

Southport & Birkdale Croquet Club

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 4th June 2024 at 58 Westcliffe Road
Southport

Present: Esther Jubb (Chair), John Haslam (Secretary), Eddie Green (Treasurer) Ray Lowe, Maureen Spratt, Paul Ferguson, David Venables, Tony Thomas.

1. Apologies.

Janet Marsh

2. Minutes of Last Meeting.

Approved

3. Matters Arising

Entries to the Federation Millennium events have been made for both AC and handicap GC. No entry for level play GC. Four new locks are on order. The police have been informed of the damage to the fence on the North lawns. The Risk Assessment document requires the Chair's signature. Sefton have put locks on the gates into the park. This will need to be discussed with Steve Irwin prior to the Festival at the end of June as we need access to parking by lawn 2.

4. Chair's Report

There has been a final planning meeting for the Festival.

I would like to record a formal "Thank You" to all members involved in the marketing and taster sessions teams.

The first BBQ of the year has taken place and I understand that a good time was had by all.

5. Secretary's Report.

Paul Greenwood has asked that the cost of sending our GC team to play at Henley-on-Thames be agreed by the Committee. As there had not been a coin toss to decide the venue then Paul to be asked to arrange one. Should we get home advantage then we will save about £600.

6. Treasurer's Report provided prior to the meeting:-

1. Accounts to 28 May

The accounts are attached and currently show an estimated deficit for the year of £1,577 before major purchases.

Interest of £1,179.74 has been received from Cambridge and Counties which was higher than previously forecast and last year due mainly to increased interest rates. A further c£500 is likely to be earned for the remainder of the year subject to interest rates remaining the same.

Fuel costs are running much higher than last year primarily due to the use of the Countax on the North Lawns rather than the John Deere. There should therefore be more diesel fuel carried forward into next year for use of the John Deere on the South Lawns.

The forecasts still include £500 for the Home Internationals and £500 for club tournaments - it should be noted that the 14pt tournament was

cancelled due to lack of numbers entering.

Cash reserves are currently £39k with £8k in HSBC and £31k in Cambridge and Counties. They are forecast at £32k at the end of the year.

7. Sub Committees:-

Coaching:- Beginners coaching has started.

Internals:- Members have started to play their matches.

Marketing:- A very big thank you to all members who were involved in this year's marketing campaign. There were 19 taster sessions with 81 bookings which lead to 51 on the beginners course. Disappointingly there was a dramatic reduction in conversion rate from the Taster Sessions to the Beginners Course in the last four days and we do not know the reason why. We have 6 coaches for both Monday and Wednesday evening sessions.

Grounds:- The Yale lock on the clubhouse door broke and has been removed. The 5 year electrical test was carried out and failed. The RCD is outdated. A new distribution board and 4 junction boxes are required at a cost of £680 +vat. This was approved. 4 new locks are on order. The lawns have been scarified twice, spiked and cut. Quotes are being obtained for Air2G2 compressed air via spikes for the lawns. John Deere has been repaired and serviced at a cost of £2416. The clubhouse roof has been repaired. Andrew Church has not yet applied fertiliser to the lawns. The oven is not igniting and needs some TLC. Thank you to all the members of the lawns team.

8. Home Internationals.

Paul Rigge will be setting the hoops and Esther will organise the food.

9. Welfare– Adults Policy

A document explaining the background and procedures was circulated to the Committee prior to the meeting. From this Paul Ferguson had compiled a draft Adult Safeguarding Policy as not all of the procedures are needed for our club. Views were taken as to the contents and Paul will now prepare a final draft for approval. It was agreed that members will need to be advised that if they have any safeguarding concerns then they should contact Paul in the first instance in his role as Welfare Officer. Once the Adult Safeguarding Policy is agreed Paul will prepare one for Children.

10 European GC Club Tournament.

It was decided that if members wanted the club to enter a team into this event then the players would pay their own cost of travel and accommodation. The club would pay the entry fee.

11. Maintenance Book.

This to be checked by the grounds sub committee on a regular basis.

12. Accident Book

No accidents noted this year and Eddie will continue to monitor the accident book prior to committee meeting

13 A.O.B.

Should we consider a capital project then a no win/no fee grants application company could be used.

Claire and Simon Hancock to be asked if they would organise our 2 remaining BBQ's on a Saturday instead of a Friday.

The CE Gazette advertised a one day course on grass maintenance in Bristol. It was decided to consider this if the location was local.

An organiser for the bar at the Festival is required.

Valerie Boyd, Wendy Cawley and Therese Howard to be thanked for volunteering to look after the supplies needed in the clubhouse.

It was decided to cancel both the one day short and the Lancashire Open GC for Federation members. This was due to the lack of entries.

The first BBQ number of members attending was down which could be due to the cost. This will be monitored.

It was agreed that a picture of the King would replace the late Queen's picture as he is now the Patron of CE. Tony will organise.

The Richmond to be booked for the AGM on Thursday 21st November at 7pm.

Future agendas to have a single item for Risk Assessment/Accident Book/Maintenance Book. This will be prior to AOB.

