

**MINUTES OF THE CROQUET SECTION COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2021 10am held in the Pavilion**

Participating: Sue Dent, Paul Bradley, Ed Dolphin, Chris Donovan, Philip Harris, Peter Nelson, Steve Pearson, Julie Sorrell.

<b>1. Apologies</b> none	Action
<b>2. Minutes.</b> Minutes of the previous meeting were approved	
<b>3. Matters Arising</b>	
a. Lawn relaying, only one quotation received so far, £75-95,000 but that was speculative for more work than we need including a new irrigation system. Further figures will be sought.....	ED
b. Honours boards:	
(1) A foyer style board has not been found; investigations will continue. Members' opinions will be sought proposals presented at the next General Meeting in September 2022.	
(2) The current boards have room to be updated to 2021 results and will be brought up to date .....	SD
(3) The Humphrey Hicks medal will be reframed and mounted in the 'Croquet Corner' with his mallets. ....	CD
c. SWF teams, there has been a limited response to the call for team members. We will not be entering AC B level nor GC High Handicap teams. Individual team captains will approach members with appropriate handicaps. Parkstone – Richard Wood and Jane Babbage, Federation – Julie Sorrell, Intermediate – Ed Dolphin, Short – Philip Harris possibly, GC – Steve Pearson.	
d. The Christmas Meal will go ahead, but places are limited to 36. An email will be sent to members. ....	PH
e. The staff collection has reached almost £150. The final collection will be made at the Christmas meal. Recognising the level of input to the Croquet Section, the money will be split 40:40:20 with the ground staff receiving the higher portions.	
f. Approved AGM and meeting minutes, the latter after committee signing-off, will be posted on the website. An email advising this to be circulated to members. ....	CD/PH
h. Name badges will be provided for team members on match days. ....	CD
<b>4. Internal Tournaments</b> Sue Dent presented a progressed programme which was finalised. Any internal competition that attracts less than 5 entrants will be cancelled. The programme will be reviewed next year if we manage to have a 'normal' year to assess appetite for different competitions.	
<b>5. CA B Level GC</b> We will host the new B Level GC Tournament with a suggested date of 14 <sup>th</sup> August. Louise Smith to be notified and PN to liaise with the CA. ....	ED/PN
<b>6. CA Handicap Tournament</b> We will not offer a new qualifying competition for the CA National Handicap Tournaments but advise would be entrants to enter Budleigh qualifying round.	
<b>7. AOB</b>	
a. The 2022 Programme and lawn protocols information will be circulated by email.	SD,CD

- b. The Charity One Ball will be on Wed 20<sup>th</sup> April in aid of MIND, the colour is blue. & PH
  - c. The Medics will be invited for their usual match. .... ED/SD
  - d. As membership is approaching the maximum that can be accommodated, a waiting list may be instituted if we have applications to join mid-year in 2022.
  - e. The strategic plan is evolving. In future, expenditure on croquet facilities, the cycle racks for example, will be paid for from central club funds.
  - f. The first aid kits will be inspected. (Afternote: This used to be done by Rob Matthews who has handed over to the main Club House Chair Simon Bowler liaison to avoid duplication) ..... ED
  - g. Members will be reminded early next year that we need understudies to shadow committee members with a view to succession. Duncan Hasell has expressed an interest in understudying PB.
  - h. A 'Rogue's Gallery' of committee members will be put up in Hut 3. .... CD
  - i. **Hut 3** CD asked the committee to give serious thought about the use of the croquet 'estate' given that Covid had made Hut 3 the focus of activity to no seeming detriment. Therefore, if the focus was to be permanently centred on Hut 3 what improvements could be made. CD suggested, amongst other possibilities that might be thought of: e.g.
    - (1) Relocate the Chairman's Gardening equipment store at the end of Hut 3 to storage in Hut 4 by converting the unused benches to lockers.
    - (2) Replace Hut 3 external noticeboard with a much bigger one.
    - (3) Remodel Hut 2 shelter, with store then removed, to improve internal space.
- The future use of the Mallet Room was not discussed other than to say it will be retained for the use of the Croquet Section. Consultations will continue.
- j. **Equipment** It was decided that we will not buy new timers, but we will buy:
    - (1) new sets of 'Exquisite Clips' for GC and AC for approximately £90. CD will donate a primary and secondary set [8 clips]]
    - (2) and a 'Dew' brush for £190 +VAT which is lightweight and more likely to be used by members when ground staff unable to swish.
    - (3). Replacement ball-stop boards for the perimeters will be priced and a bid submitted to the GMC.
- PN** notified us that there will be no hard copy of the CA Fixture Book next year. It was agreed that earlier decided AC will alternate with GC main events at season end. Thus for 2023 we will bid CA GC Women's Eight Tournament, CA AC Eight Tournaments for 2024. .... PN
- It was decided that we retain the one full and two half lawns for another month.

7. **Date of next meeting** Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 10am in the Pavilion.

## MINUTES OF THE CROQUET SECTION COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021 10am held via Zoom

Participating: Sue Dent, Paul Bradley, Ed Dolphin, Chris Donovan, Philip Harris, Steve Pearson, Julie Sorrell.

- |   | Action |
|---|--------|
| 1. <b>Apologies</b> Peter Nelson  |        |
| 2. <b>Minutes.</b> Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.   |        |
| 3. <b>Matters Arising</b>   |        |
| g. Future Lawn relaying costs, no progress has been made.   |        |
| h. Humphrey Hicks display, no progress has been made but, to be in place for main season start.   |        |
| i. The Christmas meal had to be cancelled because it was felt that uncertainty was placing an unfair stress on the caterers. Chris apologised to Julie for having to take decisive action without consulting her.   |        |
| j. Staff collection has reached £150. The money will be delivered to CD and he will arrange distribution. ....  | ED CD  |
| k. Name badges have been ordered.   |        |
| l. First aid kits need to have some materials replaced. ....  | ED     |
| m. Committee pictures have been posted on the website and a laminated copy on Hut 3 external noticeboard.   |        |
| n. Hut 3, major changes are unlikely at present, a structural survey of the integrity of the building should be included in the strategic plan as Andrew Thomas advised the sub-structure is rotten but partially re-enforced when the extension was added. However, AT was confident there was no immediate problem.....   | CD     |
| o. Equipment  |        |
| i. The dew brush has been purchased; it needs to be available from the Hut 3 store. [After note it is].   |        |
| ii. New clips for GC, 3x primary and secondary to be ordered. ....  | ED     |
| iii. New ball stop boards are authorised for purchase in this FY and will be ordered ASAP, Andrew is indisposed, to forestall price rises, but they will be stored until Andrew is fit enough to install them, with much help hopefully.....  | AT/CD  |
| iv. j. 2022 Annual Membership information Sheet   |        |
| i. The Club catering position is, currently unclear and it is quite likely the previous system of providing sports teas / lunches will continue. This remains to be seen but Richard Wood, League Match Secretary will be advised that we may not be offering lunch/tea to visiting teams in 2022 but hopefully the situation will be clear before season start. Regardless the match fee can return to £5. |        |

- ii. The Annual Information sheet to members on member booking / visitor sessions will be clarified.
- iii. There will be no restriction on booking lawns to practise. If this causes booking congestion, it will be reviewed.
- iv. The coaching information will be expanded to include references to Taunton Deane's advice pages and various books, including those by Stephen Custance-Baker and Roger Mills.
- v. Philip will manage the GC Level team. Members will be canvassed to manage the Short Croquet team..... CD
- vi. New participation cards will be produced and lodged in Hut 3..... JS

**4. Programme** Minor changes were made to the 2022 programme.

- a. The Short Croquet Tournament is now to be on 19/20<sup>th</sup> May.
- b.. Dates for the GC Seagull Trophy matches will be proposed for Budleigh's choice, away 27<sup>th</sup> April, home 6<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> of September. .... SP
- c. Christine Bowler will organise a number of friendly local matches with Budleigh and Exeter, needing two lawns each. Proposed dates are 21<sup>st</sup> May, 18<sup>th</sup> June, 16<sup>th</sup> July and 17<sup>th</sup> September. There will be no fees.

**5. AOB**

The Medics will be playing in their usual fun match Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May. GC roll up players will be invited to take part. .... SP

- b. The Internal Tournament schedule has been updated. A copy will be distributed to committee before being sent out to members. .... SD / PH
- c. Agreed that there would be no entry fee for internal tournaments in 2022.

**6. Date of next meeting**

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 10am in the Pavilion or via Zoom, to be decided closer to the time.

**MINUTES OF THE CROQUET SECTION COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022 10am held in the pavilion**

Participating: Paul Bradley, Sue Dent, Ed Dolphin, Chris Donovan, Philip Harris, Peter Nelson, Steve Pearson, Julie Sorrell.

	Action
1. <b>Minutes.</b> Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.	
2. <b>Matters Arising</b>	
a. Future Lawn relaying costs, no progress has been made. ....	ED
b. Humphry Hicks case, still to be actioned.....	CD
c. First Aid, date sensitive components removed, no replacement yet.....	ED
d. Hoop clips have been ordered.	
e. Ball stop boards not ordered yet,. PN will ask AT to fix price and pay.....	PN
f. Match catering, awaiting progress from GMC. CD to update after GMC Meeting 31 Jan 22.....	CD
3. <b>Strategic Plan Reps</b>	
a. Six members will be selected at random and asked to participate. If any are unwilling or unable, further names will be selected.....	CD/ED
b. All members will be consulted at the next stage.	
4. <b>Committee Handbook</b>	
a. The Chairman issued an A5 'Committee handbook' containing the Section Rules, Committee Members' duties, Policy decisions and a 4 page 'pull-out' with the current programme for 2022, Subscription/Visitor/ and similar fee rates, and committee / non-committee personnel covering the duties listed. This will be updated annually, will serve as a reference document and be given to new committee members to assist in their understanding of the section.	
b. Committee members were asked to check the updated duties and advise Os&Es to CD.....	All
c. CD queried the Chairman designated task of drafting / issuing a new members' welcoming letter. [Afternote: 2019 copy found]	
5. <b>Section Policies</b> The document listing the latest minuted decisions was reviewed and is attached as Annex A to these minutes. The major policy changes are:	
a. The GMC will be asked to accept an annually updating sliding scale of fees that can be applied as new members join.	
b. The subscription rates now include:	
i. Single membership £185	

- ii. Family (2 adults and max. 2 children) £375
- iii. Student £45
- c. GC team coaching will be replaced with a regular GC coaching session on Lawn 1 on Monday afternoons during the main playing season i.e. when roll-up sessions are running. AC coaching will continue at 4pm on alternate Wednesdays.
- d. During 2022 it is intended that:
  - i The Club Chairman's Gardening Equipment Store [CGES] relocates to Lawn 4 Hut where the unused bench seat will be converted to storage lockers.
  - ii Mallet racks will be built into the ex GES and more in the Mallet Room. members will be required to store their mallets in the Mallet Room or the Hut 3 mallet store.
  - iii The main notice board will be relocated from the Mallet Room to Hut 3. A small, noticeboard will be maintained in the Mallet Room for notices not related to croquet games.

**6. Matters Arising From Policy Review**

a. The status of 'The Wheel' will be clarified by SP..... SP  
 Following discussion and agreement that all competitive games should be recorded on Handicap Cards.

b.SP offered his servicers as a sprayer of woodworm treatment liquid to Hut 4 as he has all the protective gear and spraying equipment. Hut 4, Robert Case's Hut, is made of Elm and needs to be kept 'moist' – I was treated about 3 years ago.  
 The meeting expressed concern with the state of Hut 4. Review is need..... AT

c.It was also noted that Hut 3' foundations were found to be in a poor state of repair when the extension work was done. AT is sanguine that a 10 year life is a reasonable expectation.

**7. Budget** Items for bids to the Main Club budget were discussed.

- a. The committee agreed Lawn 3 & 4 need relaying whereas Lawns 2 is quite a good lawn and does not need action beyond control of non-grass ingress and Lawn 1's problem is more to do with drainage, as well as non-grass ingress. Consequently, it was agreed that the initial £6K 'lawn relaying funding' for 22/23 be pushed back with a view to funding the relaying of 3 & 4 in Autumn 2024.
- b. A new tablet for online lawn booking from the Mallet Room.
- c. Two sets of new Dawson Balls.[i.e. 2 x primary and 2 x secondary]
- d. Continued funding for the website domain name and provider costs c £330

CD will present these costs at the 31 Jan 22 GMC Meeting

8. Subscription. Budget discussion covered the Adult Single rate which was suggested at £2 plus £5, the latter to cover the Friends of the Fortfield sub which no longer applies. The

committee expressed concern that the other section's suggestions be heard and our increase to be tempered by their thoughts on the subject.

#### **9. Date of next meeting**

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February at 10am in the Pavilion or via Zoom, to be decided closer to the time.

Attached: Club Policies Confirmed Jan 22

### **[All Current Policies Revisited and Agreed]**

#### **Subscription Variations**

##### **Jan 22 General Policy**

New member's initial subscription will be applied iaw the annually updated 'Subscription & Fees' table, p12.

GMC Policy - no rebate of an annual subscription is permissible once paid.

##### **Jan 22 Fees Membership Categories**

Single Adult

Family - 2 adults plus up to a maximum of 2 children

Student - under 21 in full time education

No other categories are available.

A second club membership rate is not offered.

One-off situations are to be referred to the Club Treasurer who is empowered to make subscription decisions on such.

##### **Jan 22 New Members Joining**

It was agreed that people applying for membership after the initial recruitment period would be asked to join the waiting list for next year. This does not affect already established players moving into the area.

#### **Non-Club Membership Court Fees**

##### **Jan 22 Visitors' Court Fees**

Visitors' fees are set-out in the 'Subscription & Fees' table p12.

All visitors are to pay the same rate as shown in the table less those joining roll-ups.

#### **Section Activity Fees**

##### **Jan 22 Match Fees / Claims**

League Team captains are to e-mail their mileage claims to the section treasurer stating how much is due and to whom.

Each team member is to pay the current match fee to the team captain who will distribute the money and claim as necessary and is expected to, at least offer, help with the petrol cost.

The match fee, see 'Subscription & Fees' table, p12, will be reviewed annually to confirm it meets current circumstances

##### **May 17 Beverages**

The recommended donation for tea/coffee and a biscuit, Hut 3, changes from time to time and is reviewed annually, See the 'Subscription & Fees' table, p12.

##### **Jan 22 Mileage**

Members may claim mileage allowance for one car when acting on behalf of the Club e.g. attending a SWF AGM and similar business. League teams must travel in the minimum

number of cars necessary which usually means 1 car for AC and 2 for GC. Exceptions must be pre-authorized.

The mileage rate set at a rate agreed across all sections and is shown on the 'Subscription & Fees' table p12

### **Lawns / Groundsman**

#### **Dec 12 Groundsman**, GMC December Meeting – Item 3

Colin Whitehall's job description has been amended to include some painting and decorating over the winter. [Only to be approached via the section's grounds liaison members]

#### **May 15 Lawn Programme Change**, Matters Arising - Lawn Availability

Where there is a proposed change to the programme, the manager should notify the current Grounds Rep for discussion with lead groundsman and web master for a change to the website.

#### **Jan 22 Corner Flags & Pegs.**

It was agreed that corner pegs are not necessary for everyday play but that short white lines could be painted in their stead. Corner flags are necessary and are to be put in place.

#### **Jan 22 GC Start**

In the winter season GC players are to start from the East Boundary 1 – 3 yards from the corner to avoid wear and tear on the corner.

### **Handicap Committees**

#### **Jan 13 Handicap Committee**, Minute 6 - Chairman's Matters Item 5:

It is not the job of the committee to appoint handicappers, but they should be advised of any changes, and must agree to them. The lead handicapper would recommend replacements to the committee.

#### **Jan 22 Golf handicaps:**

All new GC playing members will start with a handicap of 12.

A low handicap AC player, is to have their initial GC handicap assigned iaw the Golf Croquet Laws book.

#### **Jan 22 Club Competition Handicaps**, Internal Tournaments

Standard CA Tournament Regulations will be applied regarding the question of the handicap to be played in season long competitions. March 31<sup>st</sup> will taken as the 'allocation date'. This means that the handicap the player has, on their CA Card, at the time of the match, is the handicap with which to play.

Handicaps which subsequently fall one step below or above the competition's handicap bracket may play unquestionably. Equally a greater difference is actually permissible but, we would ask the member to consider if, all things considered, continued participation is reasonable.

#### **Jan 22 Handicap**

##### Committees, Handicapper Committee Membership

Should the committee have no members who are handicappers, AC or GC, and little expertise in this subject, the lead handicappers should be co-opted as and when required.

Lead handicappers always have the right to bring handicap issues to the committee and attend meetings if necessary / required.

#### **Jan 22 Handicap Committee**, Player's Handicaps

The handicap committees are responsible for collecting handicap cards at season end and returning them, all checked, for the next season.

Players are responsible for maintaining their handicap cards and must have trigger point changes checked by a handicap committee member.



New members are to be issued with a CA handicap card. This should be completed as it as a useful guide to their own performance and it assists initial, formal handicap allocation when they start Club Competition play.

### **Jan 22**

All games played competitively are to be recorded on a player's CA Handicap Card. Specifically 'friendly' games and roll-up games are not required to be recorded unless the players agree they wish to do so before play commences.

Competitive play should not need clarification but, it does include, all Club Competitions, all league match games, inter-club matches e.g. the Seagull Trophies.

### **Tournaments**

#### **Jul 13 Tournament Managers, Matters Arising**

Internal tournament managers not normally to be given a bottle of wine.

#### **Aug 19 Trophies**

1, 2 & 3 day tournament cups to be awarded at the event conclusion.

All Club trophies / Cups to be engraved at same time, i.e. collected in for the AGM engraving but, not re-presented. A winner's list will be read out.

#### **Aug 21 Roll-Ups, CA Tournaments**

When lawn preparation for a tournament falls on Friday afternoon, AC club roll up will be moved to the morning.

#### **Jan 22 Tournaments, Chairman's Matters - Open Tournaments**

The maximum number of externally entered tournaments permitted with regard to balance competitive / social is as below.

AC Mid-Summer Week [5 days incl Sat & Sun] in June

AC B Level [3 days incl Sat] in August

AC Class 3 days [3 days incl Sat] in July

GC Championship series April [2 days – weekend]

GC Zero+ Series June [2 days – weekend]

GC Teams [2 days – weekend] May]

GC Open Series [2 days – weekend] July

GC B Level Series [1 day Sun] August

AC & GC alternate years for prestige tournament in September with due care being taken on AC event selection re days required.

Host: 1 x SWF League Final

#### **Jan 22 Entry Fees,**

See 'Subscriptions & Fees' Table p12.

#### **Jan 22 Parking [League Matches & Tournaments]**

A discount parking charge at the Bedford lawn car park is still available for players arriving for league matches / tournaments **if** they are wearing whites and the owner, Tom Griffiths on 01395 576782, has been advised in advance. The latter requirement being a responsibility of the committee tournament secretary via the current intermediary.

Each event to be advised in advance – it is confirmed a season list is not acceptable.

### **Members [Communication]**

#### **Dec 12 Trophy Insurance**

Matters Arising – Chair's matters – Trophy Insurance

Members to be reminded that the Club's insurance covers trophies in the Club house but not in private homes. Individuals would need to make their own arrangements with their household insurance.

### **Sep 14 Emails to Members**

All e-mails to the members are to go via the Membership Secretary both for consistency and use of blind copy [bcc] addressees.

### **Feb 15 Personal Insurance**

A notice is to be displayed in Hut 3 & the Mallet Room, to advise members that all personal items, including mallets, left on the premises are 'at owner's risk' [Neither Main Club nor CA Croquet Club insurance covers such loss]

### **Oct 20 Minutes**      Chairman's Matters

Committee minutes are to be posted on the club website as well as in the Hut 3. Any confidential items will be redacted.

### **Equipment – Members & Club**

#### **Jan 22 Dawson Balls**

The club's new sets of Dawson balls, held by Andrew Thomas, are to be brought into use in the 2022 season for Open Tournament play.

Current tournament play to match play

Match play to every day.

Disposal of current everyday ball tbd.

2 sets of primaries and 2 sets of secondary colour Dawson balls are to be bid for in the Jan 22 GMC budget meeting.

#### **Jan 22 Mallets,**

All members starting their third year of membership are to have purchased their own mallet and are strongly encouraged to do so much earlier.

#### **Jan 22 Mallets**

During Season 2022 personal mallets are to be removed from the main room in Hut 3 and stored in the Mallet Room or the 'Mallet Store' when it becomes available. The latter is currently the Chairman's Garden gardening equipment store. The equipment will be re-located to new storage in Robert's Hut, Lawn 4, allowing mallet racks to be installed.

### **Coaching**

#### **Mar 21 Coaching**

1. Members wishing to improve their game should attend a professional course to benefit from a well-structured course content and the accompanying course notes
2. Members may continue to approach coaches direct for one-to-one coaching.
3. Coaching sessions will be programmed in the booking system.

#### **Jan 22 Coaching**

Specific coaching sessions will be booked in the booking system, during the main season, as follows:

AC coaching will take place on alternate Wednesdays at 4pm.

GC coaching will take place every Monday at 1pm to 4pm on Lawn 1 starting the last Monday in April.

### **Club Sessions [Roll-Ups]**

#### **Jun 21 Club Sessions [Roll-Ups]**

1. **Club-sessions are organised for members to turn-up and play, no more, no less. They are not training periods.**
2. GC sessions are run well and the mix of people coming and going, frequent change arounds works well both for socialising and incidental acquisition of tactics etc.
3. AC sessions will, at start of the session, be split into those wanting a full 26pt game i.e. the full 3hrs and those wanting 1.5hr sessions.

4. The full game attendees will, usually have pairings based as follows:
- (a) Wednesdays play nearest handicap to own [i.e. pair-up from the right, lowest handicap].
  - (b) Fridays random pairing by drawing of numbered tokens. If high / low pairing results informal advice / coaching is up to the two players to agree on or not.
  - (c) and Wednesdays at 4pm Lawns 3 & 4 will, on a trial basis, be used for AC Alternate Shot Doubles play. Players matched higher handicap with lower handicap. Lawns 1 & 2 for privately booked games.

### **Information**

#### **Sep 21 Qualification Fees** GMC Policy - Reconfirmed

Members undertaking course to qualify as Referees, Coaches or similar may have the course fee re-imbursed.

### **Subscriptions and Fees Table 2022**

New Members Only												
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Single	185	185	185	140	125	110	95	80	60	45	30	15
Family	375	375	375	280	250	220	190	150	120	90	60	30
Student	45	45	45	35	30	25	22	20	15	10	10	5
Country Members, i.e. living over 50 miles from the Club, may claim a 50% reduction in their subscription fee.												

#### **Non-Club Membership Court Fees**

Joining an SCC Roll-up	per player per roll-up session	£3
Main Season Only		
Private play lawn hire	Not permitted	
Other Club Lawn Hire	No charge if reciprocal	
	Per player, per lawn per 3 hr session	£5
In all other	Main Season sessions are:	
circumstances each	10am – 1pm / 1pm – 4pm – 4pm – 7pm	
player is to pay	Winter Session	
	10.30 – 13.30 / 13.30 – 16.30	

Visitors are limited to 4 days a year. More than that and they are requested to take membership.

Match Fee	£5 per team member
Mileage	20p per mile [tbc]
Fixture List Tournaments	£
1 Day	15
2 Day AC	18
2 Day GC	20
	22

**MINUTES OF THE CROQUET SECTION COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON MONDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY AT THE CLUBHOUSE**

**Present:** Paul Bradley, Sue Dent, Chris Donovan, Philip Harris, Peter Nelson, Steve Pearson, Julie Sorrell

Apologies: Ed Dolphin,

1. **Minutes of the Last Meeting.** The minutes were accepted.

**Action**

**2 Matters Arising**

a. Lawn relaying:

(1) GMC 31 Jan 22 agreed the budget which allows for lawns 3 & 4 to be relayed.

(2) Avonmore, Brian Butler, attended on Tue 1 Feb 22 with CD, PB, SP, AT and ED in attendance. A letter has been received asking about traffic control and access. CD to response. Quote to follow. ED responding – no issues’ to letter..... ED

(3) Talbot Farm Landscapes to attend ‘imminently’ but no fixed date yet. Talbot re-laid some of the lawns at Budleigh.

b. Catering update:

(1) Contract for bar services to be signed-off with Charlie Myles and his partner Jasmine on same basis as with Julie Clayden.

(2) Charlie has some ideas re catering; may offer sandwiches; could act as a steward and intermediary with external suppliers. Nothing definite and the problems well known.

(3) It was agreed that we would advise visiting teams and weekend tournaments to bring lunches. Secretary to advise SWF League Sec / League Team managers..... ED

c. Hoop Clips: ED has adjusted the ‘Exquisite’ clips. SP noted that they work well.

d. Ball-stop boards.

(1) Invoice forwarded for payment to preserve price but wood not yet delivered.

(2) Working parties to be arranged with Andrew Thomas in due course to erect the boards.

e. Focus Groups separate agenda item

f. Committee Handbook – dealt with below.

g. Yet to be actioned:

(1) Framing H Hicks medals..... CD

(2) 1st Aid Kit update ..... ED

### 3. GMC Update:

a. Subs Increase. A flat rate increase of £5 was agreed [after much discussion starting at 'no increase']

b. Sliding Scale. The GMC accepted the introduction of a weighted sliding scale of subscription fees for new members Tennis will also use such a scale. Croquet adjusted for £5 increase below:

c.

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
%age	100	100	100	80	80	60	55	50	40	30	20	10
	183	183	183	146	146	110	101	92	73	55	37	18
	371	371	371	297	297	223	204	186	148	111	74	37
	45	45	45	36	36	27	25	23	18	14	9	5

Donations. The subscription forms will go out with the facility to make a donation and be accompanied by a Gift Aid form.

d. Fence Repair. Lawn 4 fencing repair and re-design agreed but no contractor located as yet.

e. New Balls. Funding agreed for 2 sets of both primary & secondary balls agreed. Once cascaded the committee will look into disposal of current everyday balls.

f. Smoking ban. GMC considered a proposal that the whole Fortfield Sports Club site be subject to a no smoking ban. It was agreed this was unenforceable on the outfield, far exceeded legislation and included a public right of way. A 3m ban, to include the members' fenced area, was agreed. It also applies to Hut 3. This is not an issue as the committee could not name a member who smoked. The notices will include a request that no vaping be done in the Clubhouse.

g. Queen's Jubilee. A club social member offered their services to a Jubilee celebration event committee but not as the chair. There was no support for this and there will be no club run Jubilee Celebration.

h. Grounds Lease. The Grounds Lease, which formally leases the Fortfield to the CLT&CC, was due renewal in 2003 but lost. After much repeated enquiry it has been found signed off & completed by the then Grounds Trustees. It will cost c£750 to register with the Land Registry, this was not a legal requirement in 2003 so was not done. GMC agreed to pay the fee for a new lease starting 'now'.

i. Parking. The Groundsman has decreed that it is too difficult to let the Tennis Coach have parking withing the club curtilage. Consequently, a weekly sheet of times Sue Wiltshire needs her dedicated pass will be posted above the car pass box. When not needed, it will be available to members but, it must be returned for the reserved periods.

j. Fixtures Booklet. It was agreed the A6 Fixture Booklet will no longer be compiled as all information is available on websites or noticeboards. Steps are in hand to produce a main website.

k. Member Recognition. Subsequent to the tennis section making an award, charged to the Club, to their immediate past chairman in recognition of his being voted 'best tennis chair in Devon', the question of whether there should be further 'Club Recognition' arose. The matter is unresolved in general although no specific individual club recognition at

this point for such. Discussion continues re Life Membership, Life Patrons and possible alternatives.

l. EGM re AGM date. The Club AGM is to move to September and an EGM will be called to ratify the GMC's decision. This to fall in line with sections and remove it from mid-playing season.

#### 4. Strategic Plan

a. Focus Groups. 5 members have stepped forward to offer their services to the croquet section Focus Group. It was agreed a further bidding email be sent.....

PH

b. Social Membership. The GMC is concerned that with the demise of the Friends of the Fortfield, after 41 years, there is now no active event organiser for Social members. Phil Robinson acts as an intermediary for membership renewal and such but is not able to take on a more active role and there is no allied committee anyway. It is of concern that there is currently no 'package' to offer social members.

c. Winter Activities. The effect of Covid on Winter activities may offer the chance for these to be reviewed and offered Club-wide rather than just to croquet members who, for one reason or another, seem to be the organisers. The lead for each was identified as:

(1) Table Tennis – Pam Bowra

(2) Military Whist – Anne Reece

(3) Bridge – Ian Simpson

(4) Canasta – Pam Bowra

CD undertook to make contact and see if there was scope to bring these into club-wide activities. ....

CD

d. SP Update. CD is tasked by GMC to issue an 'all members' update.....

CD

#### 5. Section Handbook

a. Committee Members' Duties.

(1) CA bid letter goes to Secretary and event selection is a committee decision.

(2) GC Lead duties to be dispersed to Internal Tournaments Organiser and others as required e.g a GC player on committee checks GC arranged events, ensuring all tournaments have a manager is a committee, collective responsibility.

(3) Treasurer's Duties. SD noted competition cheques go to PB, as do subscription cheques, and PB actions them by making the entries direct into the main club's accounting system.

(a) PB noted HSBC now charge for everything and raise a charge of **40p per cheque** paid in.

b. Annual Timetable / Specific Event Timings & Duties.

(1) After discussion it was agreed that in future club competition entry forms would be issued by Email at the end of February for return by 31<sup>st</sup> March.

(b) Subscription Renewal Forms would be disseminated by email and members would be requested to pay and submit on line if they could

(c) Both subs and entry forms covering email to explain in simple terms options for completion and return digitally; advise the pdf form can be printed and completed manually and that a few blank form hard copies would be made available in Hut3 / Mallet Room. Email wording to be discussed.....

CD/PH

(2) SD's list of tweaks for AGM preparation to be incorporated.....

CD

**6. Taster Day** Taster Day was briefly discussed but this will be the main agenda item in March. Several actions are required:

a. Taster Day Banner. The banner needs to be located, storage location views differed, and updated.

b. Publicity to be sought via Sidmouth Herald and notices to various, some 6 or so, noticeboards about town.

c. New Members Paperwork. The welcome letter and information need to be reviewed and updated since last issue in 2019. ....

CD

**7. AoB**

a. GC Tournaments. Louise Smith's email advising the need for new trophies for the 2 new GC events, a 1 day and 2 day, was discussed. £200 was agreed for 2 main winners' trophies. Consolation prizes, for the 'Plate' were also discussed and it was agreed that 'a plate' should be purchased rather than annually bought items. The latter requested by the CA GC Tournament Committee to encourage GC Entrants to stay on if they did not make through qualifying rounds. It was also agreed that, the thought to be common practice of winners paying for trophy engraving should be the case. [Afternote: this was emailed immediately post meeting but, it seems, there is rather more to this than was appreciated. Discussion will continue by email out of committee but any decision will be formally adopted at the next meeting]

b. Name badges. SP to pass league team names to CD who will make-up the badges....

CD

c. It was agreed members should receive an updating letter re the section.....

CD

d. It was agreed committee meetings should be held on the first Monday of the month.

**Date of Next Meeting:** Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March, 10am at the Clubhouse

**MINUTES OF THE CROQUET SECTION COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON MONDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> MARCH AT THE CLUBHOUSE**

**Present:** Paul Bradley, Ed Dolphin, Chris Donovan, Philip Harris, Peter Nelson, Steve Pearson.  
Duncan Hasell was welcomed as a future Treasurer.

Apologies: Julie Sorrell

Action

1. **Minutes of the Last Meeting.** The minutes were accepted.
2. **Julie Horsley** was remembered. A notice will be sent to SWF for Cygnet and the CA. A letter of condolence will be sent to her sister..... CD

**3. Matters arising**

- a. Lawn relaying, no Avonmore quote. Talbot no return appointment – to be chased.... ED
- b. The stripped top layer will be retained on site by extending the bank between lawns 2 & 3. This will make a large saving on cost.
- c. Fence renewal quotations are higher than expected, this may delay the lawn relaying until 2023..... ED
- d. Timber for edge boards should be arriving Monday 15<sup>th</sup>, Andrew will need help. Time will to be circulated when known. .... CD
- e. Members will be asked if they want a pre-season Spring Lunch buffet on 26<sup>th</sup> March. Cost will be £12, subject to sufficient numbers and a firm commitment to pay. .... CD
- f. Members to be asked if they want to attend the quiz, minimum entry 20 for viability. . PH
- g. Personal mallets to be removed to the Mallet Room ASAP, email to members. .... PH
- h. Focus groups are ongoing.

**4. Taster Session 10.00 Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April**

- a. Laminated A4 posters to be displayed on town notice boards. .... CD/ED
- b. The banner is being updated..... PH
- c. Members will be encouraged to advertise the event among friends..... CD
- d. Lawns 2 & 3 reserved, lawn 2 will be set for short croquet. .... PH
- e. Name badges will be provided for committee members and blanks for completion on the day of 'Tasters'..... CD
- f. Tasters will be given a copy of the New Members' Handbook..... CD
- g. In line with previous decision, Know the Game books will be issued to signed-up members [11 in stock, + 1 on Hut 3 shelf] ..... ED
- e. Introductory coaching will be 4 sessions at £20, discounted from membership fee on joining. ED will organise the coaching, supported by others who are able to help. .... ED



- f. Tea, coffee, and biscuits will be available on the day. .... JS
- g. Possible mentors for new members will be considered at a future date.

**5. Short Croquet**

Lawn 1 will be set for short croquet each Friday at 4pm and members encouraged to attend a SC Roll-up, on a trial basis, Fri pm roll-up should be able to manage with 3 lawns ..... PH  
 Members to be notified as Season starts

**6. Spring Clean**

There will be a spring clean of Hut3 and the mallet room, 10.00 Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March.

**7. Trophies for New GC Events – B Level & Open in July**

This minute confirms an out of meeting email discussion. As previously agreed the Club will pay, from the discretionary fund, for the 2 new trophies required for the 2 new GC Tournaments, the B Level in August and the GC Open in July. Additionally, we will cover the cost of the additional prizes this year. In subsequent years entry fees will be raised to meet, at least a cost neutral position. This position has been agreed with Louise Smith

**8. Laws and Rules**

In future, the club will not buy a stock of CA Laws and Rules books for sale to members. A single copy of each will be held in Hut3 and the Mallet Room.

**9. Golf Roll Up**

Pam Bowra will help manage the GC roll up sessions.

**10. Membership Cards**

Membership cards will be more important as the new caterers take over the bar, members receive a discount on drinks. 500 whole club ones will be ordered..... CD/ED

**11. GC meeting**

There will be a meeting of GC players on 16<sup>th</sup> March..... SP

**12. CA Tournaments**

Entries to CA tournaments being hosted are looking encouraging. The change in handicap band for the B Level tournament has discouraged some local entries.

**13. Meeting Dates**

It was agreed that the committee meetings will normally be held on the first Monday in the month. There will be no meeting scheduled for July.

**Date of Next Meeting: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April 10am at the Clubhouse**

**MINUTES OF THE CROQUET SECTION COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON MONDAY 4<sup>th</sup> APRIL AT THE CLUBHOUSE**

**Present:** Ed Dolphin, Chris Donovan, Duncan Hasell, Peter Nelson, Steve Pearson. Julie Sorrell.

**Apologies:** Paul Bradley, Philip Harris

**Action**

1. **Minutes of the Last Meeting.** The minutes were accepted.

2. **Matters arising**

a. An obituary for Julie Horsley has been sent to the CA and SWF.

b. Thanks were recorded for the team that installed the new stop boards to such a high standard, in particular Andrew Thomas, Richard Thurlow and Peter Nelson who gave up many hours of their time to do the bulk of the work.

c. There have been no significant complaints about the relocation of the members' mallets. More rack space is needed. New signage will stress the importance of keeping the door closed, the restraining hook will be removed. .... **CD AT**  
And AT will be asked to remove the sign saying 'Croquet & Tennis Players' only as there is now no need for the tennis players to pass through the Mallet Room ..... **CD AT**

d. Name badges were very useful at the taster day, but it was decided that name badges will not be issued to all members but will be required for those taking-up initial coaching.. **CD/ED**

e. Discussion of club clothing followed, It was agreed that Pam Bowra, who is believed to be the current link to the supplier [her son?] obtain a list of prices for various items and offer them for sale and then make a one-off major purchase. It was noted that members' name could be added to the garments..... **ED[PB]**

f. Copies of the AC Laws and GC Rules are available in Hut 3, it was decided not to purchase a stock for sale to members.

g. The new membership cards have arrived. An extra stock has been ordered because the Tennis Section changed their mind about their needs. The way print orders work, this has doubled the cost to the club from just over £30 to £60.

3. **Lawn Damage**

We await the final outcome of the groundsman's mistaken spraying of the lawns with Glyphosate. There are mixed levels of damage, the full effect should be known in the next week..... **CD**

[Afternote: CD is required to provide a formal Situation Report to the GMC on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April]..... **CD**

Thankfully, there have been no reports of players suffering any reaction through contact.

If necessary, the lawns will need to be scarified, reseeded and top dressed. This will leave the playing surface in a poor state for some time.

The worst case scenario will be that lawns 2, 3 and 4 will need to be re-laid this spring if the contractor is available.

If necessary, the CA will have to be contacted to discuss cancelling tournaments.

There was a unanimous decision that the GMC be asked to consider disciplinary action because of gross misconduct by failing to follow COSHH Regulations and manufacturer's guidelines. Two outstanding questions, has an incident report been filed, and are the correct procedures for storage and use of hazardous materials now in place? ..... **CD**  
 [Afternote: CD with Doug Yeabsley, GMC Grounds Rep, to meet with Groundsman to clarify what, how why and recommend next action]..... **CD**

**4. Lawn Re-laying**

It was decided that we recommend to the GMC that lawns 3 and 4 are re-laid this autumn by Talbot Turf following their quotation of £16,342 inc. VAT. .... **CD**  
 [Afternote: GMC authorised the £18K figure]

The quotation does not include re-laying a strip 1 metre beyond the court boundary. This may raise the price to £18,000, but this is still less than half of the quotation from Avonmore.

The CA will be approached for a possible grant. .... **DH**

**5. Fence**

The plan to move the fence beside lawn 4 needs to be confirmed by the GMC..... **CD**  
 [Afternote: Despite the Nov 21 GMC being advised of the proposed slanting line of fencing this is now deemed controversial and another on site meeting is to be arranged ASAP] ..... **CD**

**6. Catering**

a. The Spring Lunch went well. Chris apologised for his confusion with the decision regarding dates. Also, there was some confusion over bookings. It was agreed that in future the person organising any event should send out the email as members often just reply to sender, usually the membership secretary, rather than the person nominated which can build in error ..... **All**  
 JS is the only committee member who is to liaise with the Miles / the caterers in future **JS**  
 ..... **JS**

b. We need to know if the new team can cater for visiting tournament players. .... **PN/JS**

**7. Taster Day**

a. The taster day went very well, mainly because it was a team effort involving many helpers. Nineteen individuals, including couples, took the introductory leaflet and said they would book the coaching sessions. Two definite responses have been received so far..... **ED**

**8. Membership**

A report was received from PH advising 77 members, adjusted post meeting to 80, have signed-up including 1 new member. 9 members will not be renewing – due to relocation or health. 4 have re-joined following a Covid break.

Total membership income to date: £13,267.50 including £361.40 donations. 17 members made a donation ranging from 40p (covering banking costs) to £100.

---

## 9. Finance

- a. Duncan has taken over the role of Treasurer; a vote of thanks was made to Paul for all his work and careful stewardship of the section finances which he leaves in a healthy state.
- b. There will be a review of finance procedures at the end of year. .... **DH**
- c. The mallet raffle continues with 16 of the 49 squares unsold. It will be promoted among roll up players, and new members' during coaching sessions. The draw will be made at the New Members Welcome on 24<sup>th</sup> May. Existing members will be encouraged to attend to meet the new members and all to partake of a free 'summer punch' - low alcohol punch bearing driving in mind..... **CD**

## 10. AOB

- a. Two benches from Hut 4 have been reallocated to the Cricket Section.
- b. CA tournament entries continue, three tournaments are fully booked, one has a single place left, the remaining four have viable entries but still have spaces.
- c. There has been a suggestion for a new player allocation system for GC roll ups involving a line of pegs. Steve will discuss it with Pam who has agreed to manage some roll ups. .... **SP**
- d. The Pavilion diary has been replaced by an online system, bookings need to be sent to [events@sidmouthctcc.org.uk](mailto:events@sidmouthctcc.org.uk)

**Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 10am at the Clubhouse**

**MINUTES OF THE CROQUET SECTION COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON TUESDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> MAY AT THE CLUBHOUSE**

**Present:** Chris Donovan, Duncan Hasell, Philip Harris, Peter Nelson, Steve Pearson. Julie Sorrell.

Later: Ed Dolphin,

	<b>Action</b>
<p>1. <b>Minutes of the Last Meeting.</b> The minutes were accepted.</p>	
<p>2. <b>Matters Arising</b></p> <p>a. AT was not asked to remove the sign saying 'Croquet &amp; Tennis Players only' but has been asked wef 4 May.</p> <p>b. Pam Bowra was approached after this meeting and will investigate costs of various items of club badged clothing. Liaison .....</p>	
<p>3. <b>Lawns</b></p> <p>a. <b>Relaying 3 &amp; 4</b> Informal contact with the SWF indicates that a grant is not likely as the lawns are not bad enough but, in any case, a full justification is required. It was agreed that the treasurer DH, would continue to lead and:</p> <p>(1) Contact Talbot Turf to request their laser mapping results to support the bid.</p> <p>(2) Confirm if bids have to go through the SWF to the CA or whether they may go direct. [Are they 2 separate grant issuing bodies or is the SWF a 'clearing house' to the CA?]</p> <p>(3) Investigate other grant avenues such as Sport England.</p> <p>b. <b>Lawns 2, 3 &amp; 4 Damage.</b> CD advised on the report GMC had tasked him to write. This noted that it was a genuine momentary mistake which was very quickly realised and ameliorative action taken. The report noted the Club has no disciplinary procedures in place; that the Groundsman was devastated and the Grounds Equipment had not been Risk Assessed along with all the other allied procedures carried out for the Clubhouse itself. Now a month later it is:</p> <p>(1) Thankfully clear that the lawns have recovered much better than many feared and</p> <p>(2) Overseeding is imminently due to assist recovery.</p> <p>c. <b>General Lawn Quality.</b> The committee agreed that an email from a member questioning if the club was ever to have good quality well maintained lawns was fair comment. The lawns are very 'heavy' and hamper good quality croquet play. laying lawns 3&amp;4 should produce quality lawns and lawns 1 &amp; 2 must then be addressed.</p>	<b>ED</b>
<p>4. <b>Taster Day – New Members</b> It was agreed the Taster Day was a success and it was noted:</p>	

a. **Coaching** Some 22 taster day attendees are undergoing coaching with a further 3 'late arrivals' joining-in. It is hoped most will take membership, one has already.

PH,CD

b. **New Member Packs** CD confirmed 12 copies of 'Know the Game' ordered to supplement the 12 in hand and to which will be added a copy of the Club Events Calendar, a Participation Card and the personalised 'Welcome Letter' .....

c. **New Members' Evening.** It was agreed that:

JS

(1) All members will be invited to attend to meet the new members. Email to be circulated with members advising attendance for catering purposes  
.....

ED

(2) New members will need name badges and others to have temporary name badges.  
.....

JS

(3) Julie will book the Club House / confirm the booking and buy in pre-packaged trays of 'nibbles'.  
.....

CD

(4) CD will organise a Summer Punch to which all will have an initial free glass. CD to liaise with Charlie [Bar]  
.....

d. **New Members Continuation Coaching.** It was agreed new members should have the opportunity to participate in continuation coaching, particularly as several were showing interest in AC play. Consequently, an update email to be circulated that advises:

(1) Mondays at 1pm Lawn 1 GC Coaching available. This facility to be notified to all members and highlighted to new members [Week 1 saw 1 member attend and 3 attended the second week.] Add 'Use it or Lose it'?

ED

(2) Friday's at 4pm Continuation available for AC / GC with alternate stroke doubles. PN and CD both offering to attend and coach.

ED

Secretary to draft, agree content and pass to PH for circulation  
.....

e. **New Members' Competition.** New members will be offered the chance to participate in a tailored 'End of Season' competition. Format dependent on interest  
.....

**5. Committee Handbook Tasks**

a. [Apr] Treasurer to confirm CA Capitation fee paid. Confirmed this is paid in January – amend Handbook.  
.....

CD

b. [Apr] Membership Secretary to chase subscription payment. This was done and:

Memberships stands at:

96 re-joined

16 'chased' of whom 7 will re-join

New members – 1 paid and 6 definitely will

Membership post new member to be approx.. 120+

c. May committee tasks actioned.

## 6. Tournaments.

a. PN reported on the entries for the CA Fixture List Tournament bookings so far – maximum entry is 16

GC Open	12		
GC A Level	15		
AC Adv Handicap	8		
AC Mid Summer	Handicap	10	Class 11
B Level	10		

PN expressed concern with the Adv H'Cap with mostly club players entered. This has been a vexed tournament for some years in different formats. CD noted that he was aware of several members at Budleigh and Exeter who wanted to compete in AC but could no longer manage 3 matches a day. It may be worth offering a 3 day 2 matches per day event next year after a straw poll to estimate demand and maybe keep it local rather than CA FB listed.

b. **Tournament Trophies.** PN thought the non-winner trophies sourced by Louise Smith for the GC tournaments were 'excellent' and it was agreed that PN would source and provide for this year's AC tournaments

PN

PN thought our entry fees were minimal now and with the additional trophies the AC tournaments entry fees need specific review for the 2023 season [GC having already agreed to such]

Cttee

c. **CA Levy.** PN advised that the CA is to change its levy model in 2023 with no levy on 1 Day events and a flat rate on other tournaments rather than 25% as now. Detail in due course.

d. **Tournament Delivery Support.** Subject to a member raising concern with the provision of support to tournaments, hoop-setting, administration etc. on the day it was queried whether there were adequate volunteers to support the annual tournament programme. There was some puzzlement and it was quickly agreed that there was no 'issue'.

e. **Tournament Catering.** The kitchen is now being used by a catering firm who do not attend on Tuesdays and Fridays, obviously they work over the weekend. Thus tournament catering is 'bring your own' although meals will be available at the weekends. To be advised to those entering tournaments

PN

8. **Lawn 4 Fence.** Andrew Thomas has done an excellent job of a temporary fix on the collapsing gate and fencing adjacent Lawn 4. Momentum of proper replacement seems to have stalled. CD to follow-up via GMC

CD

9. **Treasure Hunt.** JS confirmed all in hand for the event noting that a query asking why the post event meal was not being held at the club was simply due to:

a. The actual organisers, who put a lot and thought into the route and questions are past club members and arrange the route and finale and

b. That when this event was planned the catering situation was an unknown and thus a decision had to be made which could then be tied into the Treasure Hunt route.

10. **Communication by Email.** In future it must be the default that whichever committee member needs to email out to all members requiring response must have the email distribution list. This can be passed to the committee member as a semi-colon separated block of text which can then be cut and pasted into the BLIND COPY [BCC] address box of the outgoing email. Organiser addresses self in the main 'To' address box. The email re the Treasure Hunt, despite overlarge red font saying reply to Julie immediately received 2 responses where the sender obviously just clicked on 'Reply to'.

AII/PH

11. **Committee Member Attendance at Funerals.** A member has expressed unhappiness that no committee member had attended the funeral of a club member. Said member had ceased membership many years ago and was unknown to current committee members. Discussion followed and it was agreed that the current practice of circulating funeral arrangement detail, when advised, would continue so that members could attend if they wished but, it was not a requirement of committee membership to attend a funeral of, basically, an unknown person. Add to committee handbook policy decisions

CD

12. **Cygnets – LSO.** CD drew attention to the latest issue of Cygnets, No 35 dated Apr 22, which had quite a bit to say about Safeguarding responsibilities. For attention

ED

13. **Committee Members**

DH – advised that his role is not a treasurer's role, i.e. managing the finances of an organisation but, rather a 'junior book-keeper' posting entries in the main ledger. The money accrued in the Croquet Section Bank Account being moved to the main club account monthly by the Club Treasurer, DH has no ability to pay anyone or for anything.

CD

JH – There will be a Sunday Lunch on 15<sup>th</sup> May – these will continue, as in the winter season, dependent on uptake.



SP – Wished to record the GC players' thanks for CD's second Seagull Trophy which was won by Budleigh, we lost 10 – 6, and presented with much amusement.



**Date of Next Meeting:** Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June, 10am at the Clubhouse

Secretary to access the booking system and ensure it is booked in

**ED**

**MINUTES OF THE CROQUET SECTION COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON MONDAY 6<sup>th</sup> JUNE AT THE CLUBHOUSE**

**Present:** Ed Dolphin, Chris Donovan, Philip Harris, Duncan Hasell, Steve Pearson. Julie Sorrell.

Apologies: Peter Nelson

**Action**

1. **Minutes of the Last Meeting.** The minutes were accepted.

2. **Matters arising**

a. Lawns, we have had no response from Talbot Turf in the last few weeks, further attempts will be made this week..... **ED**

b. New members have shown appreciation for the induction process. It was felt that, although the new members' evening went very well, it would have been even better if it had been possible to have the bar open. This will be a consideration next year.

c. The Monday afternoon new member roll up has been scaled down and targeted at players who aspire to competitive play. Alternate stroke doubles will be available at the Friday AC roll up if any experienced players volunteer on the day. They will be asked if they would like an afternoon of informal competition later in the summer ..... **ED**

d. There have been several orders for club clothing, a final reminder has been circulated and the order will go in by the end of the week. .... **ED**

e. We have a stock of sew-on and metal badges in the mallet room, they will be advertised to members. .... **CD**

f. The club will need a new Chair and Membership Secretary next year and the committee is keen to engage more members in the active running of the club. Members will be canvassed to encourage more people to step forward. .... **ED**

3. **GMC Report**

The Chair reported issues from the latest General Management Committee meeting.

a. There is to be a professional survey of the main clubhouse to assess possible modifications including the provision of an accessible toilet, and reconfiguration of the bar area. The mallet room could be a site for the new toilet if huts 3 and 4 were developed further.

b. The fence beside lawn four will be improved in September.

c. There has been some discussion on the best way to recognise the contribution of volunteers, for example the granting of life membership, but no conclusion has been reached.

d. There was a further assertion that no croquet lawns need to be converted to tennis courts.

e. The 2022 AGM will be on September 10<sup>th</sup>.

#### 4. Chair's Matters

- a. The Humphrey Hicks' Medals have been reframed and will form the centre of a croquet section display in the pavilion. .... **CD**
- b. As the minutes from previous years and archive photographs have been digitised, and the originals are now in very poor condition, most will be discarded. Some originals with possible local history interest will be offered to the Museum. .... **ED**
- c. A section business card will be prepared to be held behind the bar and in hut 3 to respond to incidental enquiries about membership. .... **CD**

#### 5. Finance

- a. The section funds stand at £701, mainly because of money raised through the mallet raffle. The committee's thanks will be conveyed to Louise Smith for her donation of the mallet. .... **DH**
- b. Huts 3 and 4 will be assessed to reconfigure storage with the possible change of use for the mallet room and section funds could be used to pay for the work. .... **CD DH AT**
- c. It was decided that petrol money for away matches would be brought in line with the HMRC recommended rate, currently 45p per mile. Match fees will remain at £5 but they will be reviewed at the end of season. The new allowances will be posted in hut 3. .... **ED**

#### 6. Committee Member's Matters

- a. Tournament entries still have not recovered from Covid, but all tournaments are viable. Committee members are asked to promote entries from club members. .... **All**
- b. Membership stands at 118 with two more people about to join. It was agreed that the membership structure and fees should be raised with the GMC before next year... **CD**
- c. The events diary system is still not working properly. The cricket section Facebook events booker will be tried. .... **ED**

**Date of Next Meeting:** Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July, 10am at the Clubhouse

**MINUTES OF THE CROQUET SECTION COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON MONDAY 4<sup>th</sup> JULY 2022 AT THE CLUBHOUSE**

**Present:** Ed Dolphin, Chris Donovan, Philip Harris, Duncan Hasell, Peter Nelson, Steve Pearson. Julie Sorrell.

Apologies:

1. **Minutes of the Last Meeting.** The minutes were accepted.

Action

2. **Matters arising**

- a. 10 section information cards have been left at the bar for Bar Staff to hand out if enquiry about croquet membership made.

ED



**Thinking of joining the Croquet Club?**

See our website at:

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

We welcome enquiries from experienced AC / GC players or those wishing to return to the game after a break.

For newcomers we run a 'Taster Day' followed by initial coaching sessions in April.

If you have good skill levels in other small ball games, we may be able to arrange one to one coaching at other times.

Either way, please do make contact, via the website, if you are interested.

3. **Lawn Relaying**

Terms and Conditions received. No firm date as too early to be specific. ED to confirm Talbot's will attend to the kill the grass before the CA 8s match in September so that the re-seeding has a chance to start germination before the end of September.....

ED

4. **Coaching** Several members, new and not so new, have requested via the suggestions book that coaching continue and suggested once a month. It was agreed that:

- a. General GC coaching would be available on the second Monday of the Month at 4pm on Lawn 1. Members wishing to participate to sign-up by COP the preceding Friday. A minimum of 4 was required for the session to go ahead and an email is to be circulated to all as well as a written response in the Suggestions Book .....
- b. SP to run a GC team player coaching session on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the Month. Attendees by invitation. Lawn 2 at 1pm.....

PH

SP

The Committee noted with concern the continuing reliance by the great majority of Club Members on a very small band of dedicated members to lay on and organise events social and play-based activities. Too many would seem to think that payment of a subscription was all that was required to have everything laid on for them without any further involvement. That said the Committee was very pleased to have a couple of new members getting 'stuck-in'.

5. **Match Fees** A team member balked at paying the £5 match fee and it was agreed an email should be forwarded to advise why £5 is requested. [See below] .....

CD

**6. Membership** There are now 121 signed-up members.

**7. Club Facility Bookings.**

- a. The facebook Booking system is not working for non-Bar / Catering sponsored events. The section 'Skills Test' even on Wed 6<sup>th</sup> July has been side-lined by a Wake.
- b. It was agreed that CD should raise the issue initially with the Club Chairman, and Tennis & Cricket chairmen to suggest:
  - (1) An A4 diary be replaced in the main Club Room for manual entries for booking of facilities, e.g. committee meetings, section gatherings that did not require bar or catering services.
  - (2) Charlie can then check to see any clashes with his calendars of events and advise accordingly.
  - (3) This will permit sections to, once again, insert pre-planned events for the forthcoming season at season start.

If agreed advise next GMC meeting but place hard copy diary ASAP..... CD

**8. Tournament Entries.**

- (a) GC tournaments full or almost full.
- (b) AC B level only has 11 entries. Possible options for next year:
  - (1) Try for another year as Handicap Level - it seems AC entries are not back to pre-covid level in many places and now the cot of petrol and accommodation is a factor.
  - (2) Target a 'Only 2 games a day' players..... Cttee
  - (3) For 2022 PN to coax more entries from 'possibles'..... PN

**9. Skills Test Afternoon** JS reported that she, Sue Dent and Margaret Regan would provide cakes. The Committee expressed their thanks and advised that expenses would be reimbursed.

**10. 'The Woodland' Bench.** The committee expressed its thanks to Steve and Andrew for the magnificent bench now enhancing the wilded area adjacent Lawn 2. It was readily agreed that a nominal sum, £50, be made to the timber supplier as a token of thanks.

**Date of Next Meeting: No meeting in August**  
Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September, 10am at the Clubhouse

Email re Match Fee

Dear All,

The Committee is aware that the payment of the £5 match fee has caused some irritation and, in one case a refusal to pay.

The match fee did, pre-covid part pay towards the Croquet tea laid on for league teams and built-up cash to reimburse drivers for their fuel expenses. In February 2020 the Committee agreed a rise to £6, £7 having been initially proposed, to manage the increase in motor mileage allowance to 20p per mile.

Please note it has always been the case that those travelling as passengers should, at least offer, to part cover some fuel cost.

Post Covid many sports, even including Devon Cricket, have made the provision of meals optional. The South West Federation took a vote at the last AGM and also confirmed that meal provision was absolutely optional. SWF teams, Sidmouth included, now take their own lunches as a matter of course.

The committee revised the match fee back to £5 when league matches started again. In June 2022 the committee agreed that the mileage rate should be raised in line with the HMRC mileage rate. Not only because that covers, theoretically, general 'wear and tear' but, it is a more realistic fuel cost figure. There is a new mileage allowance chart displayed in Hut 3.

Even this rate may now fail to meet the hugely increased cost of fuel. Our liability has increased 'more than significantly' with the revised rates. We need the £5 match fee. You may care to note that neither tennis nor cricket teams are able to claim any travel costs. Some of our team drivers never claim but, with fuel costs as they are currently, a trip to e.g. Cornwall is now a pricey destination. We cannot expect all to be able and willing to forego recompense.

The committee will review mileage rates and match fee at season end but, for now, the match fee is very much needed.