

# ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS CROQUET CLUB

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7th 2009 AT 11.00 a.m. in FRANT

**Present:** Jon DIAMOND (Chairman), Sheila ARMITAGE, Angela CHAPMAN, Jeff CHAPMAN, Derek CROCOMBE, Geoff CROXFORD, Tony deGUINGAND, Michael GENTRY, Carolyn GUNSTONE, Frank GUNSTONE, Derek HEATH, John HOBBS, Anita HUNTER, Barney LEWIS, Richard MANN, Ray MEECH, John MOORE, Pauline MORRIS, Roger MORRIS, Hazel MOSS-DAVIS, Miriam READER, Barbara TASKER and John TIMMIS

### 1. APOLOGIES

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies from those unable to attend were noted.

### 2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

There were no matters arising or corrections from the Minutes of the 2008 AGM so they were duly signed by the Chairman.

### 3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman reviewed the past year:

- The season has been good from the weather perspective and 14 members played last Wednesday on a fine sunny day
- Our finances are in good shape and will be reported on later
- Our membership is slightly down on last year although a recent membership drive resulted in 10 new members which will be included in next years accounts
- There are a number of changes to the committee
  1. Selwyn Ward cannot commit adequate time as Treasurer due to work commitments in The Midlands
  2. Dan Long has ongoing health problems and has decided to resign from the committee
  3. Alex Jardine has also decided to resign from the committee for personal reasons although he will assist in organising tournaments and competitions
- Our Golf Croquet teams did exceptionally well in the SECF Team Day at Southwick winning both the singles and doubles competitions. Well done to those who participated
- The results for the Golf League matches were disappointing as were the Association League results.
- In the Mary Rose Association handicap we got to the semi-final but lost by 3 games to 4
- Some of our individual members achieved better success
  - Mick Greagsby won the Desert Classic played at Mission Hills California and also won the Golf B Class level play at Tunbridge Wells
  - Alex Jardine won the Honeygrove Cup.
  - Jon Diamond won the 6 Lawns Trophy, a handicap event at three clubs (Hamptworthy, Littleton and Winchester), and recommended others to take part in this extremely sociable event
  - Aaron Westerby won the New Zealand doubles this year.
- Social events: Elaine and Mark Houslop were thanked for organising the winter warmer and the summer bar-b-que. Thanks also to Kate Sander for the catering at the Season Opening Day which had an attendance of over 25.
- We had our first winter frostbite event which was held on one of the few good days in January. We will attempt to repeat winter events this year subject to weather
- We once again repeated our introduction to Croquet at Penshurst Place. No National Properties were visited during the year
- Thanks to Duncan Cox for organising Friendlies with Ivychurch (twice) and Bromley which we hope to repeat in 2010
- Once again we ran a series of events for external groups which proved to be financial successful which included the Corporate Challenge with 14 teams, U3A for Tonbridge

and Crowborough, Ashdown Probus Club, large events for Lovat Insurance and Cripps, Harries, Hall and 5 other smaller groups. Thanks to all that helped to facilitate these events, especially Elaine Houslop and Angela Milne for the catering at the Cripps event.

- Two golf tournaments were held at which 28 people participated.
- Two new One day Advanced tournaments were organised and managed by Alex Jardine
- Our normal Advanced and Handicap events took place in September, with a local player winning one for a change!
- The level of volunteering for other, more mundane, activities such as cleaning was disappointing. This was partly the committee's fault in dropping this between the membership renewal form and the start of the season. The committee is planning to ask on the membership form next year for members to indicate a priority amongst a list of activities.  
The Clubhouse need some work over the winter and anyone wishing to volunteer should contact the Chairman. Could members also contact the Chairman if there are activities or items that need to be looked at
- With sadness it was reported that
  - Colin Mabey had died during the year. Colin was previously a committee member and contributed greatly to the development of the club.
  - Eric Dennison, who was known to many members, died recently
  - Stan Oxenbury will not be renewing his membership due to ill health and wished continuing success to the club
  - Dan Long would also not be renewing his membership due to health problems.
- Michael Gentry asked if we had considered an associate membership for members who were unable to continue playing. This was referred to the committee for consideration.

#### 4. **TREASURER'S REPORT.**

The John Timmis reviewed the Accounts for year ending September 30<sup>th</sup> 2009 on behalf of the Treasurer and highlighted a number of points:

- Membership fees were up a little on last 2008.
- Events Income almost doubled
- Bank interest is down by £180
- Total income up from £10029 to £11785
- Lawn maintenance up but still within budget
- Overall expenditure is down by £559
- The surplus for year of was £2639 compared with £334 for the previous year
- The Chairman noted that £500 of this was due to the insurance claim regarding a break-in at the Bowls Pavilion for loss and damage to our equipment.

Overall the club is in a sound financial position. The acceptance of the Accounts was proposed and seconded and passed unanimously.

#### 5. **LAWN MAINTENANCE.**

Roger Morris reviewed the situation at the end of the 2009 season:

- This year our lawns have been in the best condition in the clubs history and are among the best in the south of the country. Visitors have commented very favourably on their quality.
- However, upkeep is costly at approx £6000, broken down as follows:

Groundsmen	£2395
Fertilisers & chemicals	£1200
Subcontracted work	£2000
Machinery maintenance	£310
Sundry items	£100

Our maintenance costs per lawn are below the average of other clubs and we were within our budget for the past year. However, costs are likely to rise in 2010.
- Our attempts to solve the drainage problems on the north ends of lawns 2 & 3 appear to have been successful as they have not become water logged during recent heavy rain. However, the water table is still close to the surface.
- We did the majority of our Autumn treatment during the second half of September. This unfortunately disrupted play for a period but the warm weather greatly assisted

germination of the over-sown grass seed and meant mechanical damage by the machinery was minimised. The Autumn maintenance programme is possibly the most important of the year and the most costly at £1500.

- The improved drainage has allowed us to keep the lawns open for play for a longer period. Lawns will be selectively closed to allow recovery from wear. Please observe the lawn status indicator in the centre of the notice board.
- During the summer we cut to 5mm but this has now been increased to 8.5mm and will eventually be increased to 12mm. Reduced speed will be inevitable.
- We will shortly be spraying to deter worms and eliminate leather jackets that live on grass roots throughout the winter period. A final winter feed will be applied to counter the red thread in the lawns.
- Jeff Chapman will be erecting some decking to improve access to the compost bins beyond lawn 3.

Finally, although we're playing through the winter, please take care of the lawns:

- we will stop playing in frosty weather as the lawns cannot recover from any damage caused.
- JUMP SHOTS are banned until the spring.
- If you scuff the ground please carefully replace the divot.
- Observe the lawn availability sign on the Notice Board.

## **6. TOURNAMENTS, COMPETITIONS AND EVENTS**

The Chairman stated he had covered tournaments under his report. There had been a number of new events this year which he hoped would be repeated next year. He would like members to put forward any ideas of tournaments they would like to see organised by the club. We have had more competitions this year than previously with different methods of deciding the winner. Michael Gentry commented the ladder was not working. This would be reviewed by the committee next year

## **7. COACHING**

Thanks to Richard Clark for his efforts throughout the season for organising the Coaching programme that was very successful. Richard intends to build on the years programme for 2010.

## **8. MEMBERSHIP AND ASSOCIATED ITEMS**

- We have changed our logo but have not changed the flag. The committee would plan to rectify this next year, along with woven badges for each member. It was hoped that members would wear badges at all inter-club and external events.
- It was suggested that a secure area be provided for ladies to store handbags/personal belongings. Either a digital lock on the changing room door or individual lockers was suggested.
- Electric hand driers would be considered for each of the changing rooms to reduce the need to provide clean towels. An alternative of paper towels should also be considered but disposal of used towels creates another problem.

It was noted that the current subscriptions did not cover the lawn maintenance, so that voluntary donations were still requested, to allow the main subscriptions to remain unchanged. The committee proposed that the membership subscriptions and green fees for 2010 be:

- Full Membership
  - First Year: £ 75
  - Thereafter: £100
- Student/2<sup>nd</sup> Club Membership: £ 35
- In order to cater for exceptional or unforeseen circumstances, these rates may be varied by the Club's Officers when deemed appropriate.
- Green Fees
  - Half Day: £ 3
  - Full Day: £ 5

These were approved unanimously.

## **9. ELECTION OF OFFICERS, COMMITTEE AND TRUSTEES**

The following existing committee members had indicated their willingness to continue

Chairman        Jon Diamond  
Secretary       Mick Belcham  
Committee       Mick Greagsby, Elaine Houslop, and Roger Morris  
Written nominations have been received for the following:  
Richard Mann    Treasurer and Trustee  
John Moore       Committee Member

In addition Jeff Chapman was proposed as a Committee Member from the floor by Frank Gunstone and seconded by Geoff Croxford.

A motion to elect all of the above was approved unanimously and the Chairman thanked the outgoing members for their contributions to the club.

#### **10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- Miriam Reader requested a larger Diary for 2010.
- The first of the winter events is planned for Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> November starting at 10am. This will be combined with removal of the awnings and winterisation of the irrigation system.
- Pub lunches would be starting in January.
- The Chairman thanked Margaret Moore, together with Anita Hunter, Sheila Armitage and Miriam Reader on behalf of the meeting for their efforts in providing coffee/tea and lunch for the AGM.

#### **11. PRESENTATION OF PRIZES**

Mick Belcham has donated the Hunter Plate as one of our two new trophies, for the Golf Croquet Level Singles.

Hazel Moss-Davies presented the trophies to the 2009 competition winners:

John Hobbs	Hunter Plate
John Hobbs & Mike Sander	Golf Doubles
John Moore	Kitchen Rose Bowl
Michael Gentry	Golf High Bisquers
Duncan Cox	Golf Ladder
Jon Diamond	Spa Salver
John Hobbs	Lustau Cup
Alex Jardine	Calverley Cup
Chris Berwick & Jon Diamond	Doubles Goblets
Roger Morris	Howell Trophy
Miriam Reader	Association Ladder

The Lewis Shield (All England Handicap) was not awarded this year and will be retained by Barney Lewis, who had represented the club at the Regional Final. The Chairman encouraged members to compete in this event

The meeting was closed at 12.15.