



Sidmouth Croquet Club

Fortfield Terrace
<https://www.sidmouthcroquet.co.uk/>



MINUTES OF THE CROQUET SECTION COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 4th November 2024

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

1	Apologies	
2	The Minutes of the meeting on 7 th October were approved.	Action
3	Matters arising I. The revised membership list is in hand and the handicaps should be updated.	
4	Committee Membership I. Committee contact details were confirmed. II. No other members have confirmed that they will join the committee, but there are still some possible recruits. III. Philip Harris is taking over leading the AC Handicap Committee and Kelvin Dent is joining. Thanks to Jane Babbage for her work in the role.	SD, MG
5	Feedback I. The section AGM was well attended, Rev. Roy Hubbard did an excellent job of presenting the trophies, members were very appreciative. The only issue was the club needs a better microphone. II. Draft AGM minutes will be circulated to members.	SD ED
6	Finance I. The various cash funds are in line with expectations at the end of the season.	
7	Forthcoming events I. Club sessions will continue with, subject to approval by Toby, a reversion to a start time of 10.00. II. Coffee and chat sessions have started and are running smoothly. III. The first board games session is set for 5 th November, including refreshments. IV. 32 people have booked for the Christmas lunch. Crackers will be provided by the club if they are not being supplied by the hotel.	MG
8	Open Tournaments 2025 I The schedule of open tournaments to be submitted to CqE was agreed.	PN
9	Croquet Section Programme 2025 I. A draft programme for 2025 was agreed. II. Reminders will be sent out two weeks before one day tournaments inviting late entries. III. The internal tournament programme experienced the usual difficulties this year with low entries to some, late withdrawals and blocks not completed on time. It was agreed that there would be another attempt to run the low	SD

	<p>entry competitions, players who withdraw will have games ceded to the opponents, unplayed games to be recorded as 0:0, and reminders will be sent out prior to the closing dates for block completion.</p> <p>IV. One lawn will be reserved on Friday afternoons for short croquet and AC coaching.</p>	<p>RT</p> <p>RT</p>
10	<p>SCTCC CIO EGM</p> <p>I. Members are to be encouraged to attend the main club EGM on Saturday 9th November at 11.00.</p>	All
11	<p>SWF AGM</p> <p>I. Ed will attend as delegate.</p> <p>II. It was agreed that we will support proposals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 & 10.</p> <p>III. It was agreed that we will support proposal 7 on the order of play in Short Croquet Tournaments if it is applied to all rounds at the start of the tournament. If it requires a new draw for each round then we cannot support it.</p> <p>IV. It was agreed that we will abstain on proposal 9 on the introduction of Advantage play in GC matches.</p> <p>V. Volunteers for the AC Intermediate Team and Manager will be sought.</p>	<p>ED</p> <p>SD</p>
12	<p>CqE Return</p> <p>I. We have recorded 99 adult and 2 junior members.</p>	
13	<p>Committee Members</p> <p>I. The new cupboard has been fitted in hut 3. A fold away shelf will be fitted beside it.</p> <p>II. Upgraded Wi-Fi has been installed. The key is FieldNT8Fort</p> <p>III. A fund raising suggestion from Steve Pearson with square metre sponsorship for a court was noted and may be adopted if we have a capital project that needs funding.</p>	RT

The date of the next two meetings will be Monday 2nd December and 6th January.



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MINUTES OF THE CROQUET SECTION COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 2nd December 2024

Present: Sue Dent, Ed Dolphin, Marian Gadian, Peter Regan, Richard Thurlow. Philip Harris & Steve Pearson joined at 11.00

1	Apologies Peter Nelson	
2	The Minutes of the meeting on 4 th November were approved.	Action
3	<p>Matters arising</p> <p>I The draft AGM minutes are yet to be circulated.</p> <p>II The revised membership list is awaiting distribution.</p> <p>III The Friday Short Croquet coaching sessions will be delayed until the spring.</p> <p>IV Motion 7 at the SWF AGM on Short Croquet Tournaments was withdrawn.</p> <p>V Following further discussions across the club, it was agreed that we would vote against Motion 9 GC Advantage play, but the motion was passed, from 2025 SWF GC handicap teams will play under the Advantage system.</p> <p>VI Neil Price will be invited to join the committee by co-option in January.</p>	<p>ED</p> <p>RT</p>
4	<p>South West Federation</p> <p>I. Following the decision on GC Advantage, it was agreed that we will enter two GC Level teams and one Advantage HC team in 2025.</p> <p>II. We are not able to run an AC Intermediate Team, but we will run a Federation team and two teams in the Advanced Leagues.</p> <p>III. It was agreed that internal GC competitions will be played under untimed Advantage rules with the proviso that managers of whole day competitions have the option to impose time limits if games are over running.</p> <p>IV. Previous members of GC teams will be invited to attend a training/practice day on Advantage. The use of bisques in the ground as score markers will be explored.</p> <p>V. The GC skills refresher morning on 3rd May will be followed by an afternoon of games played under Advantage rules open to all interested members.</p> <p>VI. Steven Custance-Baker will be invited to run his GC faults half-day. This will be followed by an afternoon of GC Advantage games open to all interested members.</p>	<p>SD</p>
5	<p>Feedback from the SCTCC special meeting and GMC</p> <p>I. The croquet section was well represented at the SGM with 42 members. The motion to set up the new organisation was approved.</p>	

	<p>II. The GMC has negotiated a temporary contract for a bar manager, a permanent contract with a different provider is being progressed, but they have been unable to secure a catering contract.</p> <p>III. The proposed resurfacing of the tennis courts is yet to be agreed pending a third quotation and the tennis section raising fifty percent of the cost.</p> <p>IV. There will be a joint meeting of the various sections' safeguarding officers arranged by Mike Goodman.</p> <p>V. A decision on subscription levels was deferred.</p> <p>VI. We have been asked for a long-term capital projects plan. This will be on the agenda for January.</p>	<p>MG</p> <p>ALL</p>
6	<p>Finance</p> <p>I The various cash funds are in line with expectations at the end of the season.</p>	
7	<p>Events</p> <p>I Participants have taken on responsibility for the coffee and chat sessions.</p> <p>II The second board games afternoon is due for Tuesday 3rd December.</p> <p>III There are 47 confirmed reservations for the Christmas Meal. It was agreed that social group seating can be arranged with other people taking pot luck on the day. Crackers are being provided.</p>	MG
8	<p>CqE Tournament bids for 2027</p> <p>I It was confirmed that we will only accommodate one closed major tournament per year alternating GC and AC and that we will only bid for tournaments involving less than five days.</p> <p>II It was agreed that, subject to agreement from PN and in order of priority, we will bid for the AC All England HC Final 18th-19th September, the AC Selectors' Weekend 10th-12th September, or the AC Second 8 Chairman's Salver 9th-12th September 2027.</p>	PN
9	<p>Croquet Section Programme 2025</p> <p>I. The final programme will be circulated to members before Christmas.</p>	SD
10	<p>Gratuity</p> <p>II. It was agreed that a gratuity will be given to Toby from section funds.</p>	SD
11	<p>Committee Members</p> <p>I. Club sessions are working well, the addition of numbered key fobs for partnering is proving successful. The sessions will continue subject to any needs for lawn closure.</p> <p>II. Some lawn preparation has been hampered by the weather and Toby being ill. We will continue the policy of only making polite enquiries on lawn progress. It will be confirmed that he is still receiving expert advice and support.</p> <p>III. The 'private' signs will be put up at the start of next season.</p>	<p>ED</p> <p>PR</p>

The date of the next two meetings will be Monday 6th January and 3rd February 2025.



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MINUTES OF THE CROQUET SECTION COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 6th January 2025

Present: Sue Dent, Ed Dolphin, Marian Gadian, Peter Nelson, Neil Price, Peter Regan.

1	Apologies Richard Thurlow	Action
2	Neil Price was welcomed and co-opted onto the committee. Apart from a contribution to the general work of the committee, he will work with Richard Thurlow on internal tournaments, and help liaison between GC players.	
3	The Minutes of the meeting on 2 nd December were approved.	
4	<p>Matters arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">I. There has been no response to the draft AGM minutes circulated to members.II. The new membership list will be circulated soon.III. The bid for CqE high level tournaments has been sent and acknowledged. A decision will be made soon.IV. Steven Custance-Baker will run an afternoon session on GC Advantage on Monday 14th April. Payment of costs will be agreed at the next meeting. He may offer skills coaching in the morning.	
5	<p>Feedback</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">I The Christmas meal was a success. 47 people attended and there were many compliments about the organisation and the food. Some members thought the drinks were expensive. Thanks were expressed to Marian and Margaret for all their work. One guest was so impressed with the friendliness of the others she has agreed to join the club. The Belmont will be considered for next year's meal subject to progress on a catering contract for the club.	
6	<p>Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">I The rota for the coffee and chat sessions is running. They will continue for as long as there is enough interest.II The board games afternoon went well with 10 people enjoying the session. The next one will be on Tuesday 7th January.III The quiz and afternoon tea will run on Thursday 13th March. Final arrangements will be discussed at the next meeting.	
7	<p>Finance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">I. The SWF fees came to £116, they have been paid.II. We have received £2,321 from CqE for tournament lawn hire and entry fees.III. The social fund has a satisfactory balance to cover future needs.IV. The GMC will be setting the 2025 subscriptions, it was agreed that an increase will be necessary.V. It was agreed that we would not welcome a split club and section membership fee.VI. Alan reports ongoing difficulties with QuickBooks.	

8	<p>Capital Expenditure</p> <p>I It was agreed that the likely projects in the next 5 years will be the purchase of a set of new primary and secondary balls at approximately £1,000 and a set of hoops, stainless steel £650 or two sets of powder coated £700.</p>	
9	<p>GMC Update</p> <p>I Tennis section issues with the court surface and lights remain to be settled.</p> <p>II We have passed 50% of the Foundation Subscribers giving permission to transfer the grounds to the new CIO.</p> <p>III We have been asked to provide a section newsletter for 19th January.</p>	SD
10	<p>General Updates</p> <p>I It was agreed that the fee for two new members this late in the year will be £25.</p> <p>II The court surface continues to be a concern. It will be on the agenda for the GMC.</p> <p>III Discussion of the SWF GC Pyramid competition was deferred until the next meeting.</p> <p>IV GC roll ups are working well and popular in fine weather. AC roll ups are attracting very few players.</p> <p>V The water has been turned off in hut 3 for the rest of the winter.</p> <p>VI It was agreed that we will not be nominating anyone for Honorary Membership this year.</p>	SD
11	<p>Committee Members Matters/AOB</p> <p>I Marian is meeting with Mike Goodman concerning club wide safeguarding.</p> <p>II It was agreed that we can host either the SWF GC or AC Federation League Finals on the weekend of 27/28th September 2025. There is some confusion over our GC High Handicap Team which needs to be resolved with Richard Wood.</p> <p>III The possibility of a GC Pyramid competition as mentioned in the latest SWF Cygnet will be discussed at the next meeting.</p>	ED

The date of the next two meetings will be Monday 3rd February and 3rd March 2025.



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MINUTES OF THE CROQUET SECTION COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON TUESDAY 4th February 2025

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

1	Apologies N/A	Action
2	The Minutes of the meeting on 6 th January were approved.	
3	Matters arising I The membership contact list has been updated. II Marian has met with Mike Goodman for discussions on safeguarding. III The confusion over GC teams has been corrected.	
4	Feedback I The coffee mornings are still thriving, members are happy that it has reverted to Hut 3. II Board game sessions are also going well. III It was noted that the coffee and games' sessions have brought forward more enthusiastic volunteers to help the club.	
5	Events I The kitchen will be available for the Quiz afternoon. Members will be asked to bring cakes, etc. II The date for the Spring Lunch will be reviewed at the next meeting to coincide with the full opening of the lawns. A buffet will be provided, local caterers will be approached, if none available then Waitrose will be used. The price for members will be set according to the cost with the possibility of subsidy from the Social Fund. III Taster sessions will be Saturday 5 th & 12 th April. 10 copies of Know The Game will be ordered. A GC focused introductory book will be sought. A promotional flag will be purchased from the section allocation. An article will be sent to the Sidmouth Herald. A flyer to be sent to the Tennis Section. IV A separate taster session will be arranged for U3A members in association with Amanda Haste. V GC players will be encouraged to enter local tournaments including the new D-level event at Budleigh.	MG MG NP SD RT SD SD
6	Internal Tournaments I It was agreed that the Elaine Woodward Salver, Devonian Cup and Fermor Bowl trophies will be delayed with a view to staging fresh competitions later in the season for inexperienced players. II Competition details will be sent out in early March. There will no charge for entry. III The Charity One Ball will be supporting Alzheimer's Society and the theme colour will be light blue.	RT

	IV It was agreed that one lawn will be set as two short croquet courts during AC roll ups as an active scheme to promote AC among GC players and to develop high handicap AC players.	
7	GMC Update <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. The GMC finance paper and fund-raising subcommittee reports, circulated previously were noted. II. The Easy Fundraising scheme will be recommended for exploration. III. The section capital expenditure plan was accepted, but to raise the cost of hut 3 replacement to £40,000. IV. The recommended subscription rate of £210 was approved on condition there are comparable rates for other sections. V. Attempts to secure a catering contract are ongoing. VI. The club has received a generous bequest from the estate of Sheila Adams which will be divided among sections and the main club. VII. CqE has agreed that their 2 votes can be cast in favour of transferring the ground to the new charity. 	RT/NP SD
8	General updates <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I A series of miscommunications and misunderstandings over the GC Team Challenge has led to considerable upset among members. Those members will be approached personally to discuss the situation and it is hoped that a line can be drawn under these and lessons learned for next year. The club will continue to welcome the teams from other clubs. All of the entry fees have been transferred to the club account. II Taunton Deane has invited interest in a new Short Croquet event but no details are available yet. III Discussion of the GC Pyramid Competition was deferred to later in the year. IV The GC WhatsApp group is having some success in drawing members together. 	SD, PN
9	Beginners' Coaching <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I Richard and Ed agreed to lead the coaching sessions which will start a week later than last year to allow more time for arrangements to meet demand. II The format will be similar to last year and focussed firmly on balls skills rather than either code of the game. 	RT, ED
10	Sidmouth Youth Hub Project <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I It was agreed that we will be listed on the project and offer a taster session for juniors at a date agreed with Sidmouth College. 	ED
11	Committee Members Matters/AOB <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. It was agreed that we will arrange a session for Exmouth walking group through Mike Franks. This will be charged at the usual rate of £5 per person. II. It was noted that the GC Tournament on 21/22nd June will use Quadway Hoops supplied by CqE. 	SD

The dates of the next two meetings will be Thursday 27th February at 2pm and Monday 31st March 2025 at 10am.

MINUTES OF THE CROQUET SECTION COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY 27th February 2025

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

1	Apologies Neil Price	Action
2	The Minutes of the meeting on 4 th February were approved.	
3	<p>Matters arising</p> <p>I It has been decided that the GC Team Challenge will run with the club's support and CqE tournaments will be reviewed as usual in the autumn.</p> <p>II A brief entry has been submitted to the Youth Activity Hub with contact details should there be any take up. For reference, the tennis section youth membership is £33.</p>	
4	<p>Feedback</p> <p>I The coffee mornings and board game sessions are still going well but will finish after the first week of March.</p>	
5	<p>Events</p> <p>I The kitchen will be available for the Quiz afternoon. Members have agreed to supply cakes, etc. The charge will be £2.50. Message out to membership.</p> <p>II The Spring Lunch will be Tuesday 25th March, catering by Kirsten from The Chatterry, we will provide tea and coffee. The price will be subsidised at £15. The bar will be open and staff paid from the social fund. Notice to go out to members.</p> <p>III Taster Sessions set for Saturdays 5th and 12th April.</p> <p>a. Richard will coordinate publicity. A club flag will be purchased for £181.</p> <p>b. Ed will arrange for social media posts.</p> <p>c. Volunteer helpers will be approached individually.</p> <p>d. If they do not come directly to hut 3, visitors will be greeted at the Pavilion and taken to lawns 2 & 3 by a volunteer for a twenty minute chat and play session. Anyone interested in joining will be taken back to the Pavilion to have details recorded and to receive information about introductory coaching. The coaching will be £15, paid on taster day or at start of coaching.</p> <p>e. Richard and Ed will meet to finalise the coaching. Whether or not to issue free copies of Introduction to Croquet will be decided later. Alternative materials will be explored,</p> <p>IV U3A taster session May 7th 2pm, being organised by Amanda, lawn 4 has been booked and will be set as half lawns.</p>	<p>MG</p> <p>PN MG</p> <p>RT</p> <p>ED SD</p> <p>RT, ED</p>
6	<p>General Updates</p> <p>I The 2027 bid for CqE Championships was unsuccessful.</p>	

	<p>II Subject to the weather, all 4 lawns will open on 1st April but with winter rules continuing. Full play will begin 21st April. GC Saturday roll ups will start 7th June.</p> <p>III The committee agreed to their contact details being available to members.</p> <p>IV The committee acknowledged the introduction of the CqE Player Pathway but will wait to see the final version.</p>	
7	<p>I GMC Update</p> <p>II As of 11th February, we are a charity.</p> <p>III The GMC has kept the 2025 subscription at £203 and it will rise to £210 in 2026, but a special general meeting has been called for because the tennis section are disputing the subscription setting process.</p> <p>IV Two people are to be interviewed for the new post of bar steward. A contract for the provision of cricket match teas with occasional other catering provision is almost complete.</p>	
8	<p>New Season Documents</p> <p>I The format for the new season documents was agreed.</p>	
9	<p>GC Advantage</p> <p>I The committee was briefed by Peter Regan on preparations for GC Advantage. Peter, Philip and Steve are arranging introductory sessions for SWF team members and other members.</p> <p>II It was agreed to purchase 3 sets of extra clips.</p> <p>III Target score display requirements are being investigated.</p>	<p>ED</p> <p>PR</p>
10	<p>Committee Members Matters/AOB</p> <p>I AC roll up players have been alerted to the need to help new AC players to try short croquet.</p> <p>II A hut 3 cleaning session has been set for 9.00 Thursday 20th March.</p> <p>III It was decided not to pursue team shirts for SWF teams.</p> <p>IV GC tournaments have attracted good entries while AC tournaments are struggling for entries.</p> <p>V Thanks to Andrew, Peter and Peter were recorded for their efforts decorating the Pavilion.</p> <p>VI Margaret Regan may take on the role of Secretary from autumn 2025, she will be supported by Ed</p>	<p>ED</p>

The dates of the next two meetings will be Monday 31st March 2025 at 2pm and Monday 5th May, also at 2pm.