



Royal Tunbridge Wells Croquet Club

Minutes of the AGM held on 12th February 2022

Present (By Zoom)

Jon Diamond (Chair), Derek Heath, Jack Ingle, Victoria Moll, John Moore, Angela Chapman, Kate Sander, David Pratt, Paul Forster, Derek Crocombe, Jeff Chapman, Paul Gamba, Michael Sander, Jane Smith, Peter Player, Ruth Wallwork, John Greenwood, Gerald O'Brien, John Savage & Denis Cruse.

1. Apologies for absence

Chris Barham, Alex, Jardin, Richard Mann, Mick Belcham, Carolyn Gunstone, Tim Luke, Lister Fielding, Michael Mackenzie, Carole Mackenzie, Phil Taylor, Jolyon Creasy, Barney Lewis, Richard Clarke & David Dray

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous AGM held on the 27 February 2021 were approved. There were no matters arising.

3. Chairman's Report

Jon Diamond reported on some of the main events of 2021 as follows.

2020 had been a bad year for the club due to a decrease in membership but we recovered through 2021 to reach the highest number of members in the club's history (79) of which 25 had joined last year and were welcomed to the club.

Jon had run a number of Introduction to Croquet courses which were well attended with most of the attendees subsequently joining the club. Jon plans to hold at least two such courses this year.

The club had offered coaching for AC and GC through 2021, including three GC sessions from Robert Fulford which we hope may be repeated this year.

The club did not compete in the SECF leagues due to lack of interest due to covid.

The club hosted a number of 14pt AC tournaments which went well and which we plan to repeat this year.

The new Family Competition was well supported and will be repeated with changes reflecting the feedback received after last year's event (possibly a single day completion with one club member per team, at most).

]Finals day was well attended with a good number of spectators supporting the finalists.

The winter social programme had to be much reduced due to covid restrictions with just two pub lunches being organised at the end of last year. We will look to have more this year.

Jon said that there were a number of members who had been on the committee for 10 years or more and that it was important that other members came forward to replace them. In particular, Jon said he had hoped to step down as Chair but would continue for another year as no one had agreed to take over. Richard Mann would be stepping down at the end of this year so we need

someone to take over the role of treasurer. It was suggested there should, ideally, be a handover-period.

There was one question on the Chairman's report: what advertising were we planning for the coming year.

We had advertised in the local press publications for the 5 years up to 2020 but it was not clear that this resulted in increased membership. Indeed, we had a high intake of new members in 2021 absent any such advertising. We send press releases to the local press when we run the Introduction to Croquet courses and advertise National Croquet Week.

It was suggested we could tie in some advertising with the Silver Jubilee celebrations. David Pratt and Paul Forster volunteered to look into the possibilities for this approach.

It was also commented that we might try and involve the local BBC TV station.

Jon extended a thank you to all those who had volunteered in various capacities noting, particularly, that volunteers allowed private events to be held which were important to the club's finances.

4. Treasurer's Report Approval of Accounts

Richard Mann was unable to attend the AGM so no Treasurer's report was given at the meeting.

The end of year accounts for 2021 have been reviewed by John Timmis and were provided to the members prior to the AGM. There were no matters arising and they were unanimously approved by the meeting.

5. Lawn & Facilities Maintenance

Jeff Chapman reported that there had not been any autumn treatment this year and that Ray had been deep slitting the lawns to reduce the build up of "thatch".

There continued to be fox damage to the lawns, mostly restricted to the lawn boundaries as that is where the worms apparently congregate, apparently attracted by the chalk in the line markings.

The lawn dividers had been stolen and will be replaced this year.

We now have a loft ladder which will be installed shortly. Guy Summersgill is organising refurbishment of the club house and Jon asked that members be forthcoming when asked for to help.

There was a general discussion of the lawns playability and a clear preference for finer cuts.

Lawn cutting had occasionally clashed with private events and we should make every effort to avoid this in the future.

6. Tournaments, Competitions and Events

It was proposed to hold the same tournaments, competitions and events as in 2021. In addition, Jane Smith volunteered to organise bi-monthly GC club competitions, as proposed by Jon to provide extra GC competitive play.

The AGM did not propose anything further.

7. Coaching

Some CA Coaching Academy courses will be held a RTWCC. We have a Kent Sport grant which means club members can attend for £10 rather than the usual £35.

There is a shortage of qualified coaches and referees. The CA will run a number of 2-day courses which will be free to CA members (All RTWCC are automatically entitled to standard CA membership).

8. Subscriptions for 2022

The meeting accepted the Committee's recommendation that all subscriptions and green fees remain unchanged, namely:

Full membership: first Year £50, subsequent years £100.

Student, Second Club and Social memberships £35.

Corporate memberships at the committee's discretion, but not less than £100.

Green Fees (for a maximum of 3 sessions/days) Half day session £5, full day £8.

The AGM agreed unanimously to these membership fees.

9. Election of Officers, Committee and Trustees

The AGM unanimously elected the following trustees, officers and committee members.

Trustees

Jon Diamond (proposer John Greenwood)

Richard Mann (proposer John Greenwood)

Officers

Jon Diamond (Chair) (proposer John Greenwood, seconder Chris Barham)

Richard Mann (Treasurer) (proposer John Greenwood, seconder Jeff Chapman)

John Greenwood (Secretary) (proposer Kate Sander, seconder Paul Gamba)

Committee Members

Chris Barham (proposers John Greenwood & John Moore)

Jeff Chapman (proposers John Greenwood & Kate Sander)

Paul Gamba (proposers John Greenwood & John Diamond)

John Moore (proposers John Greenwood & Richard Mann)

Kate Sander (proposers John Greenwood & Chris Barham)

Ruth Wallwork (proposers Kate Sander & John Greenwood)

10. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

11. Closing of the meeting

The meeting was closed at 12.40pm

John Greenwood, Secretary

13 February 2022