

CROQUET SECTION. OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE 1996/97

A brief meeting was held after the AGM to identify the committee for 1996/97 and to confirm job allocation as follows:

Chairman and Representative on Management Committee		Tony Dustan-Smith
Secretary		Sue Rogers
Tournaments and Matches		
June/Sept Opens)	
S.W. Federation) -	Vera Henderson
(incl. secretarial))	
Internal		Elaine Woodward
Golf Croquet		Olga Ragg
Cashier, Booking Sheets)	
Library) -	Gwen Sims
Publicity)	
Social/ Catering		Doreen O'Hara
Grounds and Equipment		Jonathan Coombs

The Chairman informed the meeting that job descriptions were available, which could either be obtained from the previous holder, or via himself or the Secretary.

The first committee meeting was arranged for THURSDAY 7th NOVEMBER at 9.30 a.m. in the Pavilion.

SMR

25. 10. 96

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 7th November 1996

Present: Dustan-Smith, J. Coombs, V. Henderson, D. O'Hara, O. Ragg
S. Rogers, G. Sims, E. Woodward.

Apologies: Nil

Minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed.

Secretary's Report: Sue reported that the AGM had been very well attended by 58 members, and the Club Treasurer. Twenty apologies had been received, and only 32 out of 110 members had not been in contact prior to the meeting. The engraving (silverware and a plaque for the new hut on lawn 1) had cost £54.48

Chairman's Report: Tony had not had a meeting since the previous committee meeting. However, he had been asked to elect a member for a new Social and Catering Sub-Committee and Gwen agreed to be the Representative for the Croquet Section.

Members' Reports:

Jonathan had spoken with Peter about a winter practice lawn, and this year it would be at the bottom end of the cricket field. Hoops were to be kept in the mallet room when not in use. Peter will liaise with Jonathan when he is to level out lawns 3 and 4; there is a 2-foot height discrepancy from the highest to the lowest points. Discussion took place as to the feasibility of having the lawns properly levelled, at a minimum cost of £10K. It was agreed that Tony should take this matter to the next Management Committee meeting, and suggest that a lottery grant should perhaps be pursued. Jonathan raised the issue of re-painting/proofing the hut on lawn 3, and will arrange this. He would also discuss with Peter about rectifying the rabbit runs when relocating hoops.

Gwen recorded that the Groundsman's gratuity had been £105 after the AGM. At present there is a balance of £18.48 in the cash float.

Olga is to see Hazel Ruberry about Golf Croquet information.

Vera reported on the AGM of the SW Federation held on 3.11.96

- a) Subscriptions to the CA to remain unchanged
- b) Wharrad Turns, this discussed and will be tried out during 1997 to see how it works in practice.
- c) List of Course dates for 1997 see separate notice

Vera also initiated discussion about the dates of the proposed club tournaments to take place in 1997, in conjunction with other externally arranged events, see separate notice, 1997 would also include a 14-point game in place of the Short Game which was previously played for the Dorothy Toye Cup. (Sue will inform Leslie and Barbara Toye. This would be open to all.

Elaine would produce a provisional list of internal tournament dates to be circulated immediately (via Hugh Read) in response to members requests so as to make personal arrangements.

It was hoped that the lawns would be ready for 29th March 1997

Doreen would be in contact with the Belmont Hotel with regard to the Annual Lunch. The proposed date was Thursday 20th March 1997 but earlier if this date was not possible. She will let us know the date as soon as possible.

Any Other Business:

- a) The date for a preliminary meeting with prospective new members was arranged for Saturday 8th March 1997. (Sue would inform the Coaches and other relevant personnel).
- b) Tony proposed that Elaine be asked to stand as Vice-Chairman, to which she agreed.
- c) To take the place of Iris Dwerryhouse for Team selection, Tony agreed to do this. The replacement for the work of Training officer would be notified later.
- d) An application form is to be sent to a prospective new member (already a player) Discussion re protocol re new members would take place at a future meeting.
- e) The windows in the mallet room were shortly to be replaced, and at the same time alterations would be made to the position of the lockers, and a shelf/cupboard would be made for the library books. The club mallets would be re-housed in the hut on lawn 3.
- f) It was proposed that a brief synopsis of the committee meetings (where relevant) was posted on the notice board in the mallet room.
- g) Any items for discussion at future meetings should be given to Sue at least a week beforehand, possible.

Dates of next meetings:

Monday 2nd December 1996

Tuesday 7th January 1997

Tuesday 4th February 1997

Tuesday 4th March 1

Tuesday 1st April

all to commence at 9.30 a.m. in the Pavilion



SMR

8.11.96

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 2nd December 1996

Present: Dustan-Smith, J. Coombs, V. Henderson, D. O'Hara, O. Ragg
S. Rogers, G. Sims, E. Woodward.

Apologies: G. Sims.

Minutes of the last meeting: were approved and signed.

Secretary's Report: Sue had received a letter from Les Toye, thanking the committee for re-instating a competition for The Dorothy Toye cup. He would be happy to give it for a 14-point game instead of short croquet, and would await a decision for any further engraving.

A request had been received from the C.A. for a few croquet section statistics for insertion into a C.A. Centenary Year Book for 1997.

Chairman's Report: Tony had attended a Subscription and Financial meeting of the main club. His request for £10K for leveling lawns 3 and 4, had been deferred to the next meeting as the officers would be changing at the AGM later in December. The cricket representative had much to say about the income generated by the cricket section, despite the insurance claims for damage caused by cricket balls. Tony will itemise income generated from the croquet section both for information and comparison.

Members' Reports:

Doreen confirmed the date for the spring lunch as Thursday 20th March 1997 at The Victoria Hotel. The cost would be £12.00 each (including expenses and service charges), and there would be a choice for each course, details would be available next year. A menu and form with reply slip would be prepared to be sent out with the Spring programme if possible.

Plans are in hand for the refreshments for the June Tournament.

Jonathan had attended a meeting of the grounds sub-committee; he wondered if the lawn boundaries could be levelled by a slight reduction in the size of the lawns, however the size of lawns is determined by the C.A. for external tournaments.

At the AGM a request is to be made for a Volunteer Mechanic to help with maintenance of the mowers, as this is a time consuming task when Peter Montgomery has other work to do to time.

Jonathan has been elected to be Chairman of the grounds sub-committee.

Olga would look to forming a sub-committee to organise the Golf Croquet tournaments in the summer as Elaine would be away.

Vera had some date changes for matches and coaching, a complete list will be available when other clubs have also made arrangements. A Bronze Coaching course will be held on April 27th either at Parkstone or Budleigh Salterton.

Elaine initiated discussion about the 14-point game proposed for May 24th, as to whether it should be open to all or only to high bisquers. A decision was taken that it should be open to all with an additional day for high bisquers (16 and above) to play a short game on 25th May whilst lawn 2 was still divided.

Gwen gave information that £62.12 had been credited to the section over the past month. After £40.00 given to the Treasurer and engraving expenses of £19.50 there was a balance of £21.10

Any Other Business:

- a) The information boards for the public were to be taken down in the winter - Jonathan would see to this.
- b) Entries for the June Tournament - a decision should be made at the next meeting as to the ratio of home:away players and how the home team should be drawn, those who were not drawn in 1996 should be entered in 1997 (if re-applying).
- c) Vera confirmed that The Dorothy Toye cup had been returned to Les Toye.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 7th January 1997.



SMR
2.12.96

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 7th January 1997

Present: A. Dustan-Smith, V. Henderson, O. Ragg, S. Rogers, G. Sims, E. Woodward.

Apologies: J. Coombs, D. O'Hara, E. Woodward.

Minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed.

Matters Arising: Coaching course at BS to be attended by Tony Dustan-Smith, Brian Smith, Vera Henderson and Elaine Woodward.

Secretary's Report: Sue had received resignation letters from David and Charlie Black, and from Harold and Joan Mitchell.

Chairman's Report: No meetings.

Members' Reports: Gwen recorded a balance of £20.40 due to income of £74.30 (T T, whist, sale of books/badges) and £75.00 to club funds. Gwen had attended a meeting of the social/catering sub-committee at which sections gave a synopsis of their activities other than their main sport. The tennis section are holding an open quiz evening on 14.2.97. Table tennis is open to everyone although managed by the croquet section. The cricket section are hoping to organise a pop-concert immediately prior to the Folk Festival but have yet to seek approval from the main committee and trustees if it is to be held on the club ground; at present there is some objection from the general public and other sections members. A further suggestion was to have a fruit machine, but this also did not find much favour. There was discussion as to the viability of the Sky T.V.- the £900 p.a. was a large sum for little use.

Vera asked who would be managing the June tournament. Tony to pursue. Iris will help as appropriate.

Vera will be away for the initial meeting with potential new members.

Any Other Business:

a) The training dates for the spring had been arranged by John Hatherley as follows: Tues 21st January, Thurs 20th February, Thurs 13th March, Sat 22nd March, all from 10 to 12 m.d.

b) The spring newsletter would include details of the lunch on March 20th, and dates of croquet tournaments throughout the year.

c) Friday 18th July was suggested for the barbecue. Help will be requested from Elaine Hope and her team for washing-up etc, but members would again be asked to provide a variety of dishes.

d) A golf croquet magazine had been sent from the C.A. to be available in the mallet room.

e) A new venue may be arranged for the 1997 Christmas dinner. Thanks, were recorded to Hugh Read for arranging the 1996 dinner.

f) Organisers of the C.A. centenary exhibition will be contacted regarding the loan of Humphrey Hicks mallets and medals.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 4th February at MANOR GARTH, SEAFIELD LANE.



SMR

7. 1. 97

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 4th March 1997.

Present: J. Coombs, A Dustan-Smith, D. O 'Hara, O. Ragg, S. Rogers, G. Sims
E. Woodward.

Apologies: V. Henderson.

Minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed.

Secretary's Report: Sue reported that Humphrey Hicks' medals and mallets had been taken for the CA centenary exhibition, they would be returned by June 1998. The CA had asked re venues for matches in 1998, we shall know in the next month or two whether we will be hosting one.

11 people have resigned from the section this year, leaving 94 full members, and 6 country members.

An application for country membership has been received from Charles & Una Atter-Martin, (Cheltenham); approved by committee and will be forwarded to the main committee for their approval. A letter from Sidmouth Hospital Midwives had been received asking for signatures from members in support of the Unit remaining open, it was put in the mallet room for members to sign.

Chairman's Report: From the management committee meeting attended Tony reported there would not now be a 'pop' concert. A Cricket Festival Week had been proposed, for the end of July, culminating in a classical musical evening. Details to follow. Sections were asked to give future development ideas for application for lottery money. We would like lawns 3 & 4 levelled together with a sprinkler system; other ideas to Tony a.s.a.p. please.

A formal application had been submitted to the Council for the Fort field area to be designated a 'Dog Free Fouling Area '.

Members' Reports: Olga asked for confirmation of starting dates for Golf Croquet. She would also speak with Vera re the format for the SWFed. Golf Croquet Tournament on June 21st.

Elaine had printed a new-style internal tournament application form which the committee approved. She also passed on a request that the winter lawn be re-positioned to allow practice before April, but the committee thought it was unreasonable to ask Peter to do this - he had enough to do after a wet winter.

Jonathan confirmed that the mallet rack had been fixed in the Lawn 3 pavilion. Some of the mallets may be disposed of later. Problems were still being had purchasing corner flags, Jonathan would try other outlets for getting some.

The bad weather may defer the start of the playing season. Gwen reported that there had been a lot of income generated over the last two months, from activities, teas etc, and sale of books. £85 and £40 had been given to the treasurer at the end of January and February, leaving £8.63 in petty cash at the moment. Doreen had sold 58 tickets for the lunch on March 20th, she continues to communicate with the Victoria Hotel re arrangements. She reminded the meeting that bridge is played on Mondays during May, which means conflicting arrangements for the club afternoon players having teas; she would speak to the bridge organiser to try to work out a way to keep both groups happy!

Vera gave information of players who had already applied to play in the two open tournaments. She has received the two cups from Jersey that were won in 1996, and has them in safe keeping.

Any Other Business:

- 1) The format for the meeting for potential new players on March 8th was discussed. From letters sent to 32 people only 12 have confirmed (so far) that they will be at the meeting.
- 2) CA information:
 - a) Knock-out Club tournaments are suggested, we will take part, details to be put on the notice board.
 - b) B/W pictures are being offered for sale; Elaine will try to get enlarged photocopies.
 - c) A suggestion for a minibus (or similar) to take people to the exhibition in Wimbledon later in the year. The idea to be put to members at 'the lunch'.
- 3) Dates of internal tournaments were checked and a few changed; these were noted on the (draft) summer programme, the tournament application form, and lawn requirement form.
- 4) In view of the coaching dates for potential new members the date for their meeting with club members has been altered to Saturday 3rd May, from 12 noon. After some discussion it was decided that members bring their own lunch. Committee members are asked to be there, please, by 11.30 a.m. as there may be various matters to attend to for the new members.
- 5) The AGM was set for Saturday 18th October from 10.30 a.m.
- 6) Elaine is arranging the club afternoons; a committee member to be present each week. Please give her dates when you cannot be there a.s.a.p.
- 7) Bank. Tony has been in contact with several plant wholesalers, and will order 100 cotoneaster plants at £1.10 each from a firm in Kidderminster who will deliver. Round-up weedkiller to be used 1-2 weeks before planting and mulching collars to be placed in situ. The ground committee will do the planting. Peter to be asked to strim the bank as soon as weather conditions allow.
- 8) Tournaments: a) League match player selection criteria discussed, Vera and Elaine, as selectors, will follow this up. Dependant on availability of players.
- 9) 14-point game does not affect handicap.
- 10) 1998 Open tournaments - suggest closing date given so as to select players instead of taking those who apply by the initial date.
- 11) Grade 1 coaching course on April 27th at Budleigh.
- 12) Improvers course at Budleigh on April 19/20 has been cancelled.
- 13) Honour Boards are being made by John Toye.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 1st April 1997.



SMR
4.3.97

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on April 1st 1997.

Present: A. Dustan-Smith, V. Henderson, O. Ragg, S. Rogers, G. Sims, E. Woodward.

Apologies: J. Coombs, D. O'Hara.

Minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed.

Matters Arising: The date arranged for the AGM, (Oct. 18th) was found to clash with another local function. The date for the AGM will now be OCTOBER 25th at 2.00 p.m.

Secretary's Report: Sue reported that a letter from the CA confirmed a team would play the 'Selector's Weekend' tournament at Sidmouth, Sept 11-13 1998. The CA gazette for affiliate members would be delivered in bulk to the club in May. The Sidmouth logo will be available for members to buy; orders will not be taken for sweaters so that these can be bought personally.

Chairman's Report: No meetings attended. Further to a previous meeting Tony had received information that arrangements had been made for an overseas cricketer to join the Sidmouth team this year. The club were not prepared to finance this.

Members' Reports: Gwen had given £330 to the Treasurer, which included £273 received from trainees. The petty cash balance is currently at £6.15 Gwen had attended a meeting of the Social Committee: a) lunch and tea will be available from April 19th when there is cricket. b) the cricketers are arranging a barbecue each month to follow a match. c) an 'Irish evening' will be held on May 2nd with stew and soda bread. d) musical evening will be held on July 24th at the end of the cricket week 8-10 p.m. Entry tickets £5.50 available in advance (watch for publicity), bring own supper. e) Quiz evening at the end of May; a quiz machine to be purchased by the Club.

Elaine said entries for the Internal Tournaments were being received: the knockout - will affect handicaps, each first named player to be responsible for the game, wear whites or period costume; the Bray system to be used.

Olga to give details of the Golf Croquet Tournaments (SW Fed and Budleigh) when information received from Hazel or Iris.


Vera reported that the June and September Open Tournaments were fully subscribed, also with reserves. A clear table for results had been drawn up; those people on the match lists who did not want to play would be asked to cancel their names.

Doreen gave information that the lunch at the Victoria Hotel had been a success, £13 had been given to Club funds. The bridge players were reluctant to allow croquet players to interrupt for tea on Monday club afternoons; Elaine will clarify this.

Any Other Business:

- 1) The bank has been planted - thanks to all who helped.
- 2) Extra balls had been found in the lawn 3 pavilion, no knowledge of where they came from; (now locked away).
- 3) There are 'rabbit runs' and corner indentations on lawn 1, possibly from last year, Jonathan will discuss with Peter.
- 4) The yard line measure needs checking, and Tony will put another in the lawn 3 pavilion.
- 5) Future projections for a lottery grant to include a sprinkler system, levelling of lawns 3 & 4, pavilion overall plan.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 6th May 1997, at 9.30 a.m.


SMR
2.4.97

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 6th May 1997.

Present: A. Dustan-Smith, V. Henderson, D. O'Hara, O. Ragg, S. Rogers, G. Sims
E. Woodward.

Apologies: None

Minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed.

Matters Arising: None

Secretary's Report: Sue confirmed that over 20 potential members had commenced training, and 11 had joined as croquet players. Each had been paired with an existing member who would help them to learn the game, and introduce them to the club generally. Sue had received letters from a) the club secretary regarding the Groundsman taking messages re the lawns only through the ground representative - Jonathan. b) a visitor to Sidmouth in April who had had abusive remarks made by a croquet player'; a letter would be sent with apologies. A complimentary copy of the CA Centenary Year Book had been received which would be put in our library. Members may buy their own copy from the CA if they wish, at £12.

Chairman's Report: Jonathan reported from the management meeting. A cricketer from Barbados had come to Sidmouth; his present accommodation was not satisfactory, and this promoted discussion as to future accommodation, one suggestion being the adaptation of some of the upstairs rooms. This (croquet) meeting was not in favour of this. It had been decided to keep the house in Temple Street currently used by the Groundsman. Further ideas for the club had been discussed at the management meeting. The quiz machine had been placed in the pavilion, and a gas barbecue was to be purchased.

Members' Reports: Doreen had not had a satisfactory discussion with the bridge representative re teas during club afternoons when there were no cricket teas available. This would now be on the agenda for a future management meeting, for the 1998 season. Gwen had passed £15 to the treasurer, and has a balance of £8.65

Olga has been in contact with Ron Arnold re the annual Golf Croquet with Budleigh Salterton. This will be on Tuesday 17th June from 2.00 p.m. here, and at Budleigh in September. Vera had produced the SW Federation match result form. She reminded the meeting that there would be training for the new members, those of 'B' league standard, and for the 'A' players; but none had been arranged for the 'intermediate' players. The training officer to be contacted. Vera gave a message from John Hatherley that spare balls should be kept in the mallet room and not in the pavilion at lawn 3.

Jonathan said that Peter is aware of the problems of the lawns. It was clarified that the lawns had been ready for March 30th last year. Lawn 2 will be marked into one lawn before the weekend; the corners of lawn 1 are to be re-turfed as soon as feasible.

Tony has arranged with the Round Table and the Lions that they will spend part of an evening 'playing' croquet under supervision to be followed by a meal in the Pavilion, (their request). This would be from 6.30 p.m. on Wednesday 21st May and 4th June respectively. Tony will arrange for helpers. For next year John Hatherley has suggested that all coaches have a trainer's manual - to be obtained from the CA early next year.

Elaine completed the arrangements for the supervision of the club afternoons. She gave details of the 14-point game for Saturday 10th May: to commence at 10.00 a.m. with games lasting 1¼ hours. 12 people had entered. The Dorothy Toye tournament for

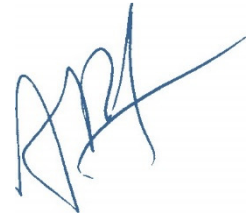
May 24th would commence at 9.00 a.m. each game to last 1½ hours with double banking. 20 people are to play. Neither game will affect handicaps. Doreen will ask Elaine Hope if a sandwich lunch can be provided, also a meal in the evening of 24th May. The Knockout competition, first round, will be drawn this week. The games should be played by the dates specified, with the final being on one of the finals days

Any Other Business:

1) Eric Kitchener had expressed concern about the grass growing on the bank which had recently been planted. Vera will discuss with Kay Peers re a group of people to trim the grass one day this week or next.

2) Elaine commented on the lack of chairs for spectators; it was suggested that perhaps we could purchase some more white stacking chairs Tony will deal with this.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 3rd June at 9,30 a.m.



SMR

6.5.97

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 3rd June 1997.

Present: A. Dustan-Smith, V. Henderson, D. O' Hara, S. Rogers, G. Sims
E. Woodward.

Apologies: J. Coombs, O. Ragg.

Minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed.

Matters Arising:

a) The bridge representative had been contacted again, and had agreed to tea being made and served to croquet players on a Monday afternoon whilst the bridge session was in progress. It would be served in the main room and not in the mallet room. This would be at the start of the playing season.

b) Eleven members of the Round Table had attended a fun evening in May. A letter of thanks has been received; all participants having had a good evening. Members of the Lions will be coming on Wednesday evening; again, the bar will be open and a meal will be available.

c) The grass bank has been trimmed by a small working party using hand shears.

Secretary's Report: One of our older members, Mrs Ina Creighton, died unexpectedly last week. Sue has sent a letter to her relatives on behalf of the croquet section. The coffee morning held on Monday 5th May had been very successful; sales of cakes had realised £95.80, and the plant stall realised £42.10. Thanks to all those who had helped.

Recent information from the C.A. informed that a) the subscription for 1998 would be increased by 40p for each full member. b) the Southern Clubs conference would this year be held at Parson's Green Club on Saturday 22nd November, (further details later).

Chairman's Report: Elaine had attended the meeting.

a) Floodlights had again been requested; the EDDC had approved this, but it had been turned down by the local council. Further details awaited as the EDDC can over-ride the council decision.

b) Tennyson Roach is to have sleeping quarters in the room previously used by the club secretary, who is now in the room previously used by Peter Montgomery. (Change of use has not been applied for, there is no tenancy agreement or rental, but legal advice had been sought).

c) The treasurer has stated that there are still some outstanding subscriptions; Sue to check the croquet members.

d) In the groundsman's absence all sections are requested to help with their particular areas.

An emergency meeting was later called which Tony attended; this was to talk further about the ground maintenance.

Refreshment facilities are available on request, to Elaine Hope, and all members are encouraged to use them.

Members' Reports: Vera reported the Federation result from Thursday 22nd May, Sidmouth 5 - Budleigh Salterton 2. Vera will check the number boards are in place for the Open Tournament next week; and will make out the lists for lunches and the Wednesday evening meal.

Gwen reported a balance of £16.50 She will contact Graham Dodd for money for the Open Tournament.

Elaine had spoken to the referees/ umpires for next week's tournaments, the tournament referee being John Hatherley. Tony to check hoops on Sunday p.m.

The lawns are to be available for visiting players from 4.00 p.m. on Sunday. An earlier finish was anticipated for Wednesday in view of the meal for 7.30 p. m. The bar to be open each lunchtime and evening. A report will be written for the local paper, and for the C.A. Elaine to arrange for this.

Doreen will collect the money for the evening meal at the door as people arrive. A buffet lunch will be provided each day, and Doreen is asking for volunteer helpers, as Elaine's girls are at school during the day.

Tony expressed thanks to Richard Clark for his work on the Shot Game information boards; Sue will convey thanks to Richard.

Any Other Business:

1) Elaine reported that there were three players who had to have a play-off after the Dorothy Toye Cup tournament, she would draw up a block for playing in their own time, with a final (for two) on one of the Finals Days.

2) As yet there was no prize for the 14-point game for the high bisquers, this to be discussed at a later meeting.

3) The doubles tournament to be a 22-point game.

4) Sue suggested that coffee be taken to the players in the mornings next week, cost 30p. Doreen will check the flask situation; and Vera will enquire from where we can buy polystyrene cups with lids. Volunteers will be needed to help.

5) Some members will make cakes for the teas and bring them next

6) It was suggested that we have a fun day (from 1.00 p.m.) prior to the barbecue on July 18th. Ideas to be sought from Brian and Mary, via Vera. Tony to produce notices for attenders and people to provide food. The cost to be £7.00 this year. We will have some help from Elaine Hope, and also help for the washing-up.

7) The moss on the lawns will be dealt with after next week.

8) We have recently had two enquiries re croquet lessons. Sue to ask John Hatherley about an introductory session within the next few weeks.

9) The possible format for future tournaments to be discussed at the September committee meeting.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 1st July at 9.30 a.m.

E.W.

SMR

3. 6. 97

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 1st July 1997.

Present: J. Coombs, V. Henderson, D. O'Hara, O. Ragg, S. Rogers, E. Woodward.

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

Minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed.

Matters Arising: From the Chairman's report the Treasurer had said some club members had not paid their subscription; Sue had checked the croquet players' records and had contacted the two who were outstanding - both of whom had decided not to join.

Secretary's Report: Sue recorded that Dr David Rawkins, aged 95 (a previous member, and who had donated a cup) had died on June 13th. His funeral had been attended by some members who had known him.

A further 10 'logos' had been ordered, the price had been increased to £4.40 (inc VAT).

The Open Week in June had been very successful and thanks were expressed to Elaine for the management of the tournament, and to Doreen for organising the catering. Some letters of appreciation and thanks had been received from participants.

Chairman's Report: Jonathan reported that plans for the Musical Evening, Friday 25th July, were proceeding. It was hoped that there would be ice-cream and additional bar facilities. Notices are on display. The lawns and cricket pitch will be fenced off, A new mower has been purchased at £8.5K - a larger and more efficient machine.

Members' Reports: Vera gave the results of the recent SW Fed. Matches. A letter has been received from Ron Welch who used to organise the summer schools in Loughborough; he is now arranging for Croquet Holidays, and has sent details of three to be held in Wiltshire.

Jonathan reported that Peter Montgomery's contract expires next week owing to his ill health, he has seen Roger Packe.

Peter will stay in the house under a shorthold tenancy agreement. Noel Westlake is working part-time, but cannot confirm full-time hours until September; Adam Coombs is an able assistant. Noel's tutor (from Bicton) has been to Sidmouth recently and may consider sending students for 'grounds experience' in the future. Machinery - the mowers, sprayer, and line marker have gone wrong this year! The new mower is partly financed from reserves and groundsman's salary (no full appointment, as Noel is on a discretionary grant).

The lawns are being treated and mown as feasible, but have not been helped by excessive quantities of worm casts!

Olga confirmed that the Golf Croquet match against Budleigh Salterton last month had been enjoyable, although the visitors won. The return match at Budleigh is on Tuesday 16th September, prospective players will be informed.

The SW Fed Golf Croquet qualifying match was on Saturday 21st June, (£15 levy to be paid); the winners of both the doubles and singles are unable to go to the finals at Nailsea on Sunday 21st September; the runners up will be going.

Doreen said that some of the people having lunch during the June tournaments had had a long wait because of the hot meal service, also there was some wasted coffee from the flasks taken to the lawns; she asked about the feasibility of obtaining Max-packs for future matches. The next two weekends are in hand for lunches and teas during the doubles tournaments, as well as teas for SW Fed matches.

Elaine received a report from Roger Jackman re the June tournament which has been sent for inclusion in the CA magazine. Dates for the home tournaments have been extended in some cases. Vera has been asked to manage the first weekend of doubles as Elaine is away; 18-point, hour games.

Gwen's report on finances show £50.00 passed to the treasurer. Income was £157.31 and expenses total led £85.87 leaving a balance of £21.44

Any Other Business:

1) Barbecue arrangements: a) it was agreed that the club chairman, Brian Drake, Noel, and Tony and Elaine have invitations.

b) Doreen will ask for further helpers for food.

c) Vera will arrange the one-ball or 14-point games during the afternoon as people arrive.

2) Club afternoons - some new members feel that their lack of knowledge hampers the games; our sensitivity is needed. Mention was made that next year's committee possibly look at a revised format.

3) Golf Croquet tournaments — Hazel Ruberry is helping with the organisation of games.

4) Some of the balls are getting chipped -possibly due to contact with concrete by the huts on lawns 3 & 4. Jonathan will investigate.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 12th August at 9.30 a.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MS' or similar initials, written in a cursive style.

SMR
2.7.97

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 12th August 1997.

Present: A. Dustan-Smith, V. Henderson, D. O'Hara, O. Ragg, S. Rogers, G. Sims, E. Woodward.

Apologies: J. Coombs.

Minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed.

Matters Arising: None.

Secretary's Report: Sue had received a letter from the Chairman of the Friends of the Fortfield regarding an extra Club coffee morning for August 25th. Help with stalls, fun-day etc was requested. We agreed to have a cake stall again, but not any fun-games.

Chairman's Report: Tony had attended a recent meeting. The club has had high financial outgoings and ideas were needed as to how to generate more income; costing had not been properly carried out for the employment of Tony and Elaine Hope. The meeting made the following suggestions, to hold the pre-Christmas dinner and table-tennis lunch at the club, to have light lunches provided before the bridge and whist sessions, and maybe raise the Friends' subscriptions, meals and bridge costs.

Noel would continue to work over the winter - two days each week from college; after which he should be available for full-time employment.

Members' Reports:

Olga has arranged the golf croquet tournaments for August 26th and 27th with help from Hazel Ruberry. Elaine will manage the days with help from Sue.

Vera had heard from Don Waterhouse that the 'B' league is not eligible for the semi-final despite 3 wins out of 4 games (not enough points obtained). She has spoken to both Don and Bill Arliss re the handicap discrepancies relating to Lym Valley. One member had commented on the lack of entry for the September open tournament despite the closing date of 30th August. (Vera, Tony, Elaine and Sue would discuss this next week, whilst arranging the dates for 1998, as entry into the fixtures book is shortly to be submitted).

The fun afternoon prior to the barbecue had not been a success, future events would be discussed as appropriate.

Some members complained that they were unable to play golf croquet yesterday whilst the shot game was in progress. It is suggested that the club afternoon format be re-arranged for 1998. Doreen will organise the coffee for the two days of the September Open. In future tea for SW League games will be £2.00 for each player. Lunches will be available on the days of club tournaments Gwen reported that a total of £369 had been passed to the treasurer from the barbecue, visitors fees and library books. There is currently £21.54 in hand. She did not know how much the bar takings were at the barbecue.

Not all library books are being booked out; at present 'The World of Croquet' is missing.

Elaine reported that the playing of the internal tournaments is progressing well. The 14-point game needs a cup! which Tony has agreed to purchase.

She will speak with Jonathan re the lawns for the Open tournament and the club finals. John Toye will have players' handicaps displayed for the Open tournament.

Any Other Business:

1) The notice for nominations for the next committee, from the AGM, has to be displayed by September 6th. Elaine has to stand down and Doreen also wishes to stand down from the committee. We were asked to think of suitable replacements and to speak with Tony prior to approaching anyone.

Olga agreed to the suggestion that she would provide prizes and milk etc. for the whist, and ascertain if Mary Hardman and Sheila Blenkinsop were still willing to do the teas. (dates to be confirmed during. September)

2) Vera and Rowland did not wish to continue to prepare for table tennis; Elaine will ask Richard and Pam and/or Brian.

3) It was noted that the new members had not had a lot of help this year, Elaine is prepared to follow this up in 1998.

4) An enquiry had been made for a small group to watch/play croquet one evening; their representative will contact Sue with details.

5) A get-well card was signed for Iris who is unwell.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 9th September at 9.30 a.m.



SMR

14 .8. 97

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 9th September 1997

Present: J. Coombs, A. Dustan-Smith, V. Henderson, D. O'Hara, O. Ragg, S. Rogers, G. Sims, E. Woodward.

Apologies: None

Minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed.

Matters Arising: Tony has undertaken to arrange for a prize for the 14-point game.

Secretary's Report: Sue announced that profits from the cake stall at the Club coffee morning held on August 25th were £61.82 Thanks expressed to all who helped.

The information for the AGM is in the mallet room (for 6 weeks prior to the AGM), committee members must be re-elected.

Changes to the dates and wording for the information re the 1998 Open Tournaments were confirmed - to be sent to the CA this week.

Chairman's Report: No attendance at the Finance & General Purposes meeting. Suggestions re future catering had been sent to the chairman. Next main meeting is on 11.9.97

Members' Reports:

Vera had received information from Don Waterhouse re Advanced Play - handicaps 1-7; not enough members to do this.

The SW Federation results were available: League team 3W / 2L; Intermediate team 1W / 2L; 'B'team 3W / 1L.

Some internal tournaments next year to have finals before the end of August e.g. Doubles, 14-point.

Training for coaches - David Purdon to assess sometime. Doreen gave details of costing for Maxpaks of coffee (see separate note). For future tournaments a flask should be purchased and reliance not made for borrowing. Requests for volunteers to help with catering had met with a poor response from section members, Doreen was thanked for her help in the preparation and serving. She will update her job description. Elaine said that players should be given priority in ordering meals during tournaments; a notice to the effect will be provided next year.

Olga reported the results of the Golf Croquet tournament. She had had some worry over the organisation, but had help from Hazel Ruberry.

The friendly match against Budleigh will take place next week (at BS).

Some members were unhappy at the fact that organised sessions had stopped at the end of August. (new committee to discuss).

Jonathan said that Lawn 2 would be closed from 10.9.97 to allow much needed repair work to commence.

An experienced groundsman from the Midlands had had an informal interview with the prospect of full-time employment next year. Noel was aware of this, he would still only be able to offer part-time as he has another year to complete at Bicton.

Thanks were expressed for all the extra work that Jonathan has done to help with the preparation of the lawns.

Gwen had given £30 to the Treasurer and £20 for prizes for the Open weekend, leaving a balance of £9.79

Any Other Business:

1. Thanks were recorded to John Toye for his management of the Open weekend, and to Rowland Henderson for the 'tactic board' that he made which was given to John. Letters will be sent to both.
2. John Toye is investigating the idea of training for new members through the Adult Education scheme. Fees for the coaches would go into club funds.
3. Eric Kitchener has agreed to present the awards at the AGM. Sue to ask Gwynneth Dart to thank the committee, and John Hatherley to thank Eric Kitchener.
4. Rex Sims as Club President to be invited to the AGM. (Gwen).
5. Table-tennis to commence on October 15th. Vera and Rowland wish to discontinue setting it up as soon as replacements have been found.
6. Whist will commence on October 16th.

Date of Next Meeting:

Tuesday 7th October at 10.00 a.m. to be followed by lunch.



SMR

9.9.97

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 7th October 1997.

Present: A. Dustan-Smith, V. Henderson, D. O' Hara, O. Ragg, S. Rogers, E. Woodward.

Apologies: J. Coombs, G. Sims.

Minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed.

Matters Arising: A.O.B. 3.- At the AGM Kay Peers has agreed to thank the committee and John Hatherley will thank Eric Kitchener.

Secretary's Report:

The club coffee morning originally scheduled for the morning of 25th October has been cancelled.

Sue had had comment from two croquet members regarding the money collected for Peter Montgomery during the summer. Only £20 had been in the box; this had been made up to £100 from club funds. Was this because members had not contributed or had there been a lack of security? Tony was asked to take this to the main committee meeting.

Gwynneth Dart had received most of the handicap cards and these would be returned to members in due course.

A visitor had asked for information to join as a country member and information has been sent.

The C.A. has sent information re 1) a meeting to be held in Fulham on November 22nd; 2) the SW Federation AGM to be held in Bristol on November 2nd which includes a lecture given by John Solomon; 3) a reminder about the Centenary dinner on October 18th 4) entry form for an indoor croquet tournament during the winter.

Chairman's Report:

1. A replacement BT pay-phone has been requested, so that the one normally kept in the 'office' cupboard will not be used for unofficial calls.

2. The cricket section have realised they must contribute more to club funds: this can be done by raising their subscriptions and ensuring all members pay; by renting to other teams who would like to play here when the Sidmouth team are not playing; tea prices can be increased; allow cars to park on the grass during folk-festival week (this would have implications??)

A local cricketer has been using the pavilion for sleeping some nights.

3) The coffee morning in August raised £480.

4) A professional groundsman - Geoff Calcott - is to be employed subject to references and a medical. Noel will continue to work on a part-time basis and he will have Bicton students working with him during the winter.

The club has applied for a lottery grant. A letter has been passed to Roger Packe with a quote for two lawns to be levelled at £14,000.

6. Acts of vandalism have been reported, and a new ruling bans junior players from being in the pavilion without an adult.

7. Catering costing is to be organised.

Members Reports:

Vera requests that booking sheets be continued into October in future. Confirmation of the dates of the Sidmouth and Budleigh open tournaments would dictate the dates of our internal tournaments, but the doubles tournaments would be on the first and second weekends of July. A preliminary list would be displayed as soon as we receive confirmation.

Gwen has a balance of £32.90 after receipts of £23. 11 from visitors' fees, refreshments etc.

Elaine reported a busy season of tournaments that have been successfully completed. The 'day' tournaments that need organisation throughout are time consuming, and it is difficult to play and organise. She suggests that next season the organiser has help.

Training needs to be looked at more fully next year. It is possible that Eric Kitchener may not be available.

Olga gave results of the successful Sidmouth team at the Golf

Croquet match against Budleigh on September 16th. The Golf Croquet sessions have been well attended this year. Tony thanked Olga for arranging the sessions all season.

Doreen said she had had a hard year, but was grateful to those who had helped. The job description had been up-dated.

Any Other Business:

1. Arrangements for the AGM were discussed. The committee members were asked to be available, to re-arrange the furniture etc, by 1.15 p.m. on the Saturday.
2. A request had been made for handicap changes to be announced at the AGM, but the committee rejected this. Instead a list will be displayed in the mallet room.
3. The projected budget for 1997/98 was discussed, and this year's figures were adjusted accordingly. The treasurer needs the figures as soon as possible. It was agreed that one set of Jacques balls be bought yearly; they would be of a slightly different composition in future due to factory changes. If the CA have some in stock it may be worthwhile to get another set this year.
4. A refreshment rota was discussed.
5. There is still a vacancy for a further Committee member to be nominated. Tony will speak with Eileen Cox, to maybe head up a small team. A negative response would mean the committee could co-opt someone as necessary.
6. Tony thanked Elaine (3 years) and Doreen (1 year) for their work on the committee.

Date of Next Meeting: immediately after the ACM, to arrange the next meeting and to confirm committee jobs.



SMR

7.10.97

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CROQUET SECTION
HELD ON SATURDAY 25TH OCTOBER 1997 AT 2.00 P.M. IN THE PAVILION

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming the 49 members present, and the Club President.

Apologies for absence were received from Sheila Adams, John and Bidy Carver, Josie Davies, Ian Davis, Michael Davis, David Fricker, Eric Golding, Rowland Henderson, Gabby Macadam, Doreen O'Hara, George Sisum, Kate Sisum, John and Peggy Webber.

The Chairman reminded members that the minutes of the AGM held on 24th October 1996 had been on the Notice Board for 6 weeks from September 6th 1997, and asked that they be taken as read. David Clarke proposed, Esme Owen seconded, and with unanimous agreement the minutes were approved and signed.

The Committee's Report was read by the Secretary, outlining the past year's activities. Adoption of the report was proposed by Iris Dwerryhouse, seconded by Hugh Read, and unanimously agreed.

A vote of thanks to the Committee was proposed by Kay Peers and endorsed by the meeting.

The Chairman thanked Kay, and expressed his own thanks to the Committee, especially to Elaine Woodward and Doreen O'Hara as out-going members; also to Jonathan Coombs for his extra work in occasional mowing of the lawns whilst we are without a full-time groundsman. He also thanked all members of the section who helped out with various tasks during the year.

He mentioned the departure, on medical grounds, of Peter Montgomery, and the future appointment of Geoff Calcott who is an experienced groundsman. It is hoped that Noel Westlake will continue to work on a part-time basis.

The Club would be applying for a lottery grant, of which £16,000 (approximately a third) would be used to level lawns 3 & 4, utilise the present water system in the provision of a toilet adjacent to the hut on lawn 3, and provide automatic sprinklers for all lawns.

Since the employment of Tony and Elaine Hope the monetary profits for the Club have been reduced, although there are more Club Functions. The Management Committee are to request a one-off gift from all members. Subscriptions would not be increased for next year.

Thanks were expressed to John Toye, and Richard Clark for their help in completing the Honours Boards.

Election of new committee: there was no need for a vote as there were only two nominations to replace the two out-going members.

The new committee would therefore be:

Chairman Tony Dustan-Smith Secretary: Sue Rogers

Members Jonathan Coombs, Eileen Cox, Vera Henderson
Olga Ragg, Gwen Sims, Mary Smith.

Barbecue 1998: Ideas were invited for the date and format of a barbecue for 1998. Much discussion ensued and the committee would finalise and publicise details in good time for the suggested date of June 21st the longest day.

Any Other Business:

1. A show of hands was asked for, for anyone who would be available to help with (un-specified) tasks. 14 people responded immediately.

2. Further clarification was requested about the proposed lottery grant and whether we were entitled to one. It is for the lottery committee to decide who receives grants, but it was for the whole Club and therefore for the area; also East Devon have money for sports promotions, especially to encourage youth to take up sport. Any grant received would require a 10% input from Club members. The work would be done at an appropriate time.

After a number of notices had been given out, the Chairman invited Eric Kitchener to present the trophies, first thanking him for all the help he has given to the Croquet Section as player, coach and referee.

John Hatherley afterwards thanked Eric, and was himself presented with the original Honours Board, showing John as the main winner of the Humphrey Hicks Cup.

The Chairman closed the meeting.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'JH', with a long diagonal stroke extending upwards and to the right.

Tea was served.

CROQUET SECTION REPORT 1997.

Since the AGM last year many of us have been well occupied! From last October through to March there was weekly table-tennis and monthly whist, both of which were well attended. 1996 ended with a Christmas dinner at the Royal Glen Hotel.

1997 is the centenary year of the Croquet Association and there is an on-going display of artefacts at the museum in Wimbledon, to which we sent the medals that had been won by Humphrey Hicks, and also his mallets.

During the early spring we enjoyed some theoretical croquet tuition and a well-attended lunch at the Victoria Hotel in March launched the start of the croquet playing season. After coaching in April, 11 new members joined the section. Some people discontinued their playing membership this year, and sadly one of our members, Ina Creighton, died in May.

Our membership currently stands at 100 full, and 8 country members

The internal tournaments were well subscribed; this year we had 3 extra tournaments, a 14—point game for 18 and above handicap, a 14-point game for the Dorothy Toye cup and a knock-out competition as suggested by the CA for the centenary year. The winner and runner-up of the one-ball for 18 and above handicaps are both octogenarians!

Bronze awards were gained in May by Mary Smith at Southwick, and in September by David Clarke at Sidmouth and Richard Clark at

Budleigh. In the Budleigh week in May, Ted Owen, Les Toye and Brian Smith each won the cup in their individual sections; also in May there was a tournament for high handicap players at Parkstone which was won by Sue Rogers.

At the Veterans week in Budleigh in July, Gwynneth Dart was the winner in her section, and at Parkstone in August Vera Henderson was the winner of the Handicap singles.

A successful Open week held here at Sidmouth in June saw Brian Smith defend his title to regain the David Rawkins cup for a further year. A good evening was enjoyed by players and members who attended a mid-week dinner. In September an Open weekend was held here, which was won by Jonathan Coombs and Vera Henderson.

The South West Federation teams have had varied success this year: the Federation league teams played 5 matches winning 3; the inter- mediate teams played 3 matches winning 1, and the 'B' league teams played 4 matches winning 3.

Golf Croquet continues to be enjoyed by many, and the two annual matches against Budleigh resulted in a draw. The wet weather was probably the winner for the qualifying rounds for the South West Federation match in June, and a team represented Sidmouth at the finals at Nail sea in September.

As usual the singles and doubles tournaments attracted a large following and there were some exciting games.

Throughout the year we make modest profits for the club; in July we had another enjoyable barbecue which raised nearly £400. The Club coffee mornings have enjoyed the help from our section and thanks are due to those who have helped at the various stalls.

Thanks are also due to the many members who have helped the committee with the ongoing work of the croquet section, both corporately and individually.

CROQUET ANNUAL REPORT 1997

1997 is the centenary year of the Croquet Association. Many clubs throughout the country have held special tournaments and celebrations. Some of the medals and mallets that belonged to one of our earlier members, a former national and international player, have been loaned to the year-long exhibition in London.

The croquet membership of over 100 players have had a good year! Our handicap range enables players of all abilities to play with others in both friendly and competitive games.

A six-week course from the beginning of April resulted in some new recruits many of whom are already becoming addicted to the game! Coaching is also available informally for all members throughout the year.

A number of players are proudly displaying trophies wrested from Away Tournaments, and others won at our own Open and Local Tournaments.

Our League Tournaments played at Sidmouth and other venues in the South West during the year have been of varying success.

The croquet section work throughout the year to help raise funds for the Club. From October to March there is weekly table-tennis arranged for all club members, and monthly whist afternoons for past and present croquet members. This year our annual Barbecue raised nearly £400 profit.

As usual the Section ACM is well attended. The support received is appreciated by the committee, each of whom work hard for the smooth and efficient running of both playing and social events.

Sue Rogers

Hon. Secretary Croquet Section.

CLUB TOURNAMENTS 1997

Humphrey Hicks Cup	Advanced Play (Singles)	Brian Smith (runner-up Tony Dustan-Smith)
Belmont Challenge Cup	Handicap Singles	Jonathan Coombs (runner-up Don Waterhouse)
Fermor Rose Bowl	Ladies Handicap Singles	Elaine Woodward (runner-up Sheila Blenkinsop)
Devonia Cup	High Handicap Singles	Sue Rogers (runner-up Jonathan Coombs)
Colclough & Sidmouth Cups	Handicap Doubles	Esme Owen & Ingrid Read (bye) (runners-up Iris Dwerryhouse & Richard Clark)
Corbett Spoons	One Ball	18 & over John Brightmore (runner-up Peggy Webber) 16 & under Brian Smith (runner-up Gwen Sims)
Robert Case Shield	Shot highest score	Brian Smith (runner-up Sheila Adams)
Tankard	Shot highest score+ handicap	Sheila Adams (runner—up Doreen O Hara)
Canton Trophy	Egyptian Tournament	Hugh Read (runners-up Bob Callingham & Brian Smith)
Cunningham Salvors	Golf Croquet – Singles	Richard Clark (runner-up Sheila Adams)
	Golf Croquet - Doubles	David Bal dock & David Fricker (runners-up Ingrid Read & Geoffrey Harvey)
Dorothy Toye Cup	14 Point Game	Rowland Henderson (runner-up Sue Rogers)
	14 Point Game 18 & over	Richard Clark (runner-up Sue Rogers)
C.A.	Knock-out Competition	Sue Rogers (runner-up Gwen Sims)
Sidmouth Croquet Club Cup	Most Improved Player (higher bisquer)	Sue Rogers
Longworth Cup	Most Improved Player (lower bisquer)	Jonathan Coombs