



## Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 7 November 1995 in the Pavilion

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming all members to this first full meeting of the 95/96 Committee.

Apologies: Nil

Minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed

Matters arising: Nil

Correspondence: Nil.

### Report to & from Main Committee

- 1) Subscriptions: The Chairman gave members details of proposed changes to the Club subscription rates, to be discussed at a Management meeting on 9 November, and sought members' views to take to the meeting. Consensus of opinion was that members were not happy with the measures suggested. An inequality in the proposed croquet subscription for a single or a double membership was noted, as was the suggested Visitor fee increase. It was pointed out that this had always been a matter for the Section Committee to decide.
- 2) Balls: The Chairman told the meeting of his concern that the Barlow balls currently in use for tournaments had failed an essential 'bounce' test and were technically illegal. He asked members to consider changing back to Jacques balls, saying that the matter was of some urgency both because a supplementary estimate would have to be put to the Treasurer in advance of the Club AGM and because a change would need to be made to the Fixtures Book entry for the 1996 Open tournaments.

After some discussion the need for change was agreed and the Chairman said that Jacques had offered a 20% reduction on the full price of the 8 sets of balls required. An amount of about £1000 would be needed extra to the Section's submitted estimate for equipment of £300. The Chairman's formal proposal that 8 sets of Jacques balls should be bought before the start of the 1996 season was carried nem.con., and he said that the matter would be put to the Management Committee forthwith for financial authority to proceed.

- 3) The Chairman also stoke of the long-term possibility of channelling mains water and electricity to the Croquet Pavilion as ancillary or to the installation of the intended sprinkler system, and asked for members' views. All members felt that it was in principle a good idea.
- 4) Management's intention to publish an Autumn Newsletter about forthcoming events was brought to the notice of the meeting. A renewed invitation to members of other Sections to consider learning how to play Croquet was suggested.

### Short Croquet - SW Federation Open Tournament

The Secretary asked that the future of this event be discussed and decided at an early date because of the deadline for advertising in SWAN, the Federation magazine. I, Dwerryhouse, Manager of the event through the 7 Years of its life, told the meeting that it involved a lot of work for small return, with minimal interest from other clubs in the South West despite extensive and expensive promotion. She pointed out that it also meant extra work for the groundsman at a time when he was busy with other duties. After some discussion H. Ruberry proposed, with I. Dwerryhouse seconding, that this Tournament be discontinued, and all members

agreed the proposal. The Secretary was instructed to write to L. Toye, donor of the trophy for the event, to inform him of the decision.

The suggestion that a non-competitive day be arranged in mid-May, perhaps to include new members, was noted for consideration at a later meeting.

### Matters from Section AGM

a) Extra time for organised Golf Croquet: I. Ruberry said that she had sought a number of opinions, the general feeling being that the Wednesday morning slot was the most popular and should be retained; that on Fridays a 6 p.m. start time was acceptable but a 4 p.m. start was preferred; that a 2 lawn availability on Monday mornings would be appreciated.

An alternative suggestion was made that the format of the present (Association) Club afternoon on Mondays be amended to start with Golf Croquet from 1 - 2.30, continuing with Association play from 2.30 - 4, and to have tea and biscuits available from 3.30.

This suggestion was received favourably, and it was accepted that organised Golf Croquet should be arranged for Monday afternoons from 1 - 2.30; for Wednesday mornings from 10-- 1; for Friday afternoons from 4 onwards.

b) Proposed new Club Tournament for Veterans.

The meeting discussed this proposal at some length, extending the discussion to cover a suggested 'Men only' event and a -Handicap 8 - 14 contest. It was accepted that the introduction of extra organised events into the present crowded calendar would be impracticable. There was however no bar on privately arranged contests through the season.

c) Annual Lunch; The proposed venue of the Belmont Hotel having received the approval of members at the AGM, Committee members were happy to agree. A suggested date of Thursday 21 March was noted by I. Dwerryhouse as Social member as basis for negotiation with the hotel forthwith.

### Any Other Business.

a) I. Dwerryhouse gave a resume of the SW Federation AGM attended on 5 November by her and the Secretary as Voting Members, and by P. Dart, P. Dwerryhouse, R. & V. Henderson as observers.

At this meeting the Federation League Secretary was informed of Sidmouth's intention to enter teams, in the Federation, Intermediate and 'B' Leagues, and the Budleigh Croquet Secretary suggested privately that a joint team might be formed with Budleigh to enter the Advanced League. The Chairman felt, with members' agreement, that this was not a feasible idea, and I. Dwerryhouse was asked to tell Budleigh's Secretary.

b) The Secretary reported that i) the Groundsman's gratuity at the AGM had amounted to £93, the attendance at the GM having been 57 members

ii) the costs of engraving Club trophies had come to £39.63

iii) a green fee of £12.50 had been received from the SW Fed. Treasurer towards the costs of hosting the Inter. Final on Oct 1?

c) Members were reminded of the Friends' Coffee morning on 25 November and of the Section's Cake Stall.

d) The Chairman said that H. Read had offered to organise a Xmas Dinner at the Royal Glen -Hotel for Section members. The meeting felt that in principle this was a good idea, provided that the cost was not too high.

e) I. Dwerryhouse referred to the CA 'improvers' trophies and said that a name had been submitted for 1995 but that she preferred not to let this be known outside the Committee in case of disappointment.

f) Further dates for Committee meetings were given as follows:-

9 January; 13 February; 12 March; 9 April.

Date of next meeting: 12 December 1995

*ADS*

## Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 12 December 1995 in the Pavilion

Apologies: R. Henderson

The Chairman opened the meeting by expressing, on behalf of all members, his pleasure at the fact that the status of Honorary membership had been at the recent Club AGM conferred on Iris Dwerryhouse in recognition of her years of service to the Club.

Minutes of the last meeting were agreed and signed after an amendment had been made to the Club afternoons (Mondays) format for 1996 as follows: 'Association play to run from 2.30 to 6.30 p.m.

Matters arising:

- a) Purchase of Jacques balls - the Chairman said that the Management Committee had agreed the purchase of 4 sets each of primary and secondary colours plus an extra set (9 sets in all). Members agreed his suggestion that a loan from the C.A. at their presently advertised facility of 3% interest should be sought, and the Secretary was instructed to write accordingly.
- b) The Chairman reported that Management had accepted the installation of water and electricity in the Croquet Pavilion as a valid part of future works.
- c. Club afternoons: it was reported that comment to date on the extra Golf Croquet slot had been favourable. After discussion it was agreed that Lawn 1 on Club afternoons should be available for One Ball or Association but not Golf Croquet.
- d) Club Tournament for Veterans: The Secretary was asked to convey to Esme Owen (who had proposed the new event) the Committee's decision on the matter.
- e) Annual Lunch: the suggested date of 21 March had been confirmed with the Belmont Hotel and I. Dwerryhouse as Social member had the matter in hand.
- f) Xmas Dinner: it was reported that this event had been well attended in spite of the short notice, and a profit of £15 had been donated to Section funds. Thanks to H. Read for organising the evening were expressed.

Correspondence:

The Secretary reported receipt of the minutes of the Federation AGM held in November, and the annual request for the Federation membership fee, which for 1996 was to remain at £36, plus £15 fee for League entries. The total amount of £51 would be paid to the Federation in early January.

Report to & from Main Committee:

The Chairman confirmed the subscription rates for 1996 (agreed at the Club AGM on 10 December) and made reference to the discontinuance of Country member status. Discussion took place as to how this ruling affected the Section, and the Chairman said that he would seek clarification at the January meeting of the Main Committee.

Reports from Members:

S. Rogers as Cashier gave the current balance held as £13.23, an amount of £73.79 having been passed to the Treasurer.

As member I/C Booking Sheets she sought and received approval to retain the 1995 format.

V. Henderson reported that a number of the 1996 League fixture dates had been agreed. She asked members to consider a date for the qualifying round of the S.W. Fed. Golf Croquet Tournament, and this was agreed as 6 July, with an entry fee of

£2. After some discussion it was agreed that Sidmouth would be prepared to host the Finals of this tournament should the Federation Tournament Secretary so wish. For her husband, she reported that a number of necessary maintenance jobs had been completed.

I. Dwerryhouse as Training Officer gave a number of dates to members:

Thursday 18 January & Thursday 22 February at 2 p.m.

Training afternoons for '94' & '95' entrants only, discussions of 'Laws', chaired by E. Kitchener.

Saturday 27 January from 10 - 12 noon a Quiz.

Monday 12 February from 10 - 12 noon Training discussions for all Section members.

Saturday 16 March from 10 - 12 noon Training meeting taken by John Toye and restricted to members with handicap 14 and under.

She said that John Toye would also be available for an 'on-lawn' period of training sometime in April, and expressed her hope that he might be prepared to run a Club evening for youngsters if any could be recruited.

Any Other Business:

a) The Secretary gave the dates of the Sidmouth Open Tournaments as follows: 10 - 14 June and 21 - 22 September - and Iris Dwerryhouse as Manager/Secretary for the tournaments brought to the notice of members her anxiety that neither meeting should contain a disproportionate number of local players. She asked that members give thought to the fairest method of selection of a limited number. It was agreed that some kind of draw would be necessary, but no firm decision was reached.

b) Potential new members: I. Dwerryhouse told members that 'posters had been put round the town asking that anyone interested in learning how to play should contact the Secretary.

The Secretary gave the number to date as 7, and said that Saturday 9 March had been agreed as the date for the initial meeting.

Members agreed that the charges made for the 6-lesson training course in April should be raised from £14 to £15, to include the cost of a training book, ~~'How to play Croquet'~~. *Know the Game*.

c) Members were notified that dates for Whist in the New Year had had to be revised because of lunch-time functions. New dates were as follows:  
Wednesday 10 January  
Thursday 15 February  
Wednesday 13 March

Date of next meeting: 9 January 1996

The Chairman, in closing the meeting, wished all members a Happy Xmas.

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## CROQUET REPORT 1995

Once again the Croquet Section has a good year to report, with a membership retained at 110. It has been a crowded season of activity from the initial training course in April right through to 1st October when we hosted a League Final. The comments of both Visiting teams on the excellent condition of the lawns had been echoed time and time again throughout the season by players from other clubs, and we are most grateful to Peter Montgomery for maintaining the lawns to such a high standard.

Our Open tournaments in June and September attracted so much interest from away that a restriction had to be placed on the number of Sidmouth players. The June event was over-subscribed 3 months before the closing date and ran so smooth that there was time for an unscheduled doubles event on the fifth day. By way of contrast the September Open weekend, after a glorious first morning, had on the second day to be abandoned at lunchtime because the lawns were under water. Both events were under the expert management of Iris Dwerryhouse, and £500 profit went into Club funds.

The South West Federation of Croquet Clubs, of which Sidmouth was a founding member at its inception 12 years ago, has League fixtures at differing handicap levels. This year a total of 13 matches were played, some at home, some away, and we acquitted ourselves well. We have great hopes for next year in the 'B' League, where some higher handicap players are showing much promise.

Coaching for newer members who are keen to improve their game is always a priority, and the Wednesday evening sessions introduced this year were, we hope, of benefit. Four experienced players travelled all the way to Bowden in Cheshire to attend an Intermediate level weekend course, and proved such attentive students that subsequently in Open tournament one won a Silver, and one a Bronze. Two other members went to Bristol for a weekend course, and got certificates to prove it.

Individuals playing in other Tournaments at other Clubs in the UK have represented Sidmouth worthily and successfully, Tony Dustan-Smith, Brian Smith, and Rowland Henderson presently holding foreign trophies; and it is good to note that our internal tournaments attracted a lot of entries from newer members as well as established players.

Good relations between the neighbouring Budleigh Club and ourselves were maintained by members who took part in the annual 'friendly' Home and Away Golf Croquet fixtures, results being a tactful 1 win each. At home the organised Golf Croquet sessions have been well attended and the 2-day Club Tournament in September a great success.

The end of season barbecue produced a profit of £230 for Club funds; table tennis weekly through the winter and a monthly Whist afternoon made good profits; garden produce was sold; a tea party in celebration of a Britain in Bloom success made £77 - all these amounts are useful revenue for the Club. Visitors fees this season came to £73

We already have names on our waiting list but would especially welcome playing members of other Sections for the 1996 season.

Gwynneth Dart

Hon. Secretary

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 9 January 1996 in the Pavilion

Present: A. Dustan-Smith, I. Dwerryhouse, V. Henderson, R.-Henderson, S. Rogers, H. Ruberry, E. Woodward, G. Dart.

Apologies: Nil

Minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed.

Matters arising:

The Secretary reported that a loan had been requested of the CA to cover the £1267.20 required to buy Jacques balls.

Secretary's Report:

- a) A letter had been received from the CA concerning a Conference to be held at Hurlingham on 24 February open to all CA members. It was agreed that Sidmouth representation would be desirable - R. & V. Henderson were prepared to attend, with (probably) the Chairman - final decision to be made later.
- b) Receipt of a letter from Syd Jones, newly appointed CA promoter for Golf Croquet, was notified. It was agreed that literature to do with Golf Croquet should be requested, but that he should be informed that there was no question of having a separate GC Section at Sidmouth.
- c) The Secretary reported an application by Mrs Charles Sisum (Kate) to join the Club. Members agreed the proposal.
- d) Details were given of a Laws course at Budleigh Salterton on 4 Saturdays through March which Section members were invited to attend. It was agreed to publicize this through the Spring Programme.

Report to & from Management Committee:

The Chairman said that he would be attending a meeting on 11 January. It was agreed that he would be seeking clarification of the 1996 subscription rates as affecting former Country members: that he would give early notice of the Section's need to make lunch-time catering arrangements for the June Open tournament: that he would ask for a ruling on the validity of an abbreviated Club title for use on cheques.

Members' Reports:

The Cashier reported. That £60 had been passed to the Treasurer, leaving her with a balance of £15.55.

V. Henderson as Publicity representative reported that she was in process of ensuring that the Secretary's name and number were available at a variety of outlets, e.g. Library, Tourist Office, EDDC, to anyone interested.

As S.W.League organiser she reported agreed match dates as follows:-

Federation

Wed 15 May	v	Budleigh Salterton (A)
Tues 21 May	v	Exeter (A)
Thurs 30 May	v	Plymouth (H)
Sun 23-June	v	Nailsea (H)
Sun 14 July	v	Taunton Deane (H)



### Intermediate

Tues 4 June v Exeter (A)

Sun 16 June v Taunton Deane (H)

Tues 18 June v Budleigh Salterton (H)

Sun 21 July v Plymouth (A)

### 'B' League

Thu 20 June v Kingston Maurward (A)

Sat 29 June v Parkstone (H)

Sun 21 July v Bournemouth (A)

Sun 4 Aug v Lym Valley (H)

She said that the chosen venue for the Golf Croquet SW Fed. Final was to be Nailsea, as our Sept. Open weekend clashed with the chosen date

R. Henderson as Grounds representative reported that a further quantity of Rimidin to control the fungus on Lawn 1 had been ordered; that the question of how to deal with the broken paved area outside the Croquet Pavilion was being addressed; and that he would be attending a Grounds Committee meeting on 15 February.

I. Dwerryhouse reported that Training dates given at the January meeting had had to be altered because of the Laws course at Budleigh. Changes were as follows: 27 Jan not only a Quiz but general training; 12 Feb general training to include coaching by John Toye for members with handicap 12 & under; 16 March meeting cancelled.

A price for the annual Lunch was agreed at £10.75, and main dish choices would be publicised through Whist Drives and Training meetings. E. Woodward asked that dates be agreed for Internal tournaments - these were settled as follows:

25 May Egyptian

22/23 July One Ball

12 August Shot Game

17/18 & 24/25 Doubles

4/5 Sept Golf Croquet (restricted handicap)

Finals days were agreed as 7,8,10 September, cost of entry to remain at 50p per tournament.

It was decided after discussion that the Ladder should not be activated this season unless by popular demand.

S. Rogers asked that lawns requirements for all these events be notified to her in due course for Booking Sheet marking; the Grounds representative was reminded that the Groundsman would need to have these dates on his calendar.

### Any Other Business:

- 1) Saturday 18 May was earmarked as a good time to introduce new members into playing, the suggested format being a doubles variation on One Ball, partnered by an existing member, and playing alternate shots. To be discussed. further.
- 2) The Chairman suggested a restricted category of membership be considered to accommodate those interested but with limited available time; restrictions to include play only after 6 pm, and no entitlement to take part in internal tournaments. It was agreed to discuss further.
- 3) The Chairman sought members' views on provision of a tea & coffee machine in the Pavilion.
4. It was agreed that the handicap restriction in the Golf Croquet tournament (Sept) should be changed to 16 & over (Ass. handicap) It was agreed that the Club should not enter the Longman Cup tournament because the calendar was already crowded.

5 The Secretary gave the Lawns Open date as Saturday 30 March, subject to the usual conditions, and members agreed her proposal that Lawn 2 should from start of season to the end of May be divided into two for training and new members' practice. Grounds rep, to inform Groundsman.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 13 February 1906 at 9.30 am in the Pavilion.

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SIDMOUTH CRICKET, TENNIS, CROQUET & HOCKEY CLUB.

**CROQUET SECTION**

**SPRING PROGRAMME 1996**

Thursday	18th	January	2.00pm.	Training for '94 & '95 entrants
Saturday	27th	January	10.00 – 12 Noon	Training meeting for all.
Monday	12th	February	10.00 – 12 Noon	Training meeting for all.
Thursday	15th	February	2.00pm.	Whist Drive.
Thursday	22nd	February	2.00pm.	Training for '94 & '95 entrants
Thursday	7th	March	10.00am.	Meeting for Potential New Members.
Wednesday	13th	March	2.00pm.	Whist Drive.
Thursday	21st	March	12.30pm. for 1pm	Annual Lunch. (at Belmont Hotel
Saturday	30th	March	LAWNS OPEN	(Grounds and weather permitting).
Saturday	27th	April	From 12 Noon	To meet new members (in the Pavilion).

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Your subscription is **now due**. Please make cheques payable to Sidmouth Cricket. Tennis. Croquet and Hockey Club, and send to the Club Treasurer. Rex Sims.

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

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

**Tickets for the Annual Lunch** (Cost £10.75) are available from Iris Dwerryhouse. Lime Parc. Bickwell Valley, Sidmouth EX10 8SG. Telephone 514985. Cheques should be made payable to the Club and a s.a.e. enclosed with ticket order, please.

The training meetings are for us all to brush up our skills before the start of the season. Please make a special effort to come.

**Restricted entry for Sidmouth Open Tournaments:** The Tournament Manager requests that any Sidmouth application to enter either the June or the September event should not be accompanied by cheque. Those successful in the draw for places will be notified and asked for payment.

**Laws Course.** Sidmouth Members are invited to attend a Laws Course at Budleigh Salterton Club on 4 Saturday Mornings in March. Apply to G. Dart for details.

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 13 February 1996 in the Pavilion

Present: A. Dustan-Smith, I. Dwerryhouse, V. Henderson, R. Henderson, S. Rogers, E. Woodward, H. Ruberry, G. Dart.

Apologies: Nil.

Minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed. Matters arising: Nil.

Secretary's Report:

- a) The Secretary reported an exchange of letters & phone calls on the question of a loan from the CA, and said that she had been told that so far loans had not been made for wasting assets such as balls, but only for capital projects. The loans committee were however prepared to consider the application on its merits, a decision to be given in March.
- b) Resignations to date were reported as 4.
- c) The number of 'potential' players was given as 12.

Chairman's Report:

- a) The Chairman said that a cheque for 9 sets of balls had been sent to Jaques, as whatever the outcome of the loan application the purchase had to be made. Sale of some of the Barlow balls was discussed but no decision reached.
- b) From the recent Management Committee meeting it was retorted that from next year a subscription reminder would be sent out to all members confirming subscription decisions adopted at the Club AGM.
- c) Members were informed that the newly appointed Bar Steward & Catering Manageress had resigned; it was accepted that the intended discussion on extra club activities would have to be held in abeyance. Members agreed that the need to book an outside caterer for the June Tournament should again be raised with Management.
- d) Reference was made to the possibility of an Open Day during Folk week.
- e) Members were advised that John Toye had joined the Club and had agreed to give the Section the benefit of his knowledge as a Grade 3 coach, and a minus 1 Handicap player. It was hoped that when the season had started he would be able to interest and then coach a few youngsters from Sidmouth College.

Members' Reports:

S. Rogers requested early information for booking sheet details, and as Cashier reported that £100 had been passed to the Treasurer, leaving an account balance of £33.42.

H. Ruberry said that this year's Home fixture against Budleigh for Golf Croquet would be in September, exact date to be agreed later.

V. Henderson sought guidance on the number of lawns to be reserved for the Inter-League semi-final to be played on 1 September. It was agreed that 3 lawns should be available.

She reported that the March 7 meeting for 'potential' players was to be listed in the Sidmouth Herald 'week's diary' on the Saturday prior to the meeting.

R. Henderson reported that Notice boards were ready to go up; that a paving working party had been organised; that Lawn 1 treatment was continuing.

I. Dwerryhouse reported that she already had maximum Sidmouth entries for the June & September Opens, and members agreed that a draw would have to be made within the next month.

She said that so far 35 tickets had been sold for the Annual Lunch.

I. Dwerryhouse informed the meeting that she had unofficially written to the CA expressing her surprise at the formation of a Golf Croquet Committee at top level and her disquiet at Golf Croquet's present high profile. An acknowledgement of her letter had been received.

E. Woodward confirmed with the Secretary that the Internal Tournament entry form should be available in early March.

#### Any Other Business:

- a) A number of dates were given as follows: -
  - i) Committee meeting dates to the end of the season:  
13 May, 4 June, 9 July, 13 August, 9 Sept (Monday), 8 October.
  - ii) Date of 1996 AGM of Croquet Section Thursday 24 October at 2 p.m.
  - iii) Club afternoons to start on Monday 29 April. A roster of Committee members on duty would be available at the March Committee meeting. It was suggested that 2 members per session would be listed.
- b) Arrangements for the 'potentials' meeting on 7 March were discussed and agreed.
- c) Details of green fees payable under the new Club subscription policy were set out and agreed - procedural instructions to be pasted to the cover of the Visitors' books which would record details. Cashier & Secretary to deal.
- d) It was accepted that the suggested May event to include new members was proving difficult to fit into the programme. It was agreed to put the idea on hold.
- e) Members discussed at length the undoubted merit of giving members as much information as possible within the restrictions imposed by the shape and size of the Mallet Room. It was agreed that a Year Planner should be displayed.
- f) It was asked that a suspected leak in the roof of the Mallet Room should be investigated.

Date of next meeting: 12 March 1996 at 9.30 am in the Pavilion.

*ADS*

#### **CROQUET SECTION - VISITORS 1996**

All visitors must please contact a playing member prior to playing.

Please record details in the appropriate visitors' book, and put money (in the envelope provided) into the Committee Box, beneath the booking sheets.

1. Family and house guests playing as guests of member: fee: Adults £2, Students and under 18's £1 per game.

2. All other visitors, (those from other clubs holding handicaps may play alone if they wish):

fee: £3 per person per game.

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 12 March 1996 in the Pavilion.

Present: A. Dustan-Smith, I. Dwerryhouse, V. Henderson, S. Rogers, H. Ruberry, E. Woodward, G. Dart.

Apologies: R. Henderson

Minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed.

Matters arising: Nil.

Secretary's Report:

- a) A letter had been received from the Chairman of the Centenary Committee informing long-established Clubs that a centenary exhibition of historical material was to be staged in 1997. He asked to be told of any material which could be loaned, and in a hand-written post-script to Sidmouth referred to Humphrey Hicks, mallets. Members agreed that the 2 mallets and Humphrey's medals should be offered (with suitable insurance guarantee) and the Secretary was instructed to reply on these lines.
- b) Receipt of a letter from the Chairman of the Nailsea Club was notified - seeking support from S.W.Fed. colleagues for their 3 1996 tournaments. Letter to be shown on the Notice Board.
- c) Members were told that the 1st issue of a Golf Croquet magazine had been received from the newly formed Golf Croquet Committee.
- d) The Secretary reported that application to re-join the Club had been received from Clifford and Enid Taylor, who had been members from 1982 - 1987. Members agreed the application.

Chairman's Report:

- a) The Chairman retorted from the latest Management Committee meeting that it had not been possible this year to organise any official Open Day participation in Festival Week. He referred also to the decision taken to introduce Sky TV into the Pavilion.
- b) He told members that Management had agreed his request that outside catering should be arranged for the section's June tournament: and a booking had now been made with Celia Kitchens of Budleigh Salterton.
- c) He gave an interesting resume of matters discussed at the Hurlingham Clubs Conference on 24 February.

Members' Reports:

The Cashier showed members the envelopes to be used for Visitors' fees and Library charges, and reported that £215 has been passed to the Treasurer, leaving a balance of £12.85. An amount of £150 had been received for training fees.

For R. Henderson it was reported that a quote of £485 had been given as cost of re-paving the area in front of the Croquet Pavilion, and the matter was in hand. The Chairman supplemented this information by saying that a second quote was being sought, but the need for the work was accepted and repairs would be done as soon as possible. Members were informed of a request on behalf of the Amateur Dramatic Society for the loan of 6 to 8 mallets for use in a play running from 8 - 13 May. it was agreed that some of the older Club mallets could be loaned provided that the Society accepted full insurance liability.

I. Dwerryhouse reported that 60 tickets for the Lunch had been sold. In the Open Tournaments lists for both June and September were now closed, leaving for Sidmouth members 6 places in June and 5 in September.

After some discussion it was agreed that a sub-committee of Tournament Manager, Section Chairman, and Secretary, should make a draw for places.

She recorded a request for a membership application form from a Budleigh Salterton member, Ian Birdseye – Secretary to deal.

she thought that members would be interested to know that Dillington House in Somerset would from 21 to 23 June be running a weekend course in how to play croquet – 2 of our members might be attending.

Any Other Business:

- a) The Secretary reported that 12 people were to take the initial training course, 10 of them having attended the successful meeting on 7 March. Members agreed that those who were to be accepted into the Club at the end of the training should be invited to attend a meeting on Saturday 27 April at 11.15 am to be briefed on Club procedures, etc., before joining existing members in the Bar area at 12 noon.

She reported also that a bill of £54 for training books was about to be paid to the C.A., most of which amount had already been recovered by sale of Laws Books and by issue of books as part of the £15 training fee.

- b) The Chairman asked members to consider a date and format for a Section Barbecue, to be held possibly earlier than the September date of the past two years. It was agreed that at the Annual Lunch the Chairman would give advance notice that one would be held, date to be announced later. Committee to discuss at next meeting.
- c) Members were reminded that as well as a Cake Stall at the Club Coffee morning on 6 May there would be a Plant Stall, to be run by Eric Kitchener. Maximum publicity was requested.

Date of next meeting: 9 April 10, 1996 at 9.30 am in the Pavilion.

*ADS*

## Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 9 April 1996 in the Pavilion

Present: L. Dustan-Smith, I. Dwerryhouse, R. Henderson, V. Henderson, S. Rogers, H. Ruberry, E. Woodward, G. Dart.

Apologies: Nil.

Minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed.

### Matters arising:

The Secretary reported that Ian Birdseye did not wish to proceed with his application to join the Club as he was leaving the area.

### Secretary's Report:

- a) Notification of the 1996 Club Registration fee of £5 per playing member had been received, and an amount of £520 (104 x £5) had been sent to the Croquet Association.
- b) It was reported with regret that our bid for a £100 prize for the highest recruitment figures for 1995 had not been successful - the winner had been Northampton with a figure of 27 to our 11.
- c) Further resignations had been received, making a total of 9 (inclusive of 1 member Social only for this year).
- d) A quantity of material of general Croquet interest had been received and would be displayed on the Notice Board.

### Chairman's Report:

The Chairman reported on Club Matters arising in a recent Management meeting.

### Members' Retorts:

The Cashier reported that £50 had been passed to the Treasurer, leaving a balance of £22.43. She gave profit figures for the Section's winter activities; Whist (4 meetings) £69.68; Table Tennis £210.58 (weekly October to March).

V. Henderson confirmed with the meeting that the June issue of the Sidmouth Diary should have a 'Croquet' entry.

R. Henderson said that the Croquet Pavilion paving having been renewed the levelling up of the edges was in hand. He and the Chairman agreed the need for further protectors on the posts round the lawns, and the possibilities of cradles of treated wood was discussed. It was agreed to cost the proposal.

I. Dwerryhouse as Social member reported that the final count for attendance at the Annual Lunch was 60; the Chairman said how good the meal had been, and thanked her for all her work.

As Training Officer she reported that with a possible 12 new members under coaching the Section was nearing capacity and could well need to operate a Waiting List. She asked for policy guidance on whether to refund the training fee for anyone who did not complete the course - members felt that no refund should normally be made.

As Tournament Manager she said that the draw for the Open Tournaments had been made, and that no Sidmouth player would be playing in both events. J. Hatherley would be 1st reserve.

As C.A. Handicapper she reported that a member's request that her handicap be changed from 16 to 18 had been agreed.

E. Woodward reported that completed Tournament forms were coming in, and discussed with members proposed formats. It was accepted that untimed games through the rounds of the ongoing tournaments would not be practicable, but that all finals should be untimed. The Bray system would be used, with possibly a Hoop 5 start for a 22-point game - this decision to be left to "the discretion of the organiser.

#### Any Other Business

a) The Chairman asked that all members should keep their respective job descriptions updated.

b) It was agreed that the Barbecue date should be Friday 21 June, and that it should be preceded by an afternoon of Golf Croquet. Details to be worked out later.

c) A vote of thanks to Vera & Rowland Henderson for organising the Table Tennis through the winter was endorsed by all present: and they kindly accepted the responsibility for the 1996/7 season.

d) Members were reminded of the 11.15 am meeting with new members on 27 April.

e) Alteration of Committee meeting date for June was agreed - new date to be Monday 3 June.

Date of next meeting: Monday 13 May at 9.30 am in the Pavilion.

*ADS*



SIDMOUTH CRICKET, TENNIS, CROQUET & HOCKEY CLUB  
CROQUET SECTION  
SUMMER PROGRAMME 1996

March	30	Lawns Open, subject to conditions
April	27	To meet new members in the Pavilion from 12 noon bring your own lunch
April	29	First Club afternoon
April	29	Closing date for entries in Club Tournaments
May	6	Main Club Coffee morning from 10 am (Croquet section Cake Stall & Plant Stall)
May	25	Club Tournament - Egyptian
June	10-14	SIDMOUTH OPEN TOURNAMENT
July	6	SW Federation Open Golf Croquet Tournament
July	22 & 23	Club Tournament - One Ball
August	12	Club Tournament - Shot Game
August	17&18 ) 24 & 25 )	Club tournament - Doubles
September	1	SW Federation Intermediate League Semi-Final
September	4 & 5	Club Tournament - Golf Croquet (Ass. Handicap 16 & over)
September	7,8,10	Club Tournaments Finals Days
September	21 & 22	SIDMOUTH OPEN TOURNAMENT

As our programme of events is already very full your Committee has decided not to proceed with the proposal put forward at the AGM that a new tournament for 'Veterans' should be introduced: neither will there be a Short Croquet Open Tournament this year.

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CLUB AFTERNOONS                      Please note the changed format for 1996

Most Monday afternoons from 29 April will be CLUB afternoons from 1 pm to 6 pm, unless shown otherwise on the Booking Sheet.

Golf Croquet will be played on Lawns 2,3, & 4 from 1 pm to 2.30 pm, Lawn 1 being reserved for One Ball, and from 2.30 pm all lawns will be used for arranged games of Association Doubles, each game to last 1 hour. Please note however that on May 6 & June 17. One Ball will be played on all lawns from 2.30 pm; and on May 27 & July 8 there will be Shot Game practice on Lawns 3 & 4 starting at 2.50 pm.

Tea & biscuits will be available from 3.30 pm and it is hoped that this weekly meeting for all members will be well supported.

GOLF CROQUET

In addition to Club afternoons organised sessions will be held on Wednesdays from 10 am and Fridays from 4 pm from 1 May. On Fridays one lawn will be retained beyond 6 pm to accommodate those who might wish to stay on or arrive later.

Prior to April 29 personal lawn bookings-only, for a maximum of 4 members per lawn per session, so as to avoid excessive wear and tear on the area round the hoops early in the season.

LEAGUE MATCHES

A full list of matches arranged will be shown on the Notice Board. Please come to support fellow members playing for the Club.

REMINDER

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

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

Minutes of Committee Meeting: - held on 13 May 1996 in the Pavilion

Present: A. Dustan-Smith, I. Dwerryhouse, R. Henderson, V. Henderson, S. Rogers, E. Woodward, G. Dart.

Apologies: H. Ruberry.

Minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed.

Matters arising: Nil.

Secretary's Report:

- a) Receipt of a Club copy of an official Handicap booklet was reported.
- b) A letter from the CA asking clubs to consider whether Affiliates should continue to receive individual magazine copies or a blanket issue of X copies to clubs was discussed. It was agreed that individual copies were an unnecessary expense.
- c) It was reported that the kitchen was now to be locked and a key only issued under authority from the Club Secretary. It was agreed that the Croquet key would be kept in the end locker in the Mallet Room - Social member to deal.
- d) Special rates for hire of the Pavilion by members were reported - Secretary to put details on the Notice Board.

Chairman's Report:

a) Matters of interest to the Section from the last Management meeting were reported, and the Vice-Chairman agreed the Chairman's request that she should represent him at the next meeting (Thursday 16 May). Provision of water and electricity to the Lawn 3 area were again discussed, and members agreed in principle the benefits of such a facility.

b) The Chairman reported receipt of a letter from last year's Chairman expressing the regret of some members at the omission of a Short Croquet event from this year's calendar. Committee members said that the matter had already been discussed, but agreed that it could be put to the 1996 AGM to assess the strength of feeling.

The same letter made reference to a trophy given to her by a member to be used for success in the 'Ladder'. It was agreed that it was not appropriate to use a trophy for this essentially non-competitive activity.

Members' Reports:

The Cashier reported a balance of £14.83, £61 having been passed to the Treasurer.

V. Henderson confirmed that advance notice of the June Tournament would be sent to the 'Herald'.

She reported that Millfield School would possibly be seeking a 'B' League fixture during the season.

R. Henderson reported that a working party was continuing to deal, and that an up to date inventory had now been made of the Section's stock of balls. It was agreed that some of the older Barlow stock could be sold to members at a price of £20 a set.

I. Dwerryhouse as Training Officer said that newer members were being offered extended training from 6.30 pm on Tuesday evenings. She reported that the final

tally of recruits was 8. Proceeds from training had amounted to £210, and new members' subscriptions had brought £558 into the Club (with £83 still to come).

E. Woodward reported that all tournament sheets were now up. She suggested for the 1997 Committee's consideration that an earlier date be set for 'last entries'. Next Committee to deal.

H. Ruberry reported (through the Secretary) that a friendly Golf Croquet fixture with Budleigh had been arranged for Thursday 18 July (2 pm start) at Budleigh, with the return match at Sidmouth agreed for 2 pm Thursday 19 September, when all lawns would be required.

Any Other Business:

- a) The Chairman said that he would be on holiday from 26 May - 19 June, and asked that the Vice-Chairman take the June Committee meeting.
- b) Arrangements for the Barbecue on 21 June were discussed in detail and S. Rogers accepted responsibility for co-ordination of the event. It was suggested that H. Ruberry be asked to run the proposed afternoon of Golf Croquet to precede the Barbecue, and I. Dwerryhouse offered to help her.
- c) June Tournament - it was discussed and agreed that the Chairman should ask the Club President, L. Sage, to present the trophies. It was agreed also that an amount of £10 should accompany each trophy to cover the cost of engraving, and that no runner-up prize should be given.
- d) I. Dwerryhouse told members that she and her husband wished to gift to the Section a hut shelter for Lawn 1, to be sited in the area beyond Corner 3 for the convenience of players. Members agreed the generosity and usefulness of this proposed gift, details of which would be put to Management.
- e) The Chairman suggested that the CA flag should be flown during Open Tournaments. S. Rogers offered to cost the purchase of a flag.

Date of next meeting: Monday 3 June 1996 at 9.30 am in the Pavilion.

*ADS*

Minutes of committee Meeting held on 3 June 1996 in the Pavilion

Present: I. Dwerryhouse (in the Chair), R. Henderson, V. Henderson, S. Rogers, H. Ruberry, G. Dart.

Apologies: A. Dustan-Smith, E. Woodward.

Minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed.

Matters arising: S. Rogers reported that no CA flag was available.

Secretary's Report:

- a) It was reported that the loan requested to help with the purchase of Jaques balls had been refused as being a wasting asset rather than capital expenditure.
  - b) Receipt of various publications & advertising material was reported.
  - c) A query about Croquet had been made as a result of the Club's entry in the June 'Sidmouth diary' and a name put on the waiting list.
- (I. Dwerryhouse suggested that an Open Day on a Saturday in September might be for consideration to promote recruitment - to be discussed)

Report from Management Committee:

The Vice-Chairman reported that the meeting scheduled for 16 May had been cancelled, but that she had been told by the Club Secretary that no toilet facility at Lawn 3 was to be allowed, and that installation of electricity, having been discussed and then costed at £600, was also disallowed.

The proposed gift of a hut for Lawn 1 had in principle been accepted with gratitude, but planning permission would be needed. The Club Secretary would be forwarding the papers to the E.D.D.C. and the £80 cost for application would be met by management.

Members' Reports:

The Cashier reported a balance of £13.98, £140.50 having gone to the Treasurer, inclusive of £110 received as Internal Tournament fees.

H. Ruberry as organiser of the Golf Croquet afternoon on 21 June asked that tea be available from 3.30 pm.

V. Henderson reported League results to date:-

Federation

v Budleigh Salterton (A) 7 - 4

v Exeter (A) 5 - 2

v Plymouth (H) 0 - 7

She reported that a 'B' League match would be played on 15 June at Millfield against Millfield School.

R. Henderson reported that a number of balls had been sold to members, and £60, (12 balls @ £5 each) was passed to the Cashier.

For E. Woodward it was reported that results of the Egyptian tournament held on 25 May were - A. Dustan-Smith winner: S. Adams runner-up.

Any Other Business

- a) June Tournament arrangements were reported as being in hand and the Manager asked that from Tuesday, 11 June, there should be a 9.30 am start. R. Henderson to inform Groundsman.
- b) Barbecue arrangements also in hand, with a Raffle organiser to be found.
- c) The cost of match teas was discussed, and it was agreed that for all Home matches £3 per player should be levied, any surplus coming from Section funds.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 9 July 1996 at 9.30 am in the Pavilion.

*ADS*

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 9 July 1996 in the Pavilion

Present: A. Dustan-Smith, I. Dwerryhouse, S. Rogers, H. Ruberry, E. Woodward, G. Dart.

Apologies: H. Henderson, V. Henderson.

Minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed.

Matters arising:

- a) The Chairman said that provision of a toilet facility at Lawn 3 was still under consideration. H. Ruberry opined opinion that it was an unnecessary expense.
- b) Members were asked to note that the reported Millfield match was played as a friendly, and not a 'B' League event.

Secretary's Report:

- a) A letter of thanks from G. Sims for the loan of mallets & balls to the Dramatic Society was read to members.
- b) Receipt of a Registered Clubs Survey, as commissioned in 1995 by the CA Development Officer, was reported.
- c) The contents of a letter from L. & B. Toye were discussed and the Secretary instructed to reply appropriately. Their suggestion that the Ladder be re-activated was accepted, B. Toye to run it through August & September; E. Woodward to liaise with B. Toye to start it.  
  
I. Dwerryhouse wondered whether the idea of a 14-point game to replace the Short Croquet Tournament could be put to members at the AGM.

Report from Management Committee:

I. Dwerryhouse gave a resume of Club matters discussed at the recent Main Club meeting.

Members' Reports:

I. Dwerryhouse reported on the successful June Open Tournament, profit in excess of £215 having been made.

Winners were as follows:-

David Rawkins Cup	B. Smith (Sidmouth)
Fortfield Cup	Dr. John Taylor (Jersey)
Dwerryhouse Cup	Mrs Ursula Taylor (Jersey)

She reminded members that details for next year's Tournament must be agreed at the August meeting, and wondered whether a 4-day format (instead of the present 5 days) would be preferable.

E. Woodward reported agreed amendments were to be made to the Shot Game format before the Tournament on 12 August. She said that a special effort was to be made to persuade some of the newer members to take part in the Doubles Tournament.

H. Ruberry reported on an enjoyable SW Golf Croquet Tournament on 6 July, with special thanks to I. Dwerryhouse for her services as Manager. Winners were

R. Clark (Singles) with runner-up M. Smith  
B. Smith & P. Dart (Doubles) with runners-up H. Ruberry & S. Adams

£40 entry fees were taken, with £10.88 expenses, total profit being £29.12.

Representation from Sidmouth for the Final at Nailsea to be arranged by V. Henderson.

She also reported that a 'friendly' v Budleigh Salterton had been arranged for Thursday next, 18 July, at Budleigh; and that the afternoon of Golf Croquet preceding the June Barbecue had been a pleasant one.

S. Rogers gave details of the very successful barbecue held in June - tickets sold £455; profit on raffle (nearly all prizes donated) £110; expenses £125.14. Total profit £439.86. An amount of £533.50 had gone to the Club Treasurer, leaving £15.63 in hand.

For V. Henderson details of League matches played were reported:-

Intermediate		'B' League	
v Taunton Deane (H)	3 – 2	v Parkstone (H)	5 – 2
v B. Salterton (H)	4 – 3	v K. Maurward (A)	1 – 4

#### Any Other Business:

- a) Training: i) It was reported that J. Toye hoped to introduce a couple of youngsters to the game after the end of term.  
ii) It was hoped to arrange a further coaching session for this year's entrants in the near future.
- b) It was suggested by E. Woodward that for next year's Barbecue the washing up should be done by hired help, with perhaps an extra 50p charge on each ticket.  
NEXT COMMITTEE TO NOTE.
- c) It was agreed that a few of the lighter chairs should be brought up from the Croquet Pavilion to be exchanged with the heavy chairs presently in the Mallet Room.
- d) V. Henderson's suggestion that a friendly match be arranged versus Budleigh Salterton was put to members, but it was agreed not to proceed at the present time.
- e) The suggestion from B. Toye that a closing hinge be fitted to the door from the Mallet Room into the Ladies' cloakroom was rejected in favour of a simple notice 'Please keep this door closed'.

Date of next meeting: 13 August 1996 at 9.30 am in the Pavilion.

*ADS*

#### JUNE TOURNAMENT 1996

INCOME	24 entries @ £15		£360.00
	3 days TEAS	£53.85	
	Less Expenses	<u>£14.70</u>	£39.15
			<u>£399.15</u>
EXPENSES	Cash Prizes	30.00	
	“ “	2.40	
	Groundsman	24.00	
	CA levy 30% on £294	88.20	
	VAT on 15 visitors	<u>39.38</u>	
			<u>£183.98</u>
			<u>£215.17</u>

NOTE: This does not include a proportion of profit from Cricket teas on 2 days, or bar profits through the 5 days of the tournament.

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 13 August 1996 in the Pavilion

Present: A. Dustan-Smith, I. Dwerryhouse, R. Henderson, V. Henderson, S. Rogers, H. Ruberry, E. Woodward, G. Dart.

Apologies: Nil.

Minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed.

Matters arising: Nil.

Secretary' s Report:

The Secretary asked that admin. expenses be submitted to her by the end of August.

Report from/to Management Committee:

- a) The Chairman said that the Humphrey Hicks corner was being viewed as a possible Darts Board location, but suggested that a viable alternative place for Croquet memorabilia, Honour Boards, etc., could be the back wall of the Pool table area, presently occupied by Cricket by-gones. All members agreed his proposal that he should put this suggestion to Management.
- b) He asked for members' reaction to the proposal that use of the kitchen should be restricted to the Steward and his wife. All agreed that controlled access for small events was a desirable part of the Section's activities both during the season and throughout the winter months, and that the Section should be able to charge its own prices and make its own small profits at these times-The Chairman said he would convey this feeling to Management.
- c) A planning application for a hut on Lawn 1 had now been sent to the EDDC.
- d) The Chairman asked members to consider the problem of the overgrown bank to the north of Lawn 1, which belonged to the Fortfield Hotel. He suggested putting to Management the idea that the bank should be 'adopted', if the Fortfield would agree, and suitable ground cover planted. Members agreed the suggestion.

Members' Reports:

H. Ruberry said that all Golf Croquet sessions were being well attended. She reported that the recent match at Budleigh Salterton had been won by Budleigh 10-6, and that a return match at Sidmouth was scheduled for 19 September.

I. Dwerryhouse confirmed that the 1996 September Open would be a Handicap event as shown in the Fixtures Book, and asked that details for the 1997 Open Tournaments should be agreed. After some discussion dates were agreed as:

9 - 13 June at £16 per entry  
20 - 21 September at £11 per entry,

with the formats as for this year. V. Henderson offered her services as Tournament Secretary for both events; Manager(s) to be appointed later.

As Training Officer Iris said that a) no interested youngsters had as yet responded to John Toye's introductory coaching offer, and b) no coaching session had yet been arranged for this year's new members, though individual help was being given.

The meeting discussed coaching options, and agreed to set aside a full day, Thursday 29 August, using Lawns 2,3, 4, to coach 'B' League team possibles; the Training Officer to arrange for the attendance of coaches and chosen trainees.

The proposed Open Day for recruitment (see minutes of 3 June) was agreed as the morning of Saturday 28 September; V. Henderson to arrange publicity.



The Cashier reported that £100 had been passed to the Treasurer, leaving a balance of £10.72.

E. Woodward reported a successful Shot Game, results being as follows: -

Shield B. Smith winner, with C. Sisum as runner-up.

Tankard C. Sisum winner, with M. Smith, M. Stant, and S. Blenkinsop joint runners-up.

V. Henderson gave League results as follows:

Federation v Taunton Deane (H)	6 - 1
Intermediate v Plymouth (A)	4 - 3
'B' League v Bournemouth (A)	5 - 2
it v Lym Valley (H)	5 - 2

She said that results this year had been excellent, and reported with pleasure that a Sidmouth team would be playing (v Parkstone) in the Intermediate semi-final to be hosted by Sidmouth on 1 Sept. She told members that Sidmouth's representatives in the S.W.Fed. Golf Croquet Final at Nailsea on 15 September would be David & Cecilia Clarke: Hazel Ruberry & Sheila Adams: Mary Smith & Richard Clark.

R. Henderson reported that the 2 hoops lost at the start of the Folk Festival were still missing - the police had been informed. He was asked to put out a practice hoop and a static ball for roquet practice.

Any Other Business:

- a) Members agreed the Chairman's suggestion that P. Dart be asked to present the prizes at the Section AGM.
- b) The Secretary asked the meeting to consider dates for Whist during the coming winter. It was agreed to maintain the present system of alternate Wednesdays & Thursdays starting in early October. (Dates to be notified later)
- c) Vera & Rowland Henderson accepted the task of organising the Table-Tennis activity for the winter and were thanked for volunteering.
- d) The Secretary reported an informal request for "Country" membership of the Section. After some discussion it was agreed not to proceed.
- e) It was decided that the last Club afternoon of this season should be Monday 2 September.
- f) It was confirmed that Golf Croquet sessions (i.e. Wednesday mornings & Friday afternoons) should be continued through September, but that after the Club Tournament on 4 & 5 Sept. 2 lawns only should be booked out and no official organizer should be expected to attend.
- g) The Secretary asked that the October Committee meeting date be changed to October 15.

Date of next meeting: MONDAY 9 September 1996 at 9.30 am in the Pavilion.

*ADS*

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 9 September 1996 in the Pavilion

Present: A. Dustan-Smith, I. Dwerryhouse, R. Henderson, V. Henderson, S. Rogers, E. Woodward, G. Dart.

Apologies: H. Ruberry.

Minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed.

Matters arising: Nil.

Secretary's Report: Fixtures Book entry for 1997 to be submitted forthwith. Report from/to Management:

- a) The Chairman said that planning permission for the Lawn 1 Hut had been given and the project approved by Management. It was now for the Section to liaise with the Grounds Committee. Iris Dwerryhouse gave the expected date of delivery as on or about 18 September, and R. Henderson was asked to organize with Rodger Packe, Chairman of the Grounds Committee, details of ground preparation and erection.
- b) The Chairman said he would be attending a Management meeting on 12 September, and asked for members' reaction to his suggestion that a Lottery grant be sought in order that Lawns 3 & 4 could be levelled. After some discussion members agreed in principle that Management be invited to consider the proposal, while remembering that as part of a multi-sports complex no one Section could proceed in isolation.
- c) It was suggested by the Chairman that a small drinking fountain could be operated from the tap at the corner of the Pavilion. Members agreed that he should ask Management to provide this amenity.
- d) He told members that the Fortfield Hotel had agreed the 'adoption' by the Club of their bank, and that thought could now be given to planting ground cover.
- e) He said that he would be reporting the fact that all the Mallet Room windows needed to be replaced, and suggested that at the same time some alteration of the Mallet Room lay-out might be possible. A site inspection and useful discussion took place.

Members' Retorts:

E. Woodward reported that her tournament responsibilities for this season were almost over; and the Chairman thanked her for a job well done.

V. Henderson reported the successful result of 5 - 2 v Parkstone in the Intermediate semi-final, and said that the Final would be at Cheltenham on Saturday 5 October v either Bristol or Tracy Park. She said that she would be submitting a report to the Herald on tournament results, etc., as well as a reminder about the Open morning on 28 September. She was advised to put a notice in the Mallet Room window giving S. Rogers as contact phone number.

R. Henderson gave Estimate figures for Grounds & Equipment, and asked that a set of balls be available to a member at a price of £20. He reported that a hoop and static ball had been installed.

S. Rogers reported that £60 had gone to the Treasurer recently and a balance of £9.74 retained.

I. Dwerryhouse reported that the Training day on 29 August was successful and appreciated by the participants. For the Open Tournament on 20/21 September

Elaine Hope was happy to do the catering for lunches, but would probably need a couple of helpers - Iris to confirm - and tea for the Golf Croquet 'friendly' v Budleigh on 19 September was being arranged.

H. Ruberry: results were given of the Golf Croquet Tournament on 4/5 September on her behalf.

Singles D. Clarke with S. Blenkinsop runner-up;  
Doubles S. Blenkinsop & S. Rogers with G. Sims & P. Dart runners-up.

and thanks were expressed to I. Dwerryhouse, E. Woodward, & V. Henderson for organising and helping with the Tournament.

Any Other Business:

- a) The Secretary said that her husband would be pleased and proud to present the trophies at the AGM.
- b) Whist dates were given as 17 October, 13 November, 12 December, 8 January, 6 February, 5 March, and it was reported that Eric Kitchener had agreed to act as caller for all dates except 12 December
- c) Advance information was given about a Xmas Dinner to be held at the Royal Glen Hotel on 10 December, organised by Hugh Read.
- d) Members were told that small Club badges were now available, enquiries to Hugh Read.
- e) It was agreed that members who would not be attending the AGM on 24 October should be invited to contribute to the Groundsman's gratuity, a box for which would be passed round at the AGM; a suitable notice to be posted on the Notice Board.

Date of the next meeting: Tuesday 15 October 1996 at 9.30 am in the Pavilion.

*ADS*

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 15 October 1996 in the Pavilion

Present: A. Dustan-Smith, I. Dwerryhouse, R. Henderson, V. Henderson, S. Rogers  
H. Ruberry, Woodward, G. Dart.

Apologies: Nil.

Minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed.

Matters arising: Nil.

Secretary's Report:

Notice was given of the SW Federation AGM to be held at Tracy Park on Sunday 3 November, and it was agreed that the Chairman should attend with Brian Smith as second Voting member. After some discussion it was decided that Sidmouth would enter for Federation, Intermediate, and 'B' sections of the League, but not the Advanced Section.

Chairman's Report:

The Chairman gave details of matters discussed at last month's Management meeting.

Members' Reports:

I. Dwerryhouse reported that the September Open Tournament went well, winners being a 10 handicap from Taunton, and an 18 handicap from Kington Langley. She said that the catering provided by Elaine Hope for lunches and teas was excellent, but that there had been a major problem created by a significant hockey presence on both days of the meeting; she asked members to consider reverting for 1997 to the first weekend of September (2 weeks earlier). The proposal was agreed, and the Secretary was asked to convey this change - i.e. 6/7 September - to the Fixtures Book editor. It was notified that John Toye had agreed to manage this Tournament.

As Training Officer Iris reported that 3 names had been put on the waiting list as a result of the Open morning on 28 September.

H. Ruberry said that a Golf Croquet match v Budleigh in mid-September had been enjoyable and declared a draw. As a general comment on the season she felt that members had appreciated the longer booking out facility and the slot as part of Club afternoons. Richard Clark's success in winning the Singles title at Nausea in the Finals of the SE Federation Golf Croquet Tournament was noted with pleasure. V. Henderson gave the result of the Intermediate Final played at Cheltenham against Bristol as 2-5. Members agreed it had been an achievement to reach the Final.

R. Henderson reported that £20 had been paid to the Cashier for a set of balls. Members agreed his suggestion that Table Tennis charges should remain at 50p playing fee, with 30p for coffee.

S. Rogers told the meeting that £40 had been passed to the Treasurer, leaving a balance of £7.24. She asked that any Croquet reports sent to the Sidmouth Herald should be put also in the Midweek Herald.

Any Other Business:

Arrangements for the forthcoming AGM were discussed and agreed; and it was thought fitting that the hut gifted by Iris A Philip Dwerryhouse should be officially opened (weather permitting) at the close of the AGM before the serving of tea.

In closing the meeting, the Chairman thanked all members for their work through the year.

*ADS*

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CROQUET SECTION  
HELD ON THURSDAY 24 OCTOBER 1996 AT 2 P.M. IN THE PAVILION

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming the 58 members present.

Apologies for absence were received from Joyce Biles, John Brightmore, Valerie Collier, Helen Cox, Josie Davies, Linda Kitchener, Joan Pearce, Derek & Maddi Pedder, Olga Ragg, Ingrid Read, Charles & Kate Sisum, Michael & Helen Smekal, Cyril Spencer, John Toye, Don Waterhouse, John & Peggy Webber.

The Chairman reminded members that the minutes of the AGM held on 26 October 1995 had been on the Mallet Room Notice board for 6 weeks from 4 September 1996, and asked that they be taken as read. John Hatherley proposed, Brian Smith seconded, and with unanimous agreement the minutes were approved and-signed.

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

A vote of thanks to the Committee for their stewardship was proposed by Eric Kitchener and endorsed by the meeting. He made particular reference to the many years of service given, by Iris Dwerryhouse up to her retirement from the Committee this year.

The Chairman, having thanked Eric for his kind words, expressed his thanks to the Club officers for their support of the Section; to the Section coaches for their dedication; and to all the Section members who had helped in Club or Section activities during the past season. He thanked his Committee for their support through the year and referred especially to the 4 members who were not standing for re-election.

Election of new Committee: It was stated that only one name having been received for Chairman and one for secretary, with six nominations for Committee membership, there was no need for an election. All the names having been read out, acceptance of all the nominations was proposed by Aline Davies, seconded by Leslie Toye and endorsed by all present. The new Committee was therefore announced as follows: -

Chairman Tony Dustan-Smith      Secretary Sue Rogers

Members Jonathan Coombs, Vera Henderson, Doreen O'Hara, Olga Ragg  
Gwen -Sims, Elaine Woodward.

Any Other Business:

- a) Eric Kitchener reminded members of the importance of lawn etiquette, particularly in double-banked games. He recommended winter reading of the Laws book, supplemented by the recently re-published Commentary on the Laws by Pritchard.
- b) The Chairman informed members that an informal agreement had been made with the Fortfield Hotel that the Croquet Section should plant-up and maintain the bank to the north of Lawn 1. He said that a sub-committee had been formed, chaired by Kay Peers, with Eric Kitchener and Don Waterhouse as members, and his request for a volunteer work party met with instant response from 10 of those present.
- c) Care of the lawns: The Chairman recommended that immediate action to repair minor damage to any lawn would be helpful during the season, and that a mix of top dressing and grass seed would be available for this purpose.
- d) Appreciation of the inclusion of a Golf Croquet period within the framework of the Club afternoon was voiced by a member.

- e) Concern was expressed at the possible danger to Croquet players if the Cricket pitch were sited too close to the north end of the cricket field. The Chairman said that the matter had been brought to the notice of the Cricket Section.
- f) In reply to a query as to whether a winter lawn would be available, the Chairman said that this would be at the groundsman's discretion.
- g) The Chairman put to members that the flying of the CA flag during Open Tournaments would be a good idea, and asked for a volunteer flag-maker.

After a number of Notices had been given out, the Chairman invited Peter Dart to present the trophies, first thanking him for his work as assistant to the Club Treasurer.

This concluded the business of the AGN and the Chairman closed the meeting, but invited members to gather at Lawn 1 to witness the official opening of the hut donated by Philip & Iris Dwerryhouse.

Tea was then served.

*ADS*

## COMMITTEE REPORT 1996

Your Committee hopes that for each one of you there has been some degree of personal satisfaction during the past season of Croquet. In compiling at the start of the year a very crowded programme of events, we do try to please everybody at least some of the time, because the enjoyment of the game is really what it's all about. Let me give you a precis of the 1996 season.

In the first month of the playing season each year the introductory course for potential players takes place. Despite the fact that the first session for this year took place on April Fool's Day, 8 of the 14 original trainees completed their training, became members, and have, we hope, enjoyed their first year. This number of new members more or less balanced out with the number of resignations, so that our membership still stands at a very healthy 100 plus.

A high proportion of this membership entered for the various Club Tournaments staged through the season and you will be reminded of the results when the trophies are handed out at the close of this meeting. There are two 'firsts' which should be pointed out - the two Corbett Spoons, given to the One-Ball Competition, one for high bisquers, one for lower bisquers, were won this year by a husband and wife, a real His & Hers result; and our present Chairman's Triple Peel on the 2 days of Finals - winner of the Humphrey Hicks, winner the Belmont, joint winner of the Doubles, as well as success earlier in the Egyptian Tournament - is a notable achievement in the year in. Engraving costs will be high this year.

Both Open Tournaments, in June and September, managed expertly by Iris Dwerryhouse, were over-subscribed and most successful, making very worth-while profits for the Club in spite of the iniquities of a CA levy & a VAT requirement for visiting players. These Tournaments put and keep Sidmouth on the map of the Croquet world, and again this year there have been many compliments on the quality of the lawns. Peter Montgomery, the Club groundsman, deserves our praise and our thanks. In the June meeting our own Brian Smith won the David Rawkins Cup, the other two cups going to a husband and wife from Jersey. September success were a lady from Taunton and a gentleman from Kington Langley. The two events produced profits of about £300, exclusive of catering and bar figures.

A number of our players have played in Open Tournaments away from Sidmouth, and have done well. We congratulate them and thank them for representing their home Club with honour.

SW Federation results were most satisfactory, both Federation & B League totals being only just short of the needed points to go into the semi-finals. The Intermediate Section did make the grade, had a decisive semi-final win against Parkstone of 5-2, and were finalists v Bristol in a match played at Cheltenham on 5 October. This result was 2-5 against Sidmouth but all praise to the team for having reached the Final. Our hopes for next year's B League are especially high, as there will be a number of promising players available for-selection.

Golf Croquet sessions have been well attended through the season, and the inclusion of a period of Golf Croquet within the framework of the weekly Club afternoon was, we hope, a good idea. Relations between the neighbouring Budleigh Club and ourselves continue to be cemented by one Home & one Away match during the season, and the Club Tournament held on 2 sunny days in early September was most successful. The Finals, both Singles & Doubles, held on the second afternoon, attracted a record number of spectators.

The SW Fed. Open Golf Croquet Tournament on 6 July had a good entry, the Singles winners being R. Clark with M. Smith as runner-up; the Doubles winners B. Smith & P. Dart with H. Ruberry & S. Adams the runners-up. Several members went to Nailsea in

September to represent Sidmouth in the Finals, and Richard Clark was the Singles winner. Many congratulations to you, Richard, particularly on such a success in your first season.

The social side of our lives has not been neglected. A Xmas Dinner arranged last year at short notice by Hugh Read was a new venture, proving so popular that Hugh has offered to organise a like event this coming Xmas. We appreciate your kind offer, Hugh, and accept with much pleasure.

The impending start of each season is marked by a Lunch held in mid-March. This year the venue was the Belmont Hotel and some 70 members attended. A social high-light after the season had got under way was a barbecue organised by our Chairman with the help of a great number of volunteers. Held in June, it was a resounding success and produced the marvellous profit of over £400. Your Committee thanks you all for the willingness of your response to any request for help.

As well as these one-off events let me remind you that through the winter, we keep in touch through weekly table tennis sessions and a monthly Whist afternoon. Your Committee does recommend these meetings, particularly for those of you who are newer members. No certificate of playing ability is required. Incidentally and very importantly for the finances of the Club, during last winter the profits made from Table Tennis and Whist amounted to a total of £280.

As one of the Sections of a multi-sports Club we do try to interact amicably with the other Sections, and we were especially pleased when the Tennis Section invited members to join them in a visit to the Observatory early in the year. About a dozen members accepted the invitation and enjoyed the evening.

Your Committee tries at all times to keep in mind the welfare of Section members, and valiant attempts have been made this year to provide the extra amenities of water, electricity, and a toilet at the Croquet Pavilion but planning regulations as well as the financial aspect have got in the way, and I fear the long trek across the cricket field will have to continue. The much-needed amenity of a players' hut on Lawn 1 is however a reality thanks to the generosity of Philip & Iris Derryhouse who have donated it. On behalf of all those of us who have played tournaments in pouring rain or blazing sun, and with all thanks to John Hatherley's portable shelter which has so often 'saved the day' in the past, I would on behalf of you all wish to thank Philip & Iris for their thoughtful gift. Thanks should also go to Brian Smith in his role as Club Secretary for presenting the planning application to the EDDC so persuasively.

I did at the start of this review mention the crowded nature of the season's programme. It is recognised that there has to be a delicate balance held between competitive opportunity for the keen and sufficient availability of lawn space for friendly games. This was why it was decided not to introduce yet another organised event - the suggested Veterans' Tournament; and why the SW Open Short Croquet Tournament was not held this year. For this Tournament the response from other Clubs has yearly been minimal, and the groundsman's work of marking out different-sized lawns (and re-instating them afterwards) hardly seemed justified for what had become virtually an internal tournament. The substitution for next year of an Internal 14-point tournament in May is for consideration by the incoming Committee. Another proposed omission was to have been the Ladder competition, but popular demand and the initiative of one member has produced a nice little success story during the past two months after the main Tournaments ended. Open to those of 16 handicap and above, the Ladder has engendered a lot of friendly rivalry, and I understand that the rungs have at times been red-hot with action. Our thanks to Barbara Toye for organising it.

So many of you have helped in so many different ways that individual acknowledgements would take a very long time. Will all of you please accept the Committee's thanks for supporting us through the past year.



CLUB TOURNAMENTS 1996

Humphrey Hicks Cup	Advanced Play (Singles)	Tony Dustan-Smith (runner-up John Hatherley)
Belmont Challenge Cup	Handicap Singles	Tony Dustan-Smith (Runner-up Brian Smith)
Fermor Rose Bowl	Ladies Handicap Singles	Vera Henderson (runner-up Esme Owen)
Devonia Cup	High Handicap Singles	David Baldock (runner-up Sheila Blenkinsop)
Colclough & Sidmouth Cups	Handicap Doubles	Tony Dustan-Smith & Jonathan Coombs (runners-up Rowland Henderson & Sheila Blenkinsop)
Corbett Spoons	One Ball 18 & over 16 & under	Barbara Toye (runner-up John Webber) Leslie Toye (runner-up John Hatherley)
Robert Case Shield	Shot Game highest score	Brian Smith (runner-up Charles Sisum)
Tankard	Shot highest score + handicap	Charles Sisum (runner-up Mary Smith, Sheila Blenkinsop, Margaret Stant)
Canton Trophy	Egyptian tournament	Tony Dustan-Smith (runner-up Sheila Adams)
Cunningham Salvors	Golf Croquet Singles Golf Croquet Doubles	David Clarke (runner-up Sheila Blenkinsop) Sue Rogers & Sheila Blenkinsop (runners-up Gwen Sims & Peter Dart)
Sidmouth Croquet Club	Cup Most improved Player (higher bisquer)	Sheila Blenkinsop
Longworth Cup	Most improved Player (lower bisquer)	Brian Smith

## CROQUET SECTION REPORT 1996

Our membership still stands at a healthy 100 plus, a number of new players having been welcomed into the Section. We have a wide range of handicap and ability which enables members to play both competitively and just for fun, and informal coaching is available throughout the season to those who are keen to improve their game. Our League results were particularly good this year in all the handicap levels, the Intermediate Section reaching the Final, although a strong team from Bristol denied them the victory.

A number of our players have had individual successes in Open tournaments away from Sidmouth, and here at home there have been plenty of entrants for the Club events. Our present Chairman, Tony Dustan-Smith, won 4 of the Club trophies in the season, 3 of them during the 3 days of Finals in September. He has, by winning the Level Advanced tournament, become Club Champion in place of John Hatherley, who had held the title for the past 5 years.

Visiting players from all over the U.K. come to Sidmouth for our own Open tournaments in June and September. This year for the June event we had a husband and wife from Jersey; a worthwhile trip from their point of view, as they took away 2 of the 3 silver trophies. I hope they will be back next year to defend their titles. Profits were made (exclusive of catering & bar) in excess of £300.

Modest profits are made for the Club through the winter by holding monthly Whist Drives (Croquet members only) and running weekly Table Tennis sessions (open to any member of the Club); but our main fundraiser was a June barbecue, run entirely by Croquet volunteers, which raised over £400 profit for the Club's coffers.

Thanks to the generosity of Philip & Iris Dwerryhouse we now have at the north-east corner of Lawn 1 a much needed and much appreciated Players' hut - christened by our members "The Dwerry house". At least now the unfortunate out-player will be able to watch an all-round break in physical if not mental comfort.

It is very pleasing that so many of our members are present each year at the Section AGM. This year's attendance figures were as high as always, and the Section Committee would like to pay tribute to all members for the interest they show in the administration of the Section and the willingness they have to help with the running of both Club and Section activities. Thank you all.

Gwynneth Dart.

Hon. Sec. Croquet Section.