



HIGH WYCOMBE CROQUET CLUB

Minutes of Committee Meeting

Tuesday 28th January 2025, 19.00

Venue: Ken Williams Room, Hazlemere Memorial Hall

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

1) Apologies

Apologies were received from Chris Webbley (CW) and Guy Priestley (GP).

2) Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 20th November 2024

a. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

b. Matters Arising

The actions had been completed or were covered in agenda items. It was agreed that minutes should be posted on the Club website as soon as they had been approved by the committee (via email).

3) Chairman's Business

Strategy The importance of identifying a strategy and future priorities for the Club was discussed. It was agreed that this needed to be discussed in a separate meeting involving a wider group of the Club membership. This will be raised at the March AGM.

ACTION: DC

Club Roles and Responsibilities It was noted that we have had difficulty in encouraging members to join the Club's cleaning rota. DC, NC and RC volunteered to join the rota.

It was noted that there are gaps in our "Who does What". As a Club that is run by its members for its members, the committee wanted to encourage more members to contribute to the wide range of activities that are part of the smooth running of the Club. It was agreed that after six

months newly joined members should be asked to identify where they could contribute to these activities. At the annual membership renewal existing members should be encouraged to identify where they might contribute to Club activities.

ACTION: MMG

1-Ball The Club will hold a 1-Ball event as part of Croquet England's charity competition. The date of our event is to be confirmed.

ACTION: DC, RC

Funding opportunities The committee were reminded of the funding opportunity available via "Easyfundraising", where a small percentage of the price of a purchase is donated to the Club. This requires the purchaser to start from the website www.easyfunding.org.uk which then directs them to the online site of one of the many retailers registered with them (including Amazon, Argos, Currys, John Lewis, Marks and Spencer and Tesco to name a few). It was agreed that members should be reminded of this as part of their membership renewal.

ACTION: MMG

4) **Safeguarding**

The committee reviewed an update provided by GP. The committee thanked GP for his distillation of the often contradictory information coming from Croquet England. The committee still had concerns over the advice coming from CqE. Our current policy is adequate, and for interactions with schools and youth organisations we should be guided by their expertise and asking how they want to work with us. It was agreed that this should be raised again with Croquet England.

ACTION: DC

5) **Lawn Manager's report**

A successor to Richard Peperell (RP) has been identified and agreed to take on the role. Kenny Weir will take on the role as soon as someone takes over the role of Secretary.

Bird Damage Several strategies are being pursued to improve the situation. It was suggested that we maintain a range of bird scaring approaches and rotate these as the current approach becomes less effective. It was agreed that we should purchase diffractive reflectors (like CDs) as one of these approaches. The committee did not consider feeding the birds to be an appropriate action.

ACTION: KW

Lawn Disease Work continues to address the lawn disease.

Lawn Levelling The groundsman (Russell) and several members have expressed a willingness to be involved in a project to survey and level the lawns. Further discussion is needed to identify an appropriate time, understand the process and prepare a schedule of work.

ACTION: KW

Remote Mowing System RP had come back with further comments on the costing of this item. It is agreed that we should continue to explore the option to mow the surrounding grass.

ACTION: KW

Sprinkler Manager A replacement Sprinkler Manager remains to be identified. It was agreed that KW should discuss the detail of this role, and the sprinkler system, with Richard Peperell.

ACTION: KW

6) **Tournaments**

CW and Mike Porter provided a report on the Club's Autumn and Winter Tournament series which continue to be very popular.

Scheduling of the summer series of GC and AC summer events is under way. The committee passed on their thanks to Chris and Mike for his work on these activities. The committee also noted the success and popularity of the “Friendlies” organised by Wendy Kingon.

7) **Membership**

a. Current Situation

There was no significant change from the information presented to the previous meeting. There was a minor discrepancy on numbers between the Membership Secretary and the Treasurer, but the reason is understood and will be resolved.

b. Marketing

It was noted that the QR-code on the club fliers takes users to a rather dull web page. It was agreed that this should be revised.

ACTION: NC, MMG

NC had viewed the area around the venue for the “Tylers Green and Penn Expo” on 22nd February, where the Club will take a table. There is an area of grass that may be used to set up a hoop, and it was suggested that there would be videos running showing croquet in action. NC agreed to join DC and WK at the event.

ACTION: NC, DC, WK

8) **Finances**

The treasurer presented a summary of the club finances for 2024, reflecting a good year for the Club. A proposed budget for 2025 was outlined, which held subscriptions at the same level as 2024 and still allowed the club to remain within budget.

The Committee thanked the Treasurer for his work in bringing together a clear and carefully thought-out budget. This will be presented formally to the AGM.

ACTION: RC

9) **Terriers Farm Development**

There was no significant update from the previous meeting. It was noted that the exact status of the application was not clear (press reports say it is approved but has gone to appeal, the Council website says “Awaiting Decision”). It was agreed that we should establish the actual status.

ACTION: WK

10) **Dates for Meetings and Prize-giving Dinner**

a. The Prize-giving Dinner

Confirming a venue had proved more difficult than anticipated, but the Old Queen’s Head in Penn had a space that could accommodate our numbers, with a menu priced at £30pp. It was agreed that we should go ahead with this.

AC agreed to prepare the seating plan, DC and MMG agreed to assist with other arrangements.

ACTION: AC, DC, MMG

b. The AGM

The AGM will be held on Sunday 16th March, Hazlemere Memorial Hall. It was agreed that we would offer a ploughman’s lunch after the meeting.

ACTION: AC

c. Next Committee Meeting

This will be held in May, exact date to be confirmed.

ACTION: KW