

Minutes of the Croquet Club Committee meeting held on Tuesday 11th November 1988 at Ian Wilson's house

Present: I Dwerryhouse, J Jeeves, E Owen, C Garrick, L Kennedy, G Hewitt & I Wilson.

- 1) Minutes of the last meeting approved and signed.
- 2) Matters Arising: -Secretary to ask M Clark for a reply to his letter regarding insurance cover.
- 3) Correspondence. Letter from Edna Price. Agreed accept resignation and refund £1.20 sent for Tournament Fees.
- 4) Duties. Chairman Iris Dwerryhouse
Vice Chairman J Jeeves
Rep on Main Committee J Jeeves
Cashier & Booking Sheets E Owen
Tournament Secretary & Publicity L Kennedy
Social C Garrick
Golf Croquet G Hewitt
Team Selection I Dwerryhouse, L Kennedy & Eric Kitchener
Training I Dwerryhouse
Coaches Grade 1 J Hatherley, E Kitchener,
P Dwerryhouse, M Hardman, V Collier and I
Dwerryhouse
Secretary I Wilson
- 5) Robert Case Fund. Authority given to purchase shield forthwith.
Agreed set up group of most experienced members to draw up Short Game Shield rules.
Agreed to continue to seek best possible Shelter bearing in mind all likely constraints.
- 7) Agreed write to all on Waiting List to see whether still interested to join.
Hope expressed to find younger members so that time spent on training is justified.
- 8) All Car Park Keys returned. Agreed all applicants to be in draw. No special concession for M Rawkins. Draw to be held next meeting.
- 9) Groundman's gratuity totalled £18.50 to be sent to R Sims for his disbursement.
- 10) AOB
Suggestion to have Winter Function on specially cut area - not on a lawn.
Agreed purchase 1 set of new balls and 2 colours to make full sets. Also purchase 1 set of hoops. Probable cost Balls £139 a set from Jacques Hoop £78 from Walkers.
New flags to be made by I Dwerryhouse
C Garrick to approach Woodlands for lunch 9th or 16th March for 60 - 70 members
Whist Prizes; - increase to £1 a prize for the top.
Agreed to have Golf Croquet and Two Ball events on suitable evenings.

Gwyneth Dart chosen as most improved beginner. Secretary to write to CA claiming prize.

Balance in hand £60.73. Agreed send £30 to Central Funds.

Federation AGM attended by Phil Dwerryhouse, L Kennedy, E & Ted Owen.

Public library now has book by Danks; - Simplified Croquet also Tactics by Alec Gill.

J Jeeves reported on possible shelter for Lawn 3. Matter still under discussion. There are many problems to consider and resolve.

Agreed Hut roof repair urgent. When this is done consider ways up to Lawns 4 & 5.

Work to be done on troughs wherever possible.

12) Date of Next Meeting March 12th January 1989

J. M. Dwerryhouse.

Minutes of the Croquet Club Committee meeting held on Thursday 12th January 1989 at Ian Wilson's house

Present: I Dwerryhouse, J Jeeves, E Owen, C Garrick, L Kennedy, G Hewitt & I Wilson.

1) All members present.

2) Minutes of the last meeting approved and signed.

3) Matters Arising: -

Insurance cover information still outstanding.

Gwyneth Dart, our best beginner has been awarded C A membership Robert case Shield being engraved

J Jeeves found difficulties and no enthusiasm for an outside Winter event, and is not proceeding.

4) Duties: - The following were agreed

Referees, Iris & Philip Dwerryhouse, John Hatherley and Eric Kitchener Handicap Committee: - Iris Dwerryhouse, Eric Kitchener and John Hatherley

5) Mr & Mrs G Dawson can play as Country members when in Sidmouth. Cost £20 per person.

6) John Toye, John Haggard and Olga Ragg approved as playing members.

7) Reports:

J Jeeves had found no unanimity for a Hut/Shelter on Lawn 3. In this regard I Dwerryhouse said there was a possibility of a bequest of a substantial amount either through a Will or earlier, provided permission would be given for a permanent hut on Lawn 3.

In view of the advanced state of the plans for use of the Robert Case

Memorial Fund and inevitable delays and no certainty of the possible bequest it was agreed to go ahead with one of the ideas of J. Jeeves. Accordingly, it was proposed by Bill Kennedy and seconded by Gwen Hewitt, to go ahead with the construction of a 6' high fence supported by

slotted concrete posts, 12 feet long on the Southern side and 6 feet long on Western side on the South West corner of Lawn 3 boundary fence as soon as possible. We had been assured this would not require planning permission. The proposition was passed unanimously. The materials likely to cost £120 and necessary work a further £80. The groundsman was not interested to undertake the work and estimates will be sought.

Equipment. £301.65 has been spent on 1 set of Tournament Balls, a replacement Black, 1 set of ordinary balls, one set of second-hand hoops and clips.

Hut roof repairs have been done - cost £48.0

Lawns 4 and 5 will be visibly numbered with number 4 being the nearest to Fortfield Terrace.

G Hewitt would organise an open Golf Croquet Tournament, as in 1988, if required.

C Garrick Lunch for 60 -70 at Woodlands Hotel on March 9th Agreed charge £5.50 all in.

L Kennedy 5 Home matches fixed and 4 out of 5 away matches arranged.

Agreed to hold an Open Short Croquet Tournament again on May 31st & June 1st with possibility of Club Tournament on June 2nd while courts are setup.

Agreed to enter Longman Cup

E Owen Whist Drives had 37 and 31 players respectively.

Cash Balance £45.92 less £7 for 12 flags made by Iris Dwerryhouse

- 8) Training. Eleven potential new members. Two will require evening or weekend training.

A one-day course to be arranged in late April for present members.

- 9) Agreed Spring Programme to be sent out now. Including notification of a Social Event on February 16th

- 10) Car Park Keys Draw C Garrick, M Rawkins, M Kirke, P Alexander, M Suehal [?] & G Hewitt successful

- 11) AOB

On J Jeeves suggestion our thanks are recorded to E Owen for the colourful Window Boxes in the front of the Mallet Room.

A substandard seat had been offered and rejected, without right, by the Management Committee on inability to charge if used by public watching cricket.

It was decided Not to make an entry in Exmouth Tourist leaflet.

- 12) next Meeting March 1st at 2.15 pm at Iris' house

J. M. Dwerryhouse.

1.3.1989

Minutes of the additional Committee meeting held at Iris Dwerryhouse's house on 2nd February 1989

Present: I Dwerryhouse, J Jeeves, E Owen, L Kennedy, & I Wilson.

- 1) Apologies for absence C Garrick, G Hewitt
- 2) The meeting was called to consider the estimates for the Robert Case Memorial wall and repair to the steps down to Lawn 2. A decision had to be made without delay so that all work could be completed before April 8th It was proposed by J Jeeves, seconded by E Owen that the estimate of K Mortimer be accepted, his being the lower overall estimate. His work was known to members and approved: - Robert Case Memorial £250, repair of steps £75. This work ??? should absorb the whole fund. It is to be determined if the main club will pay for the step repairs in total or in part. The Croquet Section could pay for all the work from retained funds but a principle might be construed. The cost of new steps from Lawn 2 to Lawns 4 & 5 at the side of the hut is too costly at the moment: to be put in the 1990 budget?
- 3) It was confirmed we would hold the finals of the Federation Golf Croquet competition and the area Golf competition, Gwen Hewitt's agreement having been given earlier. A letter seeking our permission should arrive before March 151
- 4) Bill Kennedy had agreed all the dates for our matches except those with Exeter.
- 5) Further enquiries to be made to Ron Sims regarding Personal Accident Insurance
- 6) Letter received from B G Fitzgerald permitting use of grass Tennis Court for Short Croquet Tournament. In exchange, we will allow the Tennis Section to use Lawns 4 & 5 in September for E Devon Sports for all Tournament.
- 7) Resignations reported. Bill Carley, Mary Milner and Margaret Barwick.
- 8) All mention of possible bequest to be treated as absolutely confidential. Investigations are being made but will take time.
- 9) Rules for Short Game prepared. Details on March 1st
- 10) No invitations to senior club officials for the lunch on March 9th
- 11) Cleaning of Hut to be discussed on March 1st

*Read 13 April 1989
Signed on Minutes for 12/ 1/89*

Minutes of the Committee meeting held at Iris Dwerryhouse's home on 1 March 1989

Members Present: I Dwerryhouse, Jack Jeeves, Cecily Garrick, Esme Owen, Bill Kennedy, Gwen Hewitt & Ian Wilson.

Minutes of 12th January and 2nd February read and approved and signed.

Matters Arising, Insurance. £500,000 cover for members and Visitors for Personal Injury. Whole Club equipment to be revalued for cover in May. Personal property such as mallets not covered. Agreed membership should be reminded when membership list sent out.

Short Game. Eight events largely as devised by Robert Case. Each player to receive their full handicap. Competition for shield in September. At least two games during the season. Tankard presented by Lady Fermor, from Robert Case's trophies to be used as Runner-up prize.

Hut Cleaning. Jack Jeeves to call for help at appropriate time. Correspondence. Longman Cup entry fee now £15.

Agreed to pay increased fee.

Agreed admit H C Drew

Membership 87 Playing 5 Country 2 Junior

21 CA members included

Agreed pay £66 CA fees Also £18 to Federation and £5 for Short Croquet advert.

Reports. Jack Jeeves had received a reply to his letter of 17th February (Copy in correspondence file).

- 1) Could we suggest suitable person to produce a sketch or Artist's impression of shelter. John Hagger & John Hatherley suggested
- 2) Short notice for publication made by Michael Davis

Whole committee agreed final paragraph unacceptable. Several ideas put forward to be finalised with M Davis by Jack Jeeves.

It should be minuted now that the Committee insist that the whole club membership must now be told about the possibility of a shelter on Lawn 3 being provided by a strictly anonymous donor without any payment from Club funds.

Repair of Hoop for £5 paid from Club funds.

Fencing to start mid March with promise to complete before April 8. Also step repair.

The groundsman has requested a substantial salary increase. The main committee were doing a job evaluation and we were asked to indicate our requirements

- 1) Cutting grass before 10am for each lawn twice a week with a renewing of lines.
- 2) Hoops to be removed when needed and correctly placed.
- 3) Adequate watering.
- 4) Lawns to be kept open until the end of September at the earliest.

Cecily Garrick Woodlands can take 70 for our lunch 67 members have bought tickets.

Agreed vacant places can be filled after March 6th To discuss with Iris possible outline seating plan.

Esme Owen Cash in hand £80.94 Agreed pass £50 to R Sims. Whist Drive 46 & 40 people attended

The social event attracted 46 members different in many cases from Whist Players. Although not mentioned at this Committee meeting Iris should be thanked for this innovation.

Bill Kennedy. All matches Home & Away fixed up.

Agreed application to play in Tournaments must be accompanied by appropriate fees. A box has been made by Bill for this purpose.

Gwen Hewitt. Federation Open Golf July 12" with final on 9th September. AOB

Golf Croquet Plate in poor condition. Agreed accept £5 from Alice Davis towards estimate of £13 for repair to be paid from club funds.

Tournaments to be on Block basis as before with no change in entry fee of 30p.

First Training Session March 19th at 10.30 am

Training Day starting 10.00 am April 24th to participate fee £1. Entry list to be posted in Mallet Room.

Two ball tournament July 24." & 25th

Golf Croquet tournament September 6th & 7th Cake Stall to be provided on 22nd April

Date of Next meeting 13th April 10.00 am start at Lime Parc.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J. M. Dwyer-Louse." The signature is written in a cursive style with a period at the end.

15.6.89

Minutes of the Committee meeting held at Iris Dwerryhouse's home on 13th April 1989

Members Present: I Dwerryhouse, Jack Jeeves, Cecily Garrick, Esme Owen, Bill Kennedy, Gwen Hewitt & Ian Wilson.

- 1) All present
- 2) Minutes of meeting held on 1st March 1989, read, approved and signed.
- 3) Matters Arising.
Thanks expressed to Cecily for excellent lunch arrangements and to Cecily & Iris for the seating plan.
- 4) Correspondence. Equipment advertisement received and displayed.
- 5) Bequest Situation. It must be recorded that this matter is being handled by the full management committee. Our involvement has been to provide comments on provisional hut outline and names of possible artists. When any information for general consumption is to be released is not our responsibility.
- 6)&8) Short games June 12th & July 17th
Two Ball July 24th
Club Sessions. 1pm-2pm, 2.00-3.30, 3.30-6pm 6 Hoop games. Double Banking Evenings from June 6th weekly from 6pm using Lawns, 2, 3, 4 & 5 Association & Golf Croquet
Iris Dwerryhouse will in general oversee Club Afternoons & Evenings with help from any member available.
- 7) Winter Whist Wed Nov 11th Tuesday Dec 5th
Wed Jan 10th Tuesday Feb 6th
Social event to be considered later.
- 9) 12 people in training, Fee £5, Video to be lent free
Training Day April 24th limited to 8 using all lawns from 3.30 and lawns 2 & 4 for whole day. All coaches except V Collier available, day
- 10) Jack Jeeves Robert Case memorial wall done also step repair Total Cost £327.75. Thus all funds used. Cost of step repair paid by Main Club.
Hut roof repaired by Club. The cost of excellent repainting and preserving done by Iris, Jack, John Hatherley and Ted Owen will be borne by Croquet Funds. Thanks were expressed to the workers.
Budleigh will lend us two sets of hoops for Federation Tournament.
Gwen Hewitt Golf matches against Budleigh June, away. Sept 13th at home.
Esme £11.26 in hand.
- 11) AOB Bar Rota -Jack Jeeves to discuss with Tom Ward
Iris will contact Leslie Toye regarding Trophy.
- 12) Next meeting June 15th 7pm at Lime Parc.

I. M. Dwerryhouse.

1.6.89

Minutes of the meeting held at Iris Dwerryhouse's home on 15th June 1989

Members Present: I Dwerryhouse, Esme Owen, Cecily Garrick, Gwen Hewitt, Jack Jeeves, Bill Kennedy & Ian Wilson.

Minutes of Last Meeting approved and signed. Matters Arising.

Dorothy Trophy for Short Croquet Federation Tournament won by Ken Bright of Bath. A receipt was taken and now filed with these minutes. This cup was presented by Leslie Toye. Dorothy was his late wife.

Possible Bequest.: - Michael Davis showed to Iris Dwerryhouse and possibly others a formal drawing of a Clubhouse. He will discuss with M Clark & us no doubt at the next Management Committee on 10' July. The Committee genuinely felt this matter was not in our hands and we await development after any further information we might be given.

Correspondence. Friends of Fortfield request for usual help at Club Garden Party: dealt with later.

CA approached to see if the Club is a candidate for any membership awards.

Special Main Club Meeting.

Bill Kennedy, in the absence of Jack Jeeves on holiday, attended on 21" May, this meeting to consider a request by the Belmont Hotel for the exclusive use of one Tennis Court for one season on payment of £500. This request was vigorously opposed by the Tennis Section. Bill also spoke effectively against observing the many drawbacks for an inadequate payment and the impossibility of justifying going against the wishes of the whole Tennis Section.

Nevertheless, there are major increases in current expenses and future ones so ways and means to increase revenue must be considered. While agreeing the need to meet increased costs the Committee did not feel the decision was theirs and awaited the deliberations of the Finance Committee.

The general agreement was that increased subscriptions would be the most effective answer to the survival of the club.

Reports.

Bill The Club's first victory in any round of the Longman Cup was achieved by beating Nailsea.

Next round at home on June 25th against Roehampton. Cecily Nil

Esme £69.25 in hand.

Short Croquet Tournament netted £70 and £14 for teas Both passed to Ross [?]

Gwen Federation Tournament entries slow

Jack Brand new plastic clips break easily. No useful comment from Jacques or Croquet Association.

Agreed to buy two sets of metal clips from Townsends at £7.50 each.

A pre-1939 solid silver cup had been found by Jack on a visit to the Sidmouth Men's Club. Handed back without demur. Use of cup to be considered later.

Small ground repairs carried out. Flower boxes planted by Esme Owen.

Groundsman tip for work on Short Croquet Tournament reduced from £12 to £10 on failure to carry out all required work.

Annual General Meeting. Oct 18th at 2.30 in Pavilion subject to agreement with Main Club.

Training. Twelve started eleven were accepted and are now fully paid playing members.

Garden Party. Agreed to provide competitions as before and a new putting event.

Cecily will organise cake stall

**Not
available*

Jack with ~~John Hatherley~~* will set games, equipment and manning

We all agreed advertising was poor and this should be emphasised when giving our agreement to participate.

AOB

Mr Barwick to be sent members list.

Ingrid Read to go on waiting list.

New rule books required for World Wide events. The changes are few and remote.

Agreed sell existing stock at £2.

Mallet Room has a copy of New Rule book.

Agreed Secretary to read 1987 minutes at AGM.

Next meeting 17th July 4.15 pm Lawn 2 Clubhouse.

J.M. Dwyerhouse.

Minutes of the Croquet Club Committee Meeting Held at the Club House on 17th July 1989

Members Present: I Dwerryhouse, J Jeeves, C Garrick, G Hewitt, E Owen, L Kennedy and I Wilson.

Minutes of Last Meeting approved with the deletion of J Hatherley not being available to assist at the Garden Party, and signed.

Matters Arising. As a result of our comments on the advertising of the garden Party, the Secretary was told this was restricted due to catering limitations. This drew comments on the direction of and the need for the Croquet Club's efforts, Fund Raising or just entertainment. This should be resolved long before next year's party, say at Friends AGM.

Correspondence. No confirmation yet of our AGM date as being suitable timing for the main club.

Reports.

J Jeeves Arrangements finalised for 21st July

Jacques replaced broken plastic hoop clips. Townsend metal clips expanded, now usable.

Management Committee 10th July. Budget required by treasurer by 31st August. Jeeves, Owen & Wilson to confer.

14 Hotels have been sent details of Country Membership for Tennis only.

Watering of lawns only to be done by groundsman at times to cause least inconvenience.

G Hewitt S W Federation Golf Tournament only two outsiders both very appreciative of welcome and arrangements.

Singles finalists, Ted Owen & John Haggart [?]

Doubles Finalists R & M Russell & H & M Swefeal [?]

E Owen £75.70 on hand of which £25 to be passed over.

Sheila Scarr's Letter re Bequest.

In memory of Bill Scarr, Sheila suggested fencing for South border of Lawn 3, as between Lawns 2 & 3. While being appreciative doubts were expressed as to need and extra work for groundsman. Would Sheila consider a set of hoops instead? Secretary to discuss [This was done the same evening] Sheila stated Lawns are always clearly defined and it was an often expressed desire of Bill to have such demarcation. It was difficult to justify any objection by groundsman. I agreed to get an estimate of cost.

Robert Case Memorial. Suitable small inscription agreed and paid for out of funds. Secretary to obtain.

No AOB or time to discuss offer of 1 cup from Beaumont-Edmunds.

Date of next meeting 24th August 8.00 pm at Lime Parc

I. M. Dwerryhouse.

Minutes of the Croquet Club Committee Meeting Held on 24th August 1989 at "Lime Parc"

1. No absentees. Present: Iris Dwerryhouse, Jack Jeeves, Esme Owen, Gwen Hewitt, Cecily Garrick, Bill Kennedy and Ian I Wilson.
2. Minutes of Meeting on 17th July agreed and signed.
3. Matters Arising. Inscription for Robert Case Memorial purchased for £4 and paid for out of Croquet Funds.
4. Correspondence: Thanks from 'Friends' for Garden Party.
As the result of the notice put up asking for complaints as implied by R Russell only two letters were received but many verbal expressions of satisfaction. (The letters and replies on file) See correspondence file for Richard Russell's matter
5. Reports:
Cecily nil
Esme £43.39 in hand on 23/8/1989 having passed £25 to Ron Lines. Gwen Plans in hand for September Golf Tournament.
Bill Ramsgate beaten in Longman Cup. Letchworth to come here on Sept 2nd
Phil Dwerryhouse and Ted Owen in All England finals in Bristol on Sept
Jack 6 tons of Top Dressing costing £400 to be used on all lawns.
Inventory handed to Secretary. It appears some mallets may be missing.
Jacques to consider his comments on clips.
Lawn Closing: Last playing day
Lawns 1, 2 & 3: - Sunday 24th Sept.
Lawn 4. Oct 1"
Lawns 4 & 5 were combined mid August.
6. Budget Jack will prepare details as required. He will request now for the 1st set of Normal Balls, 1 set Double Banking Balls & 1st set hoops.
Will investigate from CA Southport Balls.
7. AGM 18" Oct 1989 confirmed. Invite Hugh Reed and Margaret Clark.
Also ask David Rawkins to present prizes.
Esme Owen earlier gave details of lawn usage. It is to be hoped these figures and comparisons with Bill's in 1988 are made known at the AGM.
Nomination lists to be posted Sept 11' and taken down Oct 2nd
The Secretary indicated he was not available if asked and Gwyneth Dart was approved as a Committee Nominee.
8. Bill Scarr's memorial. Check fences not acceptable. Suggest bench for Lawn 1 replacement for dangerous antique seat.
9. Beaumont-Edmund Cup. Subject to view pleased to accept for use in the future.

Permanent Hut for Lawn 3. This matter was handled by Michael Davis on a strictly confidential basis to which we fully adhered with some reluctance.

An artist, a club member, was asked to draw-up plans and other drawings for the submission to Town Planning Committee. This was done between Michael and the artist, again confidence was expected.

In the middle of a Monday Club Afternoon the project was mentioned within hearing of members who wanted to know what was happening.

Should any Committee member be asked we refer them to Michael Davis for him to divulge what he considers appropriate.

Three further names to go on the waiting list.

Next meeting Tuesday 3rd Oct in the Pavilion at 2.30pm

J. M. Dwyerhouse.

Minutes of the Committee Meeting Held at the Pavilion on 3rd October

Present: I Dwerryhouse, J Jeeves, L Kennedy, E Owen, G Hewitt, C Garrick & I Wilson.
G Dart also present.

Minutes of Meeting on 24th August: Read and approved

Correspondence:

D Rawkins now not available to present trophies. John Holt delighted to be replacement.

S Scarr's letter of Sept 6th, Esme will look into cost of repair of seat on lawn 1.

Mr Clark letter of 11" Sept will be approved for AGM discussion.

Reports:

J Jeeves stated that lawns all closed and work has commenced. All balls locked away. No report from CA on Southport balls. J Hatherley to repair one or two damaged black balls.

Gwen asked for notice board on Lawn 2 for Golf Croquet. Notices should be in Mallet Room as well as Lawn 2. New committee to handle.

Reports for AGM reviewed. Also a Training Report by Iris will be included.

AGM

Ask S. Herald to attend at 4.00 pm

Agreed Runner-up trophy for Short Game.

Tellers. L Kitchener, A Hardy, K Holroyde, to be asked

Must have groundsman collection

Iris will put to AGM a scheme for weekly training in place of Club Days

Iris wished her thanks to J Jeeves, C Garrick, & I Wilson for their committee service to be minuted.

Car Park Keys. Secretary had not put up a notice for 1990 season. Notice to go up at AGM, Whist Drives and Spring Programme circular.

I. M. Dwerryhouse.

30. /0. 97.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CROQUET SECTION
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 18 OCTOBER 1989 at 230 p.m. IN THE PAVILION

The meeting opened with a welcome to Margaret Clark, Secretary of the Main Club and the 57 members present.

Members stood in memory of Bill Scarr and Mary Hubbard.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Sheila Adams, David & Sue Rawkins, Buzz Palmer, Margaret Isard, Jocelyne Page, Gordon Terry, Jo Orchard, Katherine Holroyde, Sheila Scarr, Hazel Ruberry, David & Mavis Baldock, Freda Tovey, Gwen & Rex Sims, Alfred Verity, Mine Bell, Larry & Margaret Hooper, Freda Harding, Pat Dawes, and Mr & Mrs Dawson.

2. The Minutes of the AGM held on 6th October 1988 were read, approved and signed,

3. Committee Report was read and approved.

Hon Secretary's Report - October 1989

We have just been remembering Bill Scarr and I too must record our regret at his loss. Sheila has generously offered to provide a practical memorial to him and to his undoubted enjoyment of croquet; details will be finalised with her, by your new Committee.

I view this season as the fulfilment of the hard work put in by all our coaches, who trained new entrants, even giving up a day better spent round a fire than on the lawns, before the season began. Most of our match players are coaches and our great success in the Longman Cup is proof of their excellence and suitability to teach the game. We thank them for giving us an insight into Croquet, and for the development of such skills as we have.

A small group of volunteers worked on the Hut on Lawn 2 out of season - Jack Jeeves, Bill Kennedy, Ted Owen come to mind, not forgetting the indefatigable Iris & Phil Derryhouse. May I stress that volunteers are always welcome (indeed, are needed) to help us make things more comfortable.

We have enjoyed a wonderfully sunny Season, which gave more than average time for play; but the absence of rain affected the lawns, with the result that a bit of luck sometimes bettered the skilful. The lawns do have their ups and downs but we thank Jack for his constant endeavour to improve surfaces, within the limitations imposed upon him.

Our winter whist and socials have been successful in fund raising and keep members in touch out of season.

Golf Croquet has been greatly enjoyed, as you will hear later.

The Season began and ended with victories in the Budleigh Salterton open Association competitions. In May, John Hatherley, Mary Hardman, Leslie Toye and Ted Owen all won cups—in fact, John won two. Also at Budleigh Salterton, John & Mary won their groups in the September tournaments—a very satisfactory end to the season. Mid Season Michael Davis also relieved Budleigh of another cup.

The Dorothy Toye Cup for the Short Croquet Open Tournament, presented by Leslie Toye for the first time this year, was won by Ken Bright, from Bath.

The Robert Case Memorial was completed, affording shelter from sun and wind to many players. The Robert Case Shot Game shield will be presented today for the first time.

We have 97 playing members, 6 Country and 2 Junior members, with 15 on the waiting list. There are 21 Croquet Association members but with no new members yet this year, we have not qualified for any reduction of fees - any volunteers to join

We are all here today and throughout the Season, because we enjoy playing what is an absorbing game, available to people of all ages. If events sometimes occur which may seem unfair, I believe they are best accepted gracefully and forgotten, in the best traditions of our Club.

I find it necessary to resign as Hon Sec. and wish my successor an enjoyable term in office. I'd like to thank my two Chairmen, Eric Kitchener and Iris Dwerryhouse, for their guidance and forbearance during the past two years, also Committee Members. The whole running and impetus of the Club comes from your Chairman. The Committee give support where needed but your Chairman spends many, many hours in planning and in action, on your behalf.

Finally, as you will learn from the individual reports to follow, each Committee member has a specific responsibility. Please bear this in mind when you vote for new Committee members.

Thank you.

4. Tournaments & Matches: L Kennedy

As we all know, the dry season has produced serious problems with lawns, but on the credit side we were fortunate in that there were no postponements or cancellations for any tournaments. All programmes were carried through without interruption.

I do not intend making this report a long one and I am not going into any great detail of individual tournaments or competitions.

A running tally on all participants was carried on the Club notice board showing the progress situation of everyone involved. All this information is of course retained and is readily available for anyone who wants to refer back.

Dealing with the inter-club competitions, in the Federation League four tournament fixtures were played. We won against Budleigh Salterton and Exeter and lost to Taunton and Parkstone. Our team commented on the good lawns at Exeter and Parkstone. Both these Clubs were excellent hosts. We came third in the League.

With the 'B' team, six tournament fixtures were played. We won against Wellington, Exeter and Plymouth 'B' and Budleigh Salterton and lost to Plymouth 'A' and Cranford. The away games against Wellington, Exeter and Plymouth were very good with excellent hosts. Plymouth lawns suffered very badly during the drought and were very difficult to play. In spite of this, the day was very enjoyable. It should be mentioned that the day at Wellington was particularly good; our hosts could not have been more welcoming and hospitable. We came fourth on points and tied second with Plymouth on games.

In the Longman Cup, this is the first year that Sidmouth has reached the semi-final of the southern half of the British Isles. We won against Nailsea, Roehampton and Ramsgate, and lost to Letchworth who sent an excellent team to Sidmouth. They played to a consistently high standard and were a pleasure to meet,

With Club Tournaments, compared with 1988 we had an increase of over 197 in the number of entrants, The competitors also increased their entries in the individual competitions by nearly 11%. This is a very welcome standard of support for our Club events.

Matches played at home included 6 League and 3 Longman Cup - that is, lawns booked 10am to 6pm on 9 days in all for Association croquet.

There were 2 days for the Dorothy Toye Short Croquet competition. For this, lawns 2 and 3 were divided and were used together with the tennis court and lawn 4. Lawns 1 and 5 were not used and were therefore available for normal play booking. Incidentally, this event contributed approximately £100 to Club funds.

Three days were used for Golf croquet – 1 Open and 2 Club. One day was for Federation Golf croquet finals.

There was a total of 15 days booking for tournaments,

Some members were unable to play for part or all of the season through illness or accident. Amongst these were Millicent Gibbs, Mary Kirke, Frank Furness and Jack Jeeves. All of them had distressing problems which we are all very glad to know are now progressing in the right direction and we look forward to seeing them all with us in the new season,

I would like to say a 'thank you' to all the membership for their help in submitting so promptly their beginning-of-season tournament entry forms together with their correct fees.

There is one final and important point. It would not have been possible for me to do the job of Tournament Secretary without the kind help of Iris Dwerryhouse. Her knowledge of both Federation and Club detail has been vital to any contribution I have been able to make, and I thank her very much indeed. She has been very kind and certainly very patient.

L Kennedy

18 October 1989

Ground & Equipment Jack Jeeves

1. Ground

At the beginning of the year work was carried out on the SMALL PAVILION which was completely re-roofed. Club members also treated the front section and undersides with Wood Preservative, re-puttyed windows, fitted new brass hinges to fanlight & re-painted part of the interior.

During this winter, the rear & sides will have to be treated.

Your Committee arranged for the FLIGHT OF STEPS from the Grass Tennis Court down to Lawn 2 to be repaired, including the provision of an extra step, added for safety.

We also erected a WIND BREAK SCREEN in the corner of Lawn 3. Both these last two items forming part of The Robert Case Memorial and were in addition to the Memorial Cup for the Shot Game.

The Mallet Room roof was also re-felted and sealed.

2 Equipment

We replenished our stock of Eclipse Tournament Balls (now costing just over £130 per set) and were fortunate enough to 'run to earth' a second-hand set of Jacques Tournament Hoops saving the Club £75.

I have to report a lengthy exchange with the firm of John Jacques on the subject of the very poor quality of their very expensive

HOOP CLIPS (as you will know they are a nasty plastic product made in Hong Kong). Well, finally we received a letter from Mr Jacques himself, the M.D. agreeing to

reconsider the future manufacture of clips, perhaps using a re-inforced nylon material. Be interesting to see.

In the meantime we did invest in some METAL CLIPS from Townsends but, guess what? They wouldn't fit the tops of our Jacques hoops and had to be massaged into fitting by a passing plumber. Life is full of surprises.

We borrowed two extra sets of Hoops and Pegs from our neighbouring Budleigh Salterton Club, this was for our Open Short Croquet Tournament and in turn lent them our Alternative Colour Ball sets, which shows good friendly local co-operation.

3 Lawns

With the Lawns themselves EVERYONE has had a HARD TIME of it this year The drought being largely responsible.

I have had a reasonable amount of co-operation and help from the Groundsman and his assistants over what has been a particularly difficult season, weatherwise. In the main, however, the lawns have been cared for. Next season he has agreed to try and keep the boundaries better marked and the hoop-runs filled and turned.

You may care to know that 6 tons of TOP DRESSING have been applied to the Lawns at a cost in excess of £400 This is in addition to the re-seeding, supply of Weed Killers, Worm Killers and other treatments that the Club provides. Not obvious when you look round.

The Committee was very pleased with the helpful co-operation of the TENNIS SECTION enabling us to make use of their Grass Tennis Court temporarily as a Croquet Lawn during the Open Tournament. I think it was a FIRST TIME, perhaps we may repeat it in future, subject always to our being ready to help out the Tennis folk if so required.

At the start of the season the Committee decided on TWO HALF-LAWNS which are needed for coaching & training new members & for practice.

Later in the season these two lawns should be combined into one FULL SIZE lawn, a course that this Committee recommends for the future.

The Committee discussed the question of providing a Winter Lawn and decided against. This is largely due to the small amount of interest shown in previous years, not to mention the inferior surface available. We did, however, talk about an ALL WEATHER LAWN (Astro Turf as in Luton Town Football Club). We need much more information on this subject before we can take it further, one for the future perhaps. In the meantime we have written to the Croquet Association asking for their opinion. We also asked them about the SOUTHPORT BALLS to see if they are now acceptable as an alternative to the Jacques ones.

4. Future

In the Budget Estimates we were asked to supply, we have indented for further Balls and Clips so as to maintain our stocks and also in the LONG TERM asked the Club Executive to consider :-

(i) Re-laying and levelling Lawn 4

(ii) Supplying a more efficient watering system for the bottom lawns

IN CONCLUSION may I THANK all the men who took turns in running the Club Bar for the Thursday Cricket Matches (part of the time) and to all the HELPERS who worked on the Pavilion and who put up or manned (or womanned) the sideshows at the Annual Garden Party.

Cashier & Bookings - Esme Owen

I shall say first a little bit about lawn usage. All the lawns were open for a total of 24 weeks, with the amalgamated lawns 4 & 5, known as lawn 4, remaining in use for a further 10 days at the end of the season. This is very similar to the situation in 1988, despite this year's drought.

Analysis of the booking sheets shows that when the total number of periods booked is related to the total number of periods available - i.e., after deduction of periods when lawns were closed, either for tournaments or ground maintenance, about 567 of the available periods were booked. Recognising that most people would prefer to play between 10am and 6pm, I have worked out also the take-up of possible daytime bookings. In this case the figure is about 77%.

Bookings for tournaments other than those involving only our Club came to a total of 116 periods, which is 5.77%. Almost always when tournaments are played lawns 4 and 5 are available for general play.

During the whole season, only 3 double banking bookings were registered.

Excluding the weeks towards the end of the season when the days were shortening, evening bookings were less than 17%

My other responsibility is money. As most people are aware, Croquet Section does not aim to hold a substantial balance and as soon as our cash in hand exceeds our immediate requirements the surplus is passed to the main Club Treasurer for banking. In the course of the past year a total of £302 has been handed over (plus a cheque this week £10 green fees for Regional Golf Croquet finals).

During the winter our source of income is whist drives. In 1988-9 five whist drives plus the February tea party brought in a total of £119. After deduction of expenses (prizes & tea making) the profit on these six functions was £83.05. £31.88 was spent on minor repairs and decorating materials for the small pavilion, material for new flags, photocopying and a plaque for the Robert Case Memorial corner. Engraving of trophies cost £24.75, 2 sets of new clips £15, and pansies & impatiens for the flower boxes £9.30

We now make a charge for coaching beginners and this, together with the Club tournament fees (unchanged from last year at 30p per entry), came to £105.70. The external tournaments, Regional Golf & Short Croquet, in addition to being enjoyable events and putting our Club on the map, also make money. Together, after deductions for prizes, levy to the SW Federation and groundsman's gratuity, they brought in £111.50

£14.75 has come from the sale of Rule Books, etc. We still have a stock of these which I have here and, since they were bought some time ago, they are excellent value. The Rule Books in particular are a good buy at £2. The new edition, differing only slightly from the old, and available for consultation in the mallet room, now sells at £5. Few of us could put our hand on our hearts and claim to know all the rules, so why not buy one today for winter perusal? It might help you to win a vital game next season.

Visitors to the Club have added £24.50 to our funds and profit on teas on days when there was no cricket £10.86. More disappointing has been the income from the library, only £2.50 disappointing in that it means that members are not reading our books, which are excellent. Sale of old balls and one mallet have brought in £6.50 and finally, with thanks to all those who have toiled up our hill to buy them,

Ted and I have made over £14 from the sale of our surplus apples.

Golf Croquet Report - Gwen Hewitt

Attendance on weekly Golf Croquet Club mornings frequently 40+, no doubt helped by exceptionally fine weather. With only 2 full-size and 2 half-size lawns (latter very unpopular) could have been unworkable but for splendid co-operation of all members without exception - no complaint from anyone. Very happy atmosphere for which my warm and sincere thanks to all, particularly to Redmond Russell who ensured everyone not playing was comfortably seated - much appreciated by all. Arranging play on these occasions very much easier when lawns 4 & 5 were amalgamated into one court.

Successful Regional Open G.C.T. due to Iris's excellent organisation. Congratulations to M & R Russell on reaching final and to Ted Owen for winning Singles event.

Matches v. Bud. S. much enjoyed in spite of our losing both; pleased newer members prepared to take part. Thanks to Katherine Holroyd and Michael Smekal for score-keeping and to H Rubery, M Stevenson and O Ragg for preparing teas.

26 entered for Singles and 16 prs. for Doubles in G.C.T. Thanks to Iris for help in arranging groups and timing of play, and to Eric Kitchener for refereeing & score-keeping through both days.

Social Activities: Cecily Garrick

Social activities began early in the year with Whist Drives. These were well supported and we thank Eric Kitchener for organising them. We also had a Beetle Drive with a Tea Party.

The Club luncheon was held at the Woodlands on 5th March, sixty-eight attended. The Hotel was warm and welcoming on a chilly Spring day. My thanks to Iris for helping me to arrange seating.

Cakes: Connie and Betty manned our cake stall several times during the year and our thanks must go to them. We must also thank everyone who made cakes for the stall.

I must mention all those who have helped in the kitchen, washing up, making tea, etc., especially Mary Hardman and Joyce who did this chore for every whist drive. Thank you all very much.

Training Report 1989: Iris Dwerryhouse

Croquet is a growing sport for all ages and there is a comprehensive coaching scheme all over the country backed by the croquet ass. Coaches attend classes and have tests to gain their badges,

We now have 6 grade 1 and 2 grade 2 coaches. Congratulations to Les Toye, a new grade 1 coach, and John Hatherley is now a grade 2. Coaches give their time willingly to benefit members' enjoyment of the game and to strengthen the Club. Each spring we invite prospective members to have 6 lessons, the charge is £5 This covers a ground fee as they have the option of joining if the game appeals.

This year we had 12 potential members and the lessons were spread over 5 weeks. Only one dropped out.

In April we held an all-day session for present members, although it was very cold and wet, 8 members and 5 coaches braved the arctic conditions.

We have had 34 new members in the last three years and I do realise that extra coaching sessions are needed and maybe would make better use of Club afternoon.

There is a move from the C.A. to introduce all bisques games to speed up play and this should discourage the Aunt Emma game. The All-England event will be played with all bisques next year.

Perhaps 1 lawn and a rota of coaches once a week, afternoon or evening. We could have special Club days for the shot game, 2 ball and once a month Golf Croquet for all members. I would welcome any constructive ideas during any business.

5. Iris Dwerryhouse elected Chairman and Gwynneth Dart as Secretary; as the result of a ballot the Committee Members are L Kennedy, M Davis, E Owen, G Hewitt, N Hardman. Buzz Palmer & Olga Ragg were not elected. Eric Kitchener and Alan Harding kindly acted as Tellers.

6. Any Other Business

It was the Chairman's instruction that all matters arising from any part of the meeting be raised at this point.

A letter from Margaret Clark was read (see attached). Margaret herself enlarged on the situation, It was agreed that a fee paid when playing was not workable owing to the continuous availability for playing as distinct from team games. The need for more volunteers was made very obvious and the inevitability of an increase in fees generally agreed. John Hatherley pointed out the danger of a too ready acceptance was unfortunate and could be misinterpreted by the main Club Finance Committee. Alan Harding thought this was unlikely.

The Chairman said one of our Committee would be at all the main Club's Committee meetings and would look after our interests, but we are only part of a larger organisation who view finances as a whole. We can attend the AGM and make our feelings known.

Michael Davis gave a summary of the event leading up to a planning application for a substantial hut for Lawn 3

7. Handicap reductions were posted and announced.

8. John Holt, a member of some 20 years standing, kindly presented the Trophies.

The most improved players were awarded with cups which can only be won once. They were Michael Davis and Clifford Walker.

The Meeting was closed most suitably by Reg Peirce.



30/10/90

(Margaret Clark's Letter)

In it Margaret announced her retirement. (It should be recorded that the meeting thanked her for all the work done on behalf of the Croquet Section.) She appealed for a volunteer to succeed her.

Margaret also pointed out the need to increase the income of the Club and also the need for voluntary support to run the Club or the possibility for paid assistance.

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CLUB TOURNAMENTS 1989

Hicks Cup	Advanced play	J. Toyne
Belmont Cup	Handicap singles	J. Hatherley
Fermor Bowl	Ladies handicap Singles	M. Hardman
Colclough & Sidmouth Cups	Handicap Doubles	Esme Owen & H. Drew
Devonia Cup	High Handicap Singles	H. Dawson
Corbett Spoons	2 Ball High Bisquers	G. Hewitt
Low Bisquers		V. Collier
Robert Case Shield	Shot Game	V. Collier
Tankard		M. Stephenson
Cunningham Salvors	Golf Croquet Singles	M. Russell
Doubles		M & R Russell
Longworth Cup	Most Improved Players	M. Davis
Sidmouth Croquet Club		Clifford Walker

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