

Harwell Croquet Club - AGM 2021 - Minutes

Saturday 14 August 2021, 2.00pm, Morris Room, Chilton Village Hall

1. Attendees

Peter Allan (chair), Tom Griffin (secretary), Mary Elizabeth Shewry (social secretary), Norman Goodall (treasurer), Alistair Doig, Dave Buckland, Dennis xxx, Patsy Jones, Gill Broadley, Judy Gold, Pam Hunter, Hilary Alner, John Alner, David Steele, Roy Platon, , Judy Goodall, Pat xxx, Linda Morgan, Anne Vines

2. Apologies for Absence

Mary Hewlett; Bridget, Barbara Anders, Linn and Alan Morgan

3. Minutes of the 2020 AGM (Peter)

The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting

4. Matters arising (Peter)

None

5. Officers Reports

5.a. Chairman's Report (Peter Allan)

Peter reported it had been an 'interesting' year, complicated by Covid and lockdowns. Restrictions have affected how and when we could play. The club has made good use of the online booking system to track any contacts and manage the numbers on lawns.

Overall, it has been a successful year with several new members - the club is growing. Peter invited the new members to join in with the club fully including leagues, competitions, and social play,

We did manage to complete the internal competitions and the trophies will be awarded later.

The club held a Fun Day on 22nd August – the morning was a one-ball completion competed by 5 players. Tom won a close day.

ME organised a social event with Pimms in June which went very well.

The old wire mesh fence has been replaced with a wooden ranch fence which did not stop balls. We asked the campus to put up a ball stopper. This was a mesh but not secured so was not very successful. Thanks to John and Hilary for securing it and making it work.

Lawn maintenance - Simon has left HLRA / campus recently. A new groundsman has been appointed and is due to start soon. The lawns are in a good state.

Due to Covid, the pavilion has been unavailable except the toilets. Reopening was discussed at HLRA last week. Other sports want the changing rooms, which require cleaning between use. HLRA are planning how to achieve this. Clubs will be responsible for cleaning the changing rooms after their events.

The Harlequin room will probably not be available for a while, but the kitchen can be used.

The club needs to appoint a safeguarding officer. This is required by the CA to comply with their policy, even for clubs who do not have children as members. We have had Guide groups join in the past. Peter asked for volunteers. The policy may be extended to cover other vulnerable groups. Members should contact Peter to discuss.

Handicap cards need to be kept up to date and are required for playing in all competitions, internal and external.

Peter is now a qualified club level coach.

Peter has been elected as the CA council representative for the Southern Federation. He was elected unopposed and takes up his post at the CA AGM in the autumn.

There was a question on lawn maintenance – will it still be Mondays?

Answer: Simon/the team will cut lawns for matches on request. The exact day has varied, but should not be a barrier to our play.

5.b Secretary's Report (Tom Griffin)

It has been a relatively quiet year, but the committee met in June and December.

Tom thanked Peter who covers a lot of the communications with the leagues and SCF.

The new club website is provided by the SCF and is open for all members to join by creating an account.

To make emailing members safe and compliant with GDPR, Tom will be creating mailing lists.

The club has a new membership application form. Most of these have been returned. All members are asked to complete a form.

5.c Treasurer's Report (Norman Goodall)

The club has £733 in the bank, which Norman considered a healthy balance.

The club has 29 members who are fully paid up.

Norman had a copy of the accounts available to view.

Norman will continue to reconcile the accounts and make them available to the members.

5.d Social Secretary's Report (Mary Elizabeth Shewry)

With COVID the social activities have been limited.

We held a Pimms event in June and Funday last year.

ME paid respects to Mike Duck who sadly passed away earlier this year.

Jim's wife unwell and undergoing treatment

With Covid restrictions relaxing we hope to have a Winter social indoors, but it will depend on the restrictions in place at the time

Questions on the Harlequin room – what cleaning is required to use it?

Answer: This is in the control of the Harwell Recsoc, but for now it is closed. All clubs are in the same situations – cricket clubs, for example, cannot use changing rooms or showers.

6. Return to a 'normal' playing situation (Peter)

Peter introduced this item saying that the club has been operating under various restrictions for over a year now. There may not be restrictions, but how do we want to operate in the future? The calendar has been useful. Should we restart club sessions? Times when anyone can turn up and expect other members to be there to play.

The majority view was that club session arrangements had worked well before and should return.

Some members expressed a preference for a phone system, but it was felt best to leave this to individual members who wished to share their details.

The lawns are available at all times, except when there is cricket on.

There was request for coaching, which Peter is happy to provide

It was agreed that the club would return to having regular club sessions:
Tuesday and Wednesday 10-12 ; Thursday and Friday 2-4pm

7. Club web site (Tom)

Club has a website harwellcroquet.org it is hosted on a Southern Croquet Federation platform.

Several members asked how to register. Tom explained to follow the 'Members' link then click 'Register'. All members need an individual account in the new system. There is not a common password to use

8. Croquet Results from 2020 (Mary Elizabeth, Peter)

There were no external competitions in 2020

Internal Competitions

Founders cup – 3 entries. Winner was Tom who retains the trophy.

GC – level play – 11 entries – Peter Allan won

Handicap – 11 entries – Peter Allan won

9. Presentation of Trophies (Peter)

See above

10. Election of Committee Officers

The current committee have not indicated they are not willing to stand again.

The committee was voted en-bloc and was unanimously accepted.

Judy Gold is a safeguarding officer elsewhere and will discuss this with Peter.

11. Standard Membership of the Croquet Association (Peter)

Last year only around ½ our members were CA members.

Most of our members are now CA members. There is no cost to be a full member of the CA.

Membership of the CA is a factor in getting grants from the CA.

Peter encouraged everyone who was not a member of the CA to join, and to ask Peter to know how to do it.

The new membership form includes a question on being a member of the CA

12. Progress with internal club competitions for 2021 (Peter)

We are playing AC, GC Level, and GC Handicap internal competitions.

After a slow start, there has been a flurry of results recently. Peter encouraged members to compete their games.

There was a question on lawn availability over winter

Answer : The lawns are usually available bar a few weeks for maintenance

13. Status of participation in external competitions for 2021 (Mary Elizabeth, Peter)

SCF AC Handicap league northern division. Harwell has a joint entry with Eynsham. The team is currently undefeated Played 3, D-2 W-1 L-0. They are playing High Wycombe tomorrow and 26th.

In the Longman cup (national knockout), the join team won first two games 6-1 and 5-2; The QF is vs East Dorset.

GC – Doubles only league – only 3 teams, play home and away. Harwell beat Ryde 5-3 5-3, but lost to Test Valley

Advantage trial league – a different handicap system, no free turns. Players start with a number of hoops, or need to win >7 hoops.

New players very welcome to play next year.

Question on friendlies

Answer: Yes, we hope to resume these after COVID.

14. AOB

John Alner asked about the membership numbers. There are currently 29 paid up members

John Alner requested if paving slabs could be provided from carpark to the lawns area. ME/PA to discuss and request with HLRA. (Action – Peter)

Question : does the club have a constitution? Yes and on the website at

<https://harwellcroquet.org.uk/constitution/>

Question: Would the club like to accept any spare equipment from White Horse Club? Peter agreed to review the kit for reuse at Harwell or elsewhere in the SCF.

A member requested to have list of matches displayed in the cupboard. It was agreed that this could be provided, but the most up to date list would always be on the online calendar.

15. Date of next meeting

March or April 2022, exact date to be decided nearer the time depending on any Covid restrictions.