

Minutes of the Harwell Croquet Club AGM

26 March 2008

The meeting was held in the new pavilion on the Harwell Site and commenced at 13:30

Present: Mike Duck (Chair), Roy Platon (Treasurer), Steve Fisher (Secretary), Gerald Mitchell, Steve Boddy and Jim Bartlett.

1 Apologies for absence

Helen Walker – who sent some input for the meeting via Steve.

2 Minutes of the 2007 AGM

These were accepted without corrections

3 Matters arising

None

4 Reports

4.1 Chairman

Mike reported that last year was difficult because of only having one lawn. This year we will lay out one lawn full size and one lawn will be slightly smaller. We need 2 lawns for the Longman Cup. He thanked Blewbury for making their lawns available to us. There was no internal club tournament for the Founder's Bowl. In the Longman Cup we lost at home (or rather at Blewbury) to Hamptworth. Anyone who wishes to enter the All-England Handicap (see the CA fixtures calendar p.42) should contact the Blewbury club organizer - perhaps through Jim B.

4.2 Secretary

Steve F reported that the web site has been maintained for the year. It will cost £22.31 to have it hosted for another year. Maintaining the match scores was not done well because of lack of information. This year Mike will keep the secretary informed so that the information can be maintained accurately.

Steve needs to register for: the croquet association at £6.70 per head. This comes to £46.90 for the 7 members who have Harwell as their primary club. There is in fact a minimum charge of £50. In addition he will register for the Longman Cup which will cost £27.50; and for the SCF for which full membership will cost £17 if done promptly. It was agreed that the treasurer would write out the set of cheques at the AGM and the secretary would then send them off with the necessary forms.

We have been assigned notice board space which we should make good use of. Jim offered us a poster that we could display.

Steve had received some gold handicap cards (for the "new" system) which he distributed to those needing one.

4.3 Treasurer

Our cash at the beginning of the year was £410.16. We received £200 in subscriptions most of which was spent to give a slightly increased end of year balance of £428.95.

4.4 SCF league organiser

.This year we improved finding ourselves one up from the bottom.

5 Presentation of Founder's Bowl

Gerald was presented with the bowl for his "2006" win – where the final was actually played in 2007. It was agreed to hold the event again this year.

6 Election of officers

Mike suggested that we should have more officers to spread the load more fairly. It was agreed that Mike should continue as chairman and SCF leaguer organiser, Steve F as secretary and Roy as treasurer. Gerald was recognised as being responsible for equipment. The competition for the Founder's bowl will be organised by Steve B supported by Jim and golf croquet will be organised by Jim B supported by Steve B.

7 Questions and ideas from Jim Bartlett

In addition Helen had provided some questions and ideas.

How do we gain access to the equipment this season?

Gerald will get 10 keys cut for our equipment store.

Access to the pavilion (and hence toilets) is by a combination lock. Anybody needing the combination should ask somebody who attended this meeting.

When we can / can't use the courts.

We are not supposed to play when cricket is on. We should get the fixture list.

Steve will do this and will also ensure that the lawn is cut for matches.

Recruitment and the policy on outside members/guests

There is a perception that the club is only for Harwell people. This is not true. We agreed that we will not charge people fees for the first year until they want their own key. We have no control over RecSoc fees.

Ideas for increased co-operation with Blewbury Club

Should have another friendly this year played on all 4 lawns. Jim will organise this with Nick.

Corporate use of the courts.

Yes in principle. Following Helen's suggestion Steve F will make contact with the new hotel organisation

Brochure and poster for the club

Jim has a brochure and materials which we could modify

Name board on the fence (giving a contact person)

It seems that we will be allowed to fix a sign to the fence. Jim will produce a draft design. He will also arrange to have it made and construct an oak frame.

Taster afternoon?

In addition Helen suggested something short (7 points perhaps) at lunchtime. The meeting liked the idea and Jim volunteered to assist Helen with the organisation.

8 AOB

None

The meeting closed at around 15:00.