



Royal Tunbridge Wells Croquet Club

Minutes of the AGM held on 22nd February 2014

Present: Jon Diamond, Richard Mann, Jeff Chapman, Kate Sander, Carolyn Gunstone, Frank Gunstone, John Moore, Mick Greagsby, John Hobbs, Mick Belcham, Duncan Cox, Mike Sander, Derek Crocombe, Richard Clark, Pamela Clark, Barbara Kitching, Brian Kitching, Jolyon Creasey, Roy Turner, Bob Bruce, Angela Chapman, Geoff Croxford, Michael Gentry, Derek Heath, Shirley Jones, Michael Lawrence, Sonia Lawrence, Barney Lewis, Barbara Payne, Sandy Smith.

1. Apologies for Absence: Chris Barham, Ray Meech, June Saxby, John Skates, Richard Smith, Jo Smith, Chris Sturdy, Barbara Tasker, John Timmis, Gerald White, Valerie Jackson-White, Frank Parr, Tony de Guingand, Lister Fielding.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting: The Minutes of the last AGM held in February 2013 were agreed following a minor date error correction.

3. Chairman's Report. Jon Diamond extended a warm welcome to returning members Barbara and Brian Kitching. He then summarised the news and activities from the previous year, and said that the membership remains roughly the same as in 2012 with 45 playing members (despite various efforts to increase it) and 53 members in all. He hoped that the new member, Martin Lester - who won our open AC competition - may get younger people involved. Jon said that the fact that only two finals were staged on Finals Day was disappointing and he hoped there will be many more on Sunday the 14th of September!

4. Treasurer's Report: The previously circulated Accounts were reviewed by Richard. He explained that the increase in expenditure in 2013 compared with 2012 was due to the fact that in 2012 wet weather prevented us giving the lawns the regular autumn treatment. He added that the club had received two grants in 2013 and these had been used to purchase extra equipment. Overall the club remains in a healthy financial state. Richard asked all members to complete the new Gift Aid forms as gift aided donations provided a significant boost to our funds. The Accounts were then accepted, proposed by Barbara Kitching, seconded by Frank Gunstone. Finally Richard thanked our auditor John Timmis for the auditing of the Accounts.

5. Lawn & Facilities Maintenance: Jeff Chapman advised the meeting that 20 tonnes of dressing were used for the 2013 treatment, half of which was aimed at levelling the ground adjacent to the tennis courts. Because there were significant areas of deep dressing, the treatment was moved forward a little earlier than normal to ensure time for the grass to bed in and this was the reason for the extended closure in September/October. Jeff apologised for the inconvenience to members but said that it was simply not viable to leave a single lawn open to allow for continuous play. He stated that our equipment was well maintained and no immediate replacements were anticipated.

6. Tournaments, Competitions and Events: Jon Diamond said he anticipated entering the same number of teams in the South East Federation competitions in 2014 as in the previous year. The lawns will open on 6th April for our heat of the Croquet Association Charity One Ball, and the following weekend will be used for the Kent Cup. Proposals were made that we should enter teams for the GC level-play Southern Challenge (July 6th/7th) tournament and the SECF One-Ball match in mid-August, but no agreement was reached.

7. Coaching: Jon stated that we will be seeking the services of Daphne Gaitley again for another 2 days, and are planning to offer an Introduction to Croquet Course for potential new members, as well as coaching for AC beginners. We should also be aware of the coaching courses offered by the Croquet Academy. Jon advised the meeting that a new Rule Book for Golf Croquet would be published at the end of March, and there are also changes to the lower end of the GC Handicap scale.

8. Internal Competitions: The successful Tuesday Evening Golf Croquet League run by Duncan Cox will continue, but with a reduced number of players per team. Following a lengthy discussion, changes were agreed to the Ladder Rules, in effect reverting to the previous method.

9. This Year's Subscription: Carolyn reviewed the proposed Subscriptions and charges which were approved. These remain unchanged from the previous year. Carolyn also emphasised the need for help with the Club cleaning and spoke about the duties of those listed on the Cleaning Rota. Given the healthy financial position, a suggestion was made - and agreed - that the Committee should review the need for the Key Deposit.

10. Election of Officers, Committee and Trustees: The existing Committee members were re-elected as follows:-

Chairman - Jon Diamond

Secretary - Vacant

Treasurer - Richard Mann

Committee Members - Jeff Chapman, Mick Greagsby, Carolyn Gunstone,
John Moore and Kate Sander

Other Club Officers were also re-elected as follows:

Frank Gunstone, John Hobbs, Duncan Cox and Richard Clark.

The Trustees re-elected were Jon Diamond and Richard Mann.

11. Any Other Business: Roger Morris was awarded Life Membership in recognition of his very significant service to the Club, particularly the Lawn Renewal Project and the building of the Equipment Store.

The Meeting Closed at approximately 12.45.