

Thank you for your email dated 15<sup>th</sup> September 2022 outlining the increased charges the Cricket Club are suggesting.

Since your email we have held two Committee Meetings to discuss your proposals and there has been a second meeting of the forum between our two clubs.

My initial comments concerning maintenance and cleaning have been eclipsed by Tim's admission that the Cricket Club's real intention was that the Croquet Club should make a fixed contribution of £4000 per year to the Cricket Club. It was suggested that that contribution be made up of a relatively small increase in subscriptions and a much larger increase in the maintenance charge.

We have now considered your proposal in the light of this new information.

Our committee was disappointed by and unable to understand the justification for the £4000 annual payment as it does not seem to reflect the Croquet Club's use of Cricket Club facilities and feels more like a number plucked from the air. A fixed sum independent of the Croquet Club's membership numbers is unfair as it will inevitably lead to the club expending its reserves over a short time.

After careful consideration, the Croquet Committee is also firmly of the view that, going forward, all payments to the Cricket Club should come from membership fees and not from club funds, so the payment should no longer be made up of membership fee and maintenance fee.

We are of the view that sharp increases in Croquet Club membership fees would be counterproductive as they would lead to a reduction in member numbers. A fixed fee to the Cricket Club would almost certainly mean a smaller number of Croquet Club members paying ever higher membership fees (with consequent further reductions in member numbers).

Thus, it is not possible to have a fixed fee, but rather we should agree a fee based on the number of members in 2022 (85), which would generate an agreed income to the Cricket Club from the Croquet Club provided member numbers remain the same but would vary according to Croquet Club member numbers. It would therefore be in the interests of both clubs to encourage members to join and make use of the facilities.

The Croquet Club Committee agrees that an increase in the component of the membership fee paid to the Cricket Club, presently £25, could be increased to £34 in 2023 and £37 in 2024. The maintenance fee is abolished. Assuming no reduction in member numbers this would increase payments to the Cricket Club from £2625 in 2022 to £2890 in 2023 and £3145 in 2024. Croquet Club membership would correspondingly increase from £53 to £62 (17%) and £65 (23%) by 2024 (assuming no change in the Croquet Club component of the total membership fee).

The Cricket Club should be aware that a further £10 per year increase in the membership fee is scheduled from 2024 due to changes in Croquet Association membership rules.

The Croquet Club is fully committed to its relationship with the Cricket Club, and very much wants to maintain and develop it going forward. We have willingly made significant financial contributions over recent years including for the Dennis mower, the new kitchen, central heating, and most recently the clubhouse extension. Requests for financial help have always been considered favourably. We hope that the relationship with the Croquet Club is appreciated by the Cricket Club but increasingly our members are questioning whether this is the case.