



## HIGH WYCOMBE CROQUET CLUB

### Minutes of Committee Meeting

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2024, 19.00

Venue: The Crown, Amersham Road HP15 7QA

<b>Present: David Cotton</b>	<b>Chairman (DC)</b>
<b>Kenny Weir</b>	<b>Secretary/Equipment Manager (KW)</b>
<b>Richard Coward</b>	<b>Treasurer (RC)</b>
<b>Matthew Miles Griffiths</b>	<b>Membership Secretary (MMG)</b>
<b>Guy Priestley</b>	<b>GP</b>
<b>Wendy Kingon</b>	<b>WK</b>
<b>Alan Clark</b>	<b>AC</b>
<b>Nigel Clogg</b>	<b>NC</b>

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#### 1) **Chiltern Croquet Academy**

A written report was provided by Ian Shore, highlighting the activity over 2024, and the contribution to the Academy's activities by individuals. The Academy continues to run a large number of courses, though 2024 saw a slight reduction in numbers, and some AC and one SC course were cancelled because of a lack of interest. The committee thanked Ian for his report.

#### 2) **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Chris Webbley, CW

#### 3) **Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 14th May 2024**

##### **a. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

##### **b. Matters Arising**

The majority of actions had been completed or were covered by other agenda items. The remaining actions were:

Safeguarding (GP/DC) It has proved difficult to get clear information on what is required (lack of information from CqE). It was agreed there needs to be a clear information for members on what is expected, and that the Safeguarding Officer would prepare a clear statement to be sent to all members

**ACTION: GP**

Paint shed roofs, Drill holes in paving (DC/NC) Over the summer a number of members had helped around the Club building and grounds to clean, fix and maintain various items around

the Club. A list of items to be address under general maintenance will be maintained, and these items have been added to this list

CCA Management Board membership (DC) Ian Shore will be our representative

Contract between HWCC and CCA (RC) Richard C had worked with Ian on the new contract which will be circulated to the committee shortly.

Who does what update (DC) This is an ongoing activity.

#### 4) **Chairman's Business**

1-ball event. Croquet England will run a charity 1-ball event in the coming year. It was agreed that we should participate, and DC agreed to arrange our event in the spring, assisted by RC.

**ACTION: DC, RC**

Hazlemere Sport Association. The HSA will hold its AGM on Monday DC will attend and expects the Terriers development to be discussed.

Weekly what's on and Rollups. DC discussed the introduction of an AC rollup on a Friday afternoon on one of the lawns. Uptake of AC has increased with several members playing more AC over the last year, and new members playing predominantly AC. The introduction of the additional rollup session would provide more opportunities for these players over the winter months. The AC rollup on a Sunday (along side the GC rollup) would be removed from the schedule. This arrangement would only be for the winter months as longer days over the summer months allows play later in the day. The committee agreed to this change to the schedule. The schedule on the Club house door would be updated accordingly.

**ACTION: KW**

#### 5) **Lawn Manager's report**

The report highlighted the continued request for the committee to identify a replacement for the Lawn Manager/Sprinkler manager.

There is a full job description for these roles, and the committee recognised that these are incredibly important roles, and that it will be difficult to find a replacement. The committee asked Richard Peperell to continue in the role in the interim, but aims to address this issue in the next 6-9 months

**ACTION: DC**

Bird Damage. A bird scaring device ("Shooo") is being trialled. It is installed at the equipment shed door and is active when the Club is locked up. Initial indications are that it has helped on lawn one. If it proves effective a further device close to lawn two will be considered

Lawn Disease. Members will have noticed the lawn disease on both lawns, which is not uncommon at this time of year. This is being treated.

Lawn Levelling. We have a regular, annual, top dressing to help retain flat lawn. Our lawns are flatter than most Clubs' but there is always room for improvement. Any work would need 4-5 volunteers to assist, and members of the committee indicated that they would be willing to contribute. Richard Peperell is aware that Blewbury (and Phyllis Court) had their lawns surveyed and levelled. The committee agree that Richard should be asked to provide further information on the process and procedures.

**ACTION: KW**

Remote Mowing System for surrounding grass (not playing surfaces). The committee agreed that Richard P should be asked to explore this further and provide more information to a future committee meeting.

**ACTION: KW**

It was agreed that the minutes of meetings should be distributed to the Lawn Manager.

**ACTION: KW**

The sprinkler system has been drained for winter and the meter reading submitted to Brian Maple.

A number of general maintenance items were identified which will be added to the list of necessary maintenance items.

## 6) **Membership**

### **a. Current Situation**

Current membership of 108 is slightly down on last year. There are 13 new members, which means we have lost several members. There are many varied reasons for people not renewing their membership.

The membership is fully consolidated against Croquet England records.

### **b. Marketing**

The June “come and try”, though widely advertised, did not attract quite as much interest as in previous years. The contribution of many members in supporting this was greatly appreciated, and the committee passed on its thanks to these individuals.

It was agreed that we should continue with this event in 2025. The date needs to be identified and new flyers and banners procured.

**ACTION: NC**

NC will meet with CW to review the Club’s Facebook page.

**ACTION: NC**

The Club is taking a table at a Tylers Green and Penn event in February to promote the Club. DC and WK have already volunteered to attend.

**ACTION: DC, WK**

## 7) **Finances**

### **a. Treasurer’s Report**

The Committee noted the finance report and thanked the Treasurer. RC noted that current figures indicated that we were heading towards a surplus, with an increase in non-subscription revenue, combined with the difficulty in getting planned maintenance done within the year and strong control on lawn expenditure.

The Club’s Bond Accounts were rolled over in September, and the size of the bond was increased as was previously agreed. The Club retains strong cash reserves.

The Treasurer is beginning to plan for an initial budget for 2025. There was discussion around the likely membership in 2025, and it was agreed that for planning purposes we should assume a similar membership to previous years. Also, for planning purposes it was agreed that there should be minimal increase in 2025 subscriptions. There is likely to be some expenditure on equipment in coming years and it was agreed that this should come from the Reserve.

### **b. Planned expenditure**

Some general maintenance has been undertaken, and further small items identified with estimates being requested. It is intended that much of what is planned will fall within this year’s budget.

Other forward looking expenditure was considered with a view to prioritising what should be undertaken in the coming year. It was agreed that we should budget for two additional Club mallets (with long handles) and refurbishment of the hoops for the half-lawns.

**ACTION: KW**

Floodlights were raised again, but the committee did not see any reason to reopen discussion on floodlights. The robot mowing system may be considered in light of further information from the Lawn Manager (see (5) above).

## 8) Tournaments

CW provided a report on the Club's inter competitions and Open Tournaments, including our first GC 1-day open tournament in June (which will be repeated for 2025). The committee passed on their thanks to Chris for his work on these activities.

## 9) Equipment

KW reported that he had completed the refurbishment of the grips on the mallets. A survey of the mallets (number of mallets by length of handle) had identified that there was a case for purchasing a further two mallets with longer handles (see (7)b. above). The committee thanked KW for his work on the mallets.

## 10) Terriers Farm Development

It was reported that there were no updates to report on this matter, with the status of the application with Bucks County Council unchanged. It was agreed that we needed to renew and maintain our contacts with Councillors (Hazlemere Parish, and Buckinghamshire County) to ensure that we were prepared should this development proceed. It was agreed that WK and GP should take this forward, also involving members who had an understanding of Council policy and procedures.

**ACTION: WK, GP**

(Note added after the meeting: The planning application was approved shortly after the committee meeting, though recent press reports are suggesting that it may go to judicial review.)

## 11) Club Roles and Volunteers

The Club is run by its members who volunteer to contribute to its activities, often utilising individuals' skills. It was agreed that as part of the induction process for new members their greeters should ask what skills they have which they might offer to the Club.

**Action: WK, AC**

It was agreed that in the Membership Secretary's invitation to members to renew, a request is made for individuals to contribute to the running of the Club.

**ACTION: MMG**

## 12) Informal Social Events

KW reported that he intended to make arrangements for two or three social events over the summer season of 2025. The intention is to identify and publicise dates well in advance so that members can plan in advance.

**Action: KW**

## 13) Dates for Meetings and Prize Giving Dinner

### a. Next Committee Meeting

This will be held on Tuesday 28th January 2025, Hazlemere Memorial Hall.

### b. The Prize Giving Dinner

It was agreed that this will take place on 21st February 2025. It was agreed that the Potters Arms should be approached to see if they would be willing to host the event.

**ACTION: NC**

Arrangements for the Prize Giving Dinner will be led by NC, assisted by GP

**ACTION: NC, GP**

### c. The AGM

The AGM will be held on Sunday 16th March, Hazlemere Memorial Hall.