

Minutes from meeting between Cricket and Croquet club held Wednesday 17th August 2022.

Present: Craig Wells, Tim Ives, Angela Woods, Natasha Norman, Greg Vaughn, Simon Parvin and Tony Green.

Key Points:

- **Price of playing**

At present each year the croquet club pay membership, a third of the club insurance and contribute £500 to fuel and machine maintenance. This came to just under £3000 in the year 2022-23. The actual membership per player is £25.

For this the croquet club had 2 Playing Days from 10 – 4 on Tuesday and Wednesday, and Friday until 1pm. There are also some pre agreed match days (5 this year) usually on Thursdays and Fridays. Ignoring the matches, a possible 16 hours per week.

An adult Cricket member pays £45 a year to join the club which allows them 1.5 hours of practise a week and matches for which they pay £5 per match (excluding teas). Playing one match and practising each week for 15 weeks costs £120. There is a huge disparity between the memberships which needs to be addressed.

For this amount of playing time, the croquet members need to pay considerably more. The cricket club committee believes that the croquet club have some of the best facilities of any club in the country and need to pay accordingly.

It was felt that the Croquet club may lose players if they increase their membership however have asked for the cricket club to make a decision on price. Angela feels there's a lack of contribution to the whole club for example helping behind the bar, attending social events etc. Greg said he will appoint a social/ event organiser within his committee. This wasn't done previously as the Croquet team felt they couldn't have access to the bar. They don't know the key code, don't have access to safe, how to work the till etc.

Playing Days and Matches

All matches to be played on Tuesdays and Wednesdays – this will avoid the problem this year when extra days were wanted for friendlies and then refused. Greg added that the reason why these days got extended was due to having to shorten their session by an hour each day (previously 10-5) due to youth cricket, so Fridays started to make up lost hours. They asked the Groundsman and previous chairman at that point and thought they were doing the right thing as this was agreed assuming this had been discussed with the committee.

Moving forward It was agreed matches will be played on 'play days' (Tues/ Wed) and any special requests to be taken to sub committee. Craig explained we discuss decisions at our committee before final decision is made.

The croquet club are looking at the possibility of splitting their membership to 'league and non league players'.

Membership contact details

The croquet members are social members of the cricket club. Therefore, the cricket club should have all the membership details of the croquet members so they can contact them directly as they can with all cricket club members. Membership form will need to be amended to state 'Croquet social membership' with new agreed price including a note with what this includes. Simon will send Tash a list of players names and emails so when there is any social events they can be informed.

Beginning and end of the season

To allow the necessary winter work the cricket and croquet seasons need to coincide. The season dates need to be agreed in advance. The end of the cricket season this year is Sunday 18th September. It was agreed that both clubs would like to play to the end of September so this will be considered for next year.

Development Discussions and Ground Committee

In recent years several decisions around the croquet club's playing arrangements and work on the outfield/lawns have been made by without wider discussion. It would be in both club's interest to have a joint committee to continue moving things forward rather than a representative on the cricket club committee. This will include a more formal discussion re ground works too. Greg, Simon and Tony all felt this was a good idea and agreed to having a sub committee. This should improve relationships and keep everyone up to date and open up communication. Simon and Craig have agreed to work together re ground maintenance.

Cricket Club Playing Development

With the increase numbers of players both at adult and junior level the club needs to expand. This has already happened with the pavilion extension and will continue with the new nets hoping to be installed in spring 2023

The juniors need additional tracks to play matches on at the bottom end of the square and adult and junior members need grass practise nets on the other side of the artificial wicket.

It appears that these developments will not affect the croquet lawns.

Robin's letter the attitude of some members

Whilst an apology was received, the letter was seen and therefore endorsed by the croquet club's committee and clearly shows the croquet clubs attitude towards the cricket club. Greg acknowledges using term 'when cricket club was bankrupt' is not correct and what he meant was they would assist financially if they can. Craig wanted to make it clear that he wasn't using Tim to 'screw more cash out of the club'. Tony, Greg and Simon acknowledge this wasn't the case and all agreed not to dwell on the past.

Defib

Greg and Tash both explained how they came to their decision re the defib. Greg was told by a member of the cricket club that a donation of £200 would be satisfactory as it only cost £400. This information was incorrect as it cost £1200.

Both sides felt it was a very positive meeting and look forward to the sub committee proposed for the 20th Sept 7pm.