absence: Julie Sorrell, Steve Pearson

Minutes of the meeting held on March 4th: Were agreed to be a true record and signed by the chairman.

Matters Arising: Nothing of significance.

Feedback from taster session:

This went well. A suitable number of people attended. 8 have signed up for the coaching so far. This will be run by CD and PN. Lawns have been booked. In future this will be done earlier to avoid clashes. Some prospective members were worried by the shortage of car parking spaces. PAM said she would speak to Tom who owns the Bedford car park to see if she could negotiate a special rate for croquet players.

Update of coaches and handicappers:

Several members attended the handicapping course at Budleigh. There was concern about the number of handicap cards which are incorrectly completed.

It was felt that cards should be checked several times a year especially for new members. PH suggested that this should be when a player reaches a trigger point.

Pam thought that we should encourage players to play in matches against other teams. There is also a need for more golf referees and coaches. There is a referee's course in Budleigh on April 25/26th. **PB** will ask Michael Gordon-Lee if he would be interested in doing it. It was agreed that the club would pay for this course.

PJB will update the document listing coaches, handicappers and referees.

CD said he would send out an e-mail encouraging members to become coaches.

Forthcoming events:

Refresher Day: 10th April:

CD and **PN** will plan something to include reminders of some rules and some points of etiquette. Repair of divots should also be mentioned.

CD will put up a notice about how to do this.

Charity One-Ball: 17th April:

Only 17 players have entered so far but 3 more from the committee said they would play. Sue Dent has prepared the paperwork and **PH** will send out an e-mail. Mike Taylor will be managing it on the day.

CA Open Golf Tournament 27/28th April:

Rob Matthews will help **PH** set the hoops to 1/32nd

There are 16 entries. Tim King has agreed to be tournament referee and Stephen Custance-Baker will be the handicapper. **PH** will manage the tournament.

Lunches are required and the bar will be open from 12noon.

PH will check with JS that this is all organised.

Short Croquet Tournament 11/12th May

There are 15 entries. Games will be played with full bisques.

CD will be running it and will put up a notice and send an encouraging e-mail.

The notice board outside hut 3 needs repairing. **AT** offered to do that.

Visiting Medics Golf Match 23rd May:

10 medics will be coming for a 9:30am start. Howard Quarrel will run it.

PJB will phone Gabby to ask her to arrange the team.

Chairman's Matters:

There has been a GMC meeting. The new mower has arrived. **AT** has arranged for the kerb onto lawn 1 to be cut down to allow the mower onto the lawn.

PN raised the issue of re-laying 2 lawns. All capital is spoken for this year but by autumn 2020 it may be possible to level, roll and seed lawns 3 and 4. They would however need to be closed at the end of August, and winter play would be reduced to 1 lawn for 2020/2021.

The cricket netting at the esplanade end is supposed to be up by April 13th.

There is a proposal that during non-league matches any sixes hit will count as zero. This will reduce the number of balls exiting the cricket ground.

The dining area has been redecorated thanks to Peter, Chris and Andrew. Rebecca West suggested that an electronic screen which shows pictures on a rotational basis could replace the photos and honours boards. Another suggestion was to expand the mallet room into the corridor between it and the ladies toilets to give more wall space. **CD** favoured a book containing names of winners.

Individual Committee Member's Reports.

PB noted that two low handicap golf croquet players are moving here: Stuart and Louise Smith. We will need to line up some suitable opposition for them to play.

AT reported that Colin Whitehall asked if he can remove the white yard-line marker pegs from the corners of the lawns as they impede mowing. It was agreed that they are not necessary for everyday play but that short white lines could be painted in their stead. **AT** will tell him this. **PB** suggested that golf players should not start in the corners as this causes excessive wear. This will be mentioned at the refresher session.

PJB has received a request from the CA asking how many flyers we need for National Croquet Day. As it coincides with a tournament and we have already had our taster session we won't need any this year.

JH asked if the levy forms had arrived yet. They haven't. If they don't come soon **PJB** will contact the CA. We need them in time for the Open Golf tournament. **JH** reported that this event is fully subscribed.

For the June Association Tournament there are 3 places remaining in the level play and 6 in the handicap section.

The B-level tournament has only 3 spaces left.

There are only 3 entries for the C-level but still some time to fill them. We may have to reconsider running this next year or even cancel this year if not enough entries are received. Next year all entries to CA tournaments must be made on-line. The fixtures book and gazette will also only be available on-line.

PH suggested that we might run another CA Golf Croquet Tournament

He reported that we have 115 members plus 10 potential new ones from the taster session.

AOB:

PB has sold out of golf Croquet rule books. He will order 10 more.

Sue Dent has been on a tournament-managing course at Budleigh. It used Cliff Jones' software package which is good for running large tournaments but a bit much for internal tournaments.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 7th May at 9:30am at 92, Peaslands Road.

MINUTES

CROQUET SECTION COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday May 7th 2019 at 9:30am at 92, Peaslands Road.

Present: Peter Nelson, Chris Donovan, Philip Harris, Julie Horsley, David Scrace, Andrew Thomas, Penny Ball.

Apologies for Absence: Julie Sorrell, Steve Pearson, Paul Bradley.

Minutes of the meeting held on April 8th: were signed by the chairman.

Matters Arising:

Pam Bowra has spoken to Tom, who runs the car park about a reduction in price for croquet players. The situation is that players arriving for tournaments may park at a reduced price if they are wearing whites and if Tom has been previously informed of the date.

Michael Gordon-Lee does not want to do a golf croquet referee course.

The new coaches and referees list is ready to go up in the mallet room and hut 3. **PJB** will do this. CD suggested tidying up the notice boards. There is no place specified for information about tournaments at other clubs so he suggested these should be clipped together with a notice pointing them out.

PN thanked PH for running the Golf Croquet tournament. Despite windy conditions he has received compliments from visiting players.

The new mower has been good for the lawns. We are waiting for the white marks to replace the white corner pegs.

Work on the higher cricket netting has begun. There were several balls hit onto the lawns recently.

The Levy forms for CA tournaments have been received and given to JH.

The one for the recent Golf Croquet tournament has already been sent off.

New members: feedback from coaching, documents:

There are 7 new members so far who have been coached and received some of the documents i.e.: application forms, programmes and participation cards. **PH** will add the new members to the membership list and this will be issued to them along with their pin numbers and a welcome letter at the new members evening or by personal delivery.

PH will e-mail all members the updated members list. PN suggested giving new members our sew-on club badges at the new members evening.

The coaching sessions involved teaching the prospective members various strokes and introducing them to golf croquet. They also received the 'Know the Game' booklets so many wanted to know about the association game as well.

PN taught them some association strokes. CD was not happy about only playing golf croquet with them. Short croquet is a good introduction to association so it was suggested that next year a short croquet course should be offered as well as initial training.

Feedback from Open Golf Tournament: All went well. All the players turned up. There were 94 games in all. Jonathan Powe won. The rankings have already been updated.

CA Tournament bid:

Sue Thomas from the CA has sent an e-mail to inform us that our bid for Golf croquet tournaments in 2021 has been put in i.e.: for the Musk Cup, Kate Jones Cup, GC All

England and GC C-level. However she asked that we be more specific in our bids for Association tournaments. 5 events in September 2021 were selected, in order of preference: The Chairman's Salver, Spencer Ell Cup, Selectors' weekend, Treasurer's Tankard, AC all England Handicap.

PJB will send this selection to her.

Forthcoming events:

Short croquet tournament 11th/12th May:

Lawns 2, 3 and 4 have been split into two for short croquet. Secondary balls will start at hoop 3. Games will be of 14 points, time limit 1 ¼ hours.

CD will run the tournament. There will be 4 games on Saturday and 3 on Sunday starting at 10:00 on both days.

New members welcome evening 22nd May:

PH will e-mail the new members to invite them to come at 6pm. As many committee members as possible should attend. Name badges would be a good idea.

Visiting medics 23rdth May:

Howard Quarrell does the paperwork. Gabby will run it on the day. **PJB** has given her the names of the visitors so she can select opponents.

Association 14-point handicap tournament: 25th May:

Sue Dent has done the paperwork. **PH** will be running it on the day.

CA midsummer tournament 5th-9th June:

JH reported that there are 11 players for the handicap event so far. The class event is full.

Walking treasure hunt 11th June:

PJB has contacted the Laidlers. They are intending to hold the event in Beer and will be going there soon to work out a route and find a venue for the dinner.

Chairman's Matters:

A decision needs to be made about the honours boards.

There is not enough room to put them all back up though Neil Gamble wants this. **PN** favours an electronic system with pictures of the boards rotated on a screen.

AT suggested that the full ones could be put in the mallet room.

JH suggested putting up the main association tournament board (The Humphrey Hicks) and the golf Club Championship one.

Not many of last year's new members are buying their own mallets.

CD suggested printing off web pages about new mallets. We do have 4 or 5 second hand ones for sale in the shed next to hut 3. Contact **AT** about these.

Brian Emmett makes mallets in Sidmouth. **PJB** has his phone number.

PN will order more logo-ed club kit if members want it. He will put up a notice about it. **AT** suggested putting some on display and **CD** suggested photos with prices. **PH** will send out an e-mail about kit.

Individual Committee Members Reports:

CD has put some articles in the paper recently.

PH reported that we have 120 members, 78 of whom have joined the CA. 4 more are due to join later in the season.

David Baldock joined but now has chronic migraine and wishes to withdraw his membership as he probably won't play again. It was agreed that his fees should be refunded and **PH** will instruct PB to do this.

DS said the golf match against Exeter was good but we lost 9-11.

SP sent a message about the changes to golf rules. He has summarised them and explained them to team members. PH has also explained some to members who come to roll-ups. PB has bought 10 new golf rule books which are in the mallet room and hut 3.

JH reported that there is only 1 place left in the B-level tournament.

Some people are disappointed that the C-level has been cancelled. The timing this year was bad. Next year we should try to find a date in June or July. CD said a player had contacted him to say there is a niche for the C-level.

PH has removed it from our website. He has also e-mailed Colin Walls about out-of-date information on the website.

PN pointed out that Budleigh has a rolling calendar on their website which might be useful.

AT can't help with hoop-setting at present. More helpers are required. Rob Matthews is helping PH currently. It was suggested that for golf home matches the SW team could set up the hoops for the SE team and vice versa.

Hut 4 needs some wood treatment. Elm must be kept moist.

AT will get some water-based preparation for it. The door to the mallet room also needs painting.

PJB has had an e-mail about CA diplomas. They need to know by July if we want to suggest anyone. We have someone in mind.

PN will find out about his past achievements.

AOB: none

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 17th June at 9:30 at 92, Peaslands Road.

MINUTES

CROQUET SECTION COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday 17th June 2019 at 9:30am at 92, Peaslands Road.

Present: Peter Nelson, Chris Donovan, Julie Horsley, Julie Sorrell, Paul Bradley, Penny Ball.

Apologies for Absence: David Scrace, Andrew Thomas, Philip Harris, Steve Pearson.

Minutes of the meeting held on May 7th: Were signed by the chairman.

Matters Arising:

A discounted fee at the Bedford car park is available to members of visiting teams. Pam Bowra informs the car park manager when to expect players.

Mr and Mrs Stych would like coaching in September. Stephen Wilks has been supplied with an application form. He would like a practise game of golf croquet. CD gave PB a contact number so he can arrange this.

The new members welcome evening went well.

The tournaments so far have gone well.

The treasure hunt was enjoyable despite the weather and raised £40.

The honours boards are back up. There is wall space still available. PN has asked Colin Walls for some suitable photos to put up. Next season CD will add information about buying mallets to the information booklet.

CA diplomas: We must submit our application by July 1st. Possible candidates were discussed. JH suggested a joint award.

PN will see what he can compile.

Forthcoming events:

Golf singles 20th/21st June: There is a list up which has plenty of entries on it. PH will be managing this.

Wine and shared buffet: 25th June:

PB will ask Richard Thurlow if he is still willing to do the drinks.

JS will call him about other arrangements.

There was a discussion about the weather forecast and the possibility of moving the event to July. Wednesday 24th July was suggested as an alternative date.

JS will put up a notice about the date change.

Skills afternoon and tea 3rd July: Committee members will man the various skills as usual. **PH** will set up the golf skills tests.

JS will contact Sue Dent to find out how many have entered and who wants tea.

PN will contact PH to find out who is running the following tournaments:

Association handicap doubles: 19th-21st July

New members tournament 22nd July

Golf doubles 25th/26th July

Chairman's Matters:

The club AGM is coming up soon. There is still no new secretary.

PN was asked to find someone to manage the internet in the clubhouse. Colin Walls agreed to do this but he needs a deputy for when he is away.

Roger Mills has sent PB an e-mail about out-of-date information on our website and on the list of coaches and referees in the mallet room. **CD** said he will update it if Colin shows him how to do it. **PJB** will forward the e-mail to all the committee and amend the lists in the mallet room and hut 3.

Individual Committee Members Reports:

CD wrote a report of the midsummer tournament which appeared in the Sidmouth Herald along with several photos. He asked if more match reports could be sent to him. JS suggested a template for match reports to make it simpler to complete these. It was felt that we should concentrate on tournament reports.

CD has found a source of clips in New Zealand which he thought were good value. We have more clips in hut 3 but they may not be in good condition. **CD** will find them and assess their suitability.

JS reported an incident when Jill was upset by the apparent behaviour of a golf team over catering arrangements. All captains should be reminded to treat the catering arrangements with respect and to socialise with the opposing team.

JH reported that there is just one place left for the B-level CA tournament.

We need a CA handicapper.

PN will contact Mark Suter to find out how to get someone qualified. JH said he may have to work through Frances Coleman the chairman of the CA handicap committee.

PB said the Rotary Club members would like to come for an hour's croquet as they did last year. Monday 12th August at 6pm was the suggested time. **PB** will let them know that this is alright. He has made up some new envelopes for visitor's fees which will go in the mallet room. Visitor's names should go in the book as well.

PJB has had a request from Clive and Rita Brook from Dulwich club about playing here with a view to joining when they move. She has provided them with the relevant information but not heard back yet.

PH sent an e-mail to say that Derek Hewett, a previous member, has died.

AOB: There was a discussion about coaching in association skills for golf players and about improving golf techniques. CD suggested that next season there should be an opportunity to try association, perhaps linked to the refresher day. It was thought that learning on the short croquet lawns at that time would be advantageous. The short croquet team might benefit from some coaching.

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 15th July at 9:30 at 92 Peaslands Rd.

MINUTES

CROQUET SECTION COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday 15th July 2019 at 9:30am at 92, Peaslands Road.

Present: Peter Nelson, Chris Donovan, Philip Harris, Paul Bradley, Julie Horsley, Julie Sorrell, Andrew Thomas, Steve Pearson, Penny Ball.

Apologies for Absence: David Scrace.

Minutes of the meeting held on June 17th: were signed by the chairman

Matters arising:

Mr and Mrs Stych have joined the club. PH has been coaching them. We now have 126 members though 6 of these are non-playing.

CA diploma applications should be in by 1st July according to the minutes, not 31st as previously thought. **PJB** will check the e-mail to verify this date.

PN reported on the croquet, cricket and tennis club AGM. A potential secretary may have been found by Neil Gamble, but a clubhouse manager is still needed.

7 metre netting round the croquet lawns and levelling of the lawns were brought up by PN and mentioned in the chairman's address.

CD has spoken to Paul Griew about the website. The latter wants one that will accept payments but is happy for the individual sections of the club to make their own. **CD** has not yet spoken to Colin Walls about this.

CD still requires more match reports. There are plenty of clips in hut 3 so we don't need any more at present. PN wondered if we need new centre pegs. **CD** will cost this up.

PN has spoken to Frances Colman, the chairman of the CA handicapping committee, about making an application for CA Handicapper status for Jane Babbage. She approved of this.

The Rotary club game has been organised by PB.

Clive and Rita Brook enjoyed their game here and are looking to move to Sidmouth.

Feedback from recent events:

The skills afternoon went well. There were 42 players. There was very positive feedback from golf croquet players.

SP reported that some golf croquet players thought the skills tested could be used as a training programme, perhaps on Tuesday afternoons. Some advice on how to use bisques wisely would also be welcome.

PB reported that some members complained about having to pay £2.50 to enter as well as paying for tea. The entry fees for internal tournaments go to the main club and are not used specifically by the croquet club. It was suggested that an exception should be made for the skills afternoon so it is free to enter. **PB** will have a word with Paul Griew.

Forthcoming events:

Association handicap doubles: 19th-21st July;

16 players have entered. The pairings are displayed in the mallet room. It is to be run over the course of 2 days as 2 blocks of 4 pairs with 3 games in each block followed by a final. Lawns will be available to be used on Sunday in case of bad weather. The event will be managed by Sue Dent and PH.

New members' tournament 22nd July:

This will be run by **PH** with help from **JS** whom has organised the teas which are free at this event. PH has e-mailed all new members. There will be 6 possibly 8 attending. There will be skills tests and golf games.

Wine and shared buffet 24th July:

Setting up will commence at 16:00.

PN will contact Richard Thurlow and Colin Walls about gazebos. PJB has one which can be used as well. The obstacles are in the cupboard in hut 3.

Richard Thurlow has printed the tickets and put up posters. Several people will be selling tickets.

Golf doubles 25th/26th July:

SP will manage these events. There are plenty of entrants.

B-level CA tournament: 15th-17th August;

JH reported that there have been 2 withdrawals and there may be problems with another 2. That leaves 14 at present.

Chairman's Matters:

More volunteers are needed for folk week parking.

Budleigh croquet club are organising a 150th anniversary celebration next year.

They would like Exeter and Sidmouth clubs to join in. They need to know for the programme which will probably include golf croquet, one-ball and short croquet, not association as it is too long.

PN won't be standing for re-election as chairman in October. He has a replacement lined up if there are no other nominations.

PJB would like someone to shadow her with a view to taking over as secretary.

PB hopes DS will take over as treasurer.

JH and AT are willing to stay on. PH will do another year.

JS would like to stand down.

Individual Committee Members Reports;

PB reported that there was a terrible smell in hut 3 which was traced to a tray under the fridge full of mouldy milk.

Gabby has told CD she has kept a folder of articles about the club for 30 years. There are also old reports in the historical file upstairs in the clubhouse.

CD has sent in another report to the paper. He has also bought a large clock for the outside of hut 3.

PH said we have 14 new members bringing the total to 126. 6 are non-playing members. 82 have joined the CA. The data held by the CA has been updated to include the new members. New members Louise and Stuart Smith would like to run a golf croquet tournament next season.

The hoop-setting rota is working well, supervised by AT. He reported a watering problem on the lawns. The filter system needed repair.

JH has received an e-mail about the lawns for the President's Cup. We need to make sure they are in top condition. Quiller Barrett will present the cup. JH suggested we give him lunch.

SP said that the handicap golf teams are not doing well. It was suggested that team selection should be more rigorous and perhaps include trials of some sort.

AOB:

PN intends to stand for election to the council of the CA which comprises 12 members including 4 from the South West. All CA members have a vote.

CD has golf croquet practise cards which he offered to SP who was interested.

CD suggested that one or two-day tournament cups should be awarded at the event to save time at the AGM. PH has suggested this before. The cups would need to be collected in for engraving at the beginning of the season. This idea was supported.

JH would like there to be tactics coaching for short croquet. She has spoken to S.C. Baker who would be willing to provide some coaching in September. We must provide him with some dates and with some lower handicap players to assist.

The weeks beginning the 9th or the 23rd were suggested.

JH will e-mail him about this.

Date of Next Meeting;

JH asked for a subcommittee meeting to look at the fixtures calendar for next season. A date will be chosen by those involved: JH, PH, PJB, Sue Dent.

PN, CD and AT need to meet with Colin Whitehall about lawn preparation for the President's Cup.

The whole committee will next meet on **Monday September 16th at 9:30am** at 92 Peaslands Road.

MINUTES

CROQUET SECTION COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday September 16th 2019 at 9:30am at 92, Peaslands Road.

Present: Peter Nelson, Chris Donovan, Julie Horsley, Julie Sorrell, Paul Bradley, Steve Pearson, Andrew Thomas, Penny Ball

Apologies for Absence: Philip Harris, David Scrace.

Minutes of the meeting held on 15th July: Were signed by the chairman.

Matters Arising:

CD reported on the cost of new clips and pegs. 4 sets will cost £142.60 including delivery from New Zealand. It was agreed that he should order these and that the money should come from the main club.

It was agreed that there should be no entry fee for the skills afternoon. The charge for tea will depend on the new caterer.

The new members tournament was a struggle due to lack of entries. PN suggested it is missed off the programme next season.

The Budleigh Croquet Club 150th anniversary celebration programme has not been decided though various people have been approached.

CD suggested that the programme of next season's events should be included in the booklet with all the other information which is normally given out at Easter, and so be given out at Christmas. The application forms are sent out at this time too so an updated members list will have to be sent out later.

JH heard from S. Custance-Baker about golf coaching. He sent a list of what he would do for £10 per head. PH and JH decided it was not suitable for our needs. There is a course at Taunton during the winter which he will let us know about.

SWF AGM Proposals:

We have no proposals to put forward. PN and CD will probably attend.

Next Season's Tournaments: 2020

JH and PH have looked at the programme of events. It was decided that there should be a class weekend instead of the C-level association event on 4th/5th July.

There will be no new members or high bisquers tournaments.

PH proposed dates for an Open Short Croquet tournament on 16th/17th May straight after our internal short croquet tournament on 14th/15th May.

JS thought there may be too many tournaments taking up lawn time. It was agreed to provisionally agree to this tournament but to look at how busy the lawns will be. It would be advertised in the Swan not the CA booklet.

Louise Smith wants to manage a B-level Golf tournament as part of the CA series.

Most of our members would not be eligible for this. JH felt that any tournament run here should be suitable for our members so it was agreed that a Federation Open Golf event would be better. SP favoured a level play class tournament.

SP, PB and PH will talk to Louise about the possibilities. A date should be set before Xmas to go in the Swan.

JH reported that we have been awarded the All England Finals in 2021 by the CA. The golf will be 11/12th September and the association 4/5th September.

Forthcoming Events:

Lawn maintenance course 26th September: AT, PH and Colin Whitehall will attend this course at Budleigh. PJB gave them a copy of the programme.

Finals weekend: handicaps, fee refunds:

PH will inform members of the order of play during finals week.

It was decided that finals of one day tournaments which have been delayed should be played using current handicaps rather than those at the time of the original tournament. In future unfinished one-day tournament games should be played as soon as possible after the event to avoid any controversy.

PJB will inform Sue Dent of this decision. It was agreed that entry fees for internal tournaments should not be refunded if the player withdraws.

AGM documents and arrangements for 22nd October:

Last year's minutes, the nomination papers, and request for agenda items will be put up in the mallet room by **PJB**.

PN will send out a message to all members to ask for more committee nominations.

PN will ask Gabby Macadam if she would like to present the trophies.

The chairman will write an address including a report on SWF fixtures and print out the results.

PH will send out a request for handicap cards to be handed in after the finals.

CD will ask team managers if they are happy to continue.

Committee members for 2019:

JS and PB said they would carry on if there are no nominations forthcoming.

Ed Dolphin has volunteered to shadow the secretary role with a view to taking over next year.

End of season arrangements:-

1 or 2 lawns will be open over the winter, weather dependent. Play will not start until 10:30am and the lawns must be swished first.

There will be a tidy-up on 18th October. **AT** will put up a notice about this.

SP pointed out that the white boards between the lawns need painting.

Environmental policy:

JS reported that a recycling officer has been appointed for the main club to deal with the waste problem. It was agreed that the cutting of the bank between lawns 2 and 3 should be done before the flowers disperse their seeds but that the flowers should be left as long as possible. SP was concerned that the cricket pitch was being sprayed with weed killer/fertiliser while the bees were active.

Chairman's Matters:

PN was not at the last GMC meeting. David Hodge has been appointed as the new secretary of the overall club. **PJB** will meet with him and secretaries of other clubs to discuss the data base, amongst other things.

There is a new clubhouse manager and a new caterer, Emma Brock, who will commence work on Sept. 21st. Thursday evening meals will carry on as before.

Individual Committee Members Reports:

JS will talk to Emma Brock about the AGM supper and the possibility of Xmas lunch. She thanked PB and Richard Thurlow for organising the Harvest Moon golf croquet event which was very popular. Thanks also to Colin Walls who provided some lighting.

PB thanked JH for organising the money from CA events

SP said that golf croquet handicap cards should be given to him and Pam for checking. They have a team meeting in a week which Louise Smith will attend.

SP will assess the level of interest in a level play event and also if there are enough players to compete in a high handicap team next year. PN said the best players should be selected for the teams.

AT reported that David Hodge had asked him about wheelchair croquet. There was concern about damage to the lawns. Wheelchairs have to be adapted to have bigger, smoother tyres and a special mallet with a short handle is needed.

AT and PN had a trial of a verticutter (a demonstration model). It is for sale at £7,225 plus VAT. AT spoke to Paul Griew. It was agreed we should purchase this.

PJB reported that we only have 60% of the participation cards so far. Notices have gone up with the names of those still missing. Members will be reminded.

AOB:

CD has spoken to Paul Griew about the website. Colin Walls is happy for our website to be handed over to Emma Donovan.

CD has already compiled the 2020 booklet.

JH reported that Richard Thurlow would like some coaching for improvers.

We need a qualified golf croquet coach. Stuart and Louise Smith may be qualified. JH proposed a vote of thanks to AT, PN, PH and JS for their work and time spent on preparations for the President's Cup.

Date of Next Meeting: Monday October 14th at 9:30am at 92 Peaslands Road.

MINUTES

CROQUET SECTION COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY OCTOBER 14th 2019 at 9:30 am at 92, PEASLANDS ROAD

Apologies: None

Minutes of the meeting held on Sept.16th: were signed by the chairman.

Matters Arising:

A draft of open tournament dates has been received from the CA. **JH** will send back our dates.

Louise Smith has found out that the B class golf tournaments are full but will ask about A or C level. She is not enthusiastic about our suggestion of a level play class tournament. She suggested a team event with mixed handicap teams of three.

June 20th was suggested as suitable date for this. Louise would draft an advert.

JH will advertise an open golf level play event in the Swan for 6th June.

DS will organise a retired clergy event in June.

No new committee nominations have been received other than Ed Dolphin who will shadow PJB with a view to taking over as secretary.

PB will carry on as treasurer if necessary. **PN** will ask again at the AGM.

PN has asked Gabby to present the trophies, which she is delighted to do.

SP thanked CD for the golf practice cards. At the moment there are 2 handicap golf teams: SW and SE and 1 level team. Individual wins vary from 0 to 67%.

3 or 4 in each handicap team are struggling. SP suggested forming a high handicap team to encourage these players. The question is whether we have lawn time for more matches. It would mean 2 or 3 extra home matches per season.

PH proposed that it should be tried and this was agreed.

PN suggested that the golf teams train at 4pm to free up lawns on a Tuesday at 1pm, given that association team practice is at 4pm. SP agreed to this.

SP has received the 2020 training programme from Roger Mills. There is a golf croquet referee course. We need two referees. There is an exam involved. There is also small-group golf coaching available. **SP** will try to get a group together to attend the latter.

The club will pay for attendance at courses for referees and club coaches but not for individuals attending coaching.

PB brought up the question of team payments. He felt that £5 match contribution is not enough to cover costs and suggested £7.50, £5 of which would be for catering.

JS suggested this was too big a jump. The committee settled on £7 and a mileage cost of 20p per mile.

It was also agreed that the charge for coffee should go up to 50p.

Feedback from meeting with David Hodge:

PJB had a meeting with David Hodge and secretaries of other sections on 18th September. He presented copies of the overall club database to be checked for accuracy, which PJB has done.

The question of privacy policies was brought up. There is a data protection clause in our booklet. He said he would send out a generic privacy policy to possibly be included with membership forms.

With reference to membership forms he asked if we should have a generic form but the attendees were not in favour of this. A copy of our form was sent to him by PH. Our early subscription date was met with approval as other sections have trouble getting their fees in by April 1st. It was agreed that copies of our membership forms should be kept in the main clubhouse for interested visitors.

Membership cards were discussed with reference to what should be on them. It was agreed that membership of the Friends of Fortfield should be on them.

David has looked at the club rules and found that there is no mention of croquet in the Objectives (section 2). **CD** offered to read them and correct this. **PJB** will send him the rules.

The club booklet is produced by John Goodwin and Rob Fowler. It is always a rush to get this done by the start of the cricket season so we were asked to submit our fixtures as early as possible. This is difficult because of agreeing match dates.

It was suggested that in future the club newsletter should be sent electronically.

David Mason reported that at the Friends AGM it was suggested that the membership fee should go up to £5 or that all members of other sections should become friends on the grounds that they all use the facilities. The Friends raise funds for the club as well as running social events.

Open Short Croquet Tournament.

Re an open short croquet tournament next May: PH proposed 16th/17th after our internal tournament. It would be advertised in the Swan. CD proposed that we charge £20. 4 lawns would be required. A trophy would be needed.

CD will consider this and come up with something.

JS will speak to Emma Brock about members making cakes.

AGM Tuesday 22nd Oct.

Minutes: PJB has sent the minutes of the last AGM to PN. CD would like a copy.

Agenda: Some amendments were made. **PJB** will print 40 copies for attendees.

Reports: The chairman will report on match results during his address.

PB will send details of funds to PN.

Arrangements: **JS** will bring a box for donations to Julie Clayden and Colin Whitehall, and flowers for Gabby. She will ask Colin Walls to take a photo of all the trophy winners. **JS** will ask Julie for the microphone.

Committee posts: JS and PB have agreed to stay on the committee given that no new nominations for their posts have been received. Ed Dolphin will join us.

Winter Activities:

Card sessions have been advertised and have begun.

John Coombes has agreed to organise walks but at short notice because of weather considerations. He asked if people minded repeating them. The committee agreed this would not be a problem. **PN** will tell him.

PN agreed to give a talk in January on the history of the Spanish pilgrimage (Camino de Santiago), which he has recently completed. He will also set a quiz for a teatime event.

SWF AGM Nov.17th:

PN, CD and **JH** will attend, the latter as a non-voting delegate. No lunches were requested. The workshops are on club development and the work of SW representatives. When the proposals are received **PJB** will send them to all the committee and to Richard Wood.

Christmas Lunch 12th Dec.

Arrangements: **JS** will not sell printed tickets but will take names, menu choices and money. There are three courses at a cost of £25 including tips. Extra tables may be needed in the bar area. **JS** has asked for festive decorations. There will be a draw so prizes are requested.

PH will send out an e-mail to members with the menu included.

Paperwork: will be discussed at the next meeting.

Chairman's Matters: The chairman would like the committee to have a festive lunch, possibly at Dukes. It was decided to have this in January as December is so busy.

Individual committee member's reports:

CD reported that the GMC would like a wish list from all sections.

They plan to replace the sign over the clubhouse door.

Draft 7 of the new Association croquet laws are now on the CA website.

JH said the CA fixtures book entries are under control.

PH would like the membership renewal date to stay the same. This was agreed.

DS asked **PH** for a date for the retired clergy match. This was set for Monday 15th June 2-4pm

PB: Table tennis players have complained about the table being too heavy for ladies to get out. **DS** said he would go along to help on a Wed. morning. A new table which wheels out is required. It was suggested that the club should buy a new one to be shared by all sections.

AT is expecting the usual people to help with the clean-up on 18th.

He reported back from the lawn maintenance course. Our sprinkler water has a pH of 7.4 which is apparently too high as it needs to be 5 or 6.

Our triple mower is too blunt and not suitable for winter because of the worm casts. It is being fixed in Torquay. A verticutter reduces thatch and should be used twice a month. Paul Griew has been asked about it and said the club could afford to buy one, but he would like a predicted budget for next year.

PB pointed out that the croquet section brings in a lot of money.

PN will ask for more help with lawn maintenance at the AGM.

AOB: **PB** pointed out that our boundary with the cricket pitch has lower fence. It will be raised to 7m.

Date of next meeting: Monday Nov. 11th at 9:30 at Maple Tree Cottage, Manstone Lane.

MINUTES
CROQUET SECTION AGM.
TUESDAY OCTOBER 22nd 2019 at 6pm

Present: Approximately 60 of the members.

Apologies: Roger Mills, Simon Card, Richard Croft, Helen and Graeme Pryor.

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Members were asked to stand in remembrance of those who have died during this season: Cliff Field, Peter Hills, Sheila Blenkinsopp, Derek Hewett.

Minutes of AGM 23rd October 2018:

The chairman asked that the minutes of the last AGM be accepted.

There were no comments made about them. Acceptance was proposed by Chris Donovan and seconded by Paul Griew.

Chairman's Report:

The chairman reported on the year's activities, summarised as follows:

Membership.

There are 125 members, the same as last year. Our recruitment drive was low key as the current number of members is considered optimum.

Thanks are extended to Philip Harris.

Finances.

The overall club finances are healthy. This is partly due to our status as a CASC which gives us tax advantages. In order to maintain this status, the majority of our players must be participating so please fill in your participation cards.

The croquet club subscriptions contributed £21,000 and other income from tournament fees, visitor's fees and equipment sales came to £3,571.

The match contribution will increase to £7 next year to improve catering at matches. Paul Bradley has agreed to carry on as treasurer but would like an understudy who would take over in October 2020.

Match Results.

There were 8 teams again in the South West Federation leagues:

The association croquet Advanced A team has been promoted to Division 1, having won Division 2 under Richard Wood's able leadership.

The Advanced B team performed well and should have been in the playoff for promotion but the offer was not taken up as the team manager was not involved in the decision. We will make the point with the SW Federation to ensure they communicate with the relevant individuals in future.

The Federation team finished mid-table and the Intermediate team was a close second in the south block.

The B League team were clear south area winners and met Bristol in the north south playoff thrashing them 7-0. Congratulations to Pam Bowra and her team.

The SE Golf croquet team in the handicap league finished mid-table, but the SW handicap team and the level play team were not so successful.

It has been decided to enter a team in the high handicap golf league next year.

There is also a proposal to form a SW Federation short croquet league to be discussed at the SWF AGM on Nov. 17th.

Thanks to all team players and their managers.

Internal Competitions.

The winners of these will be revealed later in the proceedings.

The new committee will review our policy on honours boards.

Thanks to Sue Dent for her efficient organisation of the competitions and to Philip Harris in particular and others who have helped run the events.

Open Tournaments.

4 were planned for this year but the C-level tournament was cancelled due to insufficient interest. The other 3 were fully subscribed.

The GC Open in April was won by Jonathan Powe from E. Dorset.

At the Midsummer Tournament the Handicap cup was won by Chris Donovan, the C-level cup by Peter Cutting from Cornwall, the B-level cup by Jon Ball and the A-level Challenge cup by Richard Wood.

The B-level Advanced Tournament was won by Robert Upton from Dyffryn.

Congratulations to Sue Rogers and Philip Harris who won the doubles at the National Seniors tournament.

In September we hosted the President's Cup for the first time. The winner was Jose Riva from Spain. Thanks to all who organised this event and those who helped. Thanks especially to Andrew Thomas and Philip Harris who took on lawn preparation in the wake of Colin Whitehall's accident.

Grounds and Equipment.

Play continued throughout last winter and was a success. The lawn preparation regime had to be adapted but the lawns have not suffered, thanks to Colin Whitehall. Since his accident three members have been trained on the machinery so it has been possible to cut the lawns more frequently.

The new shelter on lawn 1 (the Dwerryhouse) was opened at the beginning of the season thanks to the generosity of the late Esme Owen's daughter Rosemary.

Thanks to Andrew Thomas for all he has done which is much appreciated.

Social.

Social events have been well attended including the short notice decision to hold a moonlight event in September.

Winter activities are underway, thanks to those who manage military whist, canasta and table tennis.

We have a new caterer and have decided to hold the Christmas lunch in the clubhouse. Numbers may be limited so book early.

Julie Sorrell does a fantastic job and is standing for re-election in the absence of anyone else coming forward. It would be ideal if someone would understudy Julie with a view to taking on the role in 12 month's time.

Handicap Committee Reports.

The handicap committees have made their awards which remain secret and which will be revealed during the awards ceremony.

Thanks to Retiring Committee Members.

David Scrace has been on the committee for only a year but cannot continue as he is increasingly called upon to preach at various events. Thanks for his input.

The other retiring member is the chairman who has been in post for 6 years.

Thanks to committee members past and present including two fantastic secretaries Sue Dent and Penny Ball.

Nominations for the New Committee.

The nominated committee is Chris Donovan as new chairman, Penny Ball as secretary, Ed Dolphin, who has agreed to shadow the secretary, Paul Bradley as treasurer, Julie Sorrell as social secretary, Philip Harris as membership secretary, Julie Horsley as open tournament secretary, Steve Pearson as golf croquet rep., Andrew Thomas as grounds and equipment manager. Sue Dent will continue as internal tournament secretary but will not sit on the committee.

They were proposed by Gabby Macadam and seconded by Ian Friedlander and voted in en bloc.

Presentation of the Trophies.

The chairman invited Gabby Macadam to present the trophies. She has been a member for many years and has run the golf croquet roll-ups very efficiently for a long time. She also does voluntary work for the National Trust and reads newspapers to the blind.

Sue Dent announced the trophy winners and handed the trophies to Gabby to present in good order.

The chairman thanked Sue and Gabby. Gabby said it had been a pleasure and an honour. Julie Sorrell presented her with some flowers.

Any Other Business.

Veronica Swinburn asked if there are vacancies to play table tennis and also if there are plans to replace the table which is difficult to get out of the cupboard.

Gabby said this would depend on there being enough money.

Peter Nelson suggested that the main club should buy a table to be shared by all sections. The committee will discuss it.

Notices.

Julie Sorrell announced that the Christmas lunch menu is available and members should make their choices and buy tickets as soon as possible paying £25 each by cash, cheque, or preferably by electronic transfer.

Peter Nelson asked that donations for Julie Clayden and Colin Whitehall should be made on the way out or during the meal.

New Chairman's Remarks.

The new chairman thanked Peter for his years as chairman and praised him for his decisiveness and ability to steer the committee and presented him with a bottle of whisky. He also thanked him for his work on maintaining the lawns.

Trophies for one-day tournaments will in future be presented on the day. Chris requested photos of the presentations and longer reports for the press.

There will be half lawns early in the season to practise for short croquet tournaments. Chris will run an association course for golf croquet players on these short lawns.

The chairman declared the meeting closed and the bar open.