

HIGH WYCOMBE CROQUET CLUB

Minutes of Committee Meeting held at 8.00pm on Wednesday, 9th February 2022, by Zoom.



1. Attendees

Present: Richard Peperell (Chairman RP), Duncan Reeve (Treasurer DR), Keith Pound (Secretary KP), Alan Clark (AC), Ed Olhausen (EO), Nigel Clogg (NC) (co-opted member), Wendy Kingon (WK) (co-opted member).

Apologies: Raouf Allim (RA), Stephen Wright (SW)

Meeting closed at 10.10pm

2. Matters arising from last minutes and actions outstanding

Items for discussion	
2.1 Matters to report upon and actions outstanding	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. [2.1.2] Stephen to meet Vanessa White shortly. Ed to follow up to encourage her to join. (SW/EO).2. [2.1.3] Nigel has taken on the role of club archivist. He will go for a rationalisation of the large amount of paperwork. (NC).3. [2.1.5] <i>Younger person research</i> – Duncan to consider if he has anything from the discussion with his children to pass on. (DR).4. [2.1.8] <i>Security contact</i> – RA has agreed to join KT and EO. It was agreed they should be called upon only in the daylight.5. [3.3] In April/May, Ed will approach Andy Parry and invite members of Bootcamp to a BBQ in May/June. (EO).6. [3.4] <i>Sprinklers</i> – only task outstanding is the need to replace a temporary float switch to the tank (not urgent). (RP).7. [3.8]. Russell and Aaron will now ensure fox poo is picked up prior to mowing.8. [3.10] It was agreed that information on the alarm system was too much detail to include in the Welcome-new-members email.9. [3.13] Richard reported he had not had time to consider lawn laser levelling further. Pended for some time in the future.10. [3.16] Nigel volunteered to find members to fill the open positions in Richard's 'Who Does What?' document. (NC).11. [3.20] Responsibility for maintaining the locks has reverted to Russell and Aaron.12. [3.25] Richard to organise half lawns to be marked out in Spring with the help of Raouf and Alan. (RP).13. [3.28] <i>Club clothing</i> – Ed is waiting on the quotes from his neighbour. Once received, he may get another local quote. (EO).14. [3.29] <i>Leaflets</i> – Ed will source waterproof boxes for our leaflets to be put up on the fence by Don. (EO). RP to ask CW to update the landing page for our QR code (https://hwcroquetclub.com/vlp). (RP).

	<p>15. [3.31] Keith to liaise with RA on lawn speed to put onto the CA website. He will also correct the omission of HW club on the CA's clubs map. (KP).</p> <p>16. [3.34] <i>Club sign</i> – Nigel's option 1 was the preferred style with new wording suggested by Wendy 'Come In. Join In.' Sponsors will not be included on the sign, but we may consider separate sponsor boards around the club in the future. (NC).</p> <p>17. [3.35] Alan to talk to Elizabeth Snellgrove face-to-face in due course to ask if she would be interested in the club role of Health & Safety officer. Richard has supplied Alan with a copy of Blewbury's H&S. (AC).</p> <p>18. [3.36] <i>AGM format</i> – Ed is redrafting the club constitution to account for the possible different formats for the AGM (face-to-face, Zoom or email). (EO).</p> <p>19. [3.37] <i>Prizegiving</i> – not this year but it was felt it should be reinstated in due course. It was pointed out that speeches could be shortened or omitted to make the evening easier for the Chairman. This year, prizes to be given out at the 40th celebrations in June.</p> <p>20. [4.1] No interest was shown for finding some way to invest our funds in interest-bearing investments.</p>
--	---

3. Chairman's report

Report	
3.1 Proposal to encourage younger people to join.	<p>Nigel raised this issue, saying he was against giving membership away free when others were paying over £200. Others were sympathetic to this view while others were with Richard's proposal or variations. A long discussion ensued. Various points were made, including:</p> <p>Should we be focusing on the very local population (within a few miles)? Leaflets again?</p> <p>Should we be approaching local sports clubs (because that is where the most competitive people may be found, and they are the most likely to be interested in the game rather than simply an occasional social evening).</p> <p>Should we go for the free approach for just one year to try it out?</p> <p>Should we put on some competitive events and invite individuals along (e.g. the guys from Marlow)?</p> <p>In the end it was agreed that Richard would send round an email with a number of options on which to vote.</p>

3.2 More lawns	In view of the importance of the Terriers development to the chances of securing planning permission for our lawns, Richard asked if someone would keep an eye on the Bucks planning portal as to its progress and to then keep him informed. Wendy offered to do this around once a month. She also volunteered to give Katherine Oliver (Parish Councillor) a game sometime, alongside Richard. (WK/RP) .
3.3 Webnews	Chris Webbley would like to do further research on the readership of his webnews. He would like to ask 3 questions of the membership and has asked the committee to help by coming up with suitable questions. (All) .
3.4 Club image	Could the committee come up with some ideas to improve the public image of the club further? (All) . One idea is to have an arch over the entrance. Nigel to have a think about this one. (NC) .

4. Other reports

Topic	
4.1 Treasurer	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Duncan shared his screen. The report is a draft of what he will publish for the AGM. Our balance sheet is very healthy, with assets at around £50k. In part this is due to Covid grants and a reduced expenditure on the lawns last year. The section on the proposed subs will no longer be in this report but in the Membership Secretary's. A rise of the full single sub from £210 to £230 should allow income and expenditure to match next year (but see 4.2.1). 2. Easy fundraising is still undersubscribed. Alan suggested we push the message that, had more people signed up, our subs would not have needed to increase – on the Google forms for the AGM as a link (EO). Keith asked if it was mentioned on our membership application form – apparently not (EO). Other ideas – include on our renewal form (EO), promote by email in the summer and before Christmas put details on the newly planned notice board (who to action these last two?). 3. Richard pointed out that although grant income was just a couple of lines in the report, a very large amount of effort went in to obtaining these, with follow up reports also expected to be written. Duncan and he had done this work. 4. Richard reiterated that we had underspent on lawn maintenance last year, for various reasons, but that this was not good, and lawns had suffered as a result.

<p>4.2 Proposed subscription increase</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Richard invited comments on the proposed increase. Ed was particularly concerned for the effect on families now the family membership has been withdrawn, and also on those individuals, like himself, who cannot get up to the club very regularly. Perhaps he himself should now go the affiliate membership way? He questioned whether the sprinkler budgeting cost should come out of capital expenditure rather than general fund (maintenance expenditure) and if we were playing it safe in other budgeting areas, rounding up more than was necessary? Keith mentioned the significant cost of living rises going on currently (energy etc.) which might impact members' views on the proposed rise. It was decided to restrict the standard sub increase to £10 (= £220) and mention the fact we were restricting it in the expectation that more members will sign up to Easyfunding. 2. Richard and Ed will discuss 'offline' sensitive wording to include on the renewal form should someone have financial issues with the level of fees. The idea being, that person could privately talk to Ed in confidence about coming to an arrangement. (RP/EO).
<p>4.3 Marketing</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Richard asked for comments on the current 120 membership cap. Is it too high? The meeting agreed that 120 is still a reasonable level, given there have been no complaints from members recently about not being able to get lawn time. 2. The meeting discussed 'Come & Try's. The consensus was that they are a successful way to promote the club and get new members. Ed felt strongly that we should also put on a few BBQ evening events, for the likes of the two Cookham gentlemen. Ed agreed to organise these on an ad-hoc basis with the help of Alan, Sharon and, hopefully, Mark Higgins. (EO/AC). 3. Stephen's idea of an evening roll-up – how to progress? Ed said that the BBQs in 2. above could do this job better than a regular roll-up slot that few workers would be able to attend on a consistent basis. It's about relationship, so bring your mates along and have a beer and a BBQ. The meeting liked this idea and Richard agreed to give his unrequired BBQ to the club.
<p>4.4 Lawn</p>	<p>No comments on this report other than to thank Richard for all the work he has put into this.</p>
<p>4.5 Membership</p>	<p>Richard requested that the report also include numbers leaving and, if possible, why they left. (EO) Ed is researching ways to use the CA membership list for group emails. (EO).</p>
<p>4.6 Nigel's</p>	<p>The meeting discussed the idea of a notice board. Everyone was keen for this to proceed. No lock, unless found to be needed later. PVC anti-glare. New sign – discussed in 2.1.16 above. Meeting to be arranged shortly between Nigel and Keith to deal with outstanding issues on the transfer of Secretary. (KP/NC).</p>

5. Other items, including AOB

Topic	
5.1 Internal tournaments	Just one final remains from last year. Keith hopes it will take place next week, as long as Stephen has returned from Leeds.
5.2 GC level captain	Keith will set up the matches as GC competition manager and then pass over to Stephen, who has agreed to select the teams for each match, effectively still acting as captain. No-one else has stepped forward for the role.
5.3 Come & Try	Who will manage? Possibly Chris Webbley? Richard will ask him. (RP) .
5.4 Mobile electronic payment	Ed offered to look into how expensive one of these would be for the clubhouse. He thinks prices may have come down since Duncan researched them some time back. (EO) .
5.5 Committee members	Richard has asked Chris Webbley to join the committee. We are losing Stephen, and Raouf would like to step down. Everyone to consider who might replace them. (All) .

6. Next Meetings

Topic	
Committee meeting	Before the Come & Try, so date still to be determined.
AGM	Sunday 20 th March, time to be decided. Ed producing some Google forms for membership to use for voting. (EO) .

7. Action Points Summary

Name	Paragraph
Richard	2.1.6, 2.1.12, 2.1.14, 3.2, 4.2.2, 5.3
Keith	2.1.15, 4.6
Duncan	2.1.3
Alan	2.1.17, 4.3.2
Stephen	2.1.1
Ed	2.1.1, 2.1.5, 2.1.13, 2.1.14, 2.1.18, 4.1.2, 4.2.2, 4.3.2, 4.5, 5.4, 6
Nigel	2.1.2, 2.1.10, 2.1.16, 3.4, 4.6
Wendy	3.2
All	3.3, 3.4, 5.5