

Waimarie Hutt Valley Croquet Club Inc
Minutes of 97th Annual General Meeting
Held in the Clubrooms, Walter Nash Park, 110a Reynolds Street, Taita, Lower Hutt
On Saturday 6th of June 2020

Welcome:

The President, Terry McBeth, opened the meeting at 10.30am with a welcome to all those present for the 97th Annual General Meeting.

Apologies (11) - 10 prior to the meeting via e-mail received by the Secretary, Dawn Dorresteijn, and the 11th on the day:

Liz Hamilton	Joan Bowen	Chris Bowen	Chris Windsor	Win Hollington
Trish Frethy	Peggy Roberts	Robyn McKeown	Barbara Hodson	Jo Bailey
Shaun Theobald.				

Present (28):

Dawn Dorresteijn	Terry McBeth	Trevor Ballantine	John Farrell	Len Lea
Kevin Fellows	Eileen Martin	Maida Bishop	Glenys Rogers	Marg Lissette
Marion McInnes	Tony Warrington	David Beerworth	Val Erhardt	Mike Theobald
Dale Wilkinson	Helen Murfitt	Sue Lea	John McInnes	Annette Bisley
Toby Hempleman	Andrea Hempleman	Donald Rogers	Sue Hare	Heather Nixon
Beryl Stewart	Nan McDougall	Alan Brown		

Minutes of 96th Annual General Meeting held 4th May 2019:

The minutes were taken as read because they had previously been sent to all members.

Motion: That the minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record.

Moved by the secretary: Dawn Dorresteijn

Seconded by: Toby Hempleman All in favour **Carried.**

Matters Arising from the AGM Minutes.

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

Annual Reports for 2019 – 2020 Season.**(1) President's Report (attached):**

Motion: That the previously circulated President's Report be accepted:

Moved by the President: Terry McBeth

Seconded by: Mike Theobald All in favour **Carried.**

In support of his report, Terry commented as follows:

1. The Covid-19 corona virus pandemic had ended the season early because of the lockdown preventative measures.
2. The steps for the relocation at the new site in Taita went well with a successful first playing season.
3. The Waikanae Croquet Club had problems with their lawns and asked our Club to hold a Wellington Croquet Association tournament.
4. Club rules need a re-write. The original set of rules was from 1926 but there have been some updates since then. There needs to be simpler rules, depending on new regulations from the Companies Office.
5. Terry thanked:

- a) the out-going members of the committee who were unavailable for re-election: David Beerworth (Vice President); Dawn Dorresteijn (Secretary); Trevor Ballantine (Club Captain); Beryl Stewart; Stephanie Craig).
- b) those committee members who were available to be re-elected: John Farrell (Treasurer); Marg Lissette; Ross Bisley; Glenys Rogers; Len Lea; Kevin Fellows.
- c) those outside the committee such as Sue Hare and Maida Bishop, and
- d) to all members for their input.

(2) Club Captain's Report (attached):

Motion: That the previously circulated Club Captain's Reported be accepted:

Moved by the Club Captain: Trevor Ballantine

Seconded by Dale Wilkinson All in favour **Carried**

In support of his report, Trevor said he wanted to thank many people who helped him in various ways, for instance by being session leaders.

(3) Financial Report (attached):

The Treasurer, John Farrell commented that there was a small deficit and that the Audits were not quite complete.

Motion: That the previously circulated Financial Report be accepted – subject to final Audit:

Moved by the Treasurer: John Farrell

Seconded by Kevin Fellows All in favour **Carried**

Subscription Rates for 2020 – 2021

Motion: That the Subscription Rates remain the same as last year:

Moved by the Treasurer: John Farrell

Seconded by Donald Rogers All in favour **Carried**

In the discussion that followed, some comments were made:

1. The lower rate for the Taita local community did not attract any new members.
2. Emphasise that members do not have to pay the annual subscription in one lump sum – it can be paid in instalments.

Election of Officers for 2020 – 2021

Motion: That the previously circulated list of officers be accepted en bloc:

Moved by John McInnes

Seconded by Donald Rogers All in favour **Carried**

Patron Mayor of Lower Hutt Campbell Barry

President: Terry McBeth (Kevin Fellows/Len Lea)

Secretary: Sue Hare (Dawn Dorresteijn/Glenys Rogers)

Treasurer: John Farrell (Dawn Dorresteijn/Trevor Ballantine)

Vice President: Margaret Lissette (Kevin Fellows/Terry McBeth)

Club Captain: Mike Theobald (Trevor Ballantine/Shawn Theobald)

Committee Members:

Ross Bisley (Dawn Dorresteijn/Beryl Stewart)

Joan Bowen (Dawn Dorresteijn/Glenys Rogers)

Glenys Rogers (Sue Hare/Heather Nixon)

Len Lea (Trevor Ballantine/Kevin Fellows)

Kevin Fellows. (Trevor Ballantine/Len Lea)

Shaun Theobald (Trevor Ballantine/Mike Theobald)

WCA Delegates: President & Club Captain (David Beerworth/Margaret Lissette)

Honorary Solicitor: Russell Buchanan (Dawn Dorresteijn/Glenys Rogers)

Honorary Auditor: Toby Hempleman (John Farrell/Nan McDougall)
Motion: That the pro tem Mayor of Hutt City be appointed as Patron of the Club.
Moved by Terry McBeth
Seconded by John Farrell

The following explanations and comments were expressed:

1. Historically, the current Mayor of Hutt City at the time of the AGM, would be appointed as Patron.
2. All officers were appointed unopposed.
3. There were no nominations from the floor.
4. Russell Buchanan said that this will be the last time for him to act as our Honorary Solicitor.

General Business

1. **Hutt Valley Darts:** A good working relationship has now been established. There is no interest from Darts members to play croquet.
2. **Publicity:** Contacts and information for our Club need to be updated with publications such as the Upper Hutt Leader and at the city councils of Upper Hutt and Lower Hutt
3. **Lawns:**
 - a) Rye grass causing a problem, but the contractor is dealing with it.
 - b) The scarifying of the lawns was suspended during the Covid-19 epidemic lockdown and might impact on the lawns if not carried out, but can be done at any time and may help to get rid of the mould which has appeared in different places.
 - c) The council did not want to reseed. Tony Warrington advised that the committee have reseeded in the contract. The President replied that an approach will be made to the appropriate staff on the Hutt City Council but if not successful, funding could be organised.
 - d) The east end of Lawns 3 and 4 require attention to the unsuitable grass that is growing there.
4. **Ball barrier:** At the east end of lawns, a barrier will be planted with shrubs.
5. **Winter Croquet:** Play on the lawns from before the Annual General Meeting until two weeks before the start of the new playing season. There is organised sessions with session leaders but the lawns are open at all time to those with a key.

Close of Meeting. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 11.20am.

Attachments:

1. President's Report.
2. Club Captain's Report
3. Treasurer's Report.

WAIMARIE HUTT VALLEY CROQUET CLUB PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2020

Summary

Well this was meant to be the annual report that would discuss the challenges of getting our first year of operation at the Walter Nash park grounds. Challenges such as settling in, getting on with the neighbours, finance, playing some winning croquet, recruiting, lawn readiness. The usual things. And then came COVID 19 and messed up the year end. But the financial and playing years were almost over, so that's no reason to do other than look back at the croquet year and look forward to the next year while looking around COVID-19.

See attachment 1 for the COVID-19 advice to members.

Planning Workshop

Your committee held a series of planning workshops early in the year. The key result was the aim of the club as presented at the Players Meeting:

"The Aim of the Waimarie Croquet Club to 2023

The Waimarie Croquet Club aims to become a vibrant, growing, competitive croquet club recognised throughout the New Zealand Croquet Community.

We

Have FUN
WELCOME visitors
Are COMPETITIVE in our play
CELEBRATE success
VALUE members
Are RESPECTFUL to all"

We have made a good start achieving our aim, but a lot of work remains to be done. Effort is needed not just by the committee but with the commitment of members both longstanding and new, who can assist with particular tasks, as other members step back for various reasons.

First Season at Walter Nash Park

The results of the huge amount of effort by members at the end of the 2019 season meant that this year has been focussed on settling in and playing in our new home. Teething issues were expected and most have been fixed, some remain.

Ten new members have come from a wide area, but no locals have shown anything beyond casual interest. They may improve, but the reduction in membership fees in anticipation of that was not proven.

Two issues remain, the location of the club for some members and the quality of the lawns.

Playing Croquet

The club captain's report summarises and recognises the efforts by you all. Congratulation to those who have succeeded and thanks to all who helped move each week along.

Finance

I am happy to support the financial results to you. The intent was to use some of our reserves if needed and to recognise the efforts of members over the years in fund raising and staying with club through those times.

While we still have some unknowns which we must make provision for and the significant changes in the economy in 2020/21 have everyone guessing I believe we are well placed for the foreseeable future.

Walter Nash Park Relationships

The Walter Nash Park Club House Committee incorporating Hutt Valley Darts and our club representatives has got through the year. The essential working relationships are established, lease of the land entered into, purchase of the clubrooms, cost sharing agreed, and valuation and insurance arrangements are in place.

The coordination of use of the clubrooms has been a rocky road, but it is improving.

Club Rules Rewrite

It was my intention to rewrite the 2018 amended rules of the club into a more contemporary style including what to do if there can be no AGM, some clubs do have such provisions, but the law under which we are established, the Incorporated Societies Act 1908 (as amended) is going through a major rewrite and there will be a template for club constitutions. So, we should wait for that.

Patron

As a result of the local body elections there was change in mayor of Hutt City. As the election of Patron requires an AGM approval, while Ray Wallace, the losing candidate, was a very active supporter of the club, he is no longer mayor. The club owes Ray a great deal for that support and contribution over the years of change.

Thanks

A special thanks to all the members of the committee for their efforts during the year. Some have roles they carry out in other organisations but I have been delighted when they have put up their hands and said "I'll do that".

Thanks to Trevor Ballantyne. The club captain has an essential and sometimes demanding role and Trevor has kept at it.

Outside the committee special thanks to Maida Bishop; session leader on Tuesday, and still training new members, and to Sue Hare, for gardening and helping in the kitchen and cleaning the club rooms.

You have been well served.



Terry McBeth
President
Waimarie Hutt Valley Croquet Club



27 April 2020

Attachment 1

COVID-19 Advice to Members

This advice was sent to members on 24 Mar 20.

"The Government has directed that the country move to COVID-19 Level 3 and be ready to move to Level 4 for four weeks at least.

Fortunately it has happened late in our playing season.

Sadly that means the 2019/2020 playing season is now over.

The club rooms and lawns are now closed.

All events planned for this playing season are cancelled.

Administrative cycle activities are all postponed, including Closing Day, Prize Presentations, AGM and assume also the Players Meeting.

We all hope that at the very least, the lawns can continue to be looked after. There is no certainty about this and the good news is that it late in the growing season.

Our Club Constitution does not cover at this time what to do when such an unimaginable event happens.

So until we can stop looking out the window, and we have clarity about what we can do and when, all members of your committee have agreed to carry on.

The committee will complete the statutory year end processes that we can, for your later final approval.

I'm sure you understand that as and when we know what we can practically do with our postponed activities, we will advise you.

At best we must hope to have a full new 20/21 season starting later in the year."

Club Captains Report

The 2019-2020 playing season has been very good despite being bookended between two events -A very wet first month reducing the lawn usage, and an abrupt end caused by the Covid 19 epidemic and country close-down. Luckily the Covid 19 only meant the cancellation of 3 club & 1 WCA events.

Jubilee Jug GC Pairs, Waimarie Hutt Valley AC Open, Ewen GC (1st year), WCA Silver Badges.

The club competitions were all completed except for the Baldwin Cup AC Premier Grade.

New Stuff

Len Kane organised, with his team, a Twilight League on Tuesday evening during the 1st half of the season, which then continued into 2020. It was very successful in itself, and also in giving GC player insight into the mysteries of Association Croquet - four of whom managed a 3 hoop break with biscuits in the Hugh Gillies Tournament in March.

Marg Lissette & Beryl Stewart added an early start to the Saturday GC for members who wanted to play singles games. This was fairly popular 8 – 12 attending

John Farrell ran the "Bullring" a GC coaching session. It also was very successful with a good number of members attending. I feel that as well as being enjoyable, it gave a real boost to their game

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Club Competitions

The 1st half of the season, the number of games played was very poor, resulting in many of the competitions being completed in the New Year. In the second half of the season there was an excellent response to my request that their games be played early and not left to the last minute. My thanks to all of you.

Entries into most of the 1 or 2 day club competition were up on last year especially the GC.

Interclub

The number of GC entrants were down, and AC about normal

Tournaments

The club organised and ran two WCA events.

- i. WCA 95th AC Open Championship Singles on the 27 - 30 Dec 2019, and,
- ii. WCA AC Championship Doubles & Singles on the 1 - 4 Feb 2020. (This was a late request from the WCA because Waikanae lawns were unsuitable).

Lawn Use

- Golf: The 3 GC club sessions are well attended, which is no surprise given the majority of members play GC. Late in the season, an attempt was made late to have a GC singles day
- Association: The Wednesday afternoon AC session stopped because of low attendance. This because most of the members who played on this day at Ewen Park, are now also associate members of Petone CC and they choose to play there. Most if not all live closer to that club.
- Ricochet: The Friday session stopped through a of lack of numbers. Play was incorporated into the Thursday session where it was offered as an option for those interested after morning tea.

Looking Forward.

1. In my 12 years with the club the ratio of AC players to GC player has probably switched 180 degrees, yet the number of sessions to GC player has remained at three (technically speaking, is five, but Mon & Wed are in reality defunct). It is probably high time we looked additional sessions for GC other opportunities for the GC players to expand their game
 - i) A day for singles play.
 - ii) A handicap day with a competition. To qualify you only need to play a minimum number of games (say 10), but if you play more, then your best 10 count. Also need to play with different members.
2. Ricochet. I feel the Friday AM spot is both, (a) isolating the players and (b) the game itself, from the rest of the club. If we are going to grow this game, and give these members social contact the rest the club, we have to include them in other sessions. This year a time was made available with the GC Thursday players. New ricochet players will mainly come from GC players, so perhaps we should continue to have time available with Thursday GC to get more players interested, and also have time on Thursday AC to help develop their skills and strategies
3. Club Competition. Needs to be changed so that it so that it is completed in time. I think that option would be to have two deadlines.
 - i) Half the games would have to be completed by the 1st deadline (a Sunday when out standing could be played).
 - ii) Similarly the remaining games to be played by the 2nd deadline on a Sunday.
4. There is need for more members putting their hand up to assist with running the club events. Club days, three GC club & three AC club tournaments, and two Open tournaments. The club tournaments are not hard to run and computer skills are not needed, as there are enough members who could help with the prep work like results sheets, draws, etc
5. The Twilight League coaching & playing AC to continue

6. The Bull Ring coaching to continue and perhaps be expanded to include other skills.

Acknowledgements.

Ross Bisley, for all the efforts that he has put in to preparing and maintaining the lawns in a very trying year. A wet start, new grass, and settling ground made the job difficult.

Shaun Theobald for the fine effort for updating the Results on to the Web-site

Kevin Fellows for Managing the WCA 95th

Len Kane & his team, Tuesday Twilight League

The Session Leaders, Dawn Dorresteijn, Maida Bishop, John Farrell, & Marg Lissette

John Farrell for organising and running the Bull Ring

Sue and Heather for maintaining the gardens

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April 2020

Waimarie Hutt Valley Croquet Club Incorporated

**Treasurer's Report for the year ended 31 March 2020**

The Club is in good financial heart notwithstanding the Annual Financial Accounts recording a \$3.1k deficit. The Accounts reflect a somewhat normal financial year compared with the previous one, which recorded our move and other less common transactions.

There is a little bit more water to flow under the bridge before we have a complete handle on our annual expenses.

Let's head straight to the cash at the bank. A year ago at 31 March 2019 we had \$62.3k, compared with \$52.9k 12 months later; this is a decrease in cash of \$9.4k. \$8.0k of it was paid to Hutt City Council in final settlement of the lawns. What this suggests to me is that any investments in new assets (such as croquet balls) will *not* be funded by annual subscriptions and other income; but by either savings or grants.

The Term Deposits of \$40k, representing the Long Term Capital Development Reserve, are an effective red line. If we need to delve into this money we will be on a slippery slope. Effective ways to put off this day are to both break even or better, and be wise in our capital spending.

The annual subscriptions were reduced last cycle. It may be wise to leave them alone until future deficits disappear.

John Farrell