Minutes of Committee Meeting held 9/12/1975, at Mrs. Holt's flat.

Present: - Messrs. Glover, Moores, Stirrup, Verity. Mesdames Dwerryhouse, Holt and Togni.
Apology for absence from Dr. Rawkins.

Election of Chairman.

Dr. David Rawkins. Proposed by Mrs Holt, seconded Mr. Moores.

Upon election as Chairman, Dr. Rawkins relinquished office as Hon. Secretary.

Election of Hon. Secretary.

Mrs. Kathleen Togni. Proposed Mrs. Dwerryhouse, seconded Mr. Stirrup. There being no other nominations, both the above proposals were carried by the meeting.

In the absence of Dr-David Rawkins, Mr. Glover agreed to act as Chairman for this meeting. The minutes. of the last Committee meeting were read and approved. The Secretary also read the proposed Annual Report of the Croquet Section, to be included in the Report of the General Committee of the Cricket Tennis and Croquet Club.

Members were asked if any of the Committee wished to be nominated to serve on the General Committee, but there was no new nomination. Mr. Verity was agreeable to continue to serve in this capacity, representing the Croquet Section.

Progress Cup.

Arising out of the last meeting, it was agreed after discussion that the correct definition as a qualification for the award, now to be called the "Progress Cup", would be the member who had received the greatest reduction in his or her handicap in the course of the current season*. It was also agreed that the Club handicap should remain at 18. for the highest bisquers.

Golf Croquet.

Tournaments will be held fortnightly as last year.

In this connection, Mr. Tunmer had submitted some suggestions, amplifying the present system of play and the Committee was giving further consideration to these ideas. Mr Case had also put forward further ideas to Mr. Stirrup for an extension to the Golf Croquet events and Mr Stirrup and Mr. M'oores would see Mr. Case bout his suggestions.

It was agreed that Club members should be invited to run the Golf Croquet events and a rota system would be introduced.

General.

It was agreed that the Treasurer of the General Committee should be asked for a cash float for incidental expenses incurred by the Croquet Club Secretary or other Committee Members and Mr. Moores offered to see Mr. Page in this connection.

Mrs. Holt asked if another member would take charge of the Club equipment and Mr. Moores agreed to do this.

Presentation to Mr. Tunmer.

Mrs. Holt handed to the Secretary a cheque for £13.60. being the contribution made by members to date, to be used for a gift of appreciation to Pat. It was agreed that a small silver cup, suitably engraved would be appropriate and Mr. Verity submitted two cups for consideration. The one selected would be engraved and it was hoped to present it to Pat at the Club luncheon next March.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 12.30 p.m. with our thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Holt for their hospitality. Next meeting to be held at the Clubhouse on 24th March 1976, at 10.30 a.m.

D Rawkins

*Where the winner had received any other Croquet Cup in the same year, this would have no bearing on the Progress Cup award.

Minutes of Committee Meeting held 24/3/1976. Full Committee present.

Minutes of the last meeting read and approved.

The Committee had learned with great regret of the death of our former Chairman, Mr Maurice Glover, and it was agreed that tribute should be paid to him and his work for the Club, by the Chairman at the club luncheon. Mrs. Dwerryhouse reported that she had, on behalf of the club, ordered flowers to be sent to the funeral of Maurice and the cost would be collected from members.

Matters, arising from the last Minutes.

Mr. Stirrup reported on Mr. Case's suggestion regarding a "skills test". It was agreed that the idea should be outlined to the members at the luncheon and that the "skills" should be tried out by members of the Committee, with a view to having a trial period to see if the experiment was popular with members. Pat Tunmer had also put forward a suggestion that members might like the opportunity to play golf-croquet games on alternate Tuesday afternoons, possibly reserving two courts for this purpose. It was felt that this was worth a trial, subject to agreement by members his idea would be put to the meeting of member's after the luncheon. It was not considered practical to institute a competition and award for a golf-croquet annual event on points. lines.

Arrangements- for the club Luncheon. Mrs. Dwerryhouse gave details of the numbers of members and guests expected to be present. It was agreed that the Chairman should ask members to stand for one minute's silence as a tribute in remembrance of Maurice Glover. In the course of his remarks the Chairman would thank Pat Tunmer for his many years of work for the Club, which had brought-about such a successful and happy band of croquet players, and, as an original member, Mrs. Dwerryhouse would be asked to present the engraved silver cup to Pat, as a mark of our affection and thanks. Also on behalf of the Club, the chairman would thank Mr. Verity for the great amount of work and effort which he had put into the Irrigation Scheme, which had now been completed and which would be of very great value to all branches of the club.

Handicap committee. It was agreed to ask Mr. John Holt to join this committee in place of Mr. Ovens.

Visitors. A book will be kept in the clubhouse, in which the name of the member concerned and the visitor, will be entered and the member will be responsible for the visitor's fee. Mr. Verity will look after this arrangement and will account to Mr. Page for the fees.

Next Committee meeting – Wednesday 26th May 1976, at the club, at 10-30 a.m.

D Rawkins

Minutes of Committee meeting held 26th May 1976. All Committee present.

Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Matters arising from the last meeting.

Annual luncheon. Through the Chair, the committee expressed their thanks to Mrs. Dwerryhouse for the very successful. arrangements made for the lunch at the Belmont Hotel. During the lunch the Chairman thanked Mr. Pat Tunmer on behalf of the members., for all his enthusiastic work over many years, to assist members to improve their game. following Dr. Rawkins' remarks, Mrs. Dwerryhouse presented an engraved silver cup to Pat, to mark the members' appreciation of his work on their behalf.

"Skill test". Mr. Moores reported that he and Mr. Stirrup had met Mr. R. Case and he had been invited to explain further, his ideas for developing a type of game designed to improve stroke skills, These ideas were discussed and it was agreed that when Vincent and Fred had gone further into possible methods of play, they and other committee members would go through the tests themselves on an agreed date and would report their considered views. While on the subject of game improvement, it was agreed that the Chairman should ask Pat Tunmer when it would be a convenient day for him to come to the club, as last year, to demonstrate and to answer members' questions concerning play and rules, which he had once again, very kindly offered to do for the Club.

Visitors.

It was agreed that only guests of members and playing with them, would be eligible as visitors and the fee would be 50p. per session for the lawn, visitors, and members' names to be entered in the Visitors' book, and fees paid to Mr. Verity.

Golf Croquet. The Committee further discussed Pat Tunmer's suggestion that a regular afternoon, perhaps fortnightly, might be allocated on one lawn, for general golf-croquet play. It was felt however, that owing to our lawn limitations, it was impracticable to proceed with this idea, although members agreed that this suggestion would have been desirable as an experiment. On a vote, 6 members voted against Pat's idea, with one abstention.

Ladder. Arrangements for the running of the ladder tournament were submitted to the Committee by Mr. Stirrup and agreed. The rules were outlined by Vincent and would be posted on the board. There would-be no special handicap for the ladder. The game would commence from "1 back", from either baulk.

Handicaps. It was agreed that the general handicap shall be retained for all tournaments: and matches. XX

Handicap Committee. Mr. John Holt had accepted an invitation to join Vincent Stirrup and Mrs. Elsie Corbett on this committee, in place of Mr. Ovens.

Next meeting 22nd June, 1976 at 10-30 a.m. in the Clubnouse.

XX Singles handicap. It was agreed after discussion, that a notice should be added. to the entry list, indicating that additional entries will still be accepted until Saturday, 5th June.

D Rawkins

Minutes of Committee meeting held 22nd June 1976.

All members present except Mr. F. Moores.

Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Matters arising from the last Meeting.

Golf Croquet. it was agreed that members should be asked to complete the list of volunteers to run the remaining events. Teas. After discussion of price to be charged when teas are provided independent of cricket match teas, it was agreed to charge 6p. per cup including a biscuit, and 2. for a refill, as an experiment.

Singles Handicap. Mr. Stirrup suggested that the two winning players in each block should play off the semi-finals, determined by drawing for opponents, with the final to follow on an agreed date and this was agreed by the Committee.

Membership. New member elected -Mrs. Sturges. (present membership 49, plus 1 country member.

There was a discussion concerning the method of election to membership by the General Management Committee without reference to the Croquet Committee. Dr. Rawkins agreed to see Miss Grenside with a view to clarifying the position, so that applications for membership may be submitted to the Croquet Committee before final acceptance by the General Committee.

The meeting closed at 12-00 p.m. Next meeting called for 25th August, at 10-30 in the Clubhouse.

D Rawkins

Minutes of Committee meeting held 25th August 1976, at the clubhouse.

All Members present

Minutes, of the la-t meeting were read and approved.

Matters arising from the last meeting.

Singles handicap.

Mr. Stirrup proposed that in orde to reach the semi-final stage well before the end of the season, that a notice should be posted requesting that matches up to the semi-finals should be played by the 14th September, and this was agreed.

Election of members

Dr. Rawkins reported that he had spoken to Mr. Page concerning the acceptance of new croquet members, and he was advised that proposals for membership do not go before the General Committee for approval, but are posted on the notice board for one week, after which time they are deemed to be elected, and the point was made that the General Committee do not elect new members without reference to the relative section. Accordingly the Croquet Club Committee would have the right to accept any proposed member, provided the completed application form had been posted on the notice board for the required time.

"Shot" game.

It was generally agreed in committee that this new game had been a success and would undoubtedly be accepted by the members as a pleasant alternative to Golf-Croquet.. It was therefore agreed that there should be a "Shot-game" in place of Golf-croquet on the 14th September next, and the committee members who had assisted Mr. Case to organise the first experiment, were willing to arrange the lawn and manage the next game.

Condition of the lawns.,

Mr. Verity reported that they were in a very bad state, partly due to difficult weather conditions, but mainly because the watering of the lawns had not been regularly carried out. Further, Mrs. Holt reported that No. 3. Lawn was being watered on the afternoon of 24th August, during a golf-croquet tournament, and members playing had been embarrassed by adverse comments being made by passers-by. The explanation given for tuis was that the cricket Committee intended, after suitable watering, to take up some of the turves on lawn 3, in order to repair part of the cricket-surface. The Croquet committee had not been consulted in any way in this connection and it was therefore agreed that. a special committee meeting should be called (to which Mr. Penman would be invited) in order to order an official explanation for the above proposed action. At the same time we are at a loss to know why the lawns had not received adequate watering, such as the rota system, correctly operated, would provide. it was agreed to call such a meeting on Saturday, the 2nd August, at 10-30 a.m.-in the Clubhouse.

D Rawkins

Minutes of a special Committee Meeting, held 27th August 1976, at the Clubhouse, at 9-30 a.rn., Present :- The Chairman and full committee except for Mr. Stirrup, unavoidably absent. Mr. Penman was invited to attend and the Committee was pleased that he was able to take part; in the meeting.

The Chairman expressed the Committee's great concern at the bad condition of the lawns and in particular asked Mr. Penman if he could explain why No. 3. lawn had been watered on Tuesday afternoon, the 24th August. Mr. Penman said that the reason for watering this lawn was with a view to preparing it for the lifting of a number of turves for use on the cricket ground, where grass was urgently required and was unobtainable from any other source this summer.

The Croquet Committee were quite unaware of this intention and the Chairman asked that in future, the Croquet Committee might receive the courtesy of being consulted before any changes were contemplated involving the use of the lawns for play. Furthermore, both the time and place for this exercise in present circumstances had apparently had an inflammatory effect upon passers-by, much to the embarrassment of members playing in a tournament on Lawn 2

M. Penman said that it was hoped, after removal of the necessary turves, it would be possible to improve the level of lawn 3 for next year. While speaking of improvements, Mr. Verity said that in order to bring this lawn into full use, the size should be increased by several feet, which would require to be taken from the cricket outfield and Mr. Penman said he would inform his Committee of this suggestion.

Outlining the present condition of the lawns, Mr. Verity reported that they had received very little watering for some weeks now although there is a rota system which, if operated correctly by the ground staff, should give the cricket, tennis and croquet surfaces a fair and adequate distribution of water. this was, after all, one of the principal purposes of the irrigation scheme but was evidently at present not being adhered to. In fact, the disparity in attention being given to the cricket surface compared with the tennis and croquet lawns is very apparent. This has been a matter of some surprise to the croquet Committee, as it was understood that the new scheme would operate with a minimum amount of labour, with advantage to all sections of the Club. The Croquet. Committee feel that the evident breakdown in the rota system may be due to lack of liaison between management and staff, as witness the watering of one lawn at a most inopportune time. The Croquet section feels strongly on this point, because the present irrigation scheme was originated, designed and its installation supervised by a member of our Croquet Section Committee.

In general terms, Mr. Verity said that the condition of all the lawns was extremely bad due mainly, of course, to the past two summers' abnormal dryness and he felt that a major overhaul was needed, apart from routine fertilising and re-seeding. On this subject, Mr. Moores suggested that before this work was done, it might be wise to seek the expert advice of possibly, the lawns superintendent at Budleigh, whose local expertise might be more valuable than that of a seed merchant. This might result in obtaining the best return for the cost involved. It was suggested that if the cost was excessively heavy, a further series of coffee mornings might be successfully held to assist the financing of any necessary work, in order to bring the lawns to their full potential as one of the amenities of the town.

The lawns were inspected by the Committee and Mr. Penman and it was found to be possible to increase the length of Lawn 3. by 4-5 feet and it would be unnecessary to ask for any encroachment on the present cricket outfield. The meeting closed at 10-30 a.m.

D Rawkins

Chairman.

Minutes of Committee Meeting held 12th October 1976 at the Clubhouse.

Present – Full committee except for Mrs. Holt, who sent apologies.

The Chairman signed the minutes of Committee meeting held 25th August, which were not signed at the special committee meeting held 27th August, called to protest about the decision to remove turves from No. 3 lawn without consultation and other matters of concern to the Committee. A copy of the Minutes of this special committee was sent to the General Committee, but no reply has been received. Arising out of these matters, Mr. Verity tendered his resignation from the Committee and from the Croquet Club. The Committee accepted his decision with very great regret. *

Condition of lawns. The Chairman reported that he had asked to inspect the lawns and his opinion was that the usual treatment should be sufficient, to restore the condition of the turf, in spite of the abnormal weather in the past two years.

Resignation. Mrs. Dwerryhouse informed the Committee that she wished to resign, after seven years' service. The Committee greatly regretted this, but agreed with the chairman that after such long service, it would not be fair to press-Iris to continue her work on the committee. The Chairman expressed his own and the Committee's most grateful thanks to Iris for all she had done for the Club over the years.

Club Luncheon. As Mrs. Dwerryhouse had so successfully made the arrangements for the past two years, the Chairman asked if she would once more organise the arrangements and this Iris agreed to do. She would endeavour to present the A.G.M. with a suggested date and price for the function - if possible at the Belmont as last year. It was agreed that Mr. and Mrs. Skinner should be invited to our luncheon.

Alteration of booking times. It was felt that a number of members did not like the times arranged this year. It was also felt by the Committee that we should revert to 2½ hour sessions for friendly games. In order to achieve this, the time of starting should be 10-00 a.m. and the sessions would

be as follows

10-00 - 12-30.

12-30 - 1-30. (practise or part of tournament period.)

1-30 - 4-00.

4-00 - 6-30.

thus securing four sessions.

Tournament report.

Mr. Stirrup reported that only 4 pairs had entered for the doubles event, and it was agreed that the meeting be told that unless a minimum of 16 pairs were entered, this event would be cancelled.

Most improved player. It was agreed that the handicap committee would decide to whom this award should be given and it would be announced at the A.G.M.

Outstanding service to the Club. The Committee were agreed that this award should go to Robert Case.

Shot game. It was agreed that due to the great popularity of this variation on the game, the Committee would recommend that it be played on alternate fortnights with the golf croquet. The Committee will await the Cricket Fixture List before deciding on which day in each fortnight these events shall be played. On safety grounds, the Committee will

again advise members that these two events should not be held during the August Cricket Festival.

Preliminary entries for the singles and doubles competitions will be taken at the A.G.M., in the singles event, again to be run as an American Tournament in blocks, the ladies' and gentlemens' entries will not be-drawn separately as this year.

A fee of 20p. per person will be charged for competition entries, to help defray the high cost of cup-engraving.

*Arising out of Mr. Verity's resignation as liaison officer to the General Committee, Mr. John Holt has very kindly offered to represent the Club on our behalf and we thank him very much for his help in this matter.

The meeting closed at 11-45 a.m.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 4th November 1976 at the Clubhouse.

Present: - Full Committee and 22 members.

Apology for absence received from Mr. John Holt.

The chairman said that since the last A.G.M. the club had to record, with great regret, the death of our former Chairman, Mr Maurice Glover, who had given such long service to the Club.

The Minutes of the A.G.M. held 6 / 11 / 1975, were read and approved. Arising from last year's meeting, the Chairman said that the Club Luncheon had been a great success and the opportunity had been taken to present an engraved silver cup to Mr. Pat Tunmer on behalf of the members, to signify the Club's great appreciation, of his many years' service, both as Secretary and teacher.

Chairman's report. Dr. Rawkins said that the Club had enjoyed a very happy season throughout a glorious summer. However, on the debit side, he gave the reason for the resignation from the club and the Committee, of Alfred Verity. This had been received with very great regret and a strong letter of protest had been sent to the General committee, concerning the complete lack of consultation and co-operation on the part of that Committee, as a result of which the Croquet lawns had not received the amount of attention which was now possible, thanks- in very large measure to the new irrigation scheme which was originated, designed and it's installation supervised by Alfred Verity. Following the Chairman's discussion with Mr. Skinner, it is hoped that in future, there will be more consultation between the two sections of the Club concerning the care and upkeep of the croquet lawns. The Chairman wished to record the great thanks of the Club to Mr. Verity for all the work he had done concerning the irrigation scheme which was of permanent value to the whole Club.

Mrs. Dwerryhouse had announced her resignation from the Committee and this was accepted with much regret and Dr. Rawkins, on behalf of all members, thanked Iris for her many years of Committee work for the Club. Although no longer on the Committee, Iris had agreed to organise the next club luncheon. In this connection it was announced that the date would be the 31st March 1977, at the Belmont Hotel and the cost per ticket would be £1.80.

The Chairman said there were two vacancies-on the committee and Mr. Holt had agreed to serve and would also act as liaison officer on the General Committee. Members were asked to nominate a lady member and Mrs. Connie Verity was proposed by Mrs. Tork-Davies and seconded by Mrs. Holt for the vacancy, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. Stirrups report on the tournaments.

Singles. The initial entry was good and at first an attempt was made to give entrants as many games as possible, with the opportunity of meeting all other entrants. However, objections were raised and the plan was modified by playing two blocks. The scoring was on the basis of the number of hoops made in a 2½ hour session. The two top scorers in each block played a semi-final knockout. The final was between Iris Dwerryhouse and Mr. Fred Moores and Fred ran out the winner. Vincent made-the following recommendations: -

1. For the future, the entry list- be opened today and closed after the lunch so that games can start at the beginning of the season.
2. Two blocks should be played but this year the blocks should be mixed.
3. The block final positions should be determined by the number of games won, not hoops made. If, when all block games are complete. There are two clear winners in each block, semi-finals and finals be played by drawing at the semi-final stage.If

more than two tie in any block, names should be drawn and knockout games played until two semi-finalists emerge.

Doubles.

The entry was poor and semi-finals and final only were played, the winners being Sue Rawkins and Philip Dwerryhouse. The Club may wish to discontinue this competition unless the entry reaches eight Couples.

Ladder. Very few games seem to have been played. This is a pity because a ladder game, starting as it does at 1 back, can give practice at the end game, very rarely reached in the other competitions.

Cup awards. The Chairman announced the winners :-

Singles. Mr. Fred Moores

Doubles. Mrs. S. Rawkins and Mr. P. Dwerryhouse.

Most improved player. Mr. P. Dwerryhouse.

Outstanding service to the Club. Mr. R. Case.

and Dr. Rawkins invited Mrs. Dwerryhouse to make the presentations.

In orde to help defray the high cost of cup-engraving, the Committee propose to ask members to pay an entry fee of 20p. for each competition event. The meeting, agreed that for general play, there should be two-hour sessions at the same times as last year

10-30 - 12-30.

12-30 - 1-30. (Practise or part. of tournament period).

1-30 - 3-30.

3-30 - 5-30.

Regarding the social games during the summer, the Chairman said that the "shot-game", devised by Robert Case, had proved very popular and it was proposed and agreed by the meeting that this game should be held next year in conjunction with golf-croquet, which was always much enjoyed. On safety grounds, the Committee again advise members that these events, should not be held; during the August Cricket Festival. It was hoped that Club members would assist the Committee to run these events.

In conclusion, the Chairman wished to thank Mr. Thomas for repairing croquet balls, Mr. Tunmer for his talks and visits to the Club and Mrs. Chadwick for looking after teas for members on golf-croquet afternoons, as well as all members of the Club for their support and help at fund-raising coffee mornings. Dr. Rawkins expressed his appreciation to his Committee for their help during the season just finished.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 11.30 a.m. with a vote of thanks to our Chairman. proposed by Mr. Alan Reid and carried unanimously.

Chairman.

D Rawkins