



Minutes of the Bowdon Croquet Club Committee Meeting

Monday 13 July 2020 at 7.30pm

Meeting conducted via Zoom

1. Attendance

Adrian Apps; Ken Cooper; Lorna Frost (chair); Charles Harding; Barry Keen; Kay Martin (minutes); Alan Mayne; Steve Reynolds; Cas Sinclair ; David Walters.

2. Apologies for Absence

Leo Fletcher.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Agreed.

4. Matters Arising

None.

5. Secretary's Report (circulated prior to the meeting)

The car park - On 30/6 TBC Executive Committee agreed to proceed with a project to redevelop the Jubilee Centre to include affordable housing and a multi-use Community Facility. They plan to appoint a Development Manager to carry out the proposed development, with the contract starting in January 2021. The decision was **reported in the Messenger** and subsequently DW received an email from the resident of no. 1 St Mary's Road - he and Mike Sandler have arranged a meeting with her. A response from TBC in respect of the Court Proceedings is still awaited.

Re-opening - AM had circulated the following report re **lawn use by members** prior to the meeting:-

"The lawns have been played on very regularly throughout the month. 59 members have been to play in just over 900 visits.

The evening sessions are still only lightly used but daytime sessions are utilized near to capacity.

Despite having initial reservations regarding the on-line booking system I am now completely happy at how well it works and how quickly most members have adjusted to its use. Those 2 or 3 who have been unable to cope with the system have been assured that they can continue to make bookings by telephoning me."

Double banking was not felt to be necessary at this time as lawns not oversubscribed. Restricting attendance at the club to 10 members was felt to be comfortable and safe.

CA Correspondence

- Public and Products Liability Insurance Certificate has been received and will be posted in the clubhouse.
- Guidance re Tournaments.
- Invitation to Webinar on Recruiting Young Players during lockdown.

6. Treasurer's Report

The Receipts and Payments Account for the period from 1st October 2019 to 7th July was circulated to the committee.

As at 7th July there was a healthy bank balance of **£32,601**.

The reason that the bank balance has increased so much is that Trafford, having sent JLF an official letter informing me that we were not eligible for the **£10,000 Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Fund Grant**, decided that we were after all eligible and paid **£10,000 into our bank account** after DW had applied again. JLF has not queried why they responded positively to DW's application, having previously turned him down, just in case they changed their mind again!

JLF also received £1000 from Sport England as reported last month. However, as we are not entitled to the grant if we have received grants from elsewhere he has not included it in the Receipts and Payments Account. pending a reply to an email asking them if they want this £1000 grant repaying now that we have received £10,000 from the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Fund.

During the next three months we will incur further expenditure in the region of £5,000, excluding the roof repair. However, now that we have received the £10,000 grant, we are in a much better position to deal with costs that were not included in the Budget.

7. Croquet Secretary's Report

CA Events

Tournaments

- Whilst the Government guidance has changed sufficiently to allow the North of England Championship to be held, the Tournament Subcommittee believes that clubhouse & bar in particular are not suited to hosting visitors without increased risks and recommend to cancel the event
- Agreed that we should also withdraw our offer to host the National Short Croquet finals.
- CA National Junior Programme – John-Paul Moberly, Will Mellor & Jack Good are part of this programme
- All-England AC Handicap competition has been cancelled
- All-England GC Handicap competition to be run as a final only, at Hamptworth, on 12th - 13th September; Bowdon will have no representatives.

NWF Events

Millennium Events

- AC Handicap at Pendle, 11th-12th July - event won by Anne Alvey of Bury CC. No Bowdon members attended.
- GC Handicap competition at Crake Valley, 8th August No club member has volunteered to go.

- Advanced competition at Pendle, 22nd - 23rd August - Brian Storey, Will Mellor & John-Paul Moberly will represent Bowdon CC.
- The Millenium Short on 29th August has been moved from Chester to Crake. No one is going from Bowdon.

Club Events

- **Charity One-Ball Championship** - this annual event has now been resurrected and the final will take place at Surbiton on 20th September. Bowdon have until 13th September to run a heat raising money for Macmillan Cancer Support. Felt that we had done a lot for this event in past years and decided this time to give a donation rather than participating.
- **Club Competitions/Competitive Play** - BK proposed that the Monday Short and Tuesday Solomon Grundy competitions be re-started with lawns reserved for players on those days. Discussion concluded that the **Short Competition** was not possible alongside present lawn maintenance hours and also the issue of time/effort required to reset lawns. Further, the demand for use of the short lawn was limited and not oversubscribed.
Discussion regarding the **Solomon Grundy Competition** concluded that, whilst competitive play was needed, it could be managed within the present system avoiding restricting the use of lawns to non-participating members. A "ladder" could be arranged for 14 and 18 point games with players booking their games through the on-line system. A further advantage would be that flexibility of times would allow for those who worked to participate. AM volunteered to organize the above with an invitation to be placed on the website. BK was anxious that we were in danger of "writing off" two very successful competitions that ensured competitive play when ladder systems had not previously worked. Once the clubhouse can be safely re-opened arrangements can be re-examined.

8. Ground Manager's Report (circulated prior to meeting)

The lawns have been maintained during the month by regular cutting and vert-cutting. Aeration has taken place on some of the lawns. Surrounds have been strimmed and debris removed.

Thanks to Liz Webb for maintaining the Alpine Garden each time she comes to play.

9. Membership

Nothing to report

10. Recruitment/Publicity

KM had cancelled the **Milk Club** booking for later this month - they had responded asking asking that their visit be adjourned to next year rather than cancelled. Date agreed - **Thursday 22nd July 2021.**

Following the **Granada Reports** publicity a group of women had expressed interest . CH keeping in communication until next year's taster Days.

11. Social Committee Report

Nothing to report.

12. Catering

Nothing to report.

13. House Manager's Report

- The Fire Extinguishers have been tested satisfactorily.
- AM will test the fire alarm.
- The roof has not leaked despite the heavy rain indicating that the problem arose from the side of the building that was now protected by the polythene sheeting.

14. Equipment Officer's Report

No problem with our balls losing colour, unlike reports from Nottingham CC. We are using dishwashing detergent and water. AM will no longer be putting balls out onto the lawns - they will be left in the racks in the huts along with clips for members to use if they wish.

15. AOB

- Agreed that the **on-line booking system** could now be fully utilized.
- David Maugham's Brave the Shave is available on-line.
- Suggestion received that we hold our AGM at the Cinnamon Club rather than the clubhouse (more space). DW will make enquiries.

Meeting closed at 8.40pm - Date of Next Meeting – Monday 10 August 2020 at 7.30pm

AA will be away on holiday - CH to set up the zoom meeting.

Agenda for next Committee Meeting on

Monday 10 August 2020 at 7.30pm

- 1. Attendance**
- 2. Apologies for Absence**
- 3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**
- 4. Matters Arising**
- 5. Secretary's Report**
- 6. Treasurer's report**
- 7. Croquet Secretary's Report**
- 8. Ground manager's Report**
- 9. Membership Report**
- 10. Recruitment/Publicity**
- 11. Social Sub-committee Report**
- 12. Catering Coordinator's Report**
- 13. House Manager's Report**
- 14. Equipment Officer's Report**
- 15. Any Other Business (including items in Suggestion Book)**

Date of next Meeting - Monday 14 September at 7.30pm

