

SIDMOUTH CRICKET, TENNIS, and CROQUET CLUB

CROQUET SECTION

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 6th November 2015

Present: Peter Nelson, Sue Dent, Pam Bowra, David Butler, Philip Harris, Julie Sorrell, Andrew Thomas.

Apologies for Absence: Ian Simpson, Colin Walls.

Welcome to the New Committee Members

The Chairman welcomed Julie Sorrell and Philip Harris to the committee.

Minutes of the last meeting held on 1st October 2015 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

Donation of a bench

As Vera Henderson has only recently returned home after being hospitalised, it was considered best to leave the details of the bench and plaque until the Spring. **SD** to agenda for the February meeting.

South West Fed AGM

SD to circulate details, receive expressions of interest and inform the SW Fed of attendees.

Early Season Speakers

As a slight change to arrangements agreed at the last meeting, the talks are to be:

Roger Hendy/ Tuesday 9th Feb at 7pm with an interval/ Vienna's Musical Heritage / £2 admission at the door/ Bar open at 6.30 / Nibbles.

David Baldock/ Monday 14th March at 7pm/ Glimpses of the Past/ £2 admission at the door/Bar open at 6.30/ Bar Nibbles. David and Mavis will be selling their cards.

Following discussion, no raffles are planned.

CA Tournaments

Julie Horsley has submitted these to the CA for the Fixtures Book. Julie is keen for the Dwerryhouse Cup to continue to be awarded at the Midsummer Tournament. This leaves the Clarke Salver unallocated in 2016.

Web Hosting Fee

CW reported by e-mail that he will pay the web hosting fees himself this year and bill the club for them. He will also be billing the capital cost of the tablet and network adapter.

AGM Feedback

-Collections on the night totalled £60.21 for Julie Clayden and £52.03 for Colin Whitehall. Some additional money was received from committee members. **PN** to make these amounts up to £75 each and present it to them.

- DB has put photos of trophy winners on the website but names are incorrect. He is seeking advice from CW.

- as two awards were made for Most Improved Golf Croquet Player a new trophy is required. **SD** to talk to John Dixon.

- Julie Horsley would like the CA C Level trophy to be engraved and has suggested 'Connaught Cup'. Additional reference to 'Sidmouth Croquet Club' was suggested.

Finalisation of documents for 2016 season

The Programme. This was discussed in detail.

JS to ask Richard Thurlow to manage the Wine and Shared Buffet event. Monday 20th June is suggested.

SD to contact The Laidlers for a local Treasure Hunt.

SD to update the programme and circulate it to the committee.

Internal Tournaments/Entry Form. PH has circulated this to Helen Pryor and Julie Horsley for comment. **PH** to circulate most recent draft to the committee. Tournament fee agreed at £2.

Fees. PN is to strongly recommend to the GMC a flat rate increase of £2 or £2.50 across all sections of the Club. The committee agreed to support a £2.50 increase.

Membership. Once the GMC has agreed the fee, Helen Pryor will finalise the membership application forms.

Final documents /Photocopying. All documents to be received at the next committee meeting (December 9th). **SD** to photocopy and put in named envelopes for the Christmas Lunch (December 16th).

Individual Committee Members' Reports

Andrew Thomas reported that a badger had been active on lawn 1.

Ian Simpson had circulated by e-mail that Roger Mills, Club Treasurer, is concerned that the Club's expenditure is close to the limit at which VAT becomes payable. Roger therefore stated that expenditure for the remainder of the financial year be limited. The committee noted the instructions:

- 1 - the only expenditures made are for normal running expenses, eg tennis balls, website fees, affiliation & team/league entry fees, trophy engraving, etc
- 2 - no sports equipment or clothing related to the 2016/17 season is purchased
- 3 - repair and maintenance expenditures incurred for your Section do not exceed £250 in total.

Pam Bowra reported that the Watford Club, who had asked for a day or two of friendly competition, had now decided not to progress this.

Sue Dent reported that:

-the coffee morning held for the 2015 beginners was well attended and a useful mop-up to the season. There continues to be little interest in committing to the Association game so no 'conversion' courses are planned.

-the invitation from Budleigh to sign up for winter membership was circulated promptly to Sidmouth members. Sue e-mailed our thanks to James Horner of the Budleigh Club as it is much appreciated by Sidmouth players.

Chairman's Matters

PN reported that given the financial situation with VAT he would contact Neil Gamble to see how this affected the raising of the fence.

AOB

Julie Sorrell asked who would be making a vote of thanks at the Christmas Lunch. **CW**, as Vice Chair, to act as host and make any necessary speeches.

The CA has circulated details to apply for the Best Improved Player Award. Following discussion no application will be made.

Canasta. PB reported that a Canasta group has formed as Snooker is no longer played by club members. **SD** to agenda this for the February meeting.

Dates of the next meetings

Wednesday 9th December 9.30 am in the Pavilion.

Tuesday 5th January (provisional) 9.30 am.

SIDMOUTH CRICKET, TENNIS, and CROQUET CLUB

CROQUET SECTION

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 9th December 2015

Present: Peter Nelson, Sue Dent, Pam Bowra, David Butler, Philip Harris, Ian Simpson, Andrew Thomas.

Apologies for Absence: Julie Sorrell, Colin Walls.

Minutes of the last meeting held on 6th November 2015 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

High Bisquers SW Association Tournament

Julie Horsley has submitted the draft advert for the Swan to PN and PH. The Clarke Salver is to be awarded. The draft was approved. **PH** to respond to Julie Horsley.

Fencing adjacent to lawn 4

PN had previously circulated an e-mail regarding his discussion with Neil Gamble. The plan is to gate lawn 4 and raise fencing during March 2016 with the contractor not to invoice until the new financial year.

Committee Posts / Post holders / Committee duties / Minutes

As contact details have now been agreed, **SD** to place a copy in the mallet room. The Committee Duties document finalised in March 2015 to be issued by **SD** to PH and JS for their information. The committee agreed, and it is formally noted, that the 2016 committee minutes of the croquet section will be issued to:

- The SW Fed Fixtures Secretary (David Temple) and
- The Open Tournament Secretary (Julie Horsley).

CW has requested (by e-mail) that his publicity role be picked up by other members of the committee in order to free up some time for the booking system and beginners coaching arrangements. Assistance with the banner and other aspects were offered. Further discussion to be held at the next meeting. **SD** to agenda.

Finalisation of documents for the 2016 season

The Programme.

PN has agreed the provisional programme with Colin Whitehall.

The provisional date for the Wine and Shared Buffet had been confirmed by Richard Thurlow. PN reported that Julie Clayden is happy for the croquet section to purchase their own wine as previously. The provisional date for the Treasure Hunt has been confirmed by the Laidlers. JS had made a provisional booking with the Bedford for the 2016 Christmas Lunch.

As an amendment to the earlier draft, the Open Day to be moved to Sunday June 5th to coincide with National Croquet Day.

Other amendments had been made in order for the narrative of the tournaments to mirror the wording on the Internal tournament documents – i.e. emphasise the type of tournament rather than trophy.

The committee agreed the Final Programme.

Internal Tournaments/Entry Form.

The final document circulated by PH was agreed subject to a single change in a handicap.

Fees.

PN reported that a flat fee increase of £3 had been agreed at the GMC across all sections.

Membership.

Helen Pryor has incorporated the new fee of £168 into the subscription form. The final document was agreed.

Photocopying/ Distribution

SD to photocopy and put in named envelopes for the Christmas Lunch, arrange walking postmen and post out remaining envelopes.

Forthcoming Events

The Christmas Lunch – Wednesday December 16th - 12.30 for 1.00pm

PH reported that 72 tickets had been sold. All arrangements are in hand. **All** asked to arrive at 12.15 to assist/socialise with members arriving from 12.30.

SW Fed AGM meeting and minutes

PN reported back on the AGM which was attended by himself and Helen Pryor as voting members, with PB in support. There was nothing of significance to report to members. Helen Pryor's (Sidmouth) proposal on the points to be awarded for a walkover match was turned down.

A new HH Golf Croquet league has been introduced. Given that few clubs are submitting teams, travel distances would be considerable and it has been agreed that Sidmouth will not put forward a HH team in 2016. Helen Pryor will discuss this with the golf team players for future consideration.

CA Tournament Bids 2017 and 2018

Bid documents from the CA were circulated. Sidmouth has already been awarded the Selectors Weekend on 8-10th September 2017. It is normal for us to make a bid in alternate years. **SD** to confirm the 2017 tournament with the CA and not make a bid for 2018.

South West Croquet Academy (SWCA)

Details of this new initiative at Budleigh had been previously circulated. Skilled national players have been recruited as course leaders; the fees reflect this. Given that Sidmouth is short of Golf Croquet referees who are available for GC tournaments, it was agreed that the club would fund 50% of the golf croquet rules course fee for anyone who would like to attend the course, successfully complete the exam and be prepared to be a referee for our golf tournaments. **SD** to pen an e-mail for **DB** to send out to members.

Trophies/Honours Board

PH confirmed that the 3 trophies for best improvers are with the engraver and that John Dixon has asked him to collect them and hand them to the winners. John Dixon still holds 3 trophies. A further trophy is required for the (new category) best improved LH Golf Croquet player. **SD** has called into the jewellers but none of the shelf products are suitable. **SD** to bring the catalogue to the next meeting for consideration.

At the end of the 2014 season we commented that some tournaments were not shown on the honours boards and agreed to defer changes until the end of 2015. Given that there has now been an overhaul of the tournaments, it was agreed that we should wait a further year before reassessing the situation. **SD** to ask David Temple to arrange for the honours boards to be updated as normal and offer assistance.

Electronic Lawn Booking 2016

CW sought authorisation to extend the electronic booking system to lawn 2. This was agreed.

Chairman's Matters

PN reported from the GMC meeting:

- that John Goodwin requires details for the fixtures book. **SD** to send him programme and contact details.
- the water tank is leaking a depth of 80 cm in 2 weeks and will need replacing in the Autumn of 2016. The cost is estimated as £15,000 for the tank, pipe work and labour.

Also:

Roger Mills has recently had a discussion with PN on coaching. PN would like to offer coaching for, say, 4-5 people (or 2 groups), in the 15-22 handicap range. The committee supported this proposal. **PN** to clear the issue with Mike Taylor, as Head Coach, before discussing the matter further with Roger Mills.

PB to consider someone who could do something similar for Golf Croquet players.

Individual Committee Members' Reports

Pam Bowra:

- reported that a Canasta group is to start with a fee of £1/session. **PB** to see JS re refreshments.
- offered to give a 5 minute monologue at the Christmas lunch. This was agreed.

Andrew Thomas reported that:

- the badger had now gone from lawn 1.
- the bookcase for hut 3 has been completed.
- a dew 'swish' was needed at a cost of about £30. The preference was for 2 to be ordered in March ready for the new season. **AT** to order.
- grips for club mallets are needed at a cost of £5 each. **AT** to order.
- the Honiton sports shop is no longer selling white clothing.

Ian Simpson reported that as he will soon need to identify the number of playing members for the CA, he would appreciate sharing his rationale with the committee. **SD** to agenda for the next meeting.

Sue Dent reported that:

- Rob and Lorna Mitchell have given their mallets and bags to the club. **SD** to pass them across to Nancy Temple.
- Helen Pryor has been notified by the CA that the Haste Cup is to be reinstated as a qualifying event for the Ascot Cup in 2016.
- she has drawn up (for future reference) a document of policy issues minuted since 2013 but there is nothing on the cascade of new croquet balls. **PN** to talk to Mike Taylor and report back to the next meeting.

Dates of the next meetings

Tuesday 5th January 9.30am at Redleaf

Tuesday 9th February 9.30am (provisional)

SIDMOUTH CRICKET, TENNIS, and CROQUET CLUB

CROQUET SECTION

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 5th January 2016

Present: Peter Nelson, Sue Dent, Pam Bowra, David Butler, Philip Harris, Ian Simpson, Julie Sorrell, Andrew Thomas, Colin Walls.

Apologies for Absence: None

Minutes of the last meeting held on 9th December 2015 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

New Committee Members. PH, JS and Julie Horsley have agreed their duties as stated in the committee duties 2015 document. Julie Horsley raised several queries which the committee advised on. **SD** to respond to Julie.

Trophies. The trophy catalogue was passed to PH for consideration. Trophies are required for:

Golf Croquet – best LH improver

Short Croquet – (new tournament 2016)

Golf Level Play Doubles - (new tournament 2016)

PH to recommendation suitable trophies. Advised that any engraving should not be for a specific tournament title.

Ball Cascade. It is considered that the balls in hut 3 are all Barlows; balls in the mallet room are all Dawsons. AT holds on behalf of the club 4 full sets of Dawsons for a future cascade.

PN to check whether Dawson balls are still available for purchase.

Golf Croquet Coaching. PB reported that Mike Hide would be prepared to lead some coaching sessions of small groups.

Forthcoming events

Talk by Roger Hendy – Tuesday February 9th - 6.30 for 7pm

In hand. **JS** is to produce a flyer for display and send to DB. **DB** to circulate flyer electronically to members.

Taster Session – Saturday March 12th - 10am

See below

Talk by David Baldock – Monday March 14th - 6.30 for 7pm

Philip and Marian Harris to manage this event as JS is away.

Publicity Role

CW reported that he would welcome a committee member to pick up the advertising and distribution of information for the Taster Session and Open Day. **PN**

volunteered to undertake these provided that CW could design and print the posters.

Taster Session

Publicity.

CW to produce the poster and advise **PN** on where these are normally displayed.

PN to place posters, erect the banner and consider a paid article for the Herald.

DB to arrange for publication in the Herald's 'What's On' column.

Know the Game Books

5 copies in hand. **IS** to order a further 12.

Lawns

AT to ask Colin Whitehall if the cricket outfield can be used.

Coaching dates / Application for Coaching form

SD to send **CW** the 2015 coaching form for updating. Coaching dates are needed for the taster session but not the coaching details. Coaching to take place on lawn 2 half lawns.

Membership Numbers

Following a query, **IS** advised to continue with the previous methodology when submitting numbers to the CA.

Electronic Lawn Booking 2016

CW is extending the electronic booking to:

- include lawn 2
- allow lawn 1 to be booked as half lawns in April and May
- allow lawn 2 to be booked as split sessions of one and a half hours

Dates for half lawns were agreed.

In consequence **DB** to create booking sheets only for lawns 3 and 4.

CW reported that he uses Vector addresses for lawn booking and these could be used when the CA require e-mail addresses to enhance any CA security system.

Individual Committee Members' Reports

Philip Harris reported that team managers have been sent the SW Fed league fixtures from David Temple. **PH** to forward this to committee members.

JS to ask team managers their preference for lunch or teas. **SD** to enter dates in the pavilion diary.

Team managers are confirmed for Association as:

Parkstone/Richard Wood

Federation/Philip Harris

Intermediate/Nancy Temple

B League/Richard Thurlow

And for golf as:

Handicap Leagues/Helen and Graeme Pryor

Level Play/uncertain. [following the meeting it is understood that Keith Thorley is not available. **SD** to agenda for the next meeting].

Pam Bowra updated the meeting on Esme's state of health.

Andrew Thomas reported that:

- he has spoken to Vera Henderson regarding the bench. Her son is still expected to follow this up and prefers a carved back rather than a plaque. **AT** to follow this up.
- he will be moving the timber from behind hut 3. **PN** offered to assist.
- he understands that an equipment inventory may be required. **AT** to enquire of Rob Matthews whether an earlier version is available.

Julie Sorrell reported that:

- the Christmas lunch was very enjoyable with 69 attending. A provisional booking has been made with the Bedford for 2016. (The Victoria also has a reasonably priced menu but we might not get sole use of a room). Proceeds from the raffle were only £128 which she considered low given the value of prizes available.

- Tony Dustan-Smith has again suggested a Pimms on the Lawn event with the Snooker Club. The croquet section would be expected to have an uptake of 25-30 players. **JS** to discuss the matter with the Snooker contact with particular regard to the catering.

Date of the next meeting

Tuesday 9th February, 9.30am at Redleaf.

SIDMOUTH CRICKET, TENNIS, and CROQUET CLUB

CROQUET SECTION

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 9th February 2016

Present: Peter Nelson, Sue Dent, Pam Bowra, David Butler, Philip Harris, Julie Sorrell, Andrew Thomas, Colin Walls.

Apology for Absence: Ian Simpson.

Minutes of the last meeting held on 5th January 2016 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

Ball Cascade. PN reported that Dawson balls are still available for purchase. The club has 4 new sets of Dawson balls which will be cascaded simultaneously when required but this may not be for several years.

Lawns 1 and 2. A summary of the arrangements for half lawns was prepared by SD and agreed by AT and PH. This was shared for information.

Lawns 3 and 4 Booking Sheets. DB had prepared a draft A4 sheet for lawns 3 and 4. This was circulated and agreed appropriate.

Hut 3. The timber at the back of hut 3 has now been removed.

Equipment Inventory. Although Rob Matthews had not compiled an inventory it was considered useful for insurance purposes to simply list the club equipment in hut 3 and the mallet room. **AT** to progress.

Forthcoming events

Talk by Roger Hendy – Tuesday February 9th - 6.30 for 7pm

In hand. **PN** to introduce and thank the speaker.

Taster Session – Saturday March 12th - 10am

See below

Talk by David Baldock – Monday March 14th - 6.30 for 7pm

Philip and Marian Harris to manage this event as JS is away.

Spring Lunch and associated events – Saturday April 2nd

- A raffle will be held. **ALL** committee members asked to provide a raffle prize.
- Vera's bench should be ready for this event and will be acknowledged.
- The membership list is issued on this day; all members should have paid by then.
- The 2016 New Season Information is issued on this day. Amendments to the 2015 document were discussed. **SD** to send a request to specific committee members for paragraph updates/amendments and provide a draft for the next meeting.

Taster Session – Saturday March 12th – 10am

Publicity.

PN has been advised by CW of normal publicity arrangements. **CW** to finalise the flyer and send electronically to SD and give laminated copies to PN for display.

Know the Game Books

17 copies now in hand.

Lawns

No decision yet from Colin Whitehall as to whether the cricket outfield can be used.

Arrangements for the morning

DB to make name badges for new committee members.

ALL to wear name badges.

Set up equipment – 9.30. **AT** and **PH. SD** to also invite Rob Matthews to assist with hoops, balls and mallets.

Set up pavilion – 9.30. **ALL**. Seating to be in coffee table groupings.

The hatch – for coffees – **JS** and **AT**

Welcome/The Door – **SD**

10.10 approximately – talks –Introduction / The Club - **PN**

Social Events - **JS**

Coaching Arrangements for beginners - **CW**

Have a Bash – outdoor session – **ALL**

Wrap up including signing up for lessons – **PN**

Signing up table/receipts /book issue – **IS** and **PH**

Dates of Coaching Lessons

CW proposed a timetable similar to 2015 with 4x2 hour sessions on Tuesday mornings at 10.30 or Wednesday afternoons at 13.30 from April 5th with a mop up session likely to be on Thursday April 28th at 13.30. This was agreed.

CW to send electronic copy to SD for late applicants.

Coaches/ Coaching Programme

CW will devise a coaching programme and contact possible coaches. Details cannot be finalised until the number of beginners is known for each date. CW intends to talk the programme through with the coaches; April 2nd at 2.30 following the Spring Lunch was suggested.

Trophies

PH made the following recommendations:

- Although the Dorothy Toye Cup has, since 1996, been awarded for the Association 14 point LH singles game, it was originally presented for Short Croquet and that is engraved on the Cup. PH had spoken to Barbara Clarke. She and the committee agree that it can revert to being used for the Short Croquet tournament.

- The Owen Cup now to be used for the 14 point LH singles tournament

- The Canton Trophy to be used for the 14 point HH singles tournament.

These were agreed by the committee.

New Cups are therefore needed for:

- Golf Croquet Level doubles – 2 trophies. One might be named the Sanditon Cup. Suggestions for the other are needed. PN and CW offered to donate these trophies.

- Golf Croquet – Best LH improver. PH offered to donate this trophy.

Golf Level Play League Manager

Graeme Pryor has been asked to manage this team and has accepted.

Changes to the Golf Croquet Handicap system for 2016 (CA)

A new system with a wider, open ended handicap range has been devised by the CA for implementation in 2016. Details have been received. Most players, with a handicap range from 3 to 11, will retain the same handicap, but with a higher index. Players will still gain or lose 10 index points for a handicap game result. There continues to be a 50 point index range between handicap levels. DB reported that the Golf Croquet handicap committee are to meet to discuss the new arrangements and determine what action needs to be taken. **SD** to agenda for the next meeting.

Club Charity Status – new requirements 2016

Information from the CA has recently been circulated to the committee. HMRC have introduced new requirements for sports clubs to qualify for the tax benefits; 50% of members must be active which normally means participating on at least 12 days per annum. Roger Mills, as Treasurer, has requested and received a modification for the croquet section to 10 days/annum based on our shorter playing year. PN outlined the Club arrangements. As the CA has asked Clubs to report back on issues, **SD** to ask Roger Mills if information on our modified requirement can be shared with the CA. Several possible recording methods were considered. **SD** to draw up a possible recording chart. Note - any system will need the approval of Roger Mills before implementation.

The Queen's Birthday

The committee were asked to consider whether the section wanted to mark the occasion. The dates are complex:

The Queen's actual birthday	Thursday 21 st April
Horse Pageants at Windsor Castle	Thursday 12 th May - Sunday 15 th May
Celebrations around the official birthday	Friday 10 th June - Sunday 12 th June with street parties planned for this last day.

The issue is to be raised at the GMC. The croquet committee will await the outcome of that discussion.

Chairman's Matters

PN reported that:

- he is required to write an article for the Club's Spring newsletter. Suggestions are invited.
- the fencing around lawn 3 is to be raised with netting in March at a cost of £900
- David Temple has been talking to Neil Gamble and it is now likely that a replacement water tank will be put in place next winter.
- Bar prices in the pavilion will be slightly increased; a pint of beer will be £3.20.
- Lynn Donovan may be interested in helping with Social events.

Individual Committee Members' Reports

Pam Bowra reported that:

- she would like a golf skills afternoon to be run on lawn 2. The committee has asked that she choose a Wednesday (or Monday) morning GC club session but not on the same day as the Association Skills on 20th July.
- the Canasta sessions have started. A notice is on display in the pavilion. A fee of £1 is charged.

Philip Harris reported that:

- 9 applications for internal tournaments have already been received.
- thanks are due to AT for the repair of the historic curved bench as well as the bookcase in hut 3.

David Butler reported that 40 membership applications have been received to date. An e-mail reminder will be sent to enable the list to be issued at the Spring Lunch. It was agreed that the member who was allowed a fee reduction in his first year as he was working full time, will need to pay the full fee from 2016 onwards.

Any Other Business

Julie Horsley reported by e-mail on applications already received for the Open tournaments.

The Swan. As previously circulated, Maureen Smith is inviting articles, croquet photographs or quizzes for publication in The Swan.

Future Agenda Items. SD to include National Croquet Day and Croquet Coaching for experienced members on the next agenda.

Date of the next meeting

Monday 7th March, 2.30pm at Redleaf.

SIDMOUTH CRICKET, TENNIS, and CROQUET CLUB

CROQUET SECTION

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 7th March 2016

Present: Peter Nelson, Sue Dent, Pam Bowra, David Butler, Philip Harris, Julie Sorrell, Ian Simpson, Andrew Thomas, Colin Walls.

Apologies for Absence: None.

Minutes of the last meeting held on 9th February 2016 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

The Queen's Birthday

A suggestion was received that as the Queen's actual birthday is on Thursday 21st April when we are holding the Charity One Ball, we could toast the Queen with a glass of wine at lunchtime. This was agreed. **JS** to make arrangements.

Water Tank

Colin Whitehall has reported that the water loss has increased. Discussions are on-going.

Membership

DB reported that 50-60 applications have now been received.

Forthcoming events

Taster Session – Saturday March 12th - 10am

In hand - see below.

Talk by David Baldock – Monday March 14th - 6.30 for 7pm

Philip and Marian Harris to manage this event as JS is away. **JS** to check that Julie Clayden is providing nibbles.

Spring Lunch and associated events – Saturday April 2nd

- A reminder for **ALL** committee members to provide a raffle prize.
- Vera's bench may be delayed as her son, who is arranging for the purchase and engraving, is out of the country at present.
- amendments to the 2016 New Season Information were discussed. In addition **CW** to provide pin numbers and **SD** to progress the participation cards for inclusion in the envelopes.
- the opening Association game to be PN/CW/JS and SD. **SD** to invite Gabby Macadam to form an opening Golf croquet group.
- **JS** to ask Gabby Macadam to do the draw.
- **SD** offered to encourage last year's new members to attend. Tickets available from JS.
- **JS** to do a poster for display.

Taster Session – Saturday March 12th – 10.00am

Lawns

No decision yet from Colin Whitehall as to whether the cricket outfield can be used. Likely to be outside hut 3.

Arrangements for the morning

As in February minutes, except that Marian Harris has offered to assist JS with refreshments, relinquishing **AT** for lawns and equipment. The committee is requested to attend for 9.30am.

Dates of Coaching Lessons

To be finalised. **CW** to send electronic copy to SD for late applicants.

Coaches/ Coaching Programme

In progress. Most potential coaches approached have offered several dates.

Club Charity Status – new requirements 2016

Concern was expressed that with the large number of non-playing members in the Club, we were unlikely to reach the 50% participation threshold required for tax benefits. Roger Mills has supplied participation cards for consideration. These were approved subject to a couple of minor alterations. **SD** to amend forms, contact Roger Mills and arrange printing of forms for inclusion in the Spring Lunch envelopes.

Croquet Association Matters

Changes to the Golf Croquet Handicap system for 2016

Ian Simpson commented that the CA had decided that the opponent's signature was not required. He had written to the Gazette on this matter and copied the letter to the committee. The golf handicap committee will be giving consideration to assessing golf croquet players' ability. **SD** requested to obtain a further 50 cards from the CA.

Association Clip colours

As shown in February 2016 Gazette, the CA recommend that the Association clips be repainted in bright colours with a white dot added to green clips and a diagonal white stripe to brown clips to aid those players with Colour Vision Deficiency (CVD). **PH** to progress this with **AT** for tournament clips.

AC Doubles Handicap

A modification to the handicapping of doubles events has been made by the CA. **PH** reported that the table is now on the CA website. **PH** to consider its impact and report back to the next meeting.

Documents for Distribution

The secretary had received a large bundle of various documents from the CA which were distributed as appropriate. The CA fee is now £9.50 for members as at 30th September 2015 whose primary club is Sidmouth. Exclusions were considered. A large number of posters and flyers have been received for the National Croquet Day. Consideration of that event to be deferred until after the taster session.

Visiting Club Request

The secretary had received a visit request from Basingstoke for Tuesday 5th July or either of the following 2 days. However as we have league home matches on the Tuesday and Thursday and Club sessions on the Wednesday the committee felt unable to accommodate them. **SD** to respond to Basingstoke.

Coaching for Experienced Members.

PN has accepted offers by Roger Mills to put on some coaching for mid range handicap players and Tony Dustan-Smith for low handicap players. A subsequent offer from Cliff Jones will not therefore be progressed. Coaching arrangements to be considered further, once the playing season is underway.

Chairman's Matters

Peter Nelson reported that a Taunton initiative with U3A members had resulted in additional croquet members. The committee declined to take this forward given that we may provide additional coaching **after** the National Croquet Day.

Individual Committee Members' Reports

Philip Harris reported that 20 applications for internal tournaments have already been received.

Colin Walls reported that split lawns were being included for 2016 within the electronic booking system but double banking would be too cumbersome. The committee agreed that this was rarely used. **SD** to send the most recent membership list to CW for the Pins. **CW** will enter the regular lawn commitments and programmed events onto the electronic system but asks team managers to make amendments for any playing alterations.

Sue Dent reported that:

- a document summarising policy issues minuted from 2013 onwards had been circulated to the committee and no comments had been received.
- the list of coaches, referees and handicappers has been updated for the Golf handicap committee and to include Roger Mills as a Grade 1 AC coach. A further addition is now needed for PN as assistant AC referee. **SD** to put the amended list in the mallet room and hut 3.

Any Other Business

Julie Horsley reported by e-mail on applications already received for the Open tournaments.

The Mileage Chart needs the addition of St Agnes. **IS** offered to review and update the chart.

The Club Documents are being collated on Monday 21st March at 10.00am in the pavilion. Helen Pryor is asking for volunteers to assist.

Date of the next meetings

Tuesday 5th April, 2.30pm at Redleaf.

Tuesday 10th May, 2.30pm (provisional)

SIDMOUTH CRICKET, TENNIS, and CROQUET CLUB

CROQUET SECTION

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 5th April 2016

Present: Peter Nelson, Sue Dent, Philip Harris, Ian Simpson, Julie Sorrell, Andrew Thomas.

Apologies for Absence: Pam Bowra, David Butler, Colin Walls.

Minutes of the last meeting held on 7th March 2016 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

Water Tank. Apparently the contractor who did the initial work claims that a replacement tank is not necessary and only a replacement pump and filters are required. Discussions are on-going.

Visiting Club Request. Basingstoke have requested joining in our club sessions on Wednesday 6th July. **SD** to find out proposed numbers and ask Gabby Macadam. Consideration to be given to inviting 4 to join the Golf session and 4 the Association session.

Mileage Chart. Subject to a single alteration the mileage chart was approved. **IS** to add a narrative and place in the mallet room.

Spring Lunch. JS reported that 51 had attended plus 6 of Vera Henderson's family members. £81 was raised in the raffle.

The New Season

Membership. SD reported that the issued membership list is 'work in progress' with a few individuals yet to pay. 18 former members have not renewed, 2 have re-joined and a further 2 experienced players have joined. Provisional membership is 101. The list will be firmed up when reissued for new members in early May.

Internal Tournaments. PH reported that entries have been received from 50 members including 5 of the 2015 beginners.

Open Tournaments. Julie Horsley reported by e-mail on the good uptake for CA Open tournaments. Only the High Bisquers SW tournament at the end of July is undersubscribed.

Handicappers/Coaches/Referees chart to be amended to delete Amanda Haste and Rob Mitchell as referees. **SD** to notify DB of amendments needed to the website.

Honesty Box in hut 3 for refreshments. **JS** to display a notice requesting a suggested minimum donation of 20p. The box to be locked – no change can be extracted.

Association Laws booklets/Golf Rules booklet. SD holds the former, PB the latter. **SD** to place a notice in the mallet room. No further copies to be purchased until existing copies are sold.

Club Charity Status – participation cards. **PN** to notify SD of GMC dates so she can update the chairman with the number of croquet cards completed.

Forthcoming events

Beginners Coaching Sessions / programme

14 applicants for coaching. The sessions started this morning.

Charity One Ball – Thursday April 21st

In hand. 23 entries to date with a notice displayed for further entries. **JS** to provide Prosecco and glasses to toast the Queen. **JS** also suggested bunting to decorate hut 3.

CA Open Golf Championship – Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th April

In hand. The competition is again a qualifying tournament for the Ascot Cup with a slightly different format to the event. A bottle of wine is to be given to the runner up of the main competition and to the winner of the secondary (Egyptian) competition. **JS** was requested to order a crate of red wine for use throughout the season.

Club Sessions.

PH reported that PB has agreed with Gabby Macadam that on Monday and Wednesday mornings, lawn 2 will be for full 13-point competitive games.

Visiting Medics – Wednesday May 11th

SD has encouraged Gabby Macadam to use the new members and will liaise with her on the visiting team.

Welcome Evening for New Members – Wed May 11th at 6pm.

PN to update the welcome letter for the beginners' pack issued at the 3rd lesson. **JS** to print drink vouchers to be given at the door. **SD** to provide name badges for the beginners.

National Croquet Day – Sunday June 5th

Discussion deferred to next meeting. **SD** to agenda.

Coaching for Experienced Members.

PN reported that Mike Taylor is proposing meeting with Tony Dustan-Smith, Roger Mills and Richard Wood on the 2016 arrangements. Roger Mills has offered several dates. **PN** to clarify with Roger how many sessions and what length of time is required before this is progressed.

Trophies

PH has bought 3 trophies. The 2 glass trophies for the Golf Level Doubles to be known as Crystal Vases. The metal trophy for the Golf Best Improver Low Handicap to have a plaque on the base engraved with that detail and 'Sidmouth Croquet Club' engraved on the trophy itself.

Chairman's Matters

Peter Nelson reported from the GMC that:

- the netting alongside lawn 3 should be erected shortly. The quote received for the gate was considered excessive and alternatives are being sought.
- AT was thanked for his assistance with the cricket screens.

Individual Committee Members' Reports

Andrew Thomas reported that the white table outside hut 3 had been broken. **All** should look out for a replacement rectangular teak table.

Pam Bowra reported by e-mail that Budleigh have requested a change of date for the away friendly with May 10th suggested. This clashed with the next croquet committee. It was agreed to accept the Budleigh request.

Date of the next meetings

Monday 16th May, 9.30am at Redleaf. **Please note this change of date.**

Monday 13th June, 9.30am (provisional)

SIDMOUTH CRICKET, TENNIS, and CROQUET CLUB

CROQUET SECTION

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 16th May 2016

Present: Peter Nelson, Sue Dent, Pam Bowra, Philip Harris, Ian Simpson, Julie Sorrell, Colin Walls.

Apologies for Absence: David Butler, Andrew Thomas.

Minutes of the last meeting held on 5th April 2016 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

Membership. An updated list had been prepared totalling 112 including 13 members who received coaching lessons. However another has now joined and a further individual tutored by Tony Dustan-Smith attended the new members evening and is likely to join. The final list will be reported at the next meeting.

Charity Participation Cards. 22 have been completed and handed in. **SD** as secretary to retain these for 5 years.

Table for outside hut 3. AT has obtained and stained a teak table purchased for £2 from the tip. The committee expressed their appreciation to Andrew.

Trophies. Members are asked to offer suggestions for the names of the two new trophies at the next meeting.

Coaching

Beginners' coaching. CW organised the Beginners' coaching which was attended by 15 people. The measure of its success is that 14 have since joined. **CW** to give consideration as to who to ask to manage the beginners' tournament in August.

High handicap coaching. Roger Mills supported by PH held a day's coaching for 9 high handicap players which was well received. Appreciation was expressed to Roger and Philip by the group.

South West Academy events at Budleigh had been attended by a few Sidmouth club members. The courses had received a mixed response and were not considered value for money.

Forthcoming events

Association Short Croquet Tournament – Friday 20th May

In hand. 20 participants are signed up. PH to manage the event as an Egyptian with support from Julie Horsley.

National Croquet Day – Sunday June 5th

See below.

CA Midsummer Tournament – Wednesday 8th-Sunday 12th June

This is in hand, managed by Julie Horsley. Wine has been purchased. It was agreed that no charge will be made for teas and coffees.

Association 14 point Handicap Tournament – Sat 18th/Sun 19th June

16 advance entries have been received. This is expected to increase when the list is put up, therefore necessitating the competition to be across 2 days for different handicap groupings. 10 points go on the handicap card/game. Trophies are the Canton Trophy (HH) and the Owen Cup (LH).

National Croquet Day – Sunday June 5th

Following discussion it was agreed to structure the event as a Golf croquet demonstration / an Association croquet demonstration / a taster for beginners attending. All publicity to state The Fortfield, Sidmouth, 11am-6pm. Sidmouth Club members to wear whites.

Responsibilities are:

CW – order banner (approx £35)

PN – provide article and photograph for **DB** to place in The Herald

DB – place information for 'What's On' in the Herald

DB – include details on website

SD – provide e-mail for DB to send to members informing them of the event and inviting them to participate.

PN/JS – laminate CA posters. **SD** to place A4 posters on town notice boards and A5 ones with hotels. **PN** to distribute A5 posters to shops.

SD –book lawns 2, 3 and 4

AT - liaise with Colin Whitehall as necessary.

- lawn 2 AC demonstration game (**PN/CW**)

- lawn 3 as half lawns for tasters (**ALL** other committee members to assist)

- lawn 4 as GC demonstration games (**PB** to form rota to include **IS** at 4pm-6pm)

CW – have croquet leaflets available

PN – provide national list of clubs for visitors / provide sign up sheets.

Hut 3 Refreshments

A suggestion had been made that in lieu of 20p/drink an annual fee of £10 could be paid. This was considered too difficult to administer. JS gave income and expenditure figures to date which identified the existing system is working well.

PN has purchased 20 £1 mugs for use in hut 3. **AT** is to fit new taps.

Chairman's Matters

Peter Nelson reported that:

- for the sprinkler system it is considered that rather than a new tank, a larger pump would solve the issue. This is being priced. Richard Thurlow, as a civil engineer, is now leading on this issue.

- The Sidmouth Club needs repair work to the render alongside lawn 1. They are in discussion on the most appropriate time for the rubble to be removed.

Individual Committee Members' Reports

Julie Horsley reported (by e-mail) that there are now 14 entries for the B level in August. The High Bisquers in July has only 3 entries, none from Sidmouth players.

Julie Sorrell

- reported that little progress has been made with the Pimms on the Lawn event; the Snooker club have not come back to her.

- offered to find out more on the catering franchise fee and number of club members at her former club to inform **PN** for the local process

Philip Harris reported that no Association block matches have yet been played.

Colin Walls reported that the change of web host had been smooth

Pam Bowra reported that recently the key for hut 3 went missing making it difficult for club Golf session players to obtain mallets. The committee were reminded that:

- a spare key is in the 'Big Box' in the mallet room
- PH holds a hut 3 key

SD to agenda for the next meeting a discussion on a digital key to hut 3.

The issue of antiseptic wash was raised but was not taken forward.

Date of the next meeting

Monday 13th June, 1.00 pm **Please note this change of time.**

SIDMOUTH CRICKET, TENNIS, and CROQUET CLUB

CROQUET SECTION

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 13th June 2016

Present: Peter Nelson, Sue Dent, Pam Bowra, Philip Harris, Ian Simpson, Julie Sorrell, Andrew Thomas.

Apologies for Absence: David Butler, Colin Walls.

Minutes of the last meeting held on 16th May 2016 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

Trophies. Initial suggestions were made of: Salcombe Cup/ Peak Hill Cup / Sidmouth Vase. No decision was made.

Pimms on the Lawn. No-one from the Sidmouth Club has got back to Julie. Agreed not to pursue this.

National Croquet Day Feedback

23 people attended the day which was considered very successful. 19 of these gave their names for further details and there were concerns that if these progressed through to membership there may be additional pressure on the golf croquet club sessions which already regularly get 24 attendees. However only 8 have signed up for the coaching sessions offered (others report having time constraints). The CA is asking for feedback. Points to consider for another year:

- no uptake from hotels so no publicity needed there
- the banner had been seen by several people
- all but 2 of those attending were locals
- the morning session was busy; no-one after 2pm
- half lawns worked well
- attendees wanted to play and did not watch the demonstration games.

In discussion with PN, CW and PH prior to this meeting it was agreed to:

- offer 1 or 2 coaching sessions with a limited format of hitting and hoop running with golf croquet games.
- identify anyone with interest in the Association game and offer additional coaching
- **SD** (in the absence of CW) to contact the attendees and potential coaches to arrange the coaching sessions and paperwork
- depending on final membership, **SD** to ask Gabby Macadam if lawn 1 should also be booked for the golf croquet club sessions.

It was agreed that, in accordance with our membership policy, new members be offered half year membership at £84.

Forthcoming events

Association 14 point Handicap Tournament – Sat 18th/Sun 19th June

In hand. PH reported 12 entries for the HH competition, 7 for the LH competition.

Wine and Shared Buffet – Monday 20th June from 5pm

Ticket sales ongoing. SD and PH gave their apologies.

Association One Ball Tournament – Friday 1st and Saturday 2nd July

In hand. PH reported 11 entries for HH, 14 for LH.

Treasure Hunt – Wednesday 6th July - 6.00-6.30pm start from Sidbury Car Park

The Laidlers had supplied details to SD. These were passed to **JH** who would produce a poster for display in the mallet room and hut 3. **SD** to send electronic poster to the Cricket and Tennis sections. It was found that the event clashes with the Club AGM so PN sends his apologies for the Treasure Hunt.

High Bisquers SW Association Tournament – Saturday 23rd July

Julie Horsley reported by e-mail and had spoken to SD and PN on the low uptake for this competition. The event will need to be cancelled unless there is a minimum of 8 applicants. **SD** to draft an encouraging e-mail (to be checked by Julie Horsley) for **DB** to circulate. Agreed for the fee to be reduced to £8 for Sidmouth players. Eligible handicaps to be at the date of application.

Subscription Refund Request

A request was passed through a committee member and discussed. It was agreed that we should abide by the policy and, rather than offer a refund, a membership fee can be carried forward to next year. **PB** to convey this decision.

Digital Key for hut 3

PN stated that a digital lock is not suitable for a double leaf door. Reiterated that spare keys for hut 3 are held in the 'big box' and by PH and AT. The keys for the tournament balls are held in the Club's fuse box and by PH and PN. This was considered adequate.

Request for simple training on Association Faults and Errors

A request was received from a member for basic training on common faults and errors; (the complexity of limit of claims was outside this request). **PN** to ask Mike Taylor for a crib sheet.

Chairman's Matters

Peter Nelson reported that:

- there was no update on the sprinkler system
- the Sidmouth Club have not come back to him on the issue of rubble removal
- the Club had received a request that bar drinks could be paid with a credit card. To install a card reader would cost approximately £1000 and would not therefore be progressed.
- the car park permits are being abused by some members (not croquet apparently). Peter Fung is to draw up a protocol.

Individual Committee Members' Reports

Philip Harris reported that:

- tournaments were now being played and booked
 - the doubles tournaments list is soon to be put up
 - in the booking sheets, lawns on SW Fed tournament days are pencilled out until 7pm.
- Agreed for **PH** to ask **DB** to draw the line at 5pm. No supporting notice required.

Colin Walls (by e-mail) congratulated **DB** on the number of croquet match reports submitted to, and printed by, the Sidmouth Herald.

Pam Bowra asked that consideration be given to opening the lawns for casual play at the end of a CA tournament day's play. This was turned down primarily because of hoop settings.

Julie Sorrell reported that Julie Horsley had received a refund of a member's tournament fee. Agreed this should go to IS as treasurer. **JS** to convey this decision.

Any Other Business

Public Liability Insurance

SD reported that we had received from the CA, certificates from 1/5/16 of Public Liability Insurance, Professional Indemnity and Employer's Liability. Roger Mills has been informed. **PN** to enquire of the Club if any of these should be displayed.

Sidmouth Badges

PN reported that some participants in the recent CA tournament requested Sidmouth badges. **JS** to place metal and fabric badges in the 'big box' for sale at £2.50.

Dates of the next meeting

Thursday 28th July, 9.30 am at Redleaf

No meeting in August

Monday 5th September 2.00pm (provisional)

SIDMOUTH CRICKET, TENNIS, and CROQUET CLUB

CROQUET SECTION

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 28th July 2016

Present: Peter Nelson, Sue Dent, Pam Bowra, Philip Harris, Ian Simpson, Julie Sorrell, Andrew Thomas, Colin Walls.

Apology for Absence: David Butler

Minutes of the last meeting held on 13th June 2016 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

Association faults and errors training. **PN** offered to draw up a crib sheet.

Membership details. **SD** to supply **PN** by 8th August with updated membership numbers and participation cards completed and expected.

Membership update/issues following National Croquet Day /lawn layout /teas

-7 attended one or two coaching sessions and signed up as members. Of these, 5 are playing golf croquet in the club sessions and 2 play in evenings and weekends.

-Additional pressure on golf club sessions has inconvenienced some players but **PB** and others have encouraged them to be welcoming.

-The committee may consider a single early April taster and not participate in the National Croquet Day.

-A conversion course from golf to association to be considered for Spring 2017.

-A request has been received for short croquet lawns. Lawn 4 is a possibility in mid September after the CA C-Level Advanced Weekend. **AT** and **PH** to discuss this with Colin Whitehall.

- **CW** confirmed that managers have relevant pin numbers and the right to book lawns on behalf of the committee. **PN** to advise Helen Pryor that when lawns are booked for golf tournaments no further lawns should be booked for team practice.

- Lawn Booking policy distributed at the start of the season to include (1) lawns can't be used during CA tournaments (2) lawns can be used when vacated at the end of league matches.

- **SD** to draw up e-mail (to be agreed by **PN**) for distribution to managers that visiting clubs should be given the option of having a sandwich meal provided either at lunchtime or at the end of the match.

- **DB** to prepare final membership list for the committee.

- **SD** to note the above issues for inclusion in the 2017 programme.

Feedback from recent events to inform the 2017 programme

High Bisquers

12 participated – 6 Sidmouth players and 6 external players. **PN**, as tournament manager, gave the visitors a £2 refund, the fees being reduced to £8 for Sidmouth players and £10 for visitors. Comments were received on the friendliness of the Club.

Robert Case Shot Game

22 participated. A joint event with the golf croquet players to be considered for 2017. For 2016 a golf skills event is likely to be held as part of a golf club session. **PB** to talk to Gabby Macadam about this.

Forthcoming events

New Members Tournament – Monday August 8th

John Dixon to organise this supported by CW. Beginners list in place in hut 3. **SD** to attend the golf club session on Monday 1st August to encourage sign up. **CW** to follow up and inform **JS** for catering.

CA B-Level Advanced Weekend – Thursday 11th-Saturday 13th August

Nancy Temple to manage.

Golf Handicap Singles Tournament – Thursday 18th August

PB to manage. 16 players have signed up. 4 lawns will be used.

Golf Level Singles Tournament – Friday 19th August

PB to manage. **PN** offered to play if an odd number have signed up. **PH** to let him know.

Golf Handicap Doubles Tournament – Thursday 25th August

In hand. 12 pairings signed up. PB to manage.

Golf Level Doubles Tournament – Friday 26th August

5 pairings signed up. The lowest handicap player is paired with the highest handicap player. In hand. PB to manage.

CA C-Level Advanced Weekend – Friday 9th-Sunday 11th September

PN to check with Julie Horsley that arrangements are in hand.

Trophy Names

Golf Level Doubles – 2 glass trophies to be named 'The Peak Hill Cup' and the 'Salcombe Cup'

Golf Low Handicap Best Improver trophy - to be named 'The Regency Cup'.

Committee Members and Other Responsibilities 2017 - initial considerations

SW Federation Fixtures Secretary – David Temple is prepared to continue in this role.

CA tournaments – Nancy Temple to stand down from managing CA tournaments. **PN** to discuss arrangements with Julie Horsley.

Secretary – **SD** to stand down. Replacements discussed. **SD** to make initial approaches.

Chairman – **PN** prepared to continue for another year.

Treasurer – **IS** prefers not to stand for the committee. Replacement discussed. **IS** to make initial approach.

CW – not to stand for committee next year but is prepared to maintain the website and the electronic booking system.

Players Handicaps

Agreed that it is the responsibility of the handicap committee to receive and update handicap cards for the beginning of the season. Players have responsibility to maintain their handicap cards and must get their card initialled by a member of the handicap committee when a trigger point is reached. New members will need to ask a member of the handicap committee for a card when they start to play competitive games.

Chairman's Matters

Peter Nelson reported that:

- Gill Hodge has expressed concern that the croquet players are having refreshments in hut 3 and not using her pavilion facilities. The committee supports the view that as only drink and biscuits are available at the hut there is little impact on the Club.
- David Temple postponed a golf croquet league match because of safety concerns with a Cricket 20/20 finals being played.
- **PN** to ensure there is progress with the lawn 4 netting gap.

Individual Committee Members' Reports

Andrew Thomas reported that:

- there is still a leak between lawns 3 and 4.
- green plastic chairs have been purchased for hut 3.
- areas near the hoops are raised. **PN** and **AT** to discuss this with Colin Whitehall.

Philip Harris asked the committee's view on refunds for people withdrawing from internal tournaments. Agreed no refund to be given.

Colin Walls stated that the website is regularly receiving 200 unique visits /month.

Date of the next meeting

Wednesday 14th September, 9.30 am at Redleaf (please note this amendment)

SIDMOUTH CRICKET, TENNIS, and CROQUET CLUB

CROQUET SECTION

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 14th September 2016

Present: Peter Nelson, Sue Dent, Pam Bowra, David Butler, Philip Harris, Julie Sorrell, Andrew Thomas, Colin Walls.

Apology for Absence: Ian Simpson

Minutes of the last meeting held on 28th July 2016 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

Participation Cards. Only 71 of 125 received. **SD** to send an e-mail reminder as part of an end of season update.

Fee arrangements for recent beginners

One couple and two individuals have recently been to the club and trained/played with members. In accordance with policy they cannot join as members this late in the season but can play and pay – the fees being £3 per person to join in a club session/£5 to come as a visitor with a member/free to practise. **PN**, **PB** and **CW** to inform the beginners of these arrangements.

Half Lawns for the remainder of the season

The suggestion raised at the last meeting was discussed further. Lawn 4 to be split at end of play today, 14th September. At the end of September, lawns 3 and 4 are to be taken out of use. It was considered inappropriate to put either of the remaining lawns to a half lawn at that stage. **PH** to arrange one or two training sessions prior to the short croquet competition on 16th October and lay out half lawns for those sessions only.

Forthcoming events

Finals weekend – 16th-18th September

In hand. **PH**. Finals schedule issued electronically. Spare lawns released for casual booking.

Budleigh Friendly – Tuesday 20th September

In hand. **PB**.

Beginners Golf Skills competition – Wednesday 21st September – 10am

PH and **PB** to organise the event. Poster displayed. Lawn 1 booked and agreed with David Baldock.

Regular Club Sessions end – Friday 30th September

Discussed. Lawns 3 and 4 will be taken out of use after 30th September. **CW** to create PINs for 'Possible golf session' and 'Possible association session' and insert these into the electronic calendar for October. **SD** to notify members in the end of season update that club sessions may continue but alerting them that the lawns may be closed by the groundsman at short notice.

Committee Members 2017

Colin Walls, David Butler and Ian Simpson are standing down.

Penny Ball has agreed to be Secretary.

Paul Bradley has agreed to be Treasurer.

Richard Thurlow has agreed to manage publicity.

Sue Dent has agreed to become Vice-Chair and take responsibility for booking sheets.

Decided that a space would be left on the nomination sheet for anyone else to come forward.

Outside the committee:

- Colin Walls to do the website and electronic booking.
- Marian Harris to be the Membership Secretary (assisted by PN for labels/envelopes). MH given authorisation to be reimbursed in the region of £35 for a computer package upgrade.
- David Temple to continue as South West Federation Fixtures secretary.
- Julie Horsley to continue as Open Tournament Secretary. All Open tournaments to be managed by Julie Horsley, Peter Nelson or Helen Pryor.

Croquet AGM – Tuesday 25th October at 6pm

Maureen Bess has been invited to present the trophies and has accepted.

JS to ask Gill Hodge to provide a Lasagne and Curry supper with a price to be agreed.

JS to print tickets and issue some to PB and Gabby Macadam for sale.

As last year, non-playing spouses/partners/family to have tickets for the buffet, only if space allows.

Draft versions of the formal AGM papers were discussed and amended where necessary.

SD to place formal documents in the mallet room by 15th September. All closing dates for nominations and items for the agenda to be 15th October. A single notice to be placed outside hut 3.

ALL to circulate their draft reports to other committee members by 15th October. (DB's role will be incorporated into CW's report).

SD to ask Helen Pryor to provide a list of deceased members.

PH, with the association handicap committee, to decide the best HH and LH improvers.

Helen Pryor, with the golf handicap committee, to decide the best HH and LH improvers.

SD to ask David Temple to give a report on the SW Fed league teams to include golf croquet.

SW Federation AGM – Sunday 20th November

Discussed. **PH** to attend with voting right for Association. Helen Pryor's offer to attend to represent Golf Croquet accepted (with voting right). Graeme Pryor to attend if he chooses to do so. **SD** to respond to Helen Pryor.

No proposals to be submitted from Sidmouth.

PN mentioned vacancies on the South West Fed committee for anyone who may be interested.

The 2017 Programme - initial considerations

As the CA will soon be requesting details of the Open tournaments for their fixtures book, an initial discussion had been held by Julie Horsley, PN, PH and SD. Provisional dates had been agreed with tournaments managers and tabled for the committee for comment. Sidmouth had previously bid for the Selectors Weekend on 8th-10th September 2017, therefore the C-Level Advanced and Finals weekends are moved to a later slot. The High Bisquers has been moved to early in July in the hope of attracting more entrants.

These dates were agreed.

The Spring talk is being progressed.

An additional event of a Sidmouth and Croquet quiz was suggested with an afternoon cream tea. Agreed. **PN** offered to run the quiz.

PN proposed that the prospective New Members morning (Taster Session) be moved to early April to enable play on the lawns. **CW** agreed this would allow time for the coaching sessions in April. Details to be discussed at a later meeting.

Chairman's Matters

Peter Nelson reported that:

- he has reminded John Goodwin about the lawn 4 gate in the netting gap and will continue to pursue this.
- Colin Whitehall has been asked to get a quote for levelling of lawn 4.
- **PN** to enquire whether a report from Richard Thurlow and David Temple on the water tank has been prepared and submitted.
- car parking during the Tour of Britain raised only £312. The Club was disappointed that car park signage was poor.

Individual Committee Members' Reports

Pam Bowra reported that:

- the golf internal tournaments had gone well
- she and **PH** have arranged some training for the golf croquet beginners on Saturday 24th September at 10am on lawns 2/3/4. Mike Hide also to assist.
- Helen Pryor has asked **AT** and herself to join the golf handicap committee. This was noted.

Andrew Thomas reported that:

- the leak between lawns 3 and 4 should be investigated this week.
- a revamp of the mallet room is needed to store more mallets.

Julie Sorrell-

- requested mallet room notice boards to include space for social events
- has enquired about prices for the Christmas lunch at the Bedford. This has now gone up to £25. With a gratuity, ticket prices would probably be £26. Tickets would be on sale at the AGM. The menu was considered. **JS** to request inclusion of a fruit starter.

Colin Walls reported that:

- the pavilion tablet is slow and would require an upgrade if it were to be faster. **CW** was given permission to purchase an upgrade in consultation with Roger Mills.
- Budleigh have requested that he create a similar booking system for them but he has declined.

Philip Harris reported that:

- Internal tournament blocks have not been completed to schedule.

Any Other Business

Topics for discussion for 2017.

SD to note for 2017 discussion:

- a discounted rate for the Bedford Lawn car park for tournaments to be requested.
- inclusion on the website of roads with unrestricted parking.

- a reminder to league managers of lunch/tea refreshment option.
- league managers to be briefed on parking arrangements for visiting teams.
- consideration of beginners' golf croquet skill training at the beginning of the season.
- consideration of lawns after 4pm being available to book for practice.
- consideration be given to purchasing more club mallets and disposing of old small mallets – a rolling renewal programme could be considered.

End of season beginners' coffee morning

SD offered to host a coffee morning for the beginners to discuss various croquet matters. This was agreed for Thursday 6th October at 10am. **SD** to circulate details.

Golf club sessions

IS requested (by e-mail) that the golf club sessions on a Monday and Wednesday morning be extended to all 4 lawns. Following discussion this was agreed for a trial period.

Club Match Clothing

PN has received comments on the smartness of visiting players who have a club logo printed on their croquet outfits and wondered if we should consider this for Sidmouth. This was turned down because of cost of stock and the preference to wear a variety of white clothing. However a free sew-on badge is to be given to team members in the SW Fed leagues.

Date of the next meeting

Wednesday 19th October, 10.30 am at Redleaf to be followed by a committee lunch at the Victoria. **PN** to invite David and Nancy Temple and Julie Horsley. **JS** to book for 1pm.

SIDMOUTH CRICKET, TENNIS and CROQUET CLUB

CROQUET SECTION

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 19th October 2016

Present: Peter Nelson, Sue Dent, Philip Harris, Ian Simpson, Julie Sorrell, Andrew Thomas, Colin Walls.

Apologies for Absence: Pam Bowra, David Butler

Minutes of the last meeting held on 14th September 2016 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

Participation Cards. 92 cards from 123 members have now been received.

The Lawns. AT reported that corner 4 on lawn 4 has been levelled. The issue of corner 3 is not resolved as the contractor failed to turn up; it is now too late in the season to progress this.

The Borehole. PN reported that Richard Thurlow's report costing the borehole pumps (at approx £9,000) has now gone to members of the GMC, been agreed in principle and will get formal approval at their next meeting.

Mallet Room winter revamp. PN to arrange a site visit by relevant committee members to agree a way forward. Social events notice board likely to be in the area currently occupied by The Wheel.

Small Garden between lawns 2 and 3. PN to give further consideration to this area. IS has offered lavender plants.

Lawn Bookings. CW requested to extend electronic bookings to 31st October and include bookings for regular club sessions and roll-ups.

Members subscription. Confirmation given that Diane Whitehouse's subscription will roll forward to 2017.

Croquet AGM – Tuesday 25th October at 6pm

The Agenda

A draft agenda was circulated for discussion and comment. In advance of the AGM:

PN to contact Julie Horsley for a brief Open Tournaments Secretary's report.

SD to ask Helen Pryor if she will be giving a golf handicap committee report.

A proposal under AOB had been received from Paul Griew regarding payment of fees. The committee were not in favour of the proposal. **PN** to discuss the issue with Paul as to whether it was worth raising.

CW or **PN** to collect Maureen Bess at 5.30pm. **PN** to inform her.

PH to send SD a list of trophy winners for the trophy book.

SD to make amendments to the AGM agenda.

Table-Served Meal

JS reported that 55 tickets had been sold. The main course of Roast Pork or Steak and Kidney Pie will be served at the table; puddings will be collected from the hatch.

Arrangements

ALL asked to attend at 5.15 pm to help with room layout.

ALL to wear committee name badges.

SD to provide name badges for all attendees (at the request of a new member).

SD to make copies of the agenda available.

JS to ensure microphone available.

PH to announce trophy winners and assist John Dixon.

IS to arrange for collection boxes for Colin Whitehall and Julie Clayden.

CW to photograph trophy winners.

SD to obtain signatures for trophies received.

JS to arrange table place names for PN and his guests.

PN to retain the collection boxes at the end of the evening for return to IS.

Forthcoming Events

End of season tidy-up – Tuesday 1st November; 10am-2pm

Activities suggested: wash croquet balls/clean hoops/repaint hoops/repaint boards/clean fridge/clean hut 3/tidy mallet room. Participants invited to bring lunch. AT to add this to his AGM report.

The 2017 Programme

The talk by Roger Hendy agreed for Wednesday 8th February.

Taster Session to be Saturday 8th April.

Skills afternoon to be for Golf and Association.

SD asked to contact David Laidler for a date for a Treasure Hunt.

Agreed that **SD** would bring to the next meeting an updated draft programme with events generally to be the same day of the week, but one date earlier.

CA Tournament Entry Fees

The CA has requested Sidmouth details for their Fixtures Book. These have been compiled by Julie Horsley and approved by PN. There will be 2 fee rates – club members who are not individual CA members will pay an additional £5/day.

Chairman's Matters

Peter Nelson commented that regarding the 2017 programme:

- the initial agreement with Helen Pryor was that on a Tuesday afternoons two lawns could be booked for golf croquet team practice except when there is a match or tournament.
- some Association team practice after 4pm could be considered.
- some Club barbeque events could be included.
- feedback from the beginners' coffee morning was very positive. Golf skills additional training was suggested for a month after the initial coaching.

The GMC

PN reported that:

- disappointingly there is no progress with lawn 4 gate.
- a planning application is to be submitted for netting on the southern boundary.
- the advertising banners are likely to be moved to be alongside the Belmont; the Cricket and Croquet sections are to liaise on this.
- discussions on allowing dogs on the grounds were inconclusive.

Individual Committee Members' Reports

Andrew Thomas requested that:

- more cupboards be purchased for hut 3. He was asked to talk to Roger Mills about expenditure.
- a cycle rack has been requested alongside hut 3. This was agreed but is not considered a priority.

and reported that:

- new mallets are available through the internet for £60 for a 9 1/2" head. These were likely to be 'garden' mallets. **PH** authorised to buy David Ridlington's mallet for the club for £40. This and other mallets in the store to be integrated into the club mallet stock and the poorest mallets withdrawn. Further consideration to buying mallets to be left to the new season. **PN** to request donation of mallets at the AGM.

Sue Dent reported that:

- articles for The Swan have been requested.
- the Dowlish Wake pavilion has burnt down. **PB** requested to send them a card of support.

Julie Horsley reported, by e-mail, on the entries for the Open Tournaments in 2016.

Date of the next meeting

To be determined following the AGM.

SIDMOUTH CRICKET TENNIS AND CROQUET CLUB

MINUTES OF THE CROQUET SECTION AGM

TUESDAY 25th OCTOBER 2016

The Chairman (Peter Nelson) welcomed more than 50 members to the meeting who then stood in silence to remember our former member, Mungo Aldridge, who had died recently.

Apologies for absence: were received from Roger Mills, Howard and Marjorie Quarrell and Anne Holbeche.

Minutes of 2015 AGM: were accepted by the meeting as a true record and were duly signed by the Chairman.

Treasurer's Report: Ian Simpson explained that the Sidmouth Cricket, Tennis and Croquet Club draw up formal accounts; the Croquet section handles subscriptions and receives money from social events and match fees. In addition to paying for these events, the section pays money over to our parent body, the Croquet Association. Because of our increased membership, subscription income rose by 9% but our payment to the CA also increased. Other elements of income and expenditure were small in comparison. The Treasurer explained the reason for the increase in fees to the CA. In all the croquet section contributed £21,600 to the funds of the Club after direct expenses, a year on year improvement of £1,700.

Secretary's Report: Sue Dent reported an increase in membership from 115 to 123 this year. The club had 24 new members; some from the initial taster and coaching sessions whilst others joined mid season in response to National Croquet Day. David Butler was standing down as Membership Secretary and he was thanked for his service to the Club in this role which henceforth will be undertaken by Marian Harris.

Committee Reports: were received from:

- **Andrew Thomas** who reported that the lawns had generally played well this year but corrective work was now required to the corners of some lawns. The sprinkler system has caused problems but work is planned for replacement valves and a new borehole pump. Work is hoped to be undertaken over the winter. Players were requested to take their mallets home.
- **Julie Sorrell** who reported on social events, noting in particular the benefits derived from the enhanced facilities at hut 3. Refreshments have raised over £550 in the year. Various social events had been well supported and thanks were expressed to several individuals.
- **Colin Walls** who reported on the lawn booking statistics with less than half the lawn availability booked. The electronic booking system has worked well from home sites but the pavilion tablet has been slow and will be upgraded for next season.
- **Philip Harris** who reported on a successful Internal Tournament season with 53 members participating, 5 being last year's beginners. A few new competitions had been introduced.
- **Pam Bowra** who summarised the Golf Croquet season and urged members to complete the block competitions to the timetable next season.
- **Julie Horsley** (although not on the committee acts as Open Tournament Secretary) reported that CA Open Tournaments had been well supported with participants appreciative of the welcome and facilities offered at Sidmouth.

South West Federation Fixtures Secretary: David Temple reported on a busy fixtures schedule for both the Association and Golf Teams and thanked managers and captains for their commitment.

Handicap Committee: Philip Harris and Helen Pryor outlined the role of their committees in assessing players' ability in order to set members' handicaps. Members who had made substantial progress in the season were congratulated.

Chairman's Remarks: the Chairman reiterated the thanks of the Club to all those mentioned but additionally congratulated Mike Hide and Rob and Liz Matthews for their work and achievement in the Sidmouth in Bloom awards and higher level awards. He thanked the committee for their hard work and support which had contributed to an enjoyable season.

The Chairman then thanked the three retiring committee members Colin Walls, Ian Simpson and David Butler for their work. He presented Sue Dent with the Chairman's Award in recognition of her work as Secretary for the last 4 years.

Election of New Committee: the Chairman identified existing committee members available for re-election as himself, Sue Dent, Pam Bowra, Philip Harris, Julie Sorrell and Andrew Thomas. Penny Ball, Paul Bradley and Richard Thurlow have also volunteered to join the committee for 2017. The meeting agreed to vote en-bloc and the motion to elect the committee was proposed by Roger Hendy and seconded by Muriel Philpott. The vote in favour was unanimous and the named candidates were duly elected.

Presentation of Prizes: the Chairman introduced, as Guest of Honour, Maureen Bess, President of the Club and one of four generations of her family closely associated with the Club. Trophies were presented to the season's winners. Peter Nelson then proposed a vote of thanks to Maureen Bess.

John Dixon and Philip Harris were thanked for their hard work in collecting and arranging for the engraving on the trophies.

Notices: Members were advised that tickets were on sale for the Christmas Lunch on 14th December. A talk to start the Croquet year and a tea and quiz afternoon were also announced.

Meeting Closed: there being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting and welcomed club members to participate in the meal provided.

SD 29/10/2016