



## CROQUET NORTH

### **Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting, at TCC on 30th October and Virtually on 13th November 2021**

#### **Present—**

On 30th Oct-(up to & incl. item 8)—Dennis Scarr (Chairman); David Millener (Secretary); Derek Johnson (Treasurer & Coaching), Julian Gibson (AC League Manager), Roger Staples (Development), Terry Vernazza (Tyneside), Mick Lock (Alnmouth), and by invitation Nigel Martin (CN Webmaster).

On 13th Nov (from item 9)—Dennis Scarr, David Millener, Derek Johnson, Roger Staples, Terry Vernazza and Mick Lock.

Mick Lock was welcomed on the committee, replacing John Howie as club representative for Alnmouth CC. (Mick recently replaced John as club secretary)

**1 .Apologies for absence from-**Charles Waterfield, Eric Nixon, Eugene Brady, Colin Chun, Don Morton & Roger Carpenter (and from Julian Gibson for 13th Nov.)

**2 Minutes of Committee Meeting, 13th March—** Accepted.

**3 Matters Arising not on the Agenda for this meeting—**none

#### **4 Club Reports —** discussed.

—Alnmouth have concerns if no GC Div 2 League next year.

It was noted that expected demand for competitive high handicap GC play does not translate into sufficient entries and competitions often fail. Inter-club friendlies may offer an alternative. (ref DJ and ML)

—Bamburgh now use a lawn booking system which they recommend. Belsay use a different system. Both seem easy to use once set up.

—Belsay Hall have significantly increased their membership numbers.

—Middlesbrough have issues with lawn maintenance, security and facilities.

—DJ reported that Tyneside's CA AC Mid-week and High Bisque competitions did run.

#### **5 League and Championship Reports**

Noted that there were some unusual arrangements this year because of Covid issues.. Only GC League (Div 1) and a hybrid AC League ran. (It is hoped that York will return to the AC League next year.) AC Championships ran but GC versions did not.

Bamburgh won this years GC League and are therefore invited to represent CN in the GC Federation Shield in 2022. This is a handicap competition, when next year it is expected that the Advantage system will replace the use of bisques. Discuss with Bamburgh. **DM**

## **6 Review of other events**

The popularity of the Bamburgh GC Team event suggests that next year more teams than can be accommodated may wish to enter.

The Tyneside Quaich, an event which embodies AC advanced play with bisques, did not take place.

The GC Open Singles (Turner Goblet) was held at Durham and managed by Peter Tymms.

## **7 Coaching & Development**

New organisation/administration for Coaching is awaited from the CA.—(as at 30th Oct.)

Storage of CN equipment has been re-located from Belsay to Tyneside and the Inventory updated. Outstanding loan equipment is recorded as being with Auckland and Alnmouth.

Foxy hoops have longer/narrower 'carrots' than standard and are particularly suited for use when lawn damage from standard hoops is to be avoided eg where bowling and croquet are played on the same surface. If needed CN could obtain a set with financial assistance from the CA.

## **8 Newsletter and Website**—and review of CN Constitution.

There was no Newsletter this year because of the increasing migration of information onto the website and the illness of Newsletter Editor John Fitzpatrick. The Constitution under 4.4 states that a Newsletter be issued annually —and there is no mention within the constitution of our website! Clearly we have moved on and the constitution should be reviewed and amended.

Most of the information in past Newsletters is now on the website. An exception is a competition entry system or 'entry form' download arrangement. At this stage we are unable to accommodate on-line payments but we do have a 'pay to manager on the day' arrangement for 1 and 2 day events.

Review Constitution, particular item 4.— (*Can be viewed on website*)

**ALL**

## **9-Chairmans 2021 Report**

CN are looking for additional members who may be able to help with current and future work. Two have been identified. They are to be invited to join as co-opted members onto the CN Executive Committee.

**DS and DM**

Outstanding roles discussed were—

Adult & Children's Safeguarding. Failure to recruit will mean that the CA would look to the Federation Chairman as being responsible.

Secretary (to replace the current Secretary). Dennis is to circulate a Job Description to committee members. Failure to find a replacement may mean that the Chairman (and others) share the secretarial role. (As is the case at some clubs.)

**DS**

## **10 CA Matters**

The CA's Legal Status is under discussion. Currently there appears agreement that continuing with the current status is not an option. Charitable status is preferred but the type has not been decided. (There is expected to be a piece about this in the next CA Gazette)

Also under discussion is the qualification process for Coaches and Referees. The need for three consecutive days has been questioned. Consideration is being given to using webinars and emails to reduce 'on-site' time.

The CA now have an Editorial Board for the Gazette. Editor Chris Roberts has resigned.

The CA have almost completed a 'Practice Book' which covers Council, Executive Board and Committee responsibilities and practices.

Clubs are being asked by the CA to update their membership lists. There is concern that there are many club members that are not CA members—possibly as many as 1,500!

## **11 Finance**

Currently account balances total £2531. All except two clubs have paid their CN Subscription (£10/club) for 2021 and Ripon have paid a similar amount as a contribution.

## **12 Committee Co-options—from October for 12 months**

Development Officer—Roger Staples to oversee the role.

Coaching Officer—Derek Johnson to continue in the role pending a replacement.

## **13 AOB**

Informally at the start of this meeting mention was made of the recent death of John Fitzpatrick, a Middlesbrough Member, CN Newsletter Editor and until 2019, CN Development Officer.

We also learned that Alice Fleck died last year. Alice was a committed croquet player. Over many years Alice has been a member of Belsay Hall, Tyneside and Backworth clubs.

Charles Waterfield and Derek Watts are preparing obituaries.

## **14 Dates of future meetings**

**The next Ex Committee meeting will be on Saturday 22nd January 2022 via Zoom.**

**The AGM will be on Saturday 12th March 2022**

These minutes are subject to formal acceptance at the next CN Committee Meeting.

**David Millener—Secretary—**

**Distribution—**via email

CN Committee and those attending

Club Chairman and Secretaries—