

Minutes of Committee Meeting held at the Clubhouse 15th April 1977 – all members present except for Mrs. Holt, who sent her apologies for absence.

The Secretary reported resignations from the Club from Mr. and Mrs. Price, Miss Becker and Miss Catling and from Mrs. Verity.

The Minutes of the A.G.M. held November 4, 1976 were read. Matters arising:-

A letter from Mrs. Verity was received in which she resigned from the Committee, explaining that she did not wish to join the Committee but was rather swept into being elected, without previous notice, at the A.G.M., This decision was accepted with regret, but it was felt that there was no real necessity to appoint another member and therefore for the present, the number of Committee members would remain at six.

The fourth annual luncheon held at the Belmont Hotel on March 31st. was very successful and it was unanimously agreed that a letter of appreciation should be sent to Mr. Fitzgerald on behalf of the Committee, for the excellent lunch and arrangements made.

Mr. Stirrup's report. There were 21 entries for the Singles event so far. It was agreed that the tournament should be run in two blocks. Doubles. It was suggested and agreed that if they so wish, members may enter this event in pairs and in this way, it is hoped to attract a better entry. Individual entries will be drawn for partners. As agreed at the A.G.M., in order to help defray the cost of cup engraving, an entry fee of 20p. per person per event will be charged and these fees should be paid to the Secretary.

Shot-game. In the event of a spell of bad weather affecting the lawns, the Committee reserve the right to cancel the fixture at short notice, if necessary. Mr. Moores had recently acted as liaison officer owing to the absence of Mr. Holt and in this connection, Mr. Holt asked if Mr. Moores would continue in this capacity instead of himself and Mr. Moores indicated that he would undertake this duty on behalf of the Croquet Section.

Mr. Moores' report. At the Cricket Club A.G.M. it was agreed that Mr. Ellis, the new Hon. Secretary, would now take full responsibility for all matters requiring instructions to be given to the ground staff. Mr. Moores had suggested to the meeting that the Club toilets should be looked after by a part-time employee - perhaps an O.A.P. He also thought that the men's' toilet, facing our No. 1 lawn and being available apparently to the general public, should be looked after by the Council, but the Committee thought there was no chance of this being done. However, Mr. Moores called at the Council Offices with this suggestion. They were not hopeful that anything would materialise, but. they suggested the name of someone who might undertake the work.

Next meeting, at Dr. Rawkins' house, 23rd May 1977 at 6.00 p.m.

D. Rawkins

Minutes of Committee Meeting held 23rd May 1977, at The Maples, at the invitation of the Chairman. All members present.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. Matters Arising. Mr Moores reported that all cloakrooms and toilets as well as general cleaning of the Clubhouse was now being carried out by a cleaner employed by the Cricket Club. Mr. Moores had suggested at the last Cricket Committee Meeting and it had been agreed that the Ground Committee personnel, viz. Mr. Ellis, Mr. Penman and Mr. Moores should deal with matters which might require instructions to be given to the ground staff.

Mr. Holt said he understood that No 3. lawn would be ready for play very shortly. Following discussion, it was hoped that this lawn can be moved slightly nearer to No. 2. lawn, in order to make No. 3. closer to the full size. There was general discussion on the possibility of improving the playing surface of lawns 2 and 3. Consideration should be given to moving the hoops a few inches up or down the length of the lawns, in order to change the area of wear.

Mr. Stirrup reported that the singles, and doubles tournament entry lists had been posted on the notice board and should close on May 31.

Subscriptions. The Cricket Committee had asked if, due to Mr. Page's illness it would be possible for the Croquet Club to collect the remaining subscriptions due from croquet members, and Mr. Holt was willing to attend to this request for this season.

New Members. Mrs. Cunningham had been proposed for membership by Mrs. Fletcher and seconded by Mr. Marshall. The Chairman reported that in the absence of the Cricket Secretary, Mrs. Cunningham's application had been accepted by a member of the Cricket Club, upon payment of the subscription.

It was agreed that this lady should be accepted as a member, but it was felt that the Croquet section should handle applications for croquet membership, and application forms will in future be kept in the Croquet clubroom by the Secretary, as well as receipt book, but available to Committee members.

It was agreed that Mrs. Elizabeth Tunmer should be congratulated by the Committee on behalf of members, upon receiving the annual award of the Steel Bowl, which is made to the lady member of the Croquet Association who is adjudged to have made the most progress during the year.

Golf Croquet. Agreed first fixture 14th June and. then fortnightly, all lawns to be kept available for this event.

Shot Game. First fixture 21st June, to be played on lawns 2 and 3 only - this event to be arranged in conjunction with fortnightly. golf-croquet.

The meeting closed at 7-00 p.m. Next meeting arranged for *JULY 21st 10.30 a.m. in the Clubhouse*

D. Rawkins

Chairman.

Minutes of Committee Meeting held at the Clubhouse 21st July 1977

All members present except the secretary, who sent her apologies for absence.

Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

It was agreed that there should be no 'shot-game' in August, but as there are no cricket fixtures on Fridays, golf-croquet would be arranged for August 12, 19 and 26th and on September 2nd, subject to volunteer organisers.

It has been suggested and was agreed by the Committee that, as an experiment on a golf-croquet date, if there was no play possible, due to bad weather, members should come along to the Club for a social afternoon and tea, with possibly a discussion on croquet matters.

The Secretary had reported that Lady Fermor wished to give to the Croquet Club, a garden seat for the use of members on Nos. 2 and 3 lawns. The Committee will be very pleased to accept this gift, subject to agreement by the General Committee, upon receipt of which a letter of thanks will be sent to Lady Fermor and arrangements made for transport.

Following a complaint about the bad condition of chairs available to croquet members, the Chairman and Fred Moores would check the position and see Mr. Ellis about more being provided. The Club mallets will also be examined, with a view to discarding any that are now unusable.

A notice will be posted in the Clubhouse, following an appeal by the General Committee, for two members from each section to volunteer to join a sub-Committee. This committee will hold fund-raising events in the coming months to help cover the cost of re-thatching the roof of the Clubhouse. Our Committee will also make an appeal to members for assistance

Next Committee arranged for Thursday, September 8, at 10-30 a.m., in the Clubhouse.

D. Rawkins

Chairman.

Minutes of Committee meeting held 8th September 1977, at the Clubhouse.

All members present.

Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Matters-arising. The Chairman reported that the garden seat given to the Club by Lady Fermor had been collected and that he would attend to the varnishing of it before it was stored away for the winter. In response to the appeal for Croquet. Club members to join a fundraising sub-committee, that Mrs. Freda Tovey and Mr. and Mrs. Alan Reid had offered serve. The Secretary reported. that £6.20 in tournament entry fees had been collected, which would be used to cover part of the cost of Cup engravings.

Cup awards. Most improved player. The Committee agreed that this award should be made to Mr. R. Pierce.

After discussion, it was agreed that the award for outstanding service to the Club, should not be made this year. The Chairman would explain to the A.G.M. that the Committee felt that no absolutely outstanding service, as the award stipulates, had been rendered to the Club this, year, although a number of members had given much help in different ways, for which we are all very grateful.

It was agreed that the A.G.M. should be held at the Clubhouse on Thursday November 3, at 10-30, to be followed by a social hour, at which members should be asked, as last year, to provide simple snacks for themselves, and the Club bar will be open. The cricket club bar will be in use during the winter months on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 11-30 a.m. and on Sundays at 12-00, dependent on support and s notice will be posted to this effect.

The secretary also read a statement from the Cricket Club, announcing the proposed increased subscription rates by all playing members of the various sections (croquet from £8. to £12.) There will be a meeting of the Club members on Friday the 4th November at the Club, at 7-30 P.M. for a discussion on the increased subscriptions proposed and it is hoped that members from all sections will attend.

The Committee heard, with great regret that Mrs. Holt intends to retire this year, after 6 years' continuous service and while we are all very sorry to learn this decision-, we all accept that Marian has fully earned a short rest - at any rate.

A notice will be posted- notifying the A.G.M. and inviting nominations- for Committee. After a short discussion, it was agreed that further consideration should be given to introducing a rule, limiting continuous service to three years.

The Committee heard that Mr. Ellis is concerned about the locking up of Club premises as apparently there have been occasions when the last people to leave had not locked up - probably assuming that the groundsman was still around. However, it has also been noted that the key has been missing from time to time and that Mrs. Holt had brought her own key to be used and that also had apparently disappeared. The Chairman undertook to see Mr. Ellis with a view to finding a more efficient way of securing the premises, as when both groundsman and key are missing there is little that the ordinary member can do.

As usual a notice will be posted, inviting members to contribute to the Staff Fund for the groundstaff. It was also agreed that a small gift of appreciation should be made to Mrs. Chadwick and Mrs. Galen, who had so kindly looked after tea for members on Golf-Croquet afternoons.

The meeting closed at 12-00 p.m. Next meeting on Thursday October 13, at the kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs 1 Holt, at their house.

Mr. Moores reported that the Cricket Club hoped that all sections would contribute £5. towards jubilee tree-planting, and the Secretary would hand this amount to Mr. Ellis (the money will come from funds in hand). The annual spring luncheon date was discussed and it was agreed to ask Mrs. Dwerryhouse if she would approach Mr. Fitzgerald for a suitable date, if possible in mid-April, which could be put forward for members' agreement at the A.G.M.

D. Rawkins

Chairman.

The Committee welcome this suggestion and would discuss the details with Mr. Case, and it is felt that these sessions should last for a period of - 6 weeks.

(Mrs. F. Tovey). That members might meet at the Clubhouse occasionally through the winter months for a social afternoon.

Next Meeting. 8th December 1977, at Dr. Rawkins' house, at 6-00 p.m.

D. Rawkins

Chairman.

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held 3rd November 1977 at the Clubhouse, 10.30 a.m.

Present Dr. D. Rawkins (Chairman), Mr. and Mrs. J. Holt, Mr. F. Moores, Mr. V. Stirrup, Mrs. K. L. Togni and 27 members.

Minutes of the A.G.M. held 3rd November 1976 were read and approved. Arising from last year's meeting, the Chairman said that our third annual luncheon at the Belmont Hotel had been very successful and was a happy re-union with members, prior to the opening of the croquet season. The Chairman reported that provisional arrangements had been made with the Belmont Hotel, to hold the luncheon next year on the 9th March and the cost will be around £2.50 each, inclusive of V.A.T. and gratuities. The date is earlier than usual due to an early Easter, and Mr. Fitzgerald indicated that he can only offer us a date early in March. It is hoped that this will be convenient for members and that the occasion will be a happy prelude to the new season.

Referring to the season just closed, in spite of a late start, due to the bad weather, it had been a very enjoyable one. Happily, with an improvement in the weather at the end of the season, we had been able to play late into October, so that the early disappointments were forgotten.

Dr. Rawkins expressed his great regret on behalf of all members., that Mrs. Holt had decided to retire from the Committee after many years' most valuable service to the Club. We thank her very much and hope that after a rest, Marion will wish to rejoin the ranks of Committee members.

Nominations. 3 Nominations, duly proposed and seconded, had been received Mrs. J. Cunningham, Mr. R. Peirce and Mr. A. Reid.

The Committee suggest that, subject to approval, all three nominees be invited to join the Committee. The Chairman explained that this extension of the Committee is desirable in view of the Club activities, golf-croquet, and shot-game regular features, coffee mornings, etc. all requiring servicing. The nominations were duly approved. When the cups are awarded it will be noted that there is no award this year for "outstanding service" to the Club. The Committee feel that although many members have given much help to the Club this year, there has been no service which can be described as "outstanding" and it is hoped that the meeting will agree with this decision.

Increase in subscriptions. The General Committee have called a special meeting at the Clubhouse on November 24, at 7-30 p.m. in order to outline the reasons for their proposals, and the Chairman hoped that some members will attend this meeting.

Cup awards. The Chairman announced the winners:-

Singles - Mr. R. Peirce.

Doubles - Mr. and Mrs. J.Holt.

Most improved player - Mr. R. Peirce,

and Dr. Rawkins invited Mrs. John-Holt to make the presentations.

Mr. Stirrup's Report.

The singles and doubles. had been quite well supported this year, and it was suggested that the doubles as well as the singles should be played off next year in blocks. Vincent pointed out that it was important that all matches should be played off, in order to arrive at a fair result. Following his report on tournaments, Vincent put forward a member's suggestion that golf-croquet games might be arranged for the evenings in the early summer, commencing at 6-00 p.m. This would obviate the necessity of arranging tea and might also be easier to park cars. It was agreed that this suggestion be left with the

Committee to work out a trial arrangement on the above lines. A further suggestion was that the period for general play be increased to 2½ hours, as this might enable game to be completed and thus give practice with the end-game. This was put to the vote but it was carried almost unanimously to retain the 2 hour sessions. However, those members who wished would be able to book for 2½ hours, this to include part of the practice period i.e. 10-30 to 1-00 or 1-00 to 3-30 pm. Thereafter, from 3-30 to 6-00 pm'. It was also agreed that practice times. should be booked, so that members would know what periods were available.

A suggestion from Mr. Case that there should be one session a week set aside to instruct and assist members to improve their game, was welcomed. The Committee proposed that these sessions should be played on a Monday morning and should last for the first six weeks of the season. The Committee would work on this scheme, so that instruction could begin at the opening of the season with the assistance of a nucleus of experienced players willing to help.

The Committee suggested that instead of new members automatically receiving a handicap of 16, they should play at least one game with a Committee or handicapping member, in order that their general standard may be assessed. The handicap would then be fixed and it is proposed to try this scheme for the coming season.

Vincent said that support for the "ladder" had been very poor and he hoped that in the coming season members would make use of this very good practice method of enabling players of all standards to compete. Incidentally by starting the game at 1-back, there were obvious opportunities to reach the endgame.

Mr. Moores' Report.

Fred. reported that as a result of an agreement made with the General Committee, he would now be responsible for instructions being given to the groundsman regarding the work required on the lawns throughout the season. Mr. Moores informed, members of the work to be put in hand during the winter for the improvement of the lawns, including obtaining an estimate for the levelling of lawn 3. The sum of £16. had been collected for the groundsman's benefit. fund and Fred thanked the members on behalf of Roger Cornelius.

Report from sub-committee on Roof Restoration Fund. Mr. Reid said that the coffee morning held in October had been very successful and well supported by the Club and the handsome sum of £41 had been raised. Mr. Reid wished to thank everyone who had contributed in their various ways to this success.

In conclusion Alan said there appeared to be some misunderstanding as to the function of the croquet sub-Committee in the Roof Restoration scheme and the Chairman promised to clarify the position with Mr. Ellis.

There was a suggestion from Mrs. Freda Tovey that members might meet occasionally in the Clubhouse during the winter for social afternoons. The Committee agreed to arrange for the use of the bar room upstairs on the 6th December at 2-30 p.m. as an experiment.

Mrs. Sherwin asked if enquiries, could be made for croquet members to use the Manor Pavilion car-park, in the same way as members of the Bowls Club were permitted to do. The Committee will ask the local council about this possibility.

In conclusion, the Chairman wished to extend his thanks to all members who have given great help to the Club in many ways. The Committee recognise that the willing assistance of members contributes greatly to the success of our Club, not least on the social side. Particular thanks were given to Mrs. Chadwick and Mrs. Galen who have provided thirsty members with tea on golf-croquet afternoons. The Committee suggested that members

might like to thank these ladies by inviting them to the Club luncheon on 9th March, and this was agreed. Also our thanks to Lady Fermor for her gift of a garden-seat, which was much appreciated by all members playing on the lower lawns.

The meeting closed at 11-45 a.m. with a hearty vote of thanks to our Chairman, proposed by Mr. Reid and carried unanimously.

Chairman.