

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 14 November 1991 at the Dart house.

Present: J. Hatherley, P. Dart, H. Dawson, T. Dustan-Smith, E. Golding, G. Sims, G. Dart.

Apologies: Nil.

Minutes of the last meeting: The Chairmen opened the meeting by welcoming the 3 new members. The Secretary then read the minutes of the last meeting, which were approved and signed.

Matters arising: 1 For the benefit of the new committee H. Dawson repeated details of the 91/92 Estimates.

2) He referred also to the Dartington glass research in connection with the June Tournament, and after discussion the committee decided that the possibility of silver cups should also be pursued, all options for the moment remaining open.

3) With reference to the need for extra Barlow balls, E. Golding reported that as well as 1 standard set and 1 secondary colours set in use through the past season he was holding 2 unused sets. It was noted that further purchases would be necessary, and T. Dustan-Smith was authorised to buy 4 sets of both primary and secondary colours (2 sets of each)

4) The Chairman reported on the SW Fed. AGM and informed members of a minor change in the League Rules.

Allocation of duties: These were announced by the Chairman as follows: Chairman J. Hatherley. Secretary G. Dart

Vice-Chairman & Rep, on Main Club Committee	P. Dart
Internal competitions	P. Dart
Federation matches	H. Dawson,
Ground & Equipment	T. Dustan-Smith
Publicity; Booking Sheets; Library; Cash	E. Golding
Social	G. Sims
Joint responsibility Golf Croquet	G. Sims & E. Golding
Golf Croquet Matches with Budleigh Salterton	E. Golding
Training	J. Hatherley
Handicapping Committee	I. Dwerryhouse, J. Hatherley, H. Dawson
Team Selection	J. Hatherley, H. Dawson, G. Dart

It was agreed that written job descriptions would be helpful, and the Chairman suggested that individuals should draft their own, for discussion and approval at a later Committee meeting.

Cash The meeting discussed briefly the need for itemization of amounts passed to the Club Treasurer so that the Treasurer had more detailed information, e.g. VAT element, and b) the Section financial records were easier to analyse at Estimates time. The Chairmen said that a £20 float only should be held, and all monies above that amount be handed to the Treasurer with a detailed breakdown. The Secretary was authorised to buy a Duplicate Book for these details to be recorded.

The Vice-Chairman volunteered to be responsible for collating Estimates for 92/93 when the time came.

Short Croquet: Members agreed that a Short Croquet Tournament (Open) should be held, and the suggested dates of Tuesday, 19 May and Wednesday 20 May were approved; with on Thursday 21 May a Club Short Croquet day, with no fees, no prizes. The Secretary was instructed to send an advertisement to SWAN and H. Dawson to write to certain clubs individually to ensure maximum publicity.

Reports: E. Golding reported on the recent Main Committee meeting.

The Chairman then invited members in turn to raise any issues.

T. Dustan-Smith referred to the desirability of having working parties from time to time to relieve or help the groundsman in any Croquet projects.

E. Golding said that he had been asked to raise the issue of additional playing time for Club Golf Croquet sessions. This was noted.

He had also been asked to query the possibility of playing Table Tennis during the Winter months as a Section activity. The Chairman requested him to explore the matter further and report- back at the next Committee meeting.

P. Dart reminded members of the discussion at the AGM on staggering Internal Tournament dates, with particular reference to the Doubles. It was agreed to make decisions on this issue at the next meeting.

H. Dawson commented on the format of the Shot Game Competition - this too to be discussed at the next meeting.

The Chairman spoke of e need for more coaches and referees within the Club and gave members advance information of an Improvers' Course at Budleigh 3/4 May '92, to be notified in 'Croquet'.

Date of next, meeting: Tuesday 7 January 1992 at Norton Garth.



Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 7 January 1992 at Norton Garth

Present: J. Hatherley, P. Dart, H. Dawson, A. Dustan-Smith, E. Golding, G. Sims, G. Dart.

Apologies: Nil.

Minutes of the last resting: The Chairman having opened the meeting by wishing all members a Happy New Year, the Secretary then read the minutes of the last meeting, which were approved and signed.

Matters arising: 1) Job descriptions drafted by members were handed to the Chairman for perusal.

2) It was reported that the table tennis venture was flourishing, with so far 3 sessions having been held – 11/12 people weekly, at a charge of £1 per head. The Chairman congratulated E. Golding on his initiative.

3) Internal Tournaments Doubles. It was accepted by all members that a concentrated tournament should be held during the season. After discussion as to the best format and length of time, it was agreed that it should be a 3 day 'blocks' tournament, possibly 13,14. & 16 July (these dates for confirmation later).

4) Golf Croquet: E. Golding said that members would prefer the Friday sessions to start at 4 p.m. rather than 6 p.m. After discussion it was agreed that 2 lawns should be available on Fridays from 4 p.m. when organised Golf Croquet started in May.

It was also agreed that for individuals playing, a time of 2 hours only in any session should be bookable, unless it was specifically indicated that the full session was required.

5) Shot Game: The meeting discussed very fully the problems of the competitive format of the Shot Game, and it was eventually proposed by H Dawson, seconded by A Dustan-Smith, that for 1992 there should be 2 categories of prize -1, for highest score without consideration of handicap 2. for highest score + handicap allowance and that at the 1992 AGM the question of retaining the exercise on a competitive basis or of using it purely as a training aid should be put to the membership.

Correspondence: 1) The Secretary reported that a letter had been - received from the Fed. Secretary with the minutes of the recent Fed. AGM. As a result of this letter a representative collection of handicap cards had been sent to the Federation Sec, and the Section's Affiliation fee of £24 had been paid.

2) A letter of resignation had been received from I. Wilson; membership figure was now 106, 5 resignations and 1 notification of return (S. Scarr) having been received to date.

3) A note from the Friends had notified the Garden Party date of 10 July.

Reports: The Cashier said that a total of £47.47 had been passed to the Treasurer from Table Tennis and Whist profits.

P. Dart reported that he had attended a Main Club Committee meeting for the specific purpose of agreeing the location of a double set of cricket nets, it had been agreed that they should be parallel to Fortfield Terrace in the North East corner of the cricket field. Some dates in connection with internal tournaments were proposed, but it was accepted that Federation match dates must first be confirmed. G. Sims reported. that arrangements had been made to hold the Annual Lunch at the Royal Glen Hotel on 12 March at a cost of £6.75. A. Dustan-Smith queried the extent of the groundsman's responsibilities in connection with maintenance of croquet- equipment. It was agreed that in the summer self-help from within the Section would be necessary, but that in the

slack winter period he could be expected to deal with a number of items such as putting preservative on the seats.

The meeting shared A. Dustan-Smith's concern at the poor quality of Lawn 1 and agreed the need for action, while accepting that a refurbishment proposal would not be appropriate for this financial year.

The Chairman congratulated A. Dustan-Smith on his appointment as Chairman of the Club Grounds sub-committee and expressed the hope that some of the remedial work on Lawn 1 would be agreed by the committee.

It was reported that a set of Barlow balls was available through R. Callingham; and it was confirmed that 3 other sets should be purchased, making a total of 4 new sets to be bought.

Training. The Chairman said that he had through John Tore approached Sidmouth College in the hope that a few 6th formers would opt for Croquet as their 'compulsory' sports activity. He visualized giving free training, in school hours, for up to say 6 students, some of whom might subsequently join the Club as Junior members. The Committee thoroughly approved the idea.

He reported that E. Kitchener was to take charge of an intermediate training course for members in their 2nd year. The Secretary was asked to include in the Spring Programme a request that 2nd year members only should, if interested to receive further training, give their names to Eric.

Dates were agreed for 2 training meetings:

Friday 28 February from 10-12 noon for members 15 handicap & under
(a blackboard exposition on such things as Rover Peels)

Tuesday 24 March for a refresher course for all members (10-12 noon)

The request for an advanced training session under the tutelage of John Toye was noted.

Any Other Business:

1) Potential new members were to be invited to an initial meeting on Tuesday 17 March at 10 a.m. The fee for 1992 training was to be £13 to include How to Play Croquet. The Secretary reported a total of 12 names to date.

2) The Chairman suggested and members agreed that Lawns 4, ,2, should be re-numbered in sequence towards the sea, i.e. 4 becoming 2 et seq.

3) It was agreed that in the interest of getting higher bisquers to play in friendly competition a Ladder should be arranged for Handicap 14 and over, playing a 14-point game.

4) The Secretary drew members' attention to the proposed National Croquet Day on 23 May, but after discussion it was agreed that no special action should be taken.

5) It was agreed (proposed H. Dawson, seconded E. Golding) that the Section should enter in 1992 for the Longman Cup tournament.

6) It was agreed that entries for the All England Handicap should not in 1992 be sought.

7) The Secretary gave the date of the S.W. Fed. Golf Croquet QRE as 3 July; entry fee £2.

8) The question of lawn availability and marking early in the season was discussed; and it was agreed. that Lawn 1 should be Sub-divided through April and May and be marked out as for Short Croquet; to revert to one full-size lawn immediately after the Club Short Croquet Day on 21 May.

9) The matter of a bar roster for Thursday evenings was raised, and P. dart accepted responsibility.

10) The Secretary was instructed to buy fro the CA a Coaching Manual, a Ball Gauge, and a quantity of training books.

11) The Chairman showed members a silver cup which it is proposed to use for the June Tournament, A. Dustan-Smith spoke of a potential source of purchase which he though the Chairman and he might explore at an early date.

12) The question of practice availability was raised, with particular reference to the rules presently in force.

To discuss and agree the rules at the February Meeting.

Date of next meeting. It was agreed to have a regular date - the first Tuesday in each month (June, August September excepted because of prior Croquet arrangements).

Dates therefore through to September are as follows:

Tuesday 4 February; 3 March; 7 April; 5 May; 9 June; 7 July; 11 August;
8 September; All meetings to be at 9.30 a.m. at Norton Garth.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 12.05



Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 4 February 1992 at Norton Garth

Present: J. Hatherley, P. Dart, A. Dustan-Smith, E. Golding, G. Sims, G. Dart.

Apologies: H. Dawson.

Minutes of the last meeting were read, approved and signed.

Matters arising: The Secretary reported that the CA were unable to supply a ball gauge, and A. Dustan-Smith agreed to buy elsewhere. A. Dustan-Smith reported that 2 silver cups had been bought and were being refurbished. Suitable wood for bases was being sought.

The question of practice availability was discussed, and the meeting agreed that NO practice slot should this year be shown on the booking sheet. (Proposed A. Dustan-Smith, seconded G. Sims, carried nem.con.) Times would be 10-1; 1-4; 4-6.30; and E. Golding was asked to amend the booking sheets accordingly.

Correspondence: 1) The Secretary reported receipt of a letter from the CA giving the 1992 Registration fee as the greatly increased figure of £2.50 per non-CA member. Members expressed shock at the increase, but agreed reluctantly that protest would be inappropriate in view of the CA's recent grant to the Club.

The Secretary reported also that the Affiliates' magazine 'Croquet News' was now to be sent regularly in bulk to Clubs; and that new Handicap cards were to be issued.

2) She reported receipt of a number of training books and a Coaching Manual.

3) One letter of resignation (Derek Bull, Country member) was reported.

Reports: E. Golding said that the table tennis venture continued its popularity, with an average attendance of 17/20 each week. £97 in fees had so far been passed to the Treasurer. It was proposed to keep going till the end of April. The desirability of a second table should be kept in mind, maybe for the autumn.

G. Sims said that 38 tickets had so far been sold for the Lunch

P. Dart reported that he had attended the January Management meeting. Internal Tournaments: the dates of 13, 14, July for a Doubles tournament were confirmed; and 9 May agreed as the closing date for entry to the regular Club tournaments. The internal Golf Croquet tournament would be held on 1/2 September, and entries called for separately and nearer the time.

H. Dawson: The Chairman gave on his behalf dates of Fed, matches arranged. Sidmouth had been asked to host the Fed. Golf Croquet Final, and one or more of the League Finals. Members agreed H. Dawson's recommendation that another Club should have the chance to host the Golf Croquet Final this year, but that we should accept whichever League Finals were on offer, with a first preference for the Federation Final. A. Dustan-Smith reported that 5 new sets of Barlow balls were now held. Members agreed his statement that the major long-term need had to be the refurbishment of Lawn 1, and that full costing should be researched.

Any Other Business: 1) It was agreed to increase Visitors' Green fees to £2 per person, with a reduced rate of £1 per child.

2) Members thanked E. Owen for her offer to provide a floral display outside the Mallet Room.

3) It was agreed that the Manor Car Park draw should be at the Lunch.

4) The Sec. showed members a sample cravat (lady's) available from a London firm. It was decided not to proceed.

The meeting closed at 11.40 a.m.

Date of next meeting 3 March at 9.30 a.m. at Norton Garth.



SIDMOUTH CRICKET, TENNIS, CROQUET a HOCKEY CLUB

CROQUET SECTION

SPRING PROGRAMME 1992

Tuesday	11	February	2.00 pm	WHIST DRIVE
Friday	28	February	10.00 am - 12 noon	TRAINING MEETING (For Handicap 15 and Under)
Wednesday	4	March	2.00 pm	WHIST DRIVE
Thursday	12	March	12.15 for 12.45pm	ANNUAL LUNCH AT ROYAL GLEN HOTEL
Tuesday	17	March	10.00 am -12 noon	MEETING FOR POTENTIAL NEW MEMBERS
Tuesday	24	March	10.00 am -12 noon	PRE-SEASON CROQUET REFRESHER
Saturday	4	April	LAWNS OPEN	(Grounds S weather permitting)

Your Subscription of £76.96 is **NOW** due. Please make cheque payable to Sidmouth Cricket, Tennis, Croquet S Hockey Club and send to the Club Treasurer, Rex Sims.

If you do not intend to continue as a member, please notify the Hon. Sec., Gwynneth Dart, as soon as possible.

As the Club operates entirely with volunteer help it would be much appreciated if you would offer your services during the season for such jobs as office duty, collection of deck chair money, bar or tea duty.

The Croquet section is responsible for manning the bar on Thursdays from 6pm to 8pm when there are home Cricket Matches, and for this roster Peter Dart will be glad to have your name. (Tel. 516635)

Tickets for the Annual Lunch (Cost £6.75) are available from Gwen Sims, Manor Garth, Seafield Lane, Sidmouth, EX10 8HF - cheques made payable to the Club, and an s.a.e. sent with ticket order, please.

An Intermediate Training Course, for 2nd year members only, is to be run by Eric Kitchener. Will those interested please contact him on Tel: 512812.

The Training meeting on 28 February is for lower bisquers (15-) and will include a Blackboard demonstration on how to do a Rover Peel.

The meeting on 24 March is for us all to brush up our skills for the start of the season.

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 3 March 1992 at Norton Garth. Present: J. Hatherley, P. Dart, H. Dawson, A. Dustan-Smith, G. Sims, G. Dart. Apologies: E. Golding.

Minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed.

Matters arising: The Secretary reported that the CA Registration fee had been paid; £205 for 82 non-CA members as at 30 September 1991, the number of CA members at that time being 28.

Correspondence: 1) Letters of resignation had been received from Peter & Susan Macmillan, and from David & Sue Hawkins. 2) The Longman Cup entry had been submitted, with the £20 entry fee.

Reports: H. Dawson reported that all Federation matches had now been arranged; and that Sidmouth was to host the Federation Final and the 'B' Final on 27 September. The Golf Croquet Final was to be held elsewhere.

Resulting from advance notice given to some dozen Clubs of the May Short Croquet Tournament, 3 entries had so far been received, 2 from Bath and 1 from Wellington.

G. Sims reported that 61 tickets had been sold for the Lunch. She gave details of the chosen menu.

P. Dart gave a report on the recent Main Club Committee meeting, and asked if the Section had any special rules that should be incorporated as By-Laws in the new Club Rules. After brief discussion it was agreed that a negative reply should be submitted to the Club Secretary.

He reported that the Pavilion refurbishment was almost completed, and told members that a 're-opening' evening was planned for 11 April.

The Committee had agreed the advisability of having a part-time bar steward, and this post was to be advertised.

The security of the Mallet Room had been discussed, but it was accepted that a key had to be available inside the door to comply with Fire Regulations.

A. Dustan-Smith reported that the recently purchased cups were now ready for the June Tournament. It was agreed that they should be on show at the Annual Lunch, and the hope was expressed that a couple of donors might be found.

The desirability of a hedge as a wind barrier on the seaward side of Lawn 4, and also on the road side of Lawns 2.3.4. was brought to the notice of members, all of whom agreed the suggestion. A. Dustan-Smith said he would take the matter in hand.

The Chairman asked members for their views on a proposal that a tree should be planted in the corner of Lawn 3. Unanimous approval was given.

The Secretary, for the Cashier, reported that recent out-goings had been £45 for engraving trophies (inclusive of the cost of re-silvering a salver), and £61.15 for the purchase of books. Receipts had been £9.30 for book sales, and £2.20 for coffee at a training meeting.

Training: the Secretary said that 10 potential members would be at the meeting on 17 March; 3 people were keen but could not attend.

Any Other Business: AGM: the date was agreed as 27 October, and the suggestion was accepted that Mr David Purdon, Regional Coaching Officer, should be asked to present the prizes.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 11.05 a.m.

Date of next meeting 7 April 1992 at 9.30 a.m. at Norton Garth.



SIDMOUTH CRICKET, TENNIS, CROQUET & HOCKEY CLUB
CROQUET SECTION
SUMMER PROGRAMME 1992

April 4th	Lawns open, subject to conditions
April 27th	Coaching Demonstration and Training
May 4th	Club Coffee Morning 10 am (Croquet Section Cake Stall)
May 9th	Closing date for entries in Club Tournaments
May 19th and 20th	Short Croquet Open Tournament (8 places reserved for Club members, £3.50 entry fee, closing date 12th May)
May 21st	Club members Short Croquet Tournament (no entry fee)
June 1st-5th	Open Tournament
June 23rd	Egyptian Tournament
July 3rd	Federation Open Golf Croquet Tournament
July 10th	Club Garden Party
July 13th, 14th & 16th	Club members Doubles Tournament
July 27th & 28th	Two Ball Club Tournament
August 17th	Shot Game Tournament
September 1st & 2nd	Club Tournament Golf Croquet (Ass. Handicap 14 6 Over)
September 5th & 8th	Club Tournament Finals
September 27th	Federation League Final 'B' League Final

ASSOCIATION CROQUET

Most Monday afternoons from April 27th will be Club afternoons from 1pm unless shown otherwise on the Booking sheet.

Please note that

April 27th, May 11th, June 29th:	2 Ball practice on all lawns
June 15th, July 6th:	Shot Game practice on Lawns 3 6 4

The Doubles Tournament this year is a 3-day event in July. Lots of entries please, from lower as well as higher bisquers.

GOLF CROQUET

Organised Sessions will be held on Wednesdays from 10am and Fridays from 4pm, starting from May 6th. Prior to May 6th personal lawn bookings only, for a maximum of 4 members per lawn per session, so as to avoid excessive wear and tear on the area around the hoops, early in the season.

REMINDER

Members' personal equipment, such as Mallets, items of clothing, etc., left in the Mallet Room, are at Owner's Risk. It has been suggested members should make certain such items are covered under their own insurance policies.

Your Committee hopes that all members will enjoy a happy and successful season.

G. DART
Hon. Sec. Croquet Section

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 7 April 1992 at Norton Garth.

Present: J. Hatherley, P. Dart, H. Dawson, A. Dustan-Smith, E. Golding, G. Sims, G. Dart.

Minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed.

Matters arising: The Secretary reported that Mr. Purdon had accepted with pleasure the Section's invitation to present the trophies at the AGM.

Correspondence: 1) Instructions had been received from the CA re Handicapping, and Handicap cards were now available for distribution. The Chairman proposed, and all members agreed, that new members should have a start handicap of 24.

2) A negative reply had been sent in response to the CA's invitation to take part in National Croquet Day, sponsored by Bulmers.

3) A proforma from the EDDC seeking information on facilities, etc. for the disabled had been completed and sent back with a covering letter.

Reports: The Tournament Secretary gave details of the June Open Tournament.

In the Open event (X & Y) 21 entries.

In the Class event 24 entries.

For the Class event the proposed format was 4 blocks of 6, with 2 play-offs and 2 P- winners,

Prizes were agreed as follows:

Open - Winner - Cup + £10

Runner-up £7.50

'Y' Winner £7.50

Class - Winners - Cup + £10 each.

Runners-up £7.50 each.

The total of entry fees received was £322.50, 30% of which would go as levy to the CA. The groundsman would receive £22 (50p per entry).

The Chairman reported that trophies for the Tournament had been donated and were as follows:

Open - the David Rawkins Cup.

Class (Low Bisquers) - the Fortfield Cup, presented by John Hatherley.

(High Bisquers) - the Dwerryhouse Challenge Cup.

The meeting expressed grateful thanks to Dr Rawkins, Mr P. & Mrs I. Dwerryhouse, and Mr J. Hatherley for their generosity.

Short Croquet Tournament. To date 15 entries had been accepted, 6 of them being from Sidmouth members. Agreed prizes were the Dorothy Toye Cup for the winner + £5.50, and the runner-up £5.50. Groundsman's gratuity would be based on 50p. per head.

The Chairman as Training Officer reported that

- a) 11 potential members were taking the initial course.
- b) the training meeting on 24 March was well attended.
- c) 17 of last year's entrants were attending E. Kitchener's course.

E: Golding as Cashier reported that profit from the 5 Whist Drives through the winter had amounted to £50.92. It was suggested that the present 50p charge might be reviewed at the start of the next season.

Table Tennis had now ended for the season. Profits had come to approx £130, and the Chairman thanked E. Golding for his work. The possibility of obtaining a second table was mentioned

Social matters: The Chairman thanked G. Sims for her work in connection with the Annual Lunch, and it was agreed that next year's location should be discussed at the AGM.

G. Sims reported that a roster of helpers with teas, etc., was being compiled, and the Club Catering Officer had been approached on the question of lunches for the June Tournament. It was accepted that it was impossible to predict numbers and the matter was held over for further consideration and private discussion.

P. Dart as Main Club Committee representative reported that a club photocopier was being acquired; that the suggested planting of trees had been rejected; that a part-time bar steward had been appointed. He reminded members that an entry had to be made in the Bar book each time a visiting team was likely to be using the bar facility. It was agreed that this should be a responsibility of the Tournament Secretary.

Club Tournaments: 13 entries had so far been received. Members discussed and agreed the desirability of arranging an evening tournament some time during the summer.

Grounds & Equipment: A. Dustan-Smith said that approval in principle had been given to the idea of having hedges as wind barriers. He suggested yew as environmentally suitable, and was exploring the possibility of grants.

He sought committee approval for the purchase of plastic corner flags at a cost of £25 for 50 flags. Approval given. His need to advise the groundsman as to requirements for matches was noted.

The presence of woodworm at the back of the Robert Case hut (Lawn 4) was reported and noted for action.

The Secretary reported that a) copies of SWAN and the Affiliate magazine were in the Mallet Room for members to take.

b) Those successful in the Manor carpark draw were A. Dustan-Smith, G. Hewitt, J. Page, A. Rose, M. Smekal, M. Kirke.

c) 2 more resignations had been notified, and 1 member had cancelled his Associate membership. 2 Country members had joined.

Membership as at 4 April was 30 Associates.

66 Affiliates.

2 Country.

1 Other (parent club Exeter)

Any Other Business: 1) B. Moores & C. Verity had again offered to run the Cake stall at the Club Coffee morning on 4 May.

2) The Secretary reported that an amount of £20 had been sent to the CA as a contribution towards a gift to the retiring CA Treasurer, Alan Oldham. £16 of this amount had been donated by Associate members, and the £4 shortfall was taken from Club funds.

3) Club afternoons: It was suggested that these should take the form usually of 14-point doubles, time limit 1 hours, handicap range not too dissimilar. A roster of committee members to take charge was to be arranged.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 12.05 p.m.

Date of next meeting 5 May 1992 at 9.30 a.m. at Norton Garth.



Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 5 May 1992 at Norton Garth.

Present: J. Hatherley, P. Dart, H. Dawson, A. Dustan-Smith, E. Golding, G. Sims, G. Dart.

Minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed.

Matters arising: Nil

Correspondence: The Secretary had nothing significant to report.

Reports: E. Golding told members that a table tennis table had been purchased at a cost of £10, and was being stored by E. Owen.

G. Sims gave her report on catering arrangements for the June Tournament and it was agreed that for this first year the hired services of Mrs Fogwill should be used, to produce a simple lunch-time menu as well as tea with a piece of cake. From Day 1 players would be asked to 'sign in' if they expected to want lunch the next day.

P. Dart reported on the most recent Main Club Committee meeting, and said that the Thursday 'Bar List' had been posted.

He told members that 32 entries had to date been received for Club Tournaments. The possibility of an evening tournament was again raised, and it was agreed to discuss this at the June meeting. H. Dawson gave details of the Short Croquet Tournament; 21 entries had been received to date, 9 of them being from Sidmouth.

He said that 2 inter-Club matches had been arranged:

Longman Cup on 25 May at home v Bear of Rodborough (Lawns 3 & 4) 'B' League team to play at Bournemouth on 16 June.

A. Dustan-Smith reported receipt of a quantity of plastic flags, and said that pegging-down markers and extra clips had been ordered.

He sought guidance on setting a price for the sale of old practice balls, and £10 a set was agreed.

As Training Officer, the Chairman reported that 8 people had been accepted for membership as a result of the training course; and 6 youngsters from Sidmouth College were being coached on Wednesday afternoons. He hoped that L. Toye would be in official charge of youth training, and said that the questions of practice times and of supervision would need to be considered should these youngsters become Junior members.

Any Other Business: The desirability of having a Club evening, say from 5 p.m., perhaps at weekends, was proposed for members to think about.

Dates for the Club afternoons roster were noted by individuals concerned.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.50 a.m.

Date of next meeting: 9 June 1992 at 9.30 a.m. at Norton Garth.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "John Hatherley". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned at the bottom right of the page.

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 9 June 1992 at Norton Garth

Present: J. Hatherley, P. Dart, H. Dawson, A. Dustan-Smith, E. Golding, G. Sims, G. Dart.

Minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed.

Matters arising:

1) The Chairman said that the youngsters being trained under Leslie Toye were showing promise, and he sought Committee approval to the proposal that their names should be put forward for Junior membership - membership fee payable £4.70 each. The proposal was agreed, though there was some discussion as to restrictions on hours of play and the possible need for some supervision. It was decided that any available lawn could be booked on any day from 4 p.m. onwards, and that a name on the booking sheet should be sufficient proof of individual responsibility.

2) P. Dart initiated a discussion on organised evening play, and although it was accepted that there would be insufficient time to run a tournament, it was agreed that there should be 2 Club Evenings and 1 Club Saturday Morning arranged: dates as follows:

Thursday 25 June from 5 p.m. run by P. & G. Dart
Saturday 4 July from 10 a.m. run by A. Dustan-Smith
Thursday 9 July from 5 p.m. run by H. Dawson
Lawns 3 & 4 to be booked.

Correspondence: Nil.

Reports: H. Dawson reported that both the Short Croquet Tournament and the Open Tournament had been successful ventures.

In the Short Croquet there was a total of 24 entries. A profit of over £115 was made inclusive of £28 for refreshments, 2 prizes of £5.50 having been given to winner and runner-up, and the groundsman receiving £12. The finalists were J. Hatherley and L. Toye, the latter becoming the winner of the Dorothy Toye Cup.

Match reports: The 1st round of the Longman Cup had been won 4 - 1.

'B' League match 16 June had been conceded to Bournemouth because no driver was available.

'TB' League match 21 July v Lyrn Valley had been cancelled by Lym Valley for lack of a team. Matches arranged were 'B' League v Budleigh 11 June (H)

Inter, v Bournemouth 21 June (H)

Federation v Plymouth 27 June (H)

Federation v Budleigh 16 June (A)

Inter. v Parkstone (A)

Golf Croquet: it was reported that no interest was being shown in the SW Federation QRE - to date only one name had been taken. Tracey Park's wish to bring a team down to play a friendly one-day match at some time during the season was reported to the meeting, and E. Golding promised to let H. Dawson know if there was any interest in arranging such a Golf Croquet day.

E. Golding as Cashier reported that a total amount of £872 had passed through his account to the Club Treasurer so far in the current Croquet year.

He said also that a Golf Croquet match had been arranged with Budleigh Salterton to be played at Budleigh on 2 July.

G. Sims reported that nearly £300 profit had been made on the catering at the June Tournament. The Chairman congratulated her warmly on this result and thanked her for all her work.

P. Dart reported that 20 entries had been received for the Egyptian Tournament on 23 June.

A. Dustan-Smith spoke of the need for a small working party to deal with sundry small jobs during the summer season so as to relieve pressure on the groundsman at his busiest time.

He said that Lawn 2 should be taken out of use early; and it was agreed that this lawn should be closed from 9 September; except that on 27 September (Federation & 'B' League Finals) there was need for a fourth lawn. It was suggested that the Tennis Section might be agreeable to lending their lawn tennis court for that day, for use for the 'if' League matches, and A. Dustan-Smith said that he would put the proposition to the Tennis representative on the Grounds Committee.

It was felt that Lawn 2 should perhaps also be late coming into service at the beginning of next season.

On the subject of Lawns, a letter from D. Caporn, past CA Chairman and long-time member of Council, was read to members by the Chairman. Addressed to the Tournament Manager and written at the close of the June Tournament it commented on the poor condition of Lawn 1, and suggested that remedial action was needed promptly if good players were to be attracted to future Tournaments. A. Dustan-Smith was asked to bring the letter to the attention of the Main Club Committee.

It was reported that 2 sets of 'part-worn' balls had been sold to members at £10 per set.

Any Other Business:

- 1) Members were reminded of the date of the Club Garden Party - 10 July - and asked to give thought to the Croquet Section's commitment to running money-making games. A. Dustan-Smith's offer to have a book-stall was accepted with thanks.
- 2) E. Kitchener's coaching sessions on Friday evenings were brought to the notice of members.
- 3) The Chairman read a letter from the Community Recreation Officer for East Devon inviting participation in a Sports & Fun Day for the disabled at Honiton on 5 July. It was accepted that availability of volunteer helpers would be the problem.
- 4) It was proposed by A. Dustan-Smith, seconded by P. Dart, that a formal vote of thanks to I. Dwerryhouse for her work as Manager & Secretary of the June Tournament should be recorded in the minutes.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 11.30 a.m.

Date of next meeting 7 July 1992 at 9.30 a.m. at Norton Garth.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Kitchener", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

OPEN TOURNAMENT HELD BY THE CROQUET SECTION .1 5 JUNE 1992
REPORT FOR CLUB SECRETARY

Dear Colin,

Now that the Section has recovered its collective breath after the excitement of the first Open Tournament to be held at Sidmouth since 1956 I am able to give you a brief report.

In all sorts of ways it was a tremendous success. In financial terms, as you will see from the attached statement of account, the Club has benefited to the tune of £500; in terms of prestige to the Croquet Section in hosting an officially recognised tournament which attracted players from far distant clubs 2 were from Australia our stature in the world of croquet will have been increased; in terms of ordinary social relationships the comings and goings in the pavilion all week, and the excellent catering, provided an atmosphere which was much appreciated. Some of the visiting players have already indicated their intention to come next year.

A number of our members worked hard behind the scenes, notably our Social member, Gwen Sims, who with Peggy Fogwill was on duty every day producing and serving very good meals. We were grateful to Margaret Clark for coming in daily to supervise purchases and to make the potage du jour; also to a non-Croquet member of the Club, Bee Barber, who was a great help to Gwen, Our volunteer bar staff were kept busy because of the convention that the winner of a match buys the drinks!

It is to Iris Dwerryhouse that most thanks and congratulations are due. As Manager and Secretary of the Tournament she bore the brunt of the work and worry in the months before June as well as being on duty daily through the Tournament from 9 a.m, till about 8 pm. She did a marvellous job and the Section is delighted for her that all went so well.

You are already aware that all 3 cups were generously donated for the Tournament. Sadly none of them was retained in Sidmouth, although a Sidmouth player was in each of the finals. We shall have to try harder next year.

A factor over which we had no control was the weather, and Monday's torrential rain was a testing time for both Manager and players. At lunch-time play had to be abandoned for the day, and the only thing to offset the Manager's bitten fingernails was the increased custom for bar and catering. For the rest of the week however playing conditions were good, even late into the evening, until the last day when rain started to fall soon after the start of 2 of the 3 finals, and the 3rd final was played to an 8.20 p.m finish under appalling conditions. Spectators and players alike were glad to go home.

I do have to report that there was some criticism of our lawns, nicely put and well-intentioned, but nevertheless something which could affect the quality of entry in future years. It was accepted that comment on Lawn 2 (our new lawn) was hardly fair as it had not yet had time to settle down; but Lawn 1 was considered to be in urgent need of attention, a problem which will have to be faced in the very near future.

The Tournament was a great success and we intend it should be a yearly, fixture in the CA, calendar.

Sincerely,

Gwynneth Dart

Hon. Sec. Croquet Section

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 7 July 1992 at Norton Garth

Present: J. Hatherley, P. Dart, H. Dawson, A. Dustan-Smith, E. Golding, G. Sims, G. Dart.

Apologies: Nil.

Minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed.

Matters arising: 1) The Chairman said that there was still the possibility of signing on some Junior members, but as yet no certainty he was hopeful.

2) It was reported that neither the Club evening of 25 June nor the Saturday morning Club session had been well attended, and it was agreed that Saturday morning particularly did not seem to be a popular time. It was proposed by H. Dawson, seconded by E. Golding, that a trial Sunday afternoon (1 p.m. - 4 p.m.) should be arranged; also 1 more Club evening, subject to the success of the 2nd Club evening on 9 July. All agreed to this further trial; and it was suggested that for next year dates should be arranged for inclusion in the Summer Programme.

3) E. Golding said that the SW Federation QRE had been cancelled because of lack of interest.

The friendly Golf Croquet match with Tracey Park had been arranged for 4. August, starting at 1 p.m. 8 playing visitors would be coming.: and all lawns would be required.

Correspondence: Nil.

Reports: E. Golding reported that the Budleigh Salterton Golf Croquet away game had been lost 5 - 11. A return match was to be arranged for a date in September.

G. Sims said that there was nothing particular to report on the Social side.

P. Dart asked that details of this year's expenditure and anticipated requirements for next year should be given to him well before the next Committee meeting so that he could prepare Croquet Section Estimates. He discussed with members the Doubles Tournament details, and it was agreed that there should be a 9.30 a.m. start on the first day at least, and a 3 hour time limit; the semi-finals to be on the afternoon of the third day, the Final being played on 5 September.

He reported that 24 members had taken part in the Egyptian Tournament, and the day had been enjoyed. An amount of £3 profit on tea and biscuits had been given to the Cashier.

A. Dustan-Smith said that subsequent to last month's meeting he had discussed with the groundsman the question of taking Lawn 2 out of commission early, and it had been agreed that no useful purpose would be served by so doing.

He reported that the Main Club Committee had accepted in principle the urgent need for extensive remedial action on Lawn 1, and had asked him to obtain estimates for the cost of such work. He gave members details of his research to date, and the Chairman thanked him for all the work he was doing. He said that the Main Club Committee had intimated that more than one Open Tournament per year would be of financial benefit to the Club; and the meeting agreed that in principle they were in favour of a 2nd Tournament. It would however be subject to Calendar requirements and was perhaps better left till the June Tournament had in 1993 repeated its initial success.

H. Dawson reported that so far this season 7 matches had been played; 4 won, 3 lost.

Details as follows: Longman Cup 1st round won 4-1

2nd round (v Nausea (A) lost 2-3

'B' League v Budleigh won 5-2

Intermediate v Bournemouth won 5-0

Intermediate v Parkstone lost 3-4
Federation v Budleigh won 7-0 (132 points score
Federation v Plymouth lost 3-4

Matches arranged for July were 'B' League v Nausea (H) 19 July

Federation v Parkstone (H) 26 July

It was also reported that a 'friendly' had been arranged with 4 members of the Ealing Croquet Club, at their request, for the afternoon of 29 August. The agreed format was to be 2 singles and 1 doubles, and Lawns 3 & 4 would be reserved.

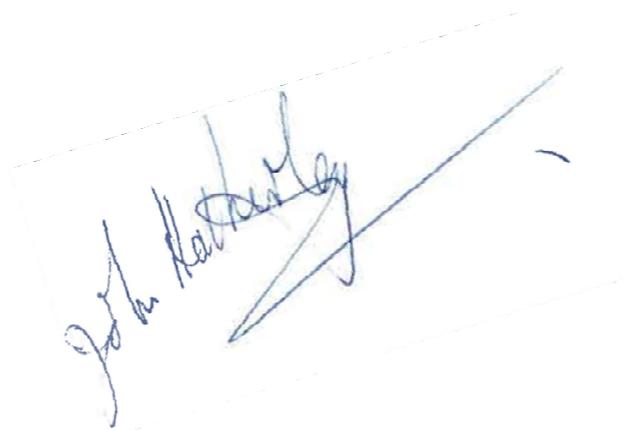
June Tournament: The Secretary said that on behalf of the Committee letters of thanks had been sent to I. Dwerryhouse, Tournament Manager, and to M. Clark, Club Catering Officer. Dr. Hawkins had also received a letter giving him details of the Tournament. A full report had been sent to the Club Secretary, and both he and the Club Treasurer had received a statement of account showing a profit to the Club in excess of £500. (All results, a copy report to the Club Secretary, and a statement of account are attached to the minute book copy of these minutes)

Any Other Business:

- 1) The Chairman announced that Ted Owen had been successful in his recent Referee examination. All members offered congratulations. It was agreed that more Referees were needed and that members should be encouraged to offer their services to the Club.
- 2) The Chairman as Training Officer reported that Alec Glaskin, whose initial training had been postponed, would soon have completed his lessons, but would not be joining the Section till next year.
- 3) Details for the Garden Party on 10 July were confirmed, a total of 7 side-shows as well as the Bookstall having been advised to the 'Friends' Chairman as the Croquet Section's contribution to this fund-raising effort.

Date of next meeting: The Secretary asked that for personal reasons the published date should be altered, and members agreed the new date of Tuesday 18 August at 9.30 a.m. at Norton Garth.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.50 a.m.



JUNE TOURNAMENT RESULTS.

Open Handicap Singles.

‘X’ event - David Hawkins Cup.

Winner Gene Mear (Southwick)

Runner-up Ted Owen (Sidmouth)

‘Y’ event Joint Winners Michael Hornby (Australia) & Eric Kitchener (Sidmouth)

Class Event - Fortfield Cup (Low Bisquers)

Winner Michael Hornby (Australia)

Runner-up Gwynneth Dart (Sidmouth)

Class Event - Dwerryhouse Cup (High Bisquers)

Winner Heather Perren (Bristol)

Runner-up Ted Owen (Sidmouth)

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT FOR JUNE TOURNAMENT Receipts

Entrance fees	£330	
Catering profit	280	
Bar profit	140	
		£750
Outgoings		
Prize money	60	
Groundsman	22	
CA levy (30%)	92	
Engraving	50	
Sundries	20	
		£244

The catering and bar profits err on the low side,
and the engraving figure is approximate, as all bills are not yet in.

Members will see that a total in excess of £500 profit to the Club has resulted from the Tournament.

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 18 August 1992 at Norton Garth

Present: J. Hatherley, P. Dart, E. Golding, G. Dart.

Apologies: A. Dustan-Smith, H. Dawson, G. Sims.

Minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed.

Matters arising: Nil.

Correspondence: The Secretary reported

- 1) receipt of a letter from Gene Mears acknowledging safe arrival of the base for the David Rawkins Cup.
- 2) a letter from the Parkstone Secretary re a proposed course in 1993 for 'A' class players. A reply had been sent regretting the fact that none of our members would qualify.
- 3) an invitation to participate in the 1993 Australian Masters in Perth. To date no members had expressed interest.
- 4) a letter from the Fixtures Book Editor requesting Tournament details for the 1993 June Tournament. The dates 31 May - 4 June were agreed, and the Chairman said that a sub-committee (I. Dwerryhouse, H. Dawson, J. Hatherley, G. Dart) would work out details.
- 5) a letter from the Club Secretary seeking information on proposed winter activities in the Pavilion. This letter and its reply were read to the meeting. Included in the reply were dates for the monthly Croquet Section Whist;- 11 November, 9 December, 13 January, 10 February 10 March - and details of the Table Tennis to be run every Wednesday from 4 November to the end of March for the benefit of all Club members. The meeting agreed the charge of 50p per Table Tennis session, with coffee available at a separate price; and E. Golding volunteered to run the activity for the coming winter. The suggestion that each Section should run at least one function for the whole Club was noted.

Reports: E. Golding said that the Golf Croquet 'friendly' with Tracey Park had been a pleasant afternoon, the home team winning 10-6. He reported that a return match with Budleigh Salterton had been arranged for 10 September. He requested help with the running of the Golf Croquet Tournament on 1 & 2 September, and it was agreed that E. Kitchener should be asked to act as Manager.

As Cashier E. Golding provided income/expense details for the Estimates.

P. Dart reported that the 3-day Doubles Tournament had proved a popular format; the Final between I. Dwerryhouse & Michael Smekal and A. Dustan-Smith & K. Dawes being arranged for 28 August. Members considered for 1993 the idea of including the Finals in the 3 days of the Tournament. NEXT COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS.

Results of the Two Ball & the Shot Game Tournaments were given as under; and it was agreed that in view of the success and popularity of this year's simplified and clarified Shot Game the doubts expressed at the 7 January Committee meeting as to its competitive future need not be aired at the 1992 AGM.

Two Ball: Handicap 10 & under

Winner J. Hatherley, Runner-up V. Collier Handicap

11 & over - Winner Esme Owen, Runners-up P. Dart, & R. Henderson.

Shot Game: Highest score J. Hatherley.

Highest score with Handicap added J. Webber.

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 15 September 1992 at Norton Garth

Present: J. Hatherley, P. Dart, H. Dawson, E. Golding, G. Dart

Apologies: A. Dustan-Smith, G. Sims.

Minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed.

Matters arising: The Secretary reported the findings of the subcommittee appointed to work out details of next year's June Tournament, and said that the requested information had been sent to the C.A. Comment was made that the chosen first day - 31 May - would be a Bank Holiday, but after some discussion it was agreed that the dates should stand; the Secretary being asked to inform the Club Secretary forthwith.

Correspondence: 1) Photocopies of papers from the CA regarding their proposed new subscription policy had been given to each member of the Committee, and the Chairman initiated a discussion thereupon. It was agreed that since at present the Main Club paid affiliation fees for all the various Sections it was to a very great degree a Main Club decision as to how the proposed increases for the Croquet Section should be funded. It was decided that the unofficial views of the Main Club Committee should be sought straight away, and that at the Section AGM comment should be restricted to a statement of fact.

2) The Secretary reported receipt of a letter of thanks from the Ealing Club following their visit on 29 August.

Reports: E. Golding said that an amount of £37.50 from Visitors, fees and other sundries had been passed to Main Club funds.

He reported that the Golf Croquet match against Budleigh Salterton had been lost 7-9, but the afternoon had been an enjoyable one.

He asked that thanks to Eric Kitchener for managing the Golf Croquet Tournament on 1 & 2 September should be minuted. All members concurred. He said that a press release on a number of recent activities had been sent to the 'Herald'.

H. Dawson reported that the last of the Federation matches had now been played: results as follows: Intermediate v Nausea 7-0, Federation v Exeter 5-2. He said that arrangements for the Federation Finals on 27 September were well in hand, though the names of the teams were not yet known.

A Golden Mallet event was being staged at Plymouth on 26 September, and 2 members to date had expressed a wish to enter.

P. Dart reported that all Club Tournaments had now been completed. In view of the 'bunching up' experienced in July he wondered whether some tournaments might be played off earlier in the season. NEXT COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER.

He said that information given by Committee members before or at the last Committee meeting had been collated and Estimates submitted to the Club Treasurer. Figures given were (roughly) &8500 anticipated income; &750 expenditure; Long term capital expenses &5640.

The Chairman spoke about the difficulties of getting the croquet lawns maintained to the Section's desired needs and standards, with particular reference to the proliferation of clover this season. Members agreed that the NEXT COMMITTEE should explore alternative ways of dealing with the undoubted problem of programming the groundsman to meet croquet requirements through the season.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 11.20 a.m.

Date of next meeting 2 20 October 1992 at Norton Garth at 9.30 a.m.



REPORT TO THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE of the findings of the Croquet Committee at a special meeting held on 8 October 1992.

As the Management Committee are aware, the condition of Lawn 1 has given cause for concern over a long period. It is our most important lawn and should be the showpiece of the Club. In its present state this is far from the case.

The restoration and repair of Lawn 1 has been the subject of intensive research by our Ground Representative.

Of all the Firms considered we would like to recommend 'INTURF' and herewith give details of their quotation:

The lawn is 1,110 sq. yds. in area and. would cost 50p per sq. yd. to strip - the turf is left with us.

£1,000 to level with lasers and a specialist team of experts. £2,500 to provide turf and lay it.

Inturf also provide a follow up service and would discuss matters arising with our Groundsman.

Top soil and/or top dressing, if needed, would be extra.

The whole cost should not exceed £4,500 in total.

This is a provisional quotation and, if agreed, their representative will come down to give a firm quotation.

'INTURF' enjoys a fine reputation, having worked on the lawns at Hurlingham and Buckingham Palace. We feel that they are a reliable firm and therefore submit this quotation for your consideration.

Should the quotation meet with approval, we would hope that the work on Lawn 1 would commence sometime in the Spring of 1993.

The members of the Croquet Committee are very aware of the necessity of raising extra funding for this project and have accepted in principle the desirability of holding more than one Open Tournament yearly.

Actual arrangements however must be subject to

- a) improved lawn conditions.
- b) reasonable assurance that the June Tournament is a continuing success.
- c) date availability within the CA calendar.

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 20 October 1992 at Norton Garth

Present: J. Hatherley, P. Dart, H. Dawson, A. Dustan-Smith, E. Golding, G. Sims, G. Dart.

Apologies: Nil

Minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed.

Matters arising: 1) Date of June Tournament: It had been agreed in discussion subsequent to the meeting of 15 September that a preferable date would be 7th June - 11th June. Revised details had been sent to John Walters, CA Tournament Chairman; and to Don Gaunt, CA Fixtures Book Editor; and confirmation of details and the altered dates had been received. The Club Secretary had also been informed.

2) H. Dawson reported that in the Golden Mallet event at Plymouth our two representatives had done well, V. Henderson coming 2nd and R. Henderson 4th.

Correspondence: 1) The Secretary reported that notification had been received of the SW Federation's AGM at Tracey Park on Sunday 8 November. The Chairman said that he and the retiring Secretary would attend as voting representatives, with G. Sims and P. Dart attending as observers. Items on the Agenda were discussed briefly.

The Secretary asked for guidance on filling in the Reply sheet for the Federation 1993 Competitions, and it was agreed to offer 1 team for each of the 3 Leagues, and to host a Golf Croquet Event.

2) The Chairman then read to members the SW Federation's response to 'The Way Ahead' sent to the Chairman of the Working Party; also his own comments sent to S. Mulliner on 16 October. He emphasized that although the Club Treasurer was unofficially aware of the CA proposals there was as yet no definitive instruction from the CA which could be discussed with the Main Committee.

3) The Secretary reported that a letter had been received from the EDDC cancelling the Manor Car Park concession.

Reports: The Cashier said that through the past year an amount of approx. £1300 had been paid into Main Club funds from the Croquet Section. He reported that Golf Croquet players had been particularly careful since the recent difficulty of playing on wet lawns.

No more booking sheets would be issued after the end of October. Table Tennis would start on 28 October.

The Social member reported that the Cake Stall at the recent Coffee morning organised by the 'Friends' was supported though attendance was poor.

She said that despite the considerable disruption caused by the booking of a charity Cricket match on the same day as our Federation Finals the tea organised by I. Dwerryhouse was much appreciated. A. Dustan-Smith told members of his suggestion that the Groundsman's time should be detailed on a time sheet so that apportionment of his time between Sections could be analysed. All agreed that he should be given a programme of necessary work through the year.

The Chairman said that a report on Lawn 1's refurbishment had been requested by the Club Secretary for presentation at the forthcoming Main Club Committee meeting. A special Croquet Section Committee meeting had been held on 8 October, and a report prepared recommending the use of 'Inturf' and giving the firm's provisional quote of not more than £4500 in total. The report, which had been passed to the Club Secretary, was read to the meeting and approved.

AGM arrangements: Details for the AGM on 27 October were agreed.

Any Other Business: The matter of a 'Croquet Memento' kindly presented to the Section in 1989 by Mr C. Beaumont Edmonds was raised. (Minutes of 24 August 1989, item 9, refer). It was agreed that the gift was of historical interest and should be on display.

NEXT COMMITTEE: TO DEAL. The Chairman thanked all members of the committee for their work and support through the year, and H. Dawson on behalf of all members thanked the Chairman for his leadership. The meeting was closed at 11.15 a.m.



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CROQUET SECTION
HELD ON TUESDAY 27 OCTOBER 1992 AT 2.30 P.M. IN THE PAVILION.

The meeting opened with a request from the Chairman to stand in memory of members who had died during the past year. Those named were

Stan Hewitt, John Ruberry, John Collier, and Elsie Corbett.

The Chairman then welcomed the Regional Coaching Officer of the SW Federation of Croquet Clubs, David Purdon, who was to present the prizes, and expressed his pleasure that Club President, Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer were at the meeting.

The 55 members who attended were also welcomed.

Apologies for absence were received from Aline Davis, Keith & Barbara Dawes, Suzanne Golding, Larry & Margaret Hooper, Derrick & Jean Lewis, Eric Normington, and Margaret Stant.

The Chairman reminded members that the minutes of the AGM held on 29 October 1991 had been on the Mallet Room Notice board for 7 weeks from 4 September 1992, and asked that they should be taken as read. Len Sage made formal proposal that this should be done, Michael Davis seconded, the motion was carried nem. con.; and the minutes were accordingly approved and signed.

Committee's Report. The Secretary read the Committee's report on the year's activities. Adoption of the Report was proposed by Leslie Toye, seconded by Esme Owen, and unanimously agreed.

The Chairman said that the highlight of the year had been the Open Tournament in June, for the success of which the Club was greatly indebted to Iris Dwerryhouse. He hinted that at some later date the possibility of a second Tournament would be under consideration.

He then thanked the Committee for their support through the year, specifying some of the various jobs undertaken by individual members.

A vote of thanks to the Committee for their stewardship was proposed by Len Sage and endorsed by the meeting.

A broad outline of the new Subscription policy proposed by the CA was given to members by the Chairman. He said that Sidmouth's comment on the proposals had been sent to the Chairman of the CA working party, accepting the stated need for a change in funding, but expressing disquiet at some of the specific clauses and at the size of the suggested increase in levy.

David Purdon volunteered the stop-press information that the CA Council had met, and that despite very considerable unfavourable comment from the Federations the decision appeared to have been taken to go ahead with Stage 1; i.e. that in 1993 there would be a £4 levy on every member of a registered Club.

The Chairman thanked David for this privileged knowledge and told members that should the proposal be adopted then a list of all members' names and addresses would have to be sent to the CA. Should any member have objection to this on the grounds of privacy he asked that the Secretary be informed.

Election of Officers & 5 Committee Members. The Chairman stated that only one nomination had been received for Chairman and one for Secretary; and that 5 names had been proposed and seconded for Committee members. There was therefore no need for a vote; and announcement of the new Committee was made.

Chairman John Hatherley;

Secretary Gwen Sims;

Members Mac Dawson, Betty Hills, Rowland Henderson, Esme Owen, Tony Dustan-Smith.

Any Other Business:

- a) Members were advised that the concessionary use of the Manor Car Park had been rescinded by the EDDC.
- b) The attention of members was drawn to the Whist & Table Tennis dates on the Notice board.
- c) The Chairman asked for members' views on the venue for next year's Annual Lunch, referring to the need for more spacious accommodation, but recognising that this would mean increased cost. Some discussion took place and it was agreed to leave the Committee to consider all possibilities.
- d) The Chairman told the meeting that the SW Federation AGM was to be held at Tracey Park on Sunday 8 November, and that 4 members were attending. He had 2 spare seats available in his car should anyone else wish to go.
- e) The Chairman invited Iris Dwerryhouse as CA Handicapper to speak on members' present handicaps. She said that for Match players the automatic system was in the main the valid one; but some changes had been made for newer players. New players coming into the Club would at the start of their first season have handicaps of 24; but no player thereafter could, even under the automatic system, revert to more than 22. The handicaps of a few higher bisquers had been altered, and she recommended members to check their handicaps with the revised membership list on the Notice board.
- f) Leslie Toye asked that the names of runners-up should be announced as well as those of the winners at the presentation of trophies. All agreed that this was an excellent idea.
- g) The Chairman announced that Lawns 1 & 3 were to remain open until 7 November, and thereafter Lawn 1 only at the groundsman's discretion. There would be no booking sheets after 31 October.

Presentation of Trophies: The Chairman introduced David Purdon, Regional Coaching Officer and co-author of an excellent Coaching Manual, and invited him to present the trophies.

A vote of thanks to David was proposed by Michael Davis and heartily endorsed by all members.

After the Chairman had read a few notices on behalf of the 'Friends' he closed the meeting and tea was served.

COMMITTEE REPORT 1992

It is always good to start a yearly report on a high note, and this for 1992 must be the Open Tournament held in June, the first Open at Sidmouth since 1956, so that the venture was both exciting and a little daunting. The Committee is delighted to say that in all sorts of ways it was a tremendous success, and our thanks go to Iris Dwerryhouse for masterminding the event as Manager and Secretary. The generous gifts from members of trophies to be awarded annually were much appreciated: the David Rawkins Cup; the Fortfield Cup (presented by John Hatherley); and the Dwerryhouse Challenge Cup. Sadly, although a Sidmouth player was in each of the 3 Finals, no cup was retained in Sidmouth. Perhaps next year we shall not be so kind to our visitors. A net profit in excess of £500 was paid into the Main Club funds.

The Tournament is to be a yearly fixture - dates for 1993 are Monday 7th June to Friday 11th June - and interested enquiries have already been received. Nearer the time offers of help with a variety of ancillary jobs will be most gratefully accepted.

Apart from this Open Tournament a full programme of events has been staged through the season.

In May we again hosted a Federation Short Croquet 2 day meeting, at which Leslie Toye and John Hatherley, having in the semi-finals beaten opponents from Bristol and Bath, fought an all-Sidmouth Final, from which Leslie Toye emerged as victor.

On the following day a friendly Club Short Croquet Tournament was enjoyed by members before the lawns reverted to full size.

In mid-June a full day was given to an Egyptian Tournament, a format which allows players to get in as many matches through the day as lawn availability and their own stamina permit. 24 members took part in a sociable day of organised chaos where scores didn't really matter.

In July 3 days were reserved for a Club Doubles Tournament - you will recall that views were expressed on this at last year's AGM. Most comment seems to have been favourable and the out-going Committee will be recommending a similar event for 1993, with the possible inclusion of the Finals to complete the meeting.

This format is already used for both the Two Ball Tournament, which took place at the end of July, and the Shot Game in August; both these events being popular and much enjoyed. For the Shot Game the formula for deciding winners was changed this year; the Robert Case Shield going to the player with the highest score; the Tankard being won by the player with the highest score plus handicap rating.

For the yearly Club Tournaments there were, as always, plenty of entries; as always matches were not being played off as promptly as could be wished; as always everything came good in the end, and the Finals in early September went well. It was good that so many members were interested to come and watch, and we were particularly pleased to have the company on one of the days of the Regional Coaching Officer and his wife.

S.W. Federation: Our results in the S.W. Federation have been very even handed. In the Federation League 2 matches were won and 2 lost; in the Intermediate League 2 matches were won and 1 lost; in the 'B' League

1 match was won, 1 lost, and 2 had to be cancelled.

At the end of September, we hosted the Finals of both Federation and 'B' Leagues.

The 1st round of the Longman Cup was won against a team from the Bear of Rodborough; but a trip to Nailsea for the 2nd round destroyed our hopes of proceeding further.

One of the pleasant aspects of inter-club matches is the exchange of ideas and information as well as the challenge of playing unknown opponents; and some of our members carry this further by entering as individuals in Open Tournaments elsewhere. Iris and Philip Dwerryhouse have played this year at Southwick, Parkstone and Cheltenham; Sheila Scarr was at the August Parkstone meeting; and a number of us played at Budleigh in May, August and September. In August one of our members won the Stone Cup in the Handicap Singles, with another Sidmouth player, whose name was already on the cup, as runner-up; and yet another member was the runner-up in the Advanced play section.

Our fame has spread as far as Ealing, and a touring team of 4 from that Club played a 'friendly' with us during the August Bank Holiday. Should any Sidmouth member wish to visit Ealing for a game, I am assured you would be welcomed.

Golf Croquet enjoyed its usual popularity on Wednesday mornings and Friday afternoons; and the 2 day Club Tournament at the beginning of September was very successful. The two friendly games with Budleigh Salterton took place as usual; the Away game being lost 5-11, and the Home game 7-9. Tracey Park, near Bath/Bristol, brought an 8-person team down in August for an afternoon's game, and seemed to have a good day out even though they were beaten 6-10.

This year no interest was shown in entering for the Qualifying Round of the SW Federation, possibly because winners would have had to travel to Bath for the Finals, and the event was cancelled. Two members however went to Plymouth for a Golden Mallet Regional event and did well, coming 2nd and 4th.

Membership. Our total membership is at present 108, inclusive of 31 Associates and 2 Country members. 13 potential members took the initial training course; and 7 of them have become playing members. Your Committee hopes that this first season has been interesting enough to give you enthusiasm for 1993.

Training. The training of those who hope to become members is a selfless task undertaken right at the start of the season and often in poor weather, and the Section owes a great deal to our team of coaches. I know you would wish me to thank them on your behalf.

This year one of their number, Eric Kitchener, volunteered to start 2nd year coaching, and was overwhelmed by the virtually 100% response.

In fact such was the disappointment of those who did not qualify for his specific '2nd year' ruling that later in the season he extended his range, and on a number of occasions had, I believe, far more unofficial 'observers' than the lawns would readily accommodate.

Thank you, Eric, on behalf of the Committee, and all your students. Earlier in the season there were high hopes that some youngsters from Sidmouth College would be joining the Section. 6 of them had shown interest and some talent under the coaching of Leslie Toye, but nothing seems to have come of it. Maybe the seeds of enthusiasm have been sown for later on, and we do thank you, Leslie, for the hours spent with them. Individual members took advantage of coaching courses organised by the C.A. 3 members attended the Loughborough Summer School (one of our members had attended last year), so we now have 4 Loughborough graduates.

2 members did a weekend course at Budleigh Salterton at the start of the season and several of us enjoyed a Laws Course at Budleigh, at the conclusion of which Ted Owen took and passed his Referee's exam. Congratulations, Ted.

Social activities. The Annual Lunch was this year held at the Royal Glen Hotel with the customary high attendance.

Whist Drives were held monthly through the winter, and made modest profits as well as providing social contact with one another during our winter of deprivation.

The ability to play Whist is totally irrelevant, and I hope that some of our newer members will put the dates in their diaries for the coming winter.

The introduction of weekly Table Tennis sessions, suggested by Gwen Hewitt and put into practice by Eric Golding, proved very popular and will start again from tomorrow, Wednesday 28 October. This activity, unlike the 'Croquet members only' Whist, is open to all members of the Club, and the playing fee for this winter has been reduced to 50p, with a separate charge for coffee. This is another good way of keeping in touch and in trim whatever your standard of play.

At this point in the Report I should on behalf of the Committee be thanking all those who have helped towards the smooth running of the Section, and the Club as a whole. I look at the membership list and realise what an impossible task I would be setting myself, and what a long time it would take to read out all the names.

Will you all therefore please accept the Committee's thanks for helping us through another year of good fellowship and enjoyable croquet.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Harkerley", followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line that extends to the right.

CLUB TOURNAMENTS 1992

Humphrey Hicks Cup	Advanced Play (Singles)	John Hatherley
Belmont Challenge Cup	Handicap Singles	Michael Davis
Fermor Rose Bowl	Ladies Handicap Singles	Gwynneth Dart
Colclough & Sidmouth Cups	Handicap Doubles	Tony Dustan-Smith & Keith Dawes
Devonia Cup	High Handicap Singles	Gwen Sims
Corbett Spoons	Two Ball - High Bisquers	Esme Owen
	Low Bisquers	John Hatherley
Robert Case Shield	Shot Game Highest score	John Hatherley
Tankard	Highest score + Handicap	John Webber
Cunningham Salvors	Golf Croquet Singles	Rowland Henderson
	Doubles	Gwen Hewitt & Eric Normington
Longworth Cup	Most Improved Players	Tony Dustan-Smith
Sidmouth Croquet Club Cup		Michael Smekal