

Minutes of the Beverley & East Riding Croquet Club AGM **Wednesday 18th October, 2023 at 4pm at Bishop Burton Village Hall**

Present: Angela Stones, Sally Layton, Helen Griffiths, Maureen Goodchild, Irene Morris, Graham King, Ian Ballantyne, Annie Holmes, Terry Beckett, Joe Neal, Steve Killick, Mike Kirby

1. Apologies: Alan Lockett, John Swift, Bill Prior-Jones, Debbie James
2. Minutes of last AGM and matters arising - no matters arising, minutes signed by Angela Stones, Chair.
3. Chair's Report. Angela summarised her report, already distributed to the membership. She thanked Helen for her work as Treasurer over the past 3 years, she is now stepping down and announced that Ian Ballantyne will take over as Treasurer. She thanked Mike for his work constructing and maintaining the website and running the booking system over many years, Mike is now stepping down and is in the process of setting up a more accessible website which should be up and running for next season. At present we don't have anyone willing to take on keeping the website up to date. Annie volunteered to take over administration of the booking system. Both Mike and Helen were presented with a bottle of wine as a gesture of our appreciation. She thanked Joe for all his time and work on the lawns. Joe is stepping down as lawns manager and it was noted we shall need help. Maintaining the lawns is a very time consuming and involved job and it was suggested that members should be asked to commit to spending some time helping out as a joint effort, on what is the most essential job in the club. Angela thanked Alan for his coaching, and requested that some members of the club may like to take the coaches course at the Northern Academy next year as we shall need AC coaches. Angela thanked the competition organisers, all competitions both internal and external went well, and were enjoyed by all competitors. It was noted there have been meetings with the hotel management, who continue to be positive. It was felt that feedback received at the club was not promising, and Angela has been looking for possible alternative venues. Helen has mentioned the problem to Driffield club, but they have only one lawn so cannot see that they could accommodate us. It was suggested we wait for any more information from the hotel. It was suggested that all members could be asked to help out here looking for an alternative venue as it is in everyones interests.
4. Treasurer's Report and subscription rates for 2023. Helen presented her final report which was circulated and noted that it had been audited. She expressed her concern that the club is destined again to make a loss this year for the 3rd year. Although we have not had to purchase fertiliser and seed yet this year as there was sufficient already in store to be used. There are still considerable expenses to cover before the income from subscriptions next season, and in addition we have had to have repairs done to the shed. It was suggested we also need to consider the possibility there will be increased costs for mowing, together with the cost of maintaining the mower. Easyfundraising was setup after a suggestion at last years AGM but response from members has proved very disappointing. We have so far raised just £113 and only 4 members have earned any money for the club through this scheme. It was suggested we look again at u3a groups to see if we can increase the numbers, as it is the income from the u3a groups that supports the club. Ian and Angela sorted out the mallets and some have been sold, and it was thought there was possibly an aerator that is not used that may raise funds.

Subscriptions for next year were proposed as follows:

Full membership	£145
Country member	£ 85
Associate member (second club member)	£ 70
New member - first year	£ 70
U3A	£ 50
Social member	£ 25

The proposal was accepted by the meeting.

Helen was thanked for her work and for the very full presentation of the accounts, which were accepted by the meeting.

5. Election of Officers:

Chair - Angela Stones is willing to continue as chair
Secretary - Maureen Goodchild is willing to continue as secretary
Treasurer - Ian Ballantyne was proposed by Angela, seconded by Annie
Ordinary member - Steve Killick proposed by Angela, seconded by Helen
Ordinary member - John Swift proposed by Angela, seconded by Annie
Social Secretary Sally Layton is willing to continue
Ordinary member Irene Morris is willing to continue

All were duly elected unopposed.

6. Proposed amendments to the Constitution.

In view of the Croquet Association becoming a charity and being known as Croquet England as from 1st January 2024, it was proposed to amend reference to the CA to read Croquet England. Also any reference to Chairman amended to read Chair, and paragraph 2c to be deleted, paragraph 2e to be amended. All proposals were agreed and approved.

7. Discussion - Future of Club

It was proposed by the committee and agreed by the meeting that we continue club sessions next season as follows:

Monday afternoons	AC Full Lawn
Tues afternoons	AC Short Lawn & GC
Wednesday `mornings	GC
Saturday mornings	All Welcome
Sunday mornings	GC

Thursday and Friday afternoons 2-4pm will continue to be taken by u3a groups.

It was hoped that we could publicise evening and weekend play to try and encourage anyone who was unable to come along during the day.

It was suggested that a WhatsApp Group be set up for all to join in and arrange social play.

It was noted that bringing in new members must be a priority for the next season

Besides needing AC club coaches we are also needing help with handicapping. If you think you would like to be more involved through coaching or handicapping please speak to Angela. Maureen has completed the coaching course this year and is now officially a club coach.

It was requested that we try and open earlier in the season - possibly March, and end later in October, thereby extending the season. It was also requested that we may perhaps keep one lawn open throughout the winter. The difficulties here are costs of maintenance and who would do the work. It was agreed that we would put these requests on hold and revisit when and if we could increase funds to cover these extra costs.

8. AOB

Sally handed out the menu for the end of season dinner and this will be forwarded to all members asap. The date is Thurs 7th December, 6.30 for 7pm, and trophies for the winners of this years competitions will be awarded.

The meeting ended at 5.15pm

A date for the next AGM will be set by the committee in due course.

