



SURBITON CROQUET CLUB

31ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD 20 MARCH 2016

At 11.30 George Noble rose to welcome members to the 2016 AGM, hoping they had enjoyed watching the GC Final being played on Lawn 2.
Mike Lambert took the minutes.

1. Present.

38 members attended. A list of attendees is available on request.

2. Apologies for Absence.

Graham Brightwell, Iden & Rosemary Coleman, Edward Dymock, Jonathan Edwards, Lorraine & Philip Hellen, Bryn Hughes, Stephen Parish, Elaine Phillimore, Ian Plummer, Alan Rew, Julian Sheraton-Davis, Ian Vincent.

3. Minutes of the last AGM on 22 March 2015.

Approved without amendment and signed by George.

4. Matters Arising not covered elsewhere.

None.

5. Chairman's Report.

Copies of the full report were emailed to members, and paper copies made available before the meeting. George assumed members had read it.

He commented that coaching for the current year would be dealt with under AOB.

6. Treasurer's Report.

Copies of the Annual Accounts to end-December 2015 were handed out.

Mike Burrow commented on some aspects:

- The Club showed a surplus of £3.4K, but this has been bolstered by £4.8K in donations.
- Catering surpassed itself with a net profit of £12.0K for the year, up £2.7K on last year. He thanked Chris Osmond and all the Caterers [applause].
- The Bar made a profit of £2.3K (£147 last year), boosted by several corporate events.
- Clubhouse expenditure was down – there were no major improvements during the year.
- Ground expenses were £11.7K higher at £29.7K: much ground work was deferred from Autumn 2014 into Spring 2015 due to bad weather, two mowers had to be scrapped and a third refurbished.

Mike B felt we had had a satisfactory year, with available funds of £43.5K, up £3.4K.

He solicited questions:

- Sam Murray asked why Phone and Internet charges (£1,065) were so high: George has arranged a meeting with BT and is looking at alternatives. He commented that BT treats the Club as a business rather than a domestic user.
- Christian Carter wondered why Assets were reported differently in two parts of the Accounts: Mike clarified this outside the meeting.

The Accounts were adopted, subject to scrutiny by Ian Bond: proposer David Mooney, seconder Stephen Mulliner.

7. Elections for 2015-16.

Committee.

All the 2015-16 members of the committee had agreed to stand for re-election. Christine Osmond is resigning her post of Secretary, Mike Lambert has agreed to take over.

The new committee for 2016-17 was elected *en bloc*, and is as follows:

George Noble	Kitty Carruthers
Mike Lambert (Secretary)	Howard Cheyne
Mike Burrow (Treasurer)	Margaret Hampson
	David Mooney
Graham Brightwell	Chris Osmond
Martin Burger	Sue Strong

Chairman and President.

The Chairman will be elected from within the committee at the first committee meeting.

Ian Bond's term as President does not expire this year, so no election is necessary.

Auditor.

Ian Bond has agreed to continue as Auditor. He was proposed by Mary Knapp, seconded by Andy Dibben and voted in unanimously.

George thanked Ian for his work as Auditor, and for all his excellent woodworking and concreting contributions to the Club [applause].

8. Subscriptions.

Mike B reminded the meeting that subs had not been increased last year.

He surmised that the CPI rate on which he has based subs does not reflect rising costs to the Club, so has decided to revert to RPI as a yardstick, which in two years has risen by 2.8%.

In addition the new CA member capitation has increased in two years from £7.95 to £9.50.

He therefore proposed the following increases to subscription rates for 2016-17:

Standard +£5 (new sub is £178, £168 if paid by 30 April), Family +£8, Country +£3, Country Family +£5, Far Country +£1, Far Country Family +£2. Student and Non-Playing members' rates will be unchanged.

These increases provoked some discussion:

- Andy Dibben asked if there are was any major expenditure expected: Mike B commented that for now we have enough reserves for a rainy day. In the long term we may consider a Clubhouse extension.
- Bernard Pendry asked if we could pay subs by Direct Debit: Mike B explained that to do this our relationship with the bank would have to be as a business, incurring heavy bank charges. He recommended paying subs and tournament fees by Automated Bank Transfer, which most members do.
- George commented that during the year the committee may need to draft a Constitution change to cover the new CA financial framework, an issue for the next AGM.

The subs increases were passed unanimously, proposer Mike B, seconder Bernard Pendry.

9. AOB.

Golf Croquet.

Bernard Pendry [a GC player] complained that the Club is too AC-centred. The Club held nine AC tournaments last year but only three for GC, and the committee was entirely composed of AC players. A greater GC presence in the Club would encourage more new members, the game is so much easier to learn.

- This elicited several responses defending the Club as welcoming to both formats, and David Mooney offered space on the committee for a GC advocate.
- It was felt that many of our GC members who play in the roll-ups do not wish to play in tournaments, and to test this George announced two new GC events for this year, one B-level, one C-level. If these succeed we may run a GC Doubles tournament next year.
- Chris Roberts noted that his other club [in Henley] run B- and C-level Singles tournaments and a Doubles tournament, all are well supported.
- Stephen Muliner said he enjoys both formats equally [and at the highest level], and encouraged people new to AC to play Alternate Stroke Doubles with experienced partners, a great way into AC. He also commented that AC is easier to practice alone than GC.
- Mike Lambert said that at Ember there is little appetite for GC and new members learn AC from coaching and playing Better-Ball AC Doubles.
- David Mooney advanced the idea of AC on half-lawns, a format played at Roehampton.
- Sam Murray drew attention to CA and SECF events.

Coaching.

David Mooney offered to run coaching courses during the summer:

- One evening a month for three groups: beginners, improvers and advanced,
- Coaching for Mary Rose and Longman Cup players,
- Probably Tuesday or Thursday evenings or at weekends,
- Sessions would be two hours max,
- Individual one-to-one coaching on request.

He and George will put together a coaching plan. **Action David, George.**

Don Beck also offered to coach GC.

New Member Experience.

Alan Grundy said how much he was enjoying being a member since joining last summer, and he was planning to attend Croquet Academy courses.

The meeting closed at 12.12pm

Signed Date