

**MINUTES OF THE CROQUET SECTION COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON MONDAY 7<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2022 AT THE CLUBHOUSE**

**Present:** Sue Dent, Ed Dolphin, Duncan Hasell, Peter Nelson, Steve Pearson. Julie Sorrell, Richard Thurlow.

**Apologies:** Marian Gadian.

**1. New Committee**

**Action**

- a. Richard Thurlow was co-opted to the committee in the role of Internal Tournament Organiser and will lead publicity.
- b. Existing members confirmed they would carry on with their former roles,
  - Duncan Hasell Finance Assistant
  - Peter Nelson Open Tournament Secretary
  - Steve Pearson Golf Croquet Lead
  - Julie Sorrell Social Secretary
  - Marian Gadian was suggested as coordinator for new member activities.
- c. Chris Donovan will be contacted to update the contact details on the website.

**SD**

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

**3. Matters arising**

- a. We have received £1,658 from the CA for tournament fees. There has been a missed payment at some point but this cannot be rectified and so is written off.
- b. Chris Donovan will be approached to write an obituary for David Temple to forwarded to the CA Gazette.
- c. Chris Donovan has offered to update the club handbook.
- d. Discussion of the Honours Board was deferred to the next meeting.

**SD**

**5. AGM review**

- a. The AGM was considered a success, particularly the trophy presentation.
- b. The meal was appreciated.
- c. The bar bill came to £182 leaving £272 in the social fund.
- d. Ground staff collection has £40 so far. This will be reviewed at the next meeting. It **DH** was agreed that Andrew Thomas will be presented with some wine to show our appreciation of all his work.
- e. There were some reservations about the trophy engraving, but it was felt the quality was no worse nor better than previous years.
- f. Mike Dibble will be invited to present trophies next year.

**SD**

**6. Future events**

There are 34 reservations for the Christmas meal. The bar will be open from 12:00.

**7. Lawns**

- a. Lawns 3 & 4 are making good progress. They were inspected by Mark from Talbot last week and he recommended rolling and a light first cut with a rotary mower. The rolling was done, cutting will have to wait for a change in the weather. Mark will be returning in a few weeks. A reminder will be sent asking for the written schedule promised during the visit.

**ED**

- b. Winter rules are in place for the rest of the winter on whichever lawn is open at any time. **ED**
- c. Paul Griew will arrange a winter short croquet competition. The single available lawn will be set for short croquet one day a week. Paul will be consulted for the best day. **SD**

**8. SWF**

- a. A request has gone out for a new organiser for the Charity One Ball
- b. Sue Dent and Ed Dolphin are the club delegates at the AGM. **ED**
- c. Voting on proposals was agreed,
  - 1a, c, d and e (league rules) in favour, 1b (the 10 day deadline) needs discussion at the AGM and delegates will decide how to vote.
  - 2 (single lawn clubs) in favour
  - 3 (timed games) in favour
  - 4 (level play 5+ league) in favour
  - 5 (tiered GC level play league) in favour of option 2
  - 6 (AC Federation handicap range) in favour
- d. Members will be canvassed for entry in an AC B League. **ED**

**9. Programme 2023**

- a. The draft programme was discussed and amended. A final version will be presented at the next meeting. **SD**
- b. The informal GC matches against local clubs will continue without appearing on the programme.
- c. Club members will receive a £5 discount on entry to our open competitions organised through the CA booking system. **PN**
- d. The AC Midsummer Tournament will be set to require only 3 lawns for the HC competition.

**10. AOB**

- a. The Chairman's Garden was awarded a special honour in the Britain in Bloom awards. Congratulations will be sent to Rob Matthews. **ED**
- b. Stephen Custance Baker will be providing a GC Extra Turns workshop in March or April.
- c. There is strong interest in new members joining GC teams next year. Steve Pearson will be running coaching sessions. Details tba. **SP**
- d. It was agreed that Sidmouth Museum can borrow the Duchess of Devonshire bench in the spring for a display on Sidmouth shipwrecks. **ED**

**Date of Next Meeting: Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December, 10am at the Clubhouse**

**MINUTES OF THE CROQUET SECTION COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON MONDAY 5<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2022 AT THE CLUBHOUSE**

**Present:** Sue Dent, Ed Dolphin, Marian Gadian, Duncan Hasell, Peter Nelson, Julie Sorrell, Richard Thurlow.

**Apologies:** Steve Pearson

**Action**

**1 Minutes** The minutes of 7th November 2022 were approved after the deletion of one action point for PN in item 9.

**2 Matters Arising**

- I. Chris Donovan has forwarded an obituary for David Temple to the CA. David's daughter is very appreciative of the thought.
- II. The lawns are making good progress apart from the two areas dug by the fox. Talbot are to be asked again for a written guidance plan. **ED**
- III. Paul Griew is running the winter short croquet with the lawns set on Fridays.
- IV. Robert Matthews has received the committee's thanks to the garden group. He says that storing the tools by hut 4 is a good idea. The club's gardening tools are in a poor state and the volunteers use their own. The group may ask the club to buy a small number of spades and forks.
- V. The committee contacts have been updated for the website.
- VI. The GC Handicap Committee is still to decide on a chair. There may be some support available for people new to the role. **ED**
- VII. Richard is to write an article for the CA Gazette. **RT**
- VIII. Chris Donovan needs a copy of approved minutes from committee meetings for posting on the club website. **ED**

**3 Christmas Meal**

- I. Some members have queried the price but 43 people have signed up.
- II. The bar will open at 12.00 with the meal at 1.00. It was agreed that the social fund will pay for diners to have one free drink from the bar with a cloakroom ticket system. **JS**
- III. Table decorations will be checked, if they are not included we will buy crackers from the social fund. **JS**
- IV. There was discussion about the table layout and consideration is to be given to grouping tables to allow more individual table space. **JS**
- V. The event will be subject to review in January.

**4 Internal Competitions**

- I. Entry to block competitions will proceed as usual but it was agreed that entry to one and two day competitions will remain open until a suitable closing date just prior to competition. **RT**
- II. Next year the internal tournaments need to be reviewed in November to ease the compilation of the 2024 programme.

## 5 2023 Programme

- I. Afternoon tea in March, there will be a fun quiz. **ED**
- II. Caterers will be approached about this and the Spring Lunch. **JS**
- III. Charity One Ball will be in aid of the UK Branch of the UNHCR, colour blue. It was not decided who will manage the event.
- IV. The GC Ascot Cup Qualifier 22<sup>nd</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup> April is almost certainly going to be moved to Budleigh.
- V. Walking Treasure Hunt, Jean Laidler to be contacted. **JS**
- VI. The AC for GC players will be reduced to two half days, one a.m. and one p.m. It was not decided who will manage the event.

## 6 Trophies

- I. Richard has the spare trophies. Philip will be contacted to see if he has another trophy which might be suitable for the new CA Open Tournament. **SD SD**
- II. Louise may purchase a trophy for the C Level GC Tournament to a value of £80, this will be paid for from the Chair's Allowance. **All such purchases need to be accompanied by an invoice in the club's name to secure payment.**

## 7 SWF AGM Items

- I. We will be entering a new GC Level Play 5+ League but withdrawing from the GC Handicap League.
- II. SWF GC will hold a consultation after Christmas on the Advantage system in GC. We have not yet decided on GC internal competitions for 2023.
- III. If league matches are postponed or cancelled then please notify Stephen Custance Baker as soon as possible.
- IV. SCB needs results sheets to be typed not hand written.

## 8 Honours Boards

Chris Donovan joined the meeting to discuss the new honours boards. It was decided that the main board would be A2 with an A3 board for Open Competition winners. The location for the boards is yet to be decided. The A2 will be from club funds, the A3 will be paid from the Petty Cash. **CD**

## 9 Finance

- I. We have paid the CA fee of £1,674 and the SWF fee of £124.
- II. The Christmas collection for the grounds staff will be split 50/50. **SD**

## 10 GMC

- I. It is recommended that membership needs to increase by £10 to £193 (£194 if paying by cheque). The Croquet section will comply if the other two sections agree.
- II. Toby will take over when Colin retires.
- III. Our entries in the pavilion diary need to include the word croquet.
- IV. The Bridge club is the only winter activity running.

## 11 Chair's Matters

- I. We have been asked to advertise the Rotary Christmas Appeal collection in the Pavilion.
- II. Members need to be aware that the water has been turned off in Hut 3 to avoid frost damage. A notice to be placed in Hut 3.

**JS**

**12 Individual's Matters**

The Museum has apologised for the misunderstanding over the bench which meant they cut the security chain. They will replace it if necessary. They are to be told to oil the bench rather than varnish it.

**ED**

- 13** The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January at 10.00 in the Pavilion.

## MINUTES OF THE CROQUET SECTION COMMITTEE MEETING

### HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2023 VIA ZOOM

**Present:** Sue Dent, Ed Dolphin, Marian Gadian, Peter Nelson, Steve Pearson, Julie Sorrell, Richard Thurlow.

**Apologies:** Duncan Hasell

- 1 Minutes** The minutes of 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023 were approved. **Action**
- 2 Matters arising**
- I. A very well written obituary for David Temple was published in the CA Gazette, thanks to Chris Donovan.
  - II. Lawns: most of the grass is growing well but the fox dug area isn't responding which is not surprising in January. Talbot have promised an update soon. **ED**
  - III. Christine Bowler is to chair the GC handicap committee. Steve Pearson has been in touch with Stephen Custance-Baker for advice.
  - IV. Richard's article for the CA Gazette is well on the way.
  - V. The Christmas meal seems to have been enjoyed.
  - VI. Proposed internal tournaments will be circulated before the next meeting to the committee. **RT**
  - VII. Once details of a catering contract have been progressed, requests will be made for the spring lunch and afternoon tea. **JS**
  - VIII. The Walking Treasure Hunt will be 28<sup>th</sup> June. Having three social events close to each other is a good way of reinforcing contacts across the club.
  - IX. There are no spare trophies and Louise Smith has been asked to source what is needed. **LS**
  - X. The Honours Board is not ready yet. **SD**
  - XI. Chris Donovan will be reminded to update the website contacts.
  - XII. The Christmas collection of £100 was split evenly between Colin and Toby.
- 3 Sprinklers**
- I. Work on the sprinklers was approved with an estimated cost of £500. Paul Griew will be consulted about which financial year best suits the club's finances. **ED**
  - II. It was decided that, in case of emergencies, we need more than one person to know how to operate the sprinklers. Colin is to be asked to make sure that Andrew and Toby can operate the sprinklers in case he is unavailable. **ED**
- 4 CA Tournaments**
- It was decided that we will bid for one of three AC Tournaments for 2025, the President's Cup, Chairman's Salver or Selector's Weekend, with a preference for the Selector's Weekend as a three-day tournament. **ED**

## 5 Safeguarding

It was decided that we will adopt the CA Safeguarding policy with the following preliminary condition.

Members who are under 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult while at the club, unless they have permission from a parent or guardian AND one of the club's committee. Children who are not members attending the club must be accompanied by a parent/guardian, or by their group leader in the case of groups.

Further paperwork will be circulated before the next meeting.

ED

## 6 Updates

- I. We will host one of the SWF Team Finals on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September. Ed will be managing. Two lawns will be booked. ED
- II. We have declined the opportunity to host the AC Inter-Club Final.
- III. Programme change. Budleigh has moved one of its CA tournaments and this will impact on possible entries to one of our CA tournaments. It was decided that our AC B-level Advanced weekend scheduled for 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> August will be moved to 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> July. The Internal GC tournament for Handicap Doubles will revert to 17<sup>th</sup> August and the Level Doubles to 18<sup>th</sup> August. The Programme will be amended and reissued with other documents in February. SD
- IV. There were no major issues raised at the SWF monthly Zoom on 10<sup>th</sup> January.

## 7 AOB

- I. Steve Pearson has arranged for Stephen Custance-Baker to run a half day course on GC Advantage in the first week of April. This will need one lawn. Members will be charged £10 to attend. SP
- II. The Winter Short Croquet Tournament is under way, lawns permitting. The arrangements for Friday lawns was clarified, members wishing to play short croquet need to book a half lawn but will be expected to move the hoops to the short setting and return them to the full lawn setting when they finish.

- 8 The date of the next meeting will be **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2023** at 10.00 in the Pavilion. The heating will be turned up well before the meeting starts. ED/SD

## MINUTES OF THE CROQUET SECTION COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2023

**Present:** Sue Dent, Ed Dolphin, Marian Gadian, Duncan Hasell, Steve Pearson, Julie Sorrell, Richard Thurlow.

**Apologies:** Peter Nelson

- 1 Minutes** The minutes of 11<sup>th</sup> January 2023 were approved. **Action**
- 2 Matters arising**
- XIII. Mark from Talbot is coming to inspect the new lawns on Tuesday 7th.
- XIV. The work raising the sprinkler heads has been carried out. Paul Griew is to be asked to clarify the funding stream. **ED**
- XV. Articles for the CA Gazette are in hand. **RT**
- XVI. Internal competition paperwork is ready to be distributed to members. **RT**
- XVII. The safeguarding policy is still being prepared, a draft will be presented before the next meeting. **ED**
- 3 Feedback**
- III. The food quality at the **Christmas Lunch** was appreciated but several members had remarked that the Pavilion was cold and very noisy. The Croquet section is committed to supporting the Pavilion caterers at a number of events, but it was decided to explore the possibility of returning to a local hotel for the Christmas meal. **JS**
- IV. The recent SWF Zoom on **GC Advantage** had not brought about any consensus on the best way forward. We have decided to enter a team in the new GC 5+ Level Play League rather than the High Handicap League. Also we will organise a GC Advantage internal competition and forward data on the outcomes to Stephen Custance-Baker who is conducting research for the SWF. **SP**
- V. The **GMC** needs people to come forward to contribute to the running of the club. In particular, they need candidates for the three officer posts, Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.
- a. Membership will increase by £10 this year with a surcharge of £1 for payment by cheque. Payment will be due on 1<sup>st</sup> April. Membership paperwork will be circulated soon.
- b. The latest meeting considered plans for a major redesign of the Pavilion.
- c. Discussions are ongoing on the future catering contract.
- d. Cricket Bicentenary celebrations will focus on a series of events during 7-15<sup>th</sup> July.
- 4 Taster session & coaching**
- I It was decided that the taster session will be advertised as starting at 10.00 rather than be open for drop in. Session leader will be decided in March.
- II Andrew will be contacted to locate the banner. Richard will produce a poster ready for distribution around town and via social media. **RT**



III The coaching sessions will be at fixed regular times, one course will be 10.00 the four Saturdays beginning 15<sup>th</sup> April led by Ed. An alternative course of four sessions on a weekday will be organised by Richard. **ED, RT**

IV Know the Game books will be handed out after session 2.

#### **5 Social events in March and April**

- I. March 16th Quiz to be prepared by Ed. Catering arrangements to be discussed with Nikoletta and notified to the committee. Email of the event for the members to be drawn up. **ED JS ED**
- II. April 1st Spring Lunch, catering arrangements to be discussed with Nikoletta. **JS**

#### **6 Honours Boards**

Chris Donovan brought in copies of the new honours board displays and the layout of the wall display was agreed.

Chris was thanked for all his work.

#### **7 Committee Members' Matters**

- III. Duncan clarified the club and section finance arrangements. Paul Griew will be approached to identify the funding stream for the sprinkler work. **ED**
- IV. Steve Pearson reported that he has a good number of people wanting to join SWF League teams. The possibility of a more competitive format for the Friday afternoon GC Roll Up, and a half day refresher course will be explored. **SP**
- V. A request has come from Tony Anthony for the club to run some sort of event for last year's new member cohort, but it was decided this would not be supported because it might appear to be forming a club or clique within the club. **SD**
- VI. Members will be reminded that they should be looking to buy their own mallet after their first year.
- VII. Ed is booked onto an AC Referee Course. There is a subsidy from the CA, the section will pay the rest of the fee. Ed will apply to SWF for support with the travel cost.

**8** The date of the next meeting will be **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023** at 10.00 in the Pavilion.

## MINUTES OF THE CROQUET SECTION COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2023

**Present:** Sue Dent, Ed Dolphin, Peter Nelson, Steve Pearson, Julie Sorrell, Richard Thurlow. Duncan Hasell joined the meeting part way through.

**Apologies:** Marian Gadian

- 1 Minutes** The minutes of 6<sup>th</sup> February 2023 were approved. **Action**
- 2 Matters arising**
- I. An article for the CA Gazette will be considered for next year. Publicity stories will be submitted to the Sidmouth Herald occasionally through the year. **RT**
  - II. CA Tournament entries are going very well with several full already. The new C level GC event has only attracted one local entry. Louise will be authorised to buy a glass plate trophy rather than a more expensive cup. **SD**
  - III. We will host the CA President's Cup in 2025 between 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> September.
  - IV. Discussion of the safeguarding policy was postponed until we have a response from Marian. **JS**
  - V. Enquiries about a Christmas lunch at a local hotel are pending.
- 3 Finance**
- I. Ed Dolphin is now a co-signatory for the new Post Office in-payment card.
  - II. There was a reminder on the purchase policy, expenditure needs to be notified to the Treasurer and agreed by the committee prior to purchase and purchases of materials that will become club property need to be accompanied by an invoice bearing the club's name.
- 4 Membership and Tournament Documents**
- I The format was approved, the contacts will be left as they are. **SD**
  - II The documents will be sent to Jon Ball and circulated to members this week.
  - III Where possible documents for circulation will be in Arial font
- 5 Events in March and April**
- I. Quiz afternoon, March 16<sup>th</sup> tea and cake will be provided. The quiz will be the usual format with multiple choice answers. Start time 3.00, committee to arrive 2.15 to set up. Publicity to be sent to Julie and Sue before circulation. **JS**  
**ED**
  - II. Spring Lunch, April 1<sup>st</sup>, awaiting a meeting with the caterers to finalise the details. Ed will sort the publicity when details are known. Charlie to be asked to open the bar from 12.30. **JS**  
**ED**  
**SP**
  - III. GC Extra Strokes Training, 3<sup>rd</sup> April is fully booked for two sessions of 10 players. Steve and Philip to assist. Name badges are being sorted out. **SD**
  - IV. Taster session 8<sup>th</sup> April 10.00, based on lawn 1 **RT/ED**

- a. Experienced players will be invited to help, Mike Taylor to be asked to advise on mallets-size and grip. JS
- b. Poster to distributed and used for social media. ED
- c. Refreshments will be in the Pavilion hopefully, hut 3 if that is not feasible. Charlie will be contacted to see if he provides coffee to parents attending the junior tennis session. ED/RT  
DH
- d. Details and applications for introductory coaching will be available. Payment of £20 in advance or on the day. SD  
RT/JS
- e. Introductory coaching will be 4 sessions, Saturday mornings run by Ed, Thursday afternoons run by Richard. One lawn to be booked and set as half lawns.
- f. Know the Game books will be included, an extra ten copies will be ordered.
- g. Taster session to be lead by Sue.

V. Charity One Ball, 19<sup>th</sup> April, details to be finalised and passed to Jon for distribution.

## 6 New Season's Information

Draft document details discussed and amendments agreed. A further draft to be circulated to the committee prior to issue to members at the end of March. SD

## 7 Committee Members' Matters

- I. The booking system will be reset to 10.00 start by Philip as of 1<sup>st</sup> April.
- II. Requested tea and coffee donations will remain at 50p. Any incidental income will be credited to the social fund. SD
- III. The large box in the Mallet Room is needed. If the Bridge Club buy their own storage box it can be accommodated in the Mallet Room. Ian Palmer to be notified.

The date of the next meeting will be **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2023** at 10.00 in the Pavilion.

**MINUTES OF THE CROQUET SECTION COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON TUESDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2023**

**Present:** Sue Dent, Ed Dolphin, Duncan Hasell, Peter Nelson, Steve Pearson, Julie Sorrell, Richard Thurlow. Marian Gadian joined the meeting part way through.

- 1 Minutes** The minutes of 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023 were approved. **Action**
- 2 Matters arising**
- I. It was decided that Christmas Lunch will be at the Belmont as a trial.
  - II. Know The Game books are in hand ready to be given out at the second session of the new member coaching. There are 11 confirmed takers for the coaching plus a possible 2 more known to Jon Ball who will work with them. **JS**
  - III. The new season information has been distributed to members.
  - IV. Confirmed membership renewals 92 + 4 promised.
- 3 Finance**
- I. The change of signatories is yet to be complete, but any committee member can pay in money and cheques at the Post Office if necessary.
  - II. Some membership renewals have had minor difficulties with payments, this will be sorted. **DH**
- 4 Internal Tournaments**
- I Block competitions have mixed entry responses, most competitions have sufficient or good entry levels, the Devonia, Fermor and Woodward AC competitions will not run this year because of insufficient entries.
  - II One, two and three day competitions all have sufficient entries to run.
- 5 CA Entry Tournaments**
- I AC Open tournaments have healthy entry levels, handicap ones are less popular but viable.
  - II GC tournaments all have healthy entry levels.
  - III It is hoped that we can provide a barrel of beer to Budleigh to thank them for hosting the Ascot Cup Qualifier. **PN**
- 6 Court Booking**
- I. Session times have been set to summer.
  - II. If members book practice sessions during the day they will reminded politely that this deprives others of the chance to play. **ED**
  - III. An email will sent asking members to add the names of all players on the court booking.
- 7 New Member's Information**
- I. Chris Donovan has updated the new members' handbook. All new members will be sent an electronic copy with an offer of a printed copy if they prefer that. **ED**
  - II. The redrafted etiquette information will be posted in Hut 3. **SD**
  - III. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be free of charge to beginners during paid coaching sessions.

## 8 Feedback

- I The Spring Tea and Quiz went well, the quiz was its traditional challenge.
- II The Spring Lunch was popular but there are still reservations about the harsh atmosphere of the room.
- III The GC Extra Strokes training went well but some participants would have preferred more time on the courts. It made a profit of £29 for the section.
- IV Thanks were recorded for all the helpers at the taster session. The event went well with 24 people attending and several signing up for the follow up coaching. The extra space available in the Pavilion rather than Hut 3 was useful as it was cold, but it was more work organising it. The fixed time worked better than last year's rolling arrivals. A small number of people turned up late but they were accommodated.

## 9 GMC

- I. We have a new cleaning contract and early impressions are very positive.
- II. There is a new supplier for the cricket teas. The main catering contract has been agreed for a one year period and will be up for negotiation next April.
- III. Charlie and Jazz are moving away from the area at the end of the season. It is possible that the club may employ a bar manager.
- IV. There will be a whole club open meeting to consult on future developments chaired by Mike Dibble on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

## 10 Forthcoming Events and Committee Members

- I. Current members, especially newer ones, will be reminded that we have several coaches at the club who will help them improve their game if asked. **ED**
- II. GC roll ups could be very crowded with only two courts, it was suggested that there could be a system of rationing with half the membership allocated particular days. Pam Bowra will be consulted. **SP**
- III. The Medics will be playing on May 17<sup>th</sup>, it is unlikely that 4 lawns will be available. The Sidmouth team will give priority to regular players. **SD**
- IV. The short croquet tournament on 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> May will be managed by Richard Thurlow. **RT**
- V. The Introduction to AC for GC Players will be a half day on each of the weekend 20-21<sup>st</sup> May. A lead coach will be approached. Philip Harris has offered to assist. **SD**
- VI. 98 of last year's 120 members completed participation cards, 81%.
- VII. Marian will take on the role of Safeguarding Officer.
- VIII. Attendance at the GC team practice will be by invitation as only one court is available **SP**
- IX. It was agreed that for the 2023 season potential beginners arriving mid season would be offered coaching and integrated into the club.

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The date of the next meeting will be Tuesday **2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023** at 10.00 in the Pavilion.

**MINUTES OF THE CROQUET SECTION COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON TUESDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023**

**Present:** Sue Dent, Ed Dolphin, Marian Gadian, Julie Sorrell, Richard Thurlow.

**Apologies:** Duncan Hasell, Peter Nelson, Steve Pearson.

- |                                   |  |                 |
|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------|
| <b>1 Minutes</b>                  | The minutes of 11 <sup>th</sup> April 2023 were approved.  | <b>Action</b>   |
| <b>2 Matters arising</b>          |  |                 |
| I.                                | It was confirmed that the Belmont was the preferred location for the Christmas Lunch.  | <b>JS</b>       |
| II.                               | The barrel of beer was delivered to Budleigh. Transfer of the CA court fees to Budleigh needs to be arranged.  | <b>DH/PN</b>    |
| III.                              | Members have been contacted over booking arrangements and practice sessions.   | <b>JB/SD</b>    |
| IV.                               | The new members' handbook has been updated, an electronic copy will be sent out to new members.  |                 |
| V.                                | The etiquette sheet is posted in hut 3.  |                 |
| VI.                               | GC club sessions have started successfully without the need for restricted access.   |                 |
| VII.                              | Peter Nelson will manage the sessions to encourage GC players to try AC. An email will go to all members.  | <b>PN/SD</b>    |
| VIII.                             | GC team practice is running smoothly.  |                 |
| IX.                               | The safeguarding training has begun, a notice is to be circulated to members.  | <b>MG/SD</b>    |
| X.                                | Some participation cards have been given out, a stock will be placed in hut 3 and members asked to collect them. A circular, including a message about the importance of the cards will be sent out. A collection box will be placed in hut 3. | <b>MG/SD</b>    |
| XI.                               | The Charity One Ball raised £190.  | <b>ED</b>       |
| <b>3 Members existing and new</b> |  |                 |
| I.                                | Membership stands in the mid nineties with several new members expected to join after the coaching.  |                 |
| II.                               | The introductory coaching is running well and receiving positive feedback. Extra sessions have been booked to allow catch up for missed sessions.  |                 |
| III.                              | New members will be presented with a coaching success certificate and welcomed with a letter. They will also receive an electronic copy of the new members' handbook and 2023 programme.   | <b>RT/ED/SD</b> |
| IV.                               | A list of 'buddy' members will be drawn up from the list of experienced members who will be happy for new members to contact and arrange a game.   | <b>MG</b>       |
| V.                                | Members will be reminded to collect their handicap cards from hut 3 (see 2.X above).   | <b>SD</b>       |
| VI.                               | The Welcome Evening for new members. Duncan to be asked if he has funds for a free drink for new members only (approx. £50) and nibbles. Charlie to be asked to open the bar from 6pm (or 5.50) until 8pm.                                     | <b>SD</b>       |
|                                   |  | <b>JS</b>       |

#### **4 Internal Tournaments**

- I. Block competition sheets will be transferred to the mallet room. **RT**
- II. Entrants' updated handicaps will be amended if necessary **RT**
- III. Short croquet has 10 entries, the 14 point only 7.

#### **5 Skills afternoon**

It was decided that the skills afternoon is running successfully and does not need any changes.

#### **6 GC succession**

It was recognised that the committee needs at least two new members next year to share the oversight of GC matters. Recruitment attempts will be ongoing through the summer. **All**

#### **7 Contacts**

Julie's preferred email contact will be amended on the website and other documents. **ED**

The date of the next meeting will be Monday **5<sup>th</sup> June 2023** at 10.00 in the Pavilion.

**MINUTES OF THE CROQUET SECTION COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON MONDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2023**

**Present:** Sue Dent, Ed Dolphin, Marian Gadian, Duncan Hasell, Peter Nelson, Steve Pearson, Julie Sorrell, Richard Thurlow.

**Apologies: none**

**1 Minutes** The minutes of 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023 were approved. **Action**

**2 Matters arising**

- |        |   |              |
|--------|---|--------------|
| XVIII. | A provisional booking for 40-50 people for a Christmas Lunch has been made at the Belmont. It was agreed that Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December would be confirmed. The cost will be £28 for two courses and £33 for three courses. | <b>JS</b>    |
| XIX.   | The transfer of CA lawn fees to Budleigh has been done.   |              |
| XX.    | The list of members happy to be contacted for a game will be sent out to the new members.   | <b>ED</b>    |
| XXI.   | Responsibility for coordinating GC competitions will be divided between two people with SWF and Internal tournaments being looked after by different people. Volunteers will be sought.   | <b>SD/SP</b> |

**3 Feedback**

- |       |   |           |
|-------|---|-----------|
| VI.   | The visit of the Medics was a success with a 10v10 match managed very well by Pam Bowra. £40 guest fees were paid. They have been asked to arrange a Thursday next year to avoid clashing with the club sessions. |           |
| VII.  | The AC Short Croquet Dorothy Toye Cup was won by Ian Friedlander.   |           |
| VIII. | The trial AC sessions for GC players was a success with 6 people attending the Saturday session and 5 on the Sunday. Several are keen to play AC more.  |           |
| IX.   | The social event for new members was a great success thanks to the team effort of committee members and other volunteers. The drinks bill was £38 to be paid from the social fund.                                |           |
| X.    | The AC 14 point Canton Trophy was won by Kelvin Dent.   |           |
| XI.   | Paul Bradley stood in at the Open GC event for a player who had to withdraw. Although not a CA premium member he will be asked to pay the discounted fee.   | <b>DH</b> |

**4 Upcoming Tournaments and Events**

- |      |  |           |
|------|--|-----------|
| V    | AC Summer Tournament will only require lawns 3 & 4 for the HC days. If any visitors require lunch, Peter will make arrangements.                   | <b>PN</b> |
| VI   | A notice will be circulated for the AC One Ball Corbett Spoons.  | <b>RT</b> |
| VII  | A notice will be circulated for the Wine and Shared Buffet, including a call for the loan of gazebos. Volunteers will be needed at 2.00 to set up. | <b>RT</b> |
| VIII | Notices for the GC Cunningham Salver and GC Level Hatherley Cup will be sent out ten days prior to the events.                                     | <b>RT</b> |
| IX   | Julie will coordinate the Walking Treasure Hunt, the fee will be £2.   | <b>JS</b> |



- X The Open AC Advanced HC will be played on 2 lawns.
- XI Members will be canvassed on changes to the Skills Afternoon. **RT**

## 5 Finance

- I Currently we have 105 members which is 17 members short of the income in the projected budget.
- II Tournament income is healthy.
- III A reminder about the correct procedures for match fees and guest fees will be circulated. **DH**  
**SD**

## 6 GMC Feedback

- I Paul Griew will take over as Chair if a replacement Treasurer can be recruited.
- II The catering and bar contracts will be lapsing. The club will create and advertise a full time post of Club Manager. Members will be notified. **SD**
- III Mike Dibble has taken over as Social Member Secretary.

## 7 Other Business

- I Marian will report on Safeguarding at the next meeting. **MG**
- II The key log is complete. Ed has the spare key to money box in Hut 3.
- III The monitoring of the new lawns continues. Members will be reminded of the booking protocols. **SD**
- IV It was agreed that the Museum could keep the Devonshire Bench in exchange for a new bench. **ED**
- V Clubs sessions will be on the agenda for the next meeting.
- VI Chris Donovan has compiled a comprehensive history of club tournaments and trophies. A letter of thanks will be sent. **SD**
- VII When the lawns are closed on a Friday afternoon for lawn preparation, there will be an morning club session open to both GC and AC. **SD**

The date of the next meeting will be Monday **3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023** at 10.00 in the Pavilion.

**MINUTES OF THE CROQUET SECTION COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON MONDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> JULY 2023**

**Present:** Sue Dent, Ed Dolphin, Duncan Hasell, Peter Nelson, Julie Sorrell, Richard Thurlow.

**Apologies:** Marian Gadian, Steve Pearson

**1 Minutes** The minutes of 5<sup>th</sup> June 2023 were approved. **Action**

**2 Matters arising**

- XXII. The system of buddies available to new members did not get off the ground.
- XXIII. There has been some interest among GC players to take over Steve Pearson's workload.
- XXIV. The reminder on incoming cash payments was sent out.
- XXV. Marian has received nothing from the CA re safeguarding. To be followed up. **MG**
- XXVI. A letter has been sent offering the Duchess of Devonshire bench to the museum in exchange for a new bench.
- XXVII. A notice has been sent out to tell members of changes to the roll ups when lawns are closed for tournament preparation.
- XXVIII. Chris Donovan has been thanked for his recent efforts with the website and trophy history. **SD**
- XXIX. It was decided that the GMC will be encouraged to hold further full club open meetings. A Croquet Section open meeting will go ahead in September.

**3 Upcoming Tournaments and Events**

- XII All tournaments have viable entry levels.
- XIII The AC HC Doubles scheduled for 21-23 July may be reduced to 2 days. **RT**
- XIV The format of the Open AC Midsummer Tournament for 2024 will be reviewed. **PN**
- XV The Skills afternoon has been changed, the event has been moved to the morning and there will be no AC element.

**4 Finance**

- IV It was decided that match fees will not be collected from next season.
- V It was decided that the club will cease to pay travelling expenses for away matches but passengers will still be asked to contribute to the driver's costs.
- VI It was decided that teams will be able to claim up to £10 from the catering fund for home matches. Payment will only be made if a receipt is presented.
- VII It was decided that we will aim to become a cashless club, with the exception of the catering fund, from 2024. **DH**

**DH**

VIII It was decided that the Croquet web domain ownership will be transferred to the Main Club as a step towards having a facility for online payments (EPOS).

IX It was decided that we will explore transferring the website and lawn booking to myclubhouse.co.uk.

**DH**

## **5 Other Business**

VIII There is an ongoing problem of weed ingress on the new lawns. Andrew and Colin are working on it and Ed is liaising with Talbot.

**ED**

IX The Internal Tournament results sheets will be returned to Hut 3.

**ED**

X It was decided that Toby will be invited to attend a CA one day training course on lawn maintenance. Paul Griew to be contacted for funding from the GMC.

**DH**

XI It was decided that at least one lawn should be kept available to members when GC team training is taking place.

The date of the next meeting will be Monday 4<sup>th</sup> **September 2023** at 10.00 in the Pavilion.

**MINUTES OF THE CROQUET SECTION COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON MONDAY 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

**Present:** Sue Dent, Ed Dolphin, Marian Gadian, Duncan Hasell, Peter Nelson, Steve Pearson, Julie Sorrell, Richard Thurlow. Peter Regan was welcomed as an observer.

**1 Apologies: none**

**2 Minutes** The minutes of 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023 were approved. **Action**

**3 Matters arising**

- |  |           |
|--|-----------|
| I. Marian Gadian has passed the online training for Safeguarding and is now registered with the CA as the club Safeguarding Officer. Appropriate information and guidance will be displayed around the club and on the club website. | <b>MG</b> |
| II. The process of transferring the website domain name to club ownership is ongoing. The possibility of using myclubhouse.co.uk for club admin is still being explored.   | <b>PN</b> |
| III. The grounds team have autumn and winter maintenance of the courts, including dealing with unwanted plants, in hand.   | <b>ED</b> |
| IV. It wasn't possible to enrol Toby on a training course this year but it will be planned for next year.  | <b>RT</b> |

**4 Feedback**

- |  |           |
|--|-----------|
| I The new Skills Afternoon format received a mixed reception. The absence of the afternoon tea was a particular point. The format will be reviewed before next year's event. | <b>RT</b> |
| II We were not able to reschedule the rained off AC Doubles.   |           |
| III Other events ran successfully.   |           |
| IV The list of Open Tournaments will be reviewed at the next meeting.  | <b>PN</b> |

**5 Upcoming Tournaments and Events**

- |   |           |
|---|-----------|
| I It was decided that the need for a General Meeting will be considered in February.  |           |
| II Future matches and tournaments are all on schedule.                                |           |
| III Members will be reminded that the full season ends on 29 <sup>th</sup> September. | <b>ED</b> |

**6 WI Taster**

It was decided that we can accommodate a taster session for local WI groups with a maximum of 8 @ £5 per head. **SD**

**7 CA, SWF and GMC**

- |  |           |
|--|-----------|
| I There were no proposals put forward for the CA AGM. Changes to the wording of the Croquet Section constitution to accommodate the change from CA to CE to be presented at our AGM. | <b>ED</b> |
| II A proposal was suggested for the SWF concerning the handicap leagues being run on Base 10 rules. A full proposal will be presented at the next committee meeting.                 | <b>ED</b> |

- III The committee was reminded that the SWF are calling for a volunteer to become League Secretary.

## 8 Dress Code

It was agreed that whites will remain the preferred option for whole day club tournaments but it will be left to individual members to agree whether or not to wear whites for single session block matches in club competitions. A notice will be circulated.

ED

## 9 Croquet Section AGM

- I The AGM will be on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October at 6pm in the Pavilion.
- II The AGM will followed by a meal with catering by Jackie and Doug Yeabsley. Details to be finalised and circulated to members.
- III Trophies will be recalled for engraving.
- IV Pam Bowra will be invited to present the trophies.
- V Advanced notice will be circulated and nomination paperwork will be posted in Hut 3.
- VI Duncan Hasell and Steve Pearson will not be seeking re-election, all other committee members are willing to serve again.
- VII Marian Gadian is willing to take on some of the organisation of Hut 3 day to day catering.
- VIII Peter Regan is willing to take on much of Steve Pearson's role if elected. Martin Powell will be approached with a view to him taking on much of Duncan Hasell's role.

SD

RT

SD

ED

SD

## 10 Part Year Membership

It was agreed that the fee for membership starting after 1<sup>st</sup> September will be £25 because of the reduced availability of playing opportunities during the winter.

## 11 Match Travel Expenses

Discussion was postponed until early 2024.

## 12 Other Business

- I The GC High HC match with Budleigh was postponed because of poor weather. It will be rescheduled.
- II There has been a disappointing response for the call to GC players to volunteer to help running matches.
- III A collection of books donated by the family of David Mundy is in the mallet room.
- IV The late Peter Miller was remembered with fondness by several committee members.
- V With the increase in Covid infections, notices will be posted around the club reminding members about common safety precautions.

SP

MG

The date of the next meeting will be **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023** at 10.00 in the Pavilion.

**MINUTES OF THE CROQUET SECTION COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON MONDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023**

**Present:** Sue Dent, Ed Dolphin, Duncan Hasell, Peter Nelson, Steve Pearson.

**1 Apologies:** Marian Gadian, Julie Sorrell, Richard Thurlow

**2 Minutes** The minutes of 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023 were approved.

**Action**

**3 Matters arising**

XXX. Marian Gadian has posted Safeguarding materials in Hut 3 and it has been posted on the club website.

XXXI. The end of season reminder was sent out.

XXXII. The new wording to be approved at the AGM is ready to go out with the agenda.

XXXIII. Peter Nelson is standing down from the CA to be replaced on the new Croquet England Council by Stuart Smith.

XXXIV. We have 17 bookings for the Christmas meal so far. Members will be reminded. **SD**

**4 Feedback**

XVI The tournaments and competitions all went well.

XVII The club competition finals were played mainly outside of the Finals Weekend, but it was decided to keep it marked on the calendar as a reminder.

**5 CA AGM**

X The committee was reminded that the CA's final AGM is on 7<sup>th</sup> October. **ED**

**6 SWF AGM Proposal**

I. The proposal to have SWF AC HC Leagues to be played full bisque to a base of 10 was circulated earlier. No amendments were suggested and the proposal has been submitted.

**7 Open Tournaments 2024**

IV The 2023 open tournaments were successful largely. The only exception was the Midsummer AC HC event which was under subscribed. Interested parties will be consulted. **PN**

V The GC Team Challenge will be returned to its usual date in May 2024. **PN**

**8 SCTCC AGM**

I The Main Club AGM was unable to resolve the problem of people standing for Officer posts.

**9 Finance**

IX We have a significant cash surplus from match fees and the mallet raffle. It was decided that some of it can be used for temporary sheltering to be erected on the west side of Hut 3 and the new terrace by lawn 2. This might be a substantial gazebo or an Australian sail, or similar. **PN**

- X Peter Nelson will be the temporary custodian of the section cash. **PN**
- XI Ed Dolphin will be the temporary custodian of the section finance paperwork. **ED**

#### **10 Section AGM**

- VI The trophy recall and engraving are in hand. **RT**
- VII There is only one nomination received so far. A reminder will be sent out before the close of nominations. **ED**
- VIII Relevant paperwork will be circulated when nominations close. **ED**
- IX Committee members will be asked to give a brief statement on the activities. **ALL**
- X The bar will be open from 5.30 which is when furniture will be set up. The bar will be closed during the meeting. **PN**
- XI There will be a group photograph of the trophy winners at the close of the meeting.
- XII The presentation guest's meal will be paid from club the social fund.

#### **11 Other Business**

- I The Michael Cunliffe plaque is in hand.
- II There was a request that we reinstate entry to the SWF GC HC League. This will be considered at the appropriate time.
- III Congratulations to Andrew Thomas who has been award Life Membership in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the club.
- IV Christine Bowler has stepped down as lead of the GC Handicap Committee. Tony Anthony is to take on that role.

The date of the next meeting will be set by the new committee but **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November** at 10.00 in the Pavilion has been suggested.

## Sidmouth Cricket, Tennis and Croquet Club

### Croquet Section

#### Minutes of the AGM held in the Pavilion at 6pm, Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023

1. The Chairman welcomed 49 members to the meeting.
2. A minute's silence was held in remembrance of Ken Prosser, David Mundy and Peter Miller who have died during the year.
3. Apologies were received from; Jon and Penny Ball, Richard Wood, John and Hilary Cowling, Cilla and Michael Franks, Simon and Christine Bowler, Diane Price and John Garner.
4. Kelvin Dent proposed acceptance of the 2022 Minutes with Peter Nelson seconding. The minutes were accepted unanimously.
5. Committee Reports
  - a. Sue Dent delivered the Chair's Report, see Appendix 1.
  - b. Ed Dolphin reported that, following some minor setbacks, the newly laid grass on courts three and four was making good progress. Courts one and two had deteriorated during the summer but remedial work was underway. In recognition of a generous donation to the club by Michael Cunliffe which was earmarked to cover much of the cost of the relaying, a plaque will be attached to Hut 3. There was a request from the floor that, with the changes to the ground staff, there should be a re-evaluation of the section's share of ground staff resources such that the croquet courts can be rated as highly as the cricket square. This was noted and will be addressed by the new committee.
  - c. Steve Pearson reported that competitive rather than purely social GC was gaining a higher profile in the club. It was pleasing to see an increase in members putting themselves forward for club teams and internal competitions. The new friendly matches against Exeter and Budleigh were a great success thanks to Christine Bowler and Margaret Regan for organizing them.
  - d. Richard Thurlow reported that the internal competitions enjoyed strong support in most cases and he thanked Steve Pearson for his help with running them. It was particularly pleasing to see new and inexperienced members trying their hand and, in some cases actually winning trophies.
  - e. Peter Nelson reported that all of the open competitions attracted good entries with the exception of the handicap competition in the Mid-summer Tournament. This will be amended in 2024 to leave two courts open for club play. The AC competitions attracted a higher proportion of Sidmouth players than did the GC competitions. He called for more local GC players to try open competition in 2024 as a way of developing their play. He thanked all those involved but particularly the hoop setting team of Andrew Thomas, Philip Harris and Ed Dolphin.
  - f. Duncan Hasell reported that the Croquet Section contributed approximately £22,000 to the club. The need to find a replacement for his role on the committee was repeated.
  - g. Marian Gadian reported that we have not received all this year's participation cards which are needed to secure the tax advantages of being a Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC).
6. There was one motion proposed by Paul Griew, seconded by Ian Simpson and passed unanimously. "That the Croquet Section Rules be adapted to accommodate changes to the national organisation with reference to the Croquet Association and CA replaced with Croquet England and CE respectively."



7. There was a vote of thanks for several members, see Appendix 2.
8. Peter Regan was the only new nominee for the committee. The new committee, Sue Dent (Chair), Ed Dolphin (Secretary), Marian Gadian, Peter Nelson, Peter Regan, Julie Sorrell, Richard Thurlow, was voted in en-bloc, proposer Ian Simpson, seconder Philip Harris.
9. Pam Bowra was invited to present trophies to the winners of club competitions. See Appendix 3.
10. There was no other business and the meeting closed at 7.05pm.

DRAFT

## Appendix 1

### Sidmouth Croquet Section

#### Chair's Report for the Croquet Section AGM – October 2023

We now have 108 members this season – a slight drop on the previous year when we reported 121.

We started the year with a taster session which was very successful but generated only 9 new members. But what we lacked in quantity, we gained in quality – they have become a very supportive group, participating in club sessions, entering competitions and getting to know the established players both on and off the lawns. If you have friends or neighbours who may be interested in joining us next year encourage them to come to the taster session in April.

We have a wide age range of players – two of our players in their 90's, John Dixon and Roy Hubbard, still enjoy playing competitively whilst a few of our members are still working.

We also cater for all ranges of experience and abilities.

We know that many just want to turn up to the club sessions.

You may have noticed that we often have visitors joining in our club sessions. You can do the same if you are away somewhere that has a croquet club. Make contact with the club and ask if you can join in.

This year Christine Bowler assisted by Margaret Regan introduced 'friendly' matches for our newer members to compete against Budleigh and Exeter which then gave them confidence to enter some of our internal competitions which Richard has already referred to.

In addition, we have teams playing in the South West Federation across 4 Association Leagues, 3 Golf Croquet Leagues and a Short Croquet League. Matches can be at Poole in the East, Nailsea in the North and St Austell in the West. As you can imagine we win some and lose some but 3 of those 8 teams came second in their league.

We also have the Open Tournaments which are arranged through, and publicised by, the Croquet Association attracting players from across the country who enjoy the ambience of Sidmouth and the friendly welcome.

Likewise, several of our better players play in Open Tournaments at a distance – Cheltenham, Surbiton, Southwick to name but a few but also locally at Budleigh where a wide range of tournaments are offered. Several Sidmouth players have won tournaments this year and returned with trophies.

Two of our Sidmouth players, Philip Harris and Louise Smith, represented Devon in the Golf Croquet Inter-counties Championships at Cheltenham in which Devon came 3<sup>rd</sup>.

So, as you see there is something for everyone.

Individual committee members will have said a few words so I don't feel we need to dwell on your achievements and activities – you were there and you participated in them.

But I do want to update you on the issues relating to the SCTCC (the Sidmouth Cricket, Tennis, and Croquet Club) of which we are a part. I refer to this as the Main Club. Whereas the croquet section is led by our committee, the Main Club is managed by the GMC (General Management Committee).

In the minutes of our AGM last year the point was made that the GMC requires a Chair and Secretary. Chrissie Hounslow (a tennis member) has stepped in as Secretary but one year on we still require a Chair and now also a Treasurer and the Club is in a very difficult position. Over the years croquet members have held significant roles on the GMC.

Paul Griew has been Treasurer for the last 7 years and also acting Chair for the last 12 months and he has done a marvelous job but is now standing down.

Peter Nelson has been heavily involved for many years and taken on Bar Chairman amongst other things. You will be aware of difficulties experienced by the Club in recruitment and retention of staff since covid and since Julie Claydon retired.

Peter has secured a contract with Laura Bermingham for the cleaning of the pavilion.

Charlie and Jazz finished on the bar at the end of the summer and Peter has arranged for Laura to manage the bar with her team as a temporary winter arrangement and on an irregular booked basis. We are pleased to have the bar open this evening.

Catering services have been more difficult. Nik and her team also finished at the end of the summer. She produced beautiful food but at a price. What the cricket section requires on summer weekends are the traditional cricket teas for their matches at a price that their leagues determine can be charged. There is also considerable demand for a variety of food during folk week and for the classic car rally. The social members want Sunday lunches and our section and the tennis section also have occasional meals. Currently no catering contract is held but Jackie and Doug who have a long association with the Club have been prepared to provide our meal this evening for which we are very grateful.

Also, on the GMC is myself as Croquet Representative but as you might imagine premises issues / grounds issues / contracts of employment/ are not my areas of expertise.

Very fortunately in the last 12 months Simon Bowler has been House Chairman. He oversees changes in the lighting, gas and electricity meters, adherence to fire regulations, health and safety issues and more.

However, we have no Chair and no Treasurer. There are job descriptions for these roles if you might be interested. Even if it is not for you, you might have a neighbour or friend recently moved to the area who likes sport and wants to be involved in a worthwhile Sidmouth activity; please tell them about this and ask them to get in touch.

The issue becomes 'how will the Club function without them' if no-one comes forward – and it's not good news.

It may be that we need to appoint a professional accountant to undertake the role currently performed by the Treasurer and we may need to employ a Manager to run the Club. The Club is a behemoth – premises, grounds, employment of staff, contracts to oversee and the general running of the Club.

If we need to do either of these the costs will be considerable and there will be a large increase in our membership subscription, not just the £10 increase we have managed to keep it to in the last 12 months. That is the reality.

Questions are invited pertaining to the SCTCC or the GMC.

Leaving those issues aside:

On the grounds side Colin Whitehall retires at the end of October. I think we are aware that his first love is the cricket pitch. The cricket chairman shared a chart with me recently which showed that for their leagues the referees score the grounds for the quality after each match and in their league the Sidmouth pitch was rated top. Colin's role is being taken on by Toby who has 3 years' experience and qualifications to back it up.

Helping Jackie in the kitchens this evening is her husband, Doug Yeabsley who sits on the GMC as Grounds Chairman overseeing the grounds management, and is assisted very much by Andrew Thomas. At the AGM of the Main Club a few weeks back, Andrew was awarded Life Membership of the Club in recognition of his outstanding contribution to all sections.

As a section we are making a collection for Colin on his retirement and this will be circulated during the meeting and available in hut 3 later if you would like to contribute.

## Appendix 2

### Sidmouth Croquet Section

#### Thanks to Members - AGM – October 2023

My thanks go firstly to those committee members who have put themselves forward to continue on the committee.

Ed Dolphin – as Secretary for the 3rd year

Peter Nelson as Open Tournament Secretary and has been on the committee in various roles for at least 16 years giving us a wealth of continuity. Peter has just finished a 4 year term on the CA Council where he was vice chair

Julie Sorrell – who has been our Social Secretary since 2016

Richard Thurlow – who rejoined the committee in the role of Internal Tournament Organiser this year.

Marian Gadian –herself a recent member and new to the committee with responsibility for making new members welcome and has taken on the safeguarding role for us.

But also thanks to those who have taken on significant roles alongside the committee:

Jon Ball – as membership secretary

Philip Harris – responsible for the booking sheets

Andrew Thomas - for the grounds/the netting/ the hut/work on the pavilion

Richard Wood – as SW Federation Secretary liaising with the other clubs in the southwest to create the timetable of all our SWFed matches both home and away.

All of these people do not just perform those roles – they are involved in the taster sessions/the new members coaching/the ongoing coaching/and hoop setting throughout the year.

Then we have 2 committee members standing down.

Duncan Hassell – as Finance Assistant. Many thanks for keeping the books in good order and devising a roles and responsibilities document which has been circulated in the hope of finding a replacement. We really do need someone to take on that role who is computer literate and recognises an Excel spread sheet.

Steve Pearson – on the committee since 2017 and has come to organize most of the GC side of our play. In addition to managing the one-day tournaments/the coaching/and leading 2 of the SWFed teams he plays to a high standard. We will miss his considerable input. Steve is the only GC dedicated member on the committee and we would like more. It could be for just for a year but normally a role is for 3 years before handing it across to someone new. This hasn't happened for a while now but it would be good if we could get back to that arrangement. We all benefit if there are new people to learn the various jobs and take the club forwards.

We have just one person who put their name forward to replace Steve and that is Peter Regan. Without him volunteering there would be no one day GC Internal Tournaments and only one SWFed league team. I am sure you will support him in taking up this role.

Appendix 3  
Sidmouth Croquet Section  
Tournament Winners 2023

<i>Trophy</i>	<i>Tournament</i>	<i>Winner 2023</i>	<i>Runner-up 2023</i>
Full Season	AC		
Humphrey Hicks Cup	Level Advanced Play Open	Philip Harris	Jon Ball
Belmont Cup	Handicap Singles	Kelvin Dent	Ed Dolphin
Sheila Adams Cup	Advanced Handicap Singles	Kelvin Dent	Andrew Thomas
Owen Cup	Intermediate Handicap Singles	John Garner	Sue Dent
Full Season	GC		
Macadam Cup	Golf Singles Low Handicap	Bill McKee	Ed Dolphin
Macadam Cup	Golf Singles High handicap	Jane Bell	Clive Brook
Level Play Trophy	Level Play Golf Croquet	Paul Bradley	John Coombes
1 Day Tournament	AC		
Canton Trophy	Egyptian 14 Point Handicap Singles	Kelvin Dent	Ed Dolphin
Dorothy Toye Cup	Short Croquet	Ian Friedlander	
Corbett Spoons	One Ball Low Handicap	Sue Dent	Kelvin Dent
Corbett Spoons	One Ball High Handicap	Sue Miskin	
1 Day Tournament	GC		
Hatherley Cup	Golf Singles Level play	Steve Pearson	Steve Marsh
Cunningham Salver & Cup	Golf Doubles Handicap	Steve Pearson & Jane Bell	Paul & Roz Bradley
Cunningham Salver	Handicap Golf Singles	Peter Regan	Clive Brook
Salcombe Hill Cup and Peak Hill Cup	Golf Level Play Doubles	John Coombes Margaret Regan	Steve Stych & Peter Regan
Core Hill Cup	Golf Shot Game Score+ Handicap	Christine Bowler	Ed Dolphin
Beacon Hill Cup	Golf Shot Game Score	Bill McKee,	Ed Dolphin
Most Improved player			
Regency Cup	Most Improved Golf Croquet player (LH)	Bill McKee	
Longworth Cup	Most Improved Low Handicap Association player	Ed Dolphin	
Sidmouth Croquet Club Cup	Most Improved High Handicap Association player	Kelvin Dent	
The Jubilee Cup	Most Improved Golf Croquet player (HH)	Peter Regan	
Short Croquet Challenge Cup	Winter Short Croquet	Paul Griew	John Garner