



Royal Tunbridge Wells Croquet Club

Minutes of the AGM held on 10th February 2018

Present: Jon Diamond, Richard Mann, John Greenwood, Michael Lawrence, Sonia Lawrence, Paul Gamba, John Skates, Barbara Tasker, Michael Hughes, Bob Fordham, Duncan Cox, Lister Fielding, John Moore, Michael Sander, Kate Sander, Derek Crocombe, Jeff Chapman, Angela Chapman, Carolyn Gunstone, Frank Gunstone, Jane Smith, Mick Belcham, John Hobbs, Nigel Barton & Brian Kitching.

1. Apologies for Absence: Bob Bruce, Chris Beckett, Tina Beckett, Mark Houslop, Elaine Houslop, Richard Clarke, Pam Clarke, Barney Lewis, Jolyon Creasey, Richard Smith, Jo Smith & Alex Jardine.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting: The Minutes of the previous AGM held on the 18th February 2017 were approved and there were no matters arising.

3. Chairman's Report. Jon Diamond reported that the club had had another good year and that the membership now stood at an all time high of 68. John Hobbs's Introduction to Croquet course for new players had been full with eight attendees the majority of whom subsequently joined the club. The National Croquet Day was well attended although it resulted in only one new member. The club has received a little extra publicity including an article in Waitrose Weekend and coverage by KMTV.

We now have a Facebook page and the club website has been revamped, after some 15 years.

As regards competitions, we had done only averagely well in the SECF leagues but club players Martin Lester and Jon Diamond had won both our open AC tournaments. Paul Gamba and Nigel Barton had won external GC tournaments and John Hobbs the 18 point tournament organised by Alex Jardine.

Jon extended thanks to John Skates for organising the pub lunches and Kate & Michael Sander for hosting and running the Summer BBQ, the Winter Warmer and the club catering through the season, including this AGM. Other thanks were extended to the managers of the various club teams: Alex Jardine, John Greenwood, Richard Mann, John Skates, Jon Diamond, Derek Crocombe and Jane Smith.

Jon said there were quite a few things needed to be done to maintain the clubhouse and grounds and so invited volunteers to help out. Jon will distribute a list of the various tasks needed to be done. Catering could provide a useful additional income to the club at home tournaments and we could look at this if we had one or more volunteers to do the catering.

Finally, Jon announced that we will be hosting some early rounds of next year's World Golf Championship which will mean closing the lawns to club play during the event.

4. Treasurer's Report: Richard Mann presented the previously circulated accounts which had been reviewed by John Timmis. There has been a slight increase in our reserves primarily due to the decrease in costs for lawn maintenance and groundsman payments. The accounts were then accepted and approved, proposed by Carolyn Gunstone and seconded by Frank Gunstone.

5. Lawn & Facilities Maintenance: Jeff Chapman reported that new electrically operated awnings have been fitted to the clubhouse but one had been blown out of configuration by heavy wind. It was thought no serious damage had been caused and that the awning supports could be repositioned satisfactorily. It should not be operated until fixed.

The front of the clubhouse has been renovated with the help of volunteers and this coming year he would be treating the sides and rear. There is a raised platform in the clubhouse which Jeff will board to make it a more useful storage area.

The lawns were in good shape. They were faster after deep scarification at the end of last season but there had been extensive fox damage which will be partly addressed by anti-worm treatment and netting. The hoops have been repainted and it was intended to make each hoop specific to a respective position on a single lawn.

Our main machines are a few years old but we have been advised that they are soundly engineered and we will be better off continuing to maintain them rather than replacing them new, possibly less well engineered, versions.

6. Tournaments, Competitions and Events: Jon Diamond confirmed that the club will be running our usual open tournaments this year: the Kent Cup (Association), Montevideo Cup (Golf), Pegasus Plate (Association), Honeygrove Cup. We will also build on the one-day, 18-point game tournaments that Alex Jardine had organised last season, holding 3 of these this year.

We will hold the same internal competitions as last year although it was noted the AC ladder competition was not popular. Playing all the block games on a single day was encouraged to help progress the relevant competitions.

We will enter the same SECF competitions as last year. We will only be able to enter the Ladies Day competition if we can find an organiser (as Jane Smith will be away) and there are people interested in playing. The organisers for these SECF leagues are still to be decided. We haven't entered the Class B AC league but will do if there is sufficient interest. There will be a one-ball tournament at Canterbury Croquet Club which we can enter if we can raise the required team of three players.

Sundays and Wednesday afternoons will continue to be primarily for GC social games and Thursday evening will now be primarily for AC play (social or otherwise), whether level, handicap or garden croquet.

7. Coaching: We will run a pair of Introduction to Croquet days as last year, but with the emphasis on playing garden croquet as the basis for a gradual introduction to basic AC tactics and techniques. These sessions will be for new members as well as GC players who might like to try AC croquet.

Carolyn Gunstone advised the meeting that following last year's success she is arranging for Catherine Minchin to provide 2 days of 10am to 4pm Golf Croquet coaching. Jon Diamond said he would probably run an internal GC workshop and the meeting suggested Wednesday lunch time as an ideal time. Jon reminded the meeting of the Croquet Academy courses at Southwick. Jolyon Creasey will conduct an AC Coaching session for Waldron players and RTWCC 'not quite beginners' can apply to also take part subject to numbers.

8. Private Events. The demonstration event at Penshurst Place has been arranged. The meeting was reminded of the need to follow the club's rules on green fees for visitors and the need to sign the Visitors Book.

9. This Year's Subscriptions: The meeting accepted the Committee's recommendation that all Subscriptions should remain unchanged. Proposed by Frank Gunstone and seconded by Michael Sander.

10. Election of Officers, Committee and Trustees: There were no candidates for the committee positions other than the incumbents who were all willing to serve a further year on the committee. The election/re-election of Officers, Committee and Trustees for 20178 were then proposed by Mick Belcham and seconded by Michael Sander, and agreed by the meeting as follows:-

Chairman - Jon Diamond

Secretary - John Greenwood

Treasurer - Richard Mann

Committee Members - Jeff Chapman, Carolyn Gunstone, John Moore, Kate Sander & John Skates

Trustees - Jon Diamond and Richard Mann

11. Any Other Business: Derek Crocombe asked if the meeting had any ideas on how to increase the membership of the club. There was a general discussion of efforts already made and possible new approaches but there was no conclusion on any new initiatives we might want to adopt.

The meeting was closed at 12.45pm.

Presentation of Trophies: Carolyn Gunstone presented the following trophies for the 2017 season:-

Association

Spa Salver: Jon Diamond

Lustau Cup: Mick Belcham

Lewis Shield: Not contested

Calverley Cup: Alex Jardine

Howell Cup: Derek Crocombe

Miriam Reader Memorial Doubles: John Greenwood & Elaine Houslop

Golf

Hunter Plate: John Greenwood

Kitching Rose Bowl: Bob Fordham

High Bisquers: Lister Fielding

Handicap Doubles: John Greenwood & Jane Smith

Fraser Tankard (Teams): Sander's Swingers