

# WATFORD (CASSIOBURY) CROQUET CLUB

England & Wales · Charity number 1185646

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** CIO

**Registered** 2019-10-07

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** Watford (Cassiobury) Croquet Club  
Cassiobury Park  
(Shepherd's Road entrance)  
Watford  
WD18 7HY

**Phone** 07786912633

**Email** [secretary@watfordcroquet.org.uk](mailto:secretary@watfordcroquet.org.uk)

**Website** <https://watfordcroquet.org.uk/>

## Activities

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**Objects:** THE OBJECT OF THE CIO IS: THE PROMOTION OF COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN HEALTHY RECREATION IN WATFORD AND THE SURROUNDING AREA BY PROVIDING FACILITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SPORT OF AMATEUR CROQUET AT ALL LEVELS (FACILITIES MEANS LAND, BUILDINGS, EQUIPMENT AND ORGANISING SPORTING ACTIVITIES).

**Activities:** The purpose of the Club is the promotion of community participation in healthy recreation in Watford and the surrounding area by providing facilities to participate in the sport of amateur croquet at all levels.

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Amateur Sport
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- **Area of benefit:** LOCAL
- Throughout England And Wales

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£37,685	£46,234	-	-
2023-12-31	£11,316	£9,431	-	-
2022-12-31	£9,902	£6,728	-	-
2021-12-31	£9,790	£9,531	-	-
2020-12-31	£22,865	£1,414	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Adam Huby		2026-03-03
Andre Machell		2019-10-07
Dr Simon Hathrell		2019-10-07
Janet Lewis		2019-10-07
Kevin Currie		2023-03-13
Kevin Eamonn Connolly		2023-12-12
Michael Grossmith		2022-03-21

**WATFORD (CASSIOBURY) CROQUET CLUB**

England & Wales - Charity number 1185646

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# Accounts

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## Report of the trustees

### 1. Introduction

The trustees submit their report and financial statements for the period 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024.

The trustees have overall responsibility for the direction, management and control of the CIO.

### 2. Objects and activities

The club's primary purpose is to encourage the sport of croquet to everyone. Croquet is particularly suited to encourage healthy recreation for people of all ages and physical abilities. At the same time it can be played as a serious competitive sport.

The club is situated in a large public park in Watford, and is easily accessible to all.

Our aim is to provide a welcoming social environment for casual players, and in parallel to develop as one of the top clubs in the region for competitive croquet.

### 3. Review

The CIO was set-up in October 2019 by simple transfer from the old unincorporated club. This was therefore our fifth year of full operation as a CIO.

The winter period from January to March started with play suspended for the first 4 weeks following a programme of speed doubles tournaments in the previous December which, although popular with members, proved to cause too much wear on the courts in often damp and muddy conditions, so that a period of rest was needed for the grass to recover. Thereafter normal winter play resumed on one court until all four courts opened again in April for the summer season.

Membership numbers had increased when cheaper winter-only membership had been offered in 2023, but the trustees decided that with only one court available for winter use and with demand for it and wear on it both quite high, it should in future be prioritised for full members. It was therefore decided in 2024 to stop offering winter-only membership in future and instead to allow only annual membership, but with new members able to join the club at any time and renew on their anniversary of joining. Annual fees are still very modest compared with most other sports.

The summer season proved to be the club's busiest ever for formal competitions, with 32 inter-club matches and 8 open tournaments of various kinds, compared with 19 and 8 respectively in 2023, as well as running the usual full programme of internal all-season tournaments. In addition, the club ran another Charity 1-ball tournament raising funds in aid of the British Heart Foundation as part of the national Charity 1-ball competition, and once again raised over £1000 including Gift Aid recoveries, representing more than 10% of the total raised by all 220 croquet clubs in the country affiliated to Croquet England.

A particular highlight worthy of mention is that one of our members captained the Hertfordshire team in the 4-day AC inter-counties tournament, winning the national county championship for the first time since 1908 – a 116-year gap.

Alongside the croquet play, and without interrupting it, the other big activity of 2024 was the drilling of a borehole and the installation of a new, automatic irrigation system. The project had been agreed and preparations had started in 2023 but progress had been delayed by the need to obtain planning permission, which was finally obtained in April 2024 after a formal hearing by the Council and a lot of documentation. The borehole was dug in May over a period of a couple of weeks, with a plentiful supply of free water found in the underlying chalk aquifer at the expected depth of about 15m. Then 400m of trenches for pipes and control cables were dug in just a day, and then the irrigation system was designed, procured, installed and tested by club members on a DIY basis. Back-filling the trenches and clearing some tonnes of surplus soil and stones in particular proved to be quite a substantial manual task.

The satisfactory outcome was a system that works as intended, capable of delivering up to about 15m<sup>3</sup> of free water per day depending on weather conditions (within the Environment Agency 20m<sup>3</sup> daily limit), out of sight when not in use, and well below what it would have cost to have a similar system installed commercially. Although it was only completed quite late in the summer season, there was enough time to provide evidence of improved grass quality and the elimination of bare patches in periods of dry summer weather. The club is optimistic for the future prospects for playing conditions.

Together with the addition of a 4<sup>th</sup> court along with the laser levelling of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> courts in 2017 and the new pavilion in 2020, the club has now made good progress towards becoming one of the top clubs in the country.

#### 4. Finance review

There were three new factors which had a major influence on the accounts for 2024. Firstly, we finally purchased our own defibrillator at a cost of over £1,000. However, £700 of this cost was offset by some very generous donations and the proceeds of an internal tournament. Secondly, the irrigation system was completed at a cost of nearly £35,500, most of which was paid in 2024. Donations and grants of nearly £21,000, and gift aid recoveries of about £4,000 meant that our funds were only reduced by £10,500.

Both these costs will not occur again; however we are now having to pay rent for the pavilion each year. In 2024 we paid £3,500, representing £1,500 for 2023, when the lease was signed, and £2,000 for 2024. In 2025 this will rise to £2,500, then £3,000 in 2026, after which it will be re-negotiated. Note that since the rent is billed annually, not monthly, it is accounted for in the calendar year in which the annual payment is actually made rather than being apportioned between years based on the anniversary of the lease.

Full membership dropped by 13 to 73, and a decision was taken to no longer offer a winter membership, and for memberships to run for a full year after joining. In spite of this, income actually increased by £200 to nearly £7,400.

Income from open tournaments was steady at £1,900, and hiring the courts out for externally run tournaments earned £650, a figure which should grow as the quality of the courts increases due to the irrigation system.

The court maintenance bill was down £900 to £2,400. This is because the charge is based on the number and age of members, rather than the amount of work Veolia actually have to do.

Membership of the CA and EACF was £1,350 (up by £100). Other costs were in line with previous years. This means that the deficit for the year was about £8,500, bringing the total funds available to about £18,000.

We are expecting income and expenditure to be about the same in 2025, mainly because of the rent payment.

The full statement of accounts follows as Appendix A.

## 5. Trustees

Under the constitution of the CIO, there must be at least three and no more than twelve trustees. At the end of the year there were 9 trustees (marked \*), and the trustees serving during the year were:

<b>Janet Lewis*</b>	(re-elected 13 March 2023 to 2 <sup>nd</sup> term)	Chair
<b>André Machell*</b>	(re-elected 11 March 2024 to 3 <sup>rd</sup> term)	Treasurer
<b>Jonathan Lambton*</b>	(elected 21 March 2022, 1 <sup>st</sup> term)	Secretary
<b>Simon Hathrell*</b>	(re-elected 13 March 2023 to 2 <sup>nd</sup> term)	
<b>Mike Grossmith*</b>	(elected 21 March 2022, 1 <sup>st</sup> term)	
<b>Hazel Archer</b>	(elected 21 March 2022, 1 <sup>st</sup> term, resigned 11 March 2024)	
<b>Kevin Currie*</b>	(elected 13 March 2023, 1 <sup>st</sup> term)	
<b>Paul Lakra</b>	(appointed 12 December 2023, resigned 11 March 2024)	
<b>Kevin Connolly*</b>	(elected 11 March 2024 to 1 <sup>st</sup> term)	
<b>Şebnem Kaya*</b>	(elected 11 March 2024 to 1 <sup>st</sup> term)	
<b>Linda Williams*</b>	(elected 11 March 2024 to 1 <sup>st</sup> term)	

The trustees meet regularly, approximately six times a year, and as needed to resolve any ad hoc issues that arise.

The trustees are satisfied that our governance processes are in accordance with our constitution and fully compliant with the requirements of the Charities Commission.

This report was approved by the trustees on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



Janet Lewis  
Chair

Watford (Cassiobury) Croquet Club  
Charitable Incorporated Organisation - Charity number 1185646  
Annual report and financial statements  
for the period 1 January 2024 - 31 December 2024



## **Independent examiners report to the trustees**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Watford (Cassiobury) Croquet Club, a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, for the year ended 31 December 2024.

As the trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect, the accounting records were not kept in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Brian Havill  
Independent examiner  
3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025

Watford (Cassiobury) Croquet Club  
Charitable Incorporated Organisation - Charity number 1185646  
Annual report and financial statements  
for the period 1 January 2024 - 31 December 2024



**Appendix**

Statement of accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024

Amounts in £	2024		2023	
	73 members		86 members	
	£	£	£	£
Member subscriptions		7,375		7,165
Tournaments		1,873		1,896
Course fees		0		0
Key deposits		30		40
Hire charges		661		227
Guest fees		150		498
Charity 1-Ball receipts		885		992
Interest		937		277
Donations		20,950		10
Gift Aid		4,039		211
Defib donations		785		-
<b>Total income</b>		<b>37,685</b>		<b>11,316</b>
Pavilion rent (2023-24)	(3,500)		0	
Park season ticket (Veolia cost)	(2,414)		(3,314)	
CA/EACF Member Registration	(1,351)		(1,265)	
Entry Fees - CA/EACF tournaments	(265)		(395)	
Equipment - Playing	0		(83)	
Equipment - Non-playing	(41)		(265)	
Irrigation costs	(35,450)		(1,554)	
Refreshments and consumables	(498)		(533)	
Defibrillator	(1,074)		-	
Trophies	(366)		(604)	
Insurance	(364)		(348)	
Pavilion costs	0		(15)	
Other administration expenses	(26)		(63)	
Charity 1-Ball payment	(885)		(992)	
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>(46,234)</b>		<b>(9,431)</b>
<b>Surplus for the year</b>		<b>(8,549)</b>		<b>1,885</b>
<b>Funds at start of year</b>		<b>26,769</b>		<b>24,884</b>
<b>Funds at end of year</b>		<b>18,220</b>		<b>26,769</b>
<b>Represented by:</b>				
<b>Cash at Bank</b>		<b>418</b>		<b>1,769</b>
<b>Informal Meal prepayment</b>		<b>(198)</b>		
<b>Cash at Skipton BS</b>		<b>18,000</b>		<b>25,000</b>
		<b>18,220</b>		<b>26,769</b>

The accounts were approved and authorised for issue by the trustees on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2025, and signed on its behalf by:

Janet Lewis  
Chair

André Machell  
Treasurer

**WATFORD (CASSIOBURY) CROQUET CLUB**

England & Wales - Charity number 1185646

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# Accounts

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## Report of the trustees

### 1. Introduction

The trustees submit their report and financial statements for the period 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023.

The trustees have overall responsibility for the direction, management and control of the CIO.

### 2. Objects and activities

The club's primary purpose is to encourage the sport of croquet to everyone. Croquet is particularly suited to encourage healthy recreation for people of all ages and physical abilities. At the same time it can be played as a serious competitive sport.

The club is situated in a large public park in Watford, and is easily accessible to all.

Our aim is to provide a welcoming social environment for casual players, and in parallel to develop as one of the top clubs in the region for competitive croquet.

### 3. Review

The CIO was set-up in October 2019 by simple transfer from the old unincorporated club. This was therefore our fourth year of full operation as a CIO.

The winter period from October to March is traditionally a quiet time for all croquet clubs because weather conditions are generally not very conducive to lawn maintenance. But as winters have tended to get a little warmer than they were decades ago a limited amount of winter play has become more common amongst croquet clubs, the popularity of winter play has increased, and in the first 3 months of 2023 our club had one court in use which was well used.

Membership numbers dropped by about 15 for the start of the 2023 summer playing season in April, but by the end of the year we had recruited enough new members to bring the numbers back up to the same level as at the end of the previous year. A significant proportion of those new members joined in order to be able to play in the 2023-24 winter season as well as in the summer.

During the summer the club ran its largest ever programme of formal open tournaments, adding a new Golf Croquet 2-day 'Open' tournament as part of the national 'Open' series and a new 1-day handicap doubles tournament in addition to the other 6 open tournaments that were repeated from 2022. We also hosted one East Anglian regional tournament for club champions in the East Anglian region.

It is worth noting that the club once again ran a 1-day Charity tournament in April as part of a national club charity competition, this year in aid of UNHCR, and for the third consecutive year

Watford raised more money for charity than any of the other 200+ croquet clubs in the country.

The club also played in four AC and five GC inter-club regional and national team competitions: five knock-outs and four leagues, winning one of them, runner-up in a second and reaching the semi-finals of two others.

In addition there was the usual full programme of internal club competitions, most of which ran throughout the summer.

In the last the months of 2023 the club reverted to winter play on one court, and a new series of one-day golf croquet "speed doubles" tournaments proved to be particularly popular. Unfortunately with the very wet weather in December combined with the larger than usual numbers of people crowding onto one court it was decided that the prospect of court damage was too great to continue this amount of winter wear, so these tournaments were suspended at the end of the year to give the courts a rest for a while. An additional difficulty is that Veolia, who maintain the courts under contract to our landlords Watford Borough Council and not to the club, have continued to insist that no more than one court at a time can be used in winter, which means that all the wear is then concentrated on the one court which is in use.

The new pavilion continued to be extremely well used, and is a significant factor in our goal of making Watford a "top tier" croquet club.

The plans for the installation of a proper lawn irrigation system which had been hatched in 2022 were developed in more detail in 2023, and it was decided that the preferred solution for the supply of water was to obtain it from a new borehole. Accordingly a professional hydrogeological assessment was commissioned. When a favourable report was received, towards the end of the year tenders for borehole drilling were invited and a preferred contractor selected, subject to final approval by WBC. WBC had indicated its willingness in principle to allow the proposal, though at a late stage it also decided that the whole irrigation project had to obtain planning permission as well. A formal planning application was duly submitted in December, and at the date of this report the outcome of the application is still awaited.

#### 4. Finance review

2023 was a fairly typical year financially, with the membership numbers at the same level at the end of 2023 as for 2022 and with the only significant new items of expenditure being some initial capital costs for the irrigation project (hydrogeological assessment, tender documents and planning application). Trophy costs increased mainly because of the purchase of additional trophies for new tournaments, and to replace two others which had been lost.

Total income for the year was £11,316 compared with £9,902 in 2022, while total expenditure was £9,431 compared with £6,728 in 2022. The net surplus for 2023 was therefore £1,885. Excluding the initial irrigation project capital costs, income rose by £1,414 (about 14%) compared with 2022 and expenditure rose by £1,149. Total funds carried forward to 2024 increased to £26,769. With the general rise in interest rates it also became desirable to put the majority of this into a new interest-bearing, instant-access savings account with the Skipton Building Society.

The full statement of accounts follows as Appendix A.

## 5. Trustees

Under the constitution of the CIO, there must be at least three and no more than twelve trustees. At the end of the year there were 11 trustees (marked \*), and the trustees serving during the year were:

<b>Janet Lewis*</b>	(re-elected 13 March 2023 to 2 <sup>nd</sup> term)	Chair
<b>André Machell*</b>	(re-elected 4 March 2021 to 2 <sup>nd</sup> term)	Treasurer
<b>Jonathan Lambton*</b>	(elected 21 March 2022, 1 <sup>st</sup> term)	Secretary
<b>Simon Hathrell*</b>	(re-elected 13 March 2023 to 2 <sup>nd</sup> term)	
<b>Roger Nicholls</b>	(re-elected 21 March 2022 to 2 <sup>nd</sup> term, died 29 November 2023)	
<b>Geoff Johnson</b>	(re-elected 4 March 2021, resigned 13 March 2023)	
<b>George Skinner</b>	(re-elected 23 March 2021, resigned 20 November 2023)	
<b>Mike Grossmith*</b>	(elected 21 March 2022, 1 <sup>st</sup> term)	
<b>Hazel Archer*</b>	(elected 21 March 2022, 1 <sup>st</sup> term)	
<b>John Walker</b>	(elected 21 March 2022, resigned 13 March 2023)	
<b>Eddie Chung</b>	(elected 13 March 2023, resigned 3 November 2023)	
<b>Kevin Currie*</b>	(elected 13 March 2023, 1 <sup>st</sup> term)	
<b>Kevin Connolly*</b>	(appointed 12 December 2023)	
<b>Paul Lakra*</b>	(appointed 12 December 2023)	
<b>Şebnem Kaya*</b>	(appointed 12 December 2023)	
<b>Linda Williams*</b>	(appointed 19 December 2023)	

The trustees meet regularly, approximately six times a year, and as needed to resolve any ad hoc issues that arise.

The trustees are satisfied that our governance processes are in accordance with our constitution and fully compliant with the requirements of the Charities Commission.

This report was approved by the trustees on 31 January 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Janet Lewis  
Chair

Watford (Cassiobury) Croquet Club  
Charitable Incorporated Organisation - Charity number 1185646  
Annual report and financial statements  
for the year ended 31 December 2023



## **Independent examiners report to the trustees**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Watford (Cassiobury) Croquet Club, a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, for the year ended 31 December 2023.

As the trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect, the accounting records were not kept in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

**Brian Havill**

Independent examiner  
25 February 2024

Watford (Cassiobury) Croquet Club  
 Charitable Incorporated Organisation - Charity number 1185646  
 Annual report and financial statements  
 for the period 1 January 2023 - 31 December 2023



## Appendix A

Statement of accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

Amounts in £

	2023 86 members		2022 86 members	
	£	£	£	£
Member subscriptions		7,165		6,990
Tournaments		1,896		1,061
Course fees		0		50
Key deposits		40		70
Hire charges		227		331
Guest fees		498		250
Charity 1-Ball receipts		992		1,010
Interest		277		0
Donations		10		140
Gift Aid		211		0
<b>Total income</b>		<b>11,316</b>		<b>9,902</b>
Park season ticket (Veolia cost)	(3,314)		(2,891)	
CA/EACF Member Registration	(1,265)		(1,078)	
Entry Fees - CA/EACF tournaments	(395)		(364)	
Equipment - Playing	(83)		0	
Equipment - Non-playing	(265)		(268)	
Bore Hole costs	(1,554)		0	
Refreshments and consumables	(533)		(474)	
Trophies	(604)		(291)	
Insurance	(348)		(176)	
Pavilion costs	(15)		(150)	
Other administration expenses	(63)		(26)	
Charity 1-Ball payment	(992)		(1,010)	
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>(9,431)</b>		<b>(6,728)</b>
<b>Surplus for the year</b>		<b>1,885</b>		<b>3,174</b>
<b>Funds at start of year</b>		<b>24,884</b>		<b>21,710</b>
<b>Funds at end of year</b>		<b>26,769</b>		<b>24,884</b>
<b>Represented by:</b>				
Cash at Bank		1,769		24,884
Cash at Skipton BS		25,000		

The accounts were approved and authorised for issue by the trustees on 31 January 2024, and signed on its behalf by:

  
 Janet Lewis  
 Chair

  
 André Machell  
 Treasurer

**WATFORD (CASSIOBURY) CROQUET CLUB**

England & Wales - Charity number 1185646

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# Accounts

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## Report of the trustees

### 1. Introduction

The trustees submit their report and financial statements for the period 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022.

The trustees have overall responsibility for the direction, management and control of the CIO.

### 2. Objects and activities

The club's primary purpose is to encourage the sport of croquet to everyone. Croquet is particularly suited to encourage healthy recreation for people of all physical abilities. At the same time it can be played as a serious competitive sport.

Watford (Cassiobury) Croquet Club is situated in a major park area in the town, and is easily accessible to all.

Our target is to provide a welcoming social environment for casual players, and in parallel to develop as one of the top clubs in the region for competitive croquet.

### 3. Review

The CIO was set-up in October 2019 by simple transference from the old unincorporated club. This was therefore our third year of full operation as a CIO.

The winter period from October to March is traditionally a quiet time for all croquet clubs as the weather is not conducive to play nor maintaining a healthy grass playing surface, and there are no formal tournaments scheduled.

Nevertheless an increasing number of croquet clubs now have some play when the weather is kind, and Watford is no exception. The 2022 winter "season" was very well attended with the highest number of winter players we have ever had.

The traditional start of the croquet season on 1st April 2022, saw the start of the first "normal" season for 3 years, and indeed it was very successful from both general participation and competitive standpoints.

Our membership numbers have held up well considering the near total loss of the 2020 season, and last year being in "recovery mode". We finished 2022 with a small increase in membership.

A full programme of internal competitions, external inter-club leagues and competitions was planned and fully executed over the course of the year. We also enter four National InterClub tournaments, two for AC and two for GC.

We also ran no less than six Open Tournaments within the CA umbrella organisation, and hosted one National Championships.

In terms of competitive successes, we won the EACF GC Open League, and reached the final of both National GC InterClub competitions, losing to the same club in each final!

The new pavilion continued to be extremely well used, and is a significant factor in our goal of making Watford a "top tier" croquet club.

We have plans for several further developments, and the next major project is the installation of a proper lawn watering system. Given that we are in a public park, with no development rights within our control, all these projects require detailed and protracted negotiations with our Landlords, Watford Borough Council, but we hope to start on this in 2023.

#### 4. Finance review

This was fairly quiet on the financial front, with the membership stable and no major items of expenditure. Total income for the period was £9,902; very similar to 2021. Expenditure totalled £6,728 compared to £9,531 in 2021. This difference was almost totally due to the completion of the fitting out costs of the pavilion by December 2021.

Net income was thus £3,174. Total funds in hand carried forward are £24,884.

The full statement of accounts follows as Appendix A.

#### 5. Trustees

Under the constitution of the CIO, there must be at least three and no more than twelve trustees.

At the AGM in March 2022, the specific “club officer” assignments were confirmed. The trustees serving during the period were:

<b>Janet Lewis</b>	(appointed 7 October 2019)	Chair
<b>André Machell</b>	(appointed 7 October 2019)	Treasurer
<b>Jonathan Lambton</b>	(appointed 21 March 2022)	Secretary
<b>Simon Hathrell</b>	(appointed 7 October 2019)	
<b>Roger Nicholls</b>	(appointed 7 October 2019)	
<b>Geoff Johnson</b>	(appointed 7 October 2019, resigned 23 March 2021, re-elected 23 March 2021)	
<b>George Skinner</b>	(appointed 7 October 2019, resigned 23 March 2021, re-elected 23 March 2021)	
<b>Mike Grossmith</b>	(appointed 21 March 2022)	
<b>Hazel Archer</b>	(appointed 21 March 2022)	
<b>John Walker</b>	(appointed 21 March 2022)	

Linda Williams (appointed 7 October 2019) resigned 21 March 2022

The trustees meet regularly, approximately six times a year, and as needed to resolve any ad hoc issues that arise.

The trustees are satisfied that our governance processes are in accordance with our constitution and fully compliant with the requirements of the Charities Commission.

This report was approved by the trustees on 22 February 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Janet Lewis  
Chair

Watford (Cassiobury) Croquet Club  
Charitable Incorporated Organisation - Charity number 1185646  
Annual report and financial statements  
for the period 1 January 2022 - 31 December 2022



## **Independent examiners report to the trustees**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Watford (Cassiobury) Croquet Club, a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, for the year ended 31 December 2022.

As the trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect, the accounting records were not kept in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Brian Havill  
Independent examiner  
22 February 2023



## Appendix A

Statement of accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022

Amounts in £

	Period:	
	2022	2021
	86 members	84 members
Membership subscriptions	6,990	6,145
Tournaments	1,061	1,038
Course fees	50	0
Key deposits	70	30
Hire charges	331	997
Guest fees	250	495
Charity one-ball event	1,010	950
Donations	140	135
<b>Total income</b>	<b>9,902</b>	<b>9,790</b>
Park season tickets	(2,891)	(2,423)
CA member registration	(1,078)	(1,190)
Entry fees - CA/EACF tournaments	(364)	(427)
Equipment - playing	0	(17)
Equipment - non-playing	(268)	(5)
Refreshments/consumables	(474)	(317)
Trophies and plaques	(291)	(362)
Insurance	(176)	(134)
Pavilion costs	(150)	(3,654)
Other expenditure	(26)	(52)
Charity one-ball donation	(1,010)	(950)
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>(6,728)</b>	<b>(9,531)</b>
<b>Surplus for the year</b>	<b>3,174</b>	<b>259</b>
<b>Funds at start of period</b>	<b>21,710</b>	<b>21,451</b>
<b>Funds at end of period</b>	<b>24,884</b>	<b>21,710</b>
<b>Represented by:</b>		
<b>Cash at bank</b>	<b>24,884</b>	<b>21,710</b>
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>24,884</b>	<b>21,710</b>

The accounts were approved and authorised for issue by the trustees on 22 February 2023, and signed on its behalf by:

  
 Janet Lewis  
 Chair

  
 Andre Machell  
 Treasurer

**WATFORD (CASSIOBURY) CROQUET CLUB**

England & Wales - Charity number 1185646

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# Accounts

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## Report of the trustees

### 1. Introduction

The trustees submit their report and financial statements for the period 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021.

The trustees have overall responsibility for the direction, management and control of the CIO.

### 2. Objects and activities

The club's primary purpose is to encourage the sport of croquet to everyone. Croquet is particularly suited to encourage healthy recreation for people of all physical abilities. At the same time it can be played as a serious competitive sport.

Watford (Cassiobury) Croquet Club is situated in a major park area in the town, and is easily accessible to all.

Our target is to provide a welcoming social environment for casual players, and in parallel to develop as one of the top clubs in the region for competitive croquet.

### 3. Review

The CIO was set-up in October 2019 by simple transference from the old unincorporated club. This was therefore our second year of full operation as a CIO.

The winter period from October to March is traditionally a quiet time for all croquet clubs as the weather is not conducive to play nor maintaining a healthy grass playing surface. And so the first three months of 2021 proved to be, exacerbated by the resurgence of the Covid pandemic and the tight social restrictions in place.

Progressive respite from these constraints, plus the fast-developing vaccination program, coincided with the traditional start of the croquet season on 1<sup>st</sup> April, and by May we were able to start the season under "almost normal" conditions.

Our membership numbers had held up well considering the near total loss of the 2020 season and a full programme of internal competitions, external inter-club leagues and competitions was planned and fully executed over the course of the year.

We also ran several Open Tournaments within the CA umbrella organisation, and hosted two National Championships.

The other major event was finally, after many years of planning, building and fitting out, to actually be able to start using our new pavilion. This has been a great success, and is a significant asset towards our goal of making Watford a "top tier" croquet club.

We have plans for further developments, and the next major project is the installation of a proper lawn watering system. We hope to start this in 2022.

#### 4. Finance review

This was a “quiet year” on the financial front, with the membership stable and no major items of expenditure. Total income for the period was £9,790. Expenditure totalled £8,341.

Net income was thus £1,449. Total funds in hand carried forward are £21,710.

The full statement of accounts follows as Appendix A.

#### 5. Trustees

Under the constitution of the CIO, there must be at least three and no more than twelve trustees.

At the AGM in March 2021, the specific “club officer” assignments were confirmed.

The trustees serving during the period were:

<b>Janet Lewis</b>	(appointed 7 October 2019) Chair
<b>Andre Machell</b>	(appointed 7 October 2019) Treasurer
<b>Linda Williams</b>	(appointed 7 October 2019) Secretary
<b>Simon Hathrell</b>	(appointed 7 October 2019)
<b>Roger Nicholls</b>	(appointed 7 October 2019)
<b>Geoff Johnson</b>	(appointed 7 October 2019, resigned 23 March 2021, re-elected 23 March 2021)
<b>George Skinner</b>	(appointed 7 October 2019, resigned 23 March 2021, re-elected 23 March 2021)

The trustees meet regularly, approximately six times a year, and as needed to resolve any ad hoc issues that arise.

The trustees are satisfied that our governance processes are in accordance with our constitution and fully compliant with the requirements of the Charities Commission.

This report was approved by the trustees on 26 October 2022 and signed on its behalf by:



Janet Lewis  
Chair

Watford (Cassiobury) Croquet Club  
Charitable Incorporated Organisation - Charity number 1185646  
Annual report and financial statements  
for the period 1 January 2021 - 31 December 2021



## **Independent examiners report to the trustees**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Watford (Cassiobury) Croquet Club, a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, for the year ended 31 December 2021.

As the trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect, the accounting records were not kept in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Brian Havill  
Independent examiner  
24 October 2022



## Appendix A

### Statement of accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021

Amounts in £

Period:	2021	7/10/2019 - 31/12/2020
	84 members	85 members
Donation from unincorporated club	-	20,578
Other donations	135	806
Membership subscriptions	6,145	250
Charity one-ball event	950	650
Hire charges / guest fees	1,492	366
Tournaments	1,038	165
Course fees/key deposits (net)	30	50
<b>Total income</b>	<b>9,790</b>	<b>22,865</b>
CA member registration	(1,190)	-
Park season tickets	(2,423)	-
Charity one-ball donation	(950)	(650)
Entry fees - CA/EACF tournaments	(427)	(54)
New pavilion refurbishment	(3,654)	(329)
Equipment - playing	(17)	-
Equipment - non-playing	(5)	(60)
Trophies and plaques	(362)	(35)
Refreshments/consumables	(317)	(51)
Other expenditure	(52)	(68)
Insurance	(134)	(167)
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>(9,531)</b>	<b>(1,414)</b>
<b>Surplus for the period</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>21,451</b>
Funds at start of period	21,451	0
<b>Funds at end of period</b>	<b>21,710</b>	<b>21,451</b>
<b>Represented by</b>		
Cash at bank	21,710	20,261
Prepaid CA member registration	-	1,190
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>21,710</b>	<b>21,451</b>

The accounts were approved and authorised for issue by the trustees on 26 October 2022, and signed on its behalf by:

Janet Lewis  
Chair

Andre Machell  
Treasurer

**WATFORD (CASSIOBURY) CROQUET CLUB**

England & Wales - Charity number 1185646

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# Accounts

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**Watford (Cassiobury) Croquet Club**  
**Charitable Incorporated Organisation - Charity number 1185646**

**Annual report and financial statements**  
**for the period 7 October 2019 to 31 December 2020**

**Report of the trustees**

**1 Introduction**

The trustees submit their report and financial statements for the period ended 31 December 2020. The charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) was registered on 7 October 2019. The trustees have overall responsibility for the direction, management and control of the CIO.

**2 Objects and activities**

The club's primary purpose is to encourage the sport of croquet to everyone. Croquet is particularly suited to encourage healthy recreation for people of all physical abilities. At the same time it can be played as a serious competitive sport. Watford (Cassiobury) Croquet Club is situated in a major park area in the town, and is easily accessible to all.

Our target is to provide a welcoming social environment for casual players, and in parallel to develop as one of the top clubs in the region for competitive croquet.

**3 Transfer from unincorporated entity to charitable incorporated organisation**

In October 2019, approval was received to transfer the operations of Watford (Cassiobury) Croquet Club (an unincorporated entity) to a new CIO of the same name.

On 29 July 2020, the CIO received a donation from the old club of £20,578. This included sums received by the old club in spring and early summer 2020.

**4 Review**

The CIO was set-up in October 2019 by simple transference from the old unincorporated club. The winter period from October to March is traditionally a quiet time for all croquet clubs as the weather is not conducive to play nor maintaining a healthy grass playing surface. So, the winter of 2019-2020 proved to be.

Just as we were preparing for the new 2020 season, the extraordinary pandemic that hit in March effectively nationally stopped croquet in its tracks for at least two months. Then from June onwards only very limited, closely controlled and strictly socially-distanced play was possible. This hit us very hard in both our two major objectives:

- to provide a good social environment whilst indulging in healthy outdoor activity, and
- to actively participate in local, regional, and national competitions.

Despite these severe usage constraints, we were able to maintain our membership at around 85 people, helped by a one-off decision by the trustees to subsidise the membership fee by 40%. This proved a



**Watford (Cassiobury) Croquet Club**  
**Charitable Incorporated Organisation - Charity number 1185646**

**Annual report and financial statements**  
**for the period 7 October 2019 to 31 December 2020**

**Report of the trustees (continued)**

good decision and over the summer we did manage to function - with almost half the membership playing regularly.

We were able to run an almost full programme of internal competitions, under the Covid guidelines. However, all of the regional leagues in which we actively participate were forced to cancel and only a few of the national competitions we enter functioned.

Despite the strict Covid conditions, we held two significant events in the late summer:

The first of these was a Charity 1-ball competition, which is an annual event run at multiple clubs to raise money for a chosen charity, this year being Macmillan Nurses. We collected £650 at the event and in addition raised further funds to take our total to over £860. To quote the national organiser: "Watford for the second year running has raised the largest amount by a single club and furthermore this year achieved an all-time national record for the amount raised".

The second event was the hosting of the National Schools and Juniors Championships, which is an important part of encouraging young people into the sport. Despite Covid constraints and atrocious weather, the Croquet Association (who organise this event) declared it a great success and have asked us to host it again in 2021 - along with the National under-25 Golf Croquet Championships.

The other major development was finally, after many years of planning, to gain a pavilion. This was provided by Watford Borough Council and we are very grateful. Sadly whilst its construction was completed early in 2020, both Covid and lease issues prevented its occupation until December. Fitting out will proceed during the remainder of the winter and we earnestly hope to have full use of it for the 2021 season. This will be a key incentive to further retaining our membership, for many of whom 2020 was a "lost year".

Looking forward to 2021, we all remain in the shadow of Covid, with total shutdown of croquet until at least the end of March. However, we remain hopeful that things will steadily improve and we will be able to have a full schedule of events. Time will tell.

**5 Finance review**

This being the first period of operation, income includes the £20,578 donation from the old unincorporated club. Total income for the period was £22,865.

Expenditure totalled £1,414.

Net income for the period was £21,451.



**Watford (Cassiobury) Croquet Club**  
**Charitable Incorporated Organisation - Charity number 1185646**

**Annual report and financial statements**  
**for the period 7 October 2019 to 31 December 2020**

**Report of the trustees (continued)**

**6 Trustees**

Under the constitution of the CIO, there must be at least three and no more than twelve trustees.

For simplicity, the existing elected committee became the initial trustees of the CIO. Moreover, their specific “club officer” roles continued within the new structure.

The trustees serving during the period were:

Janet Lewis (appointed 7 October 2019)	Chair
Andre Machell (appointed 7 October 2019)	Treasurer
Linda Williams (appointed 7 October 2019)	Secretary
Simon Hathrell (appointed 7 October 2019)	
Geoff Johnson (appointed 7 October 2019)	
Roger Nicholls (appointed 7 October 2019)	
Chris O’Brien (appointed 7 October 2019, resigned 24 June 2020)	
George Skinner (appointed 7 October 2019)	

The trustees plan to meet regularly, around six times a year. This said, as a result of the pandemic they have had more frequent meetings over the past year in order to keep pace with the ever changing regulations governing play.

The trustees are satisfied that our governance processes are in accordance with our constitution and fully compliant with the requirements of the Charities Commission.

This report was approved by the trustees on 15 March 2021 and signed on its behalf by



Andre Machell (Treasurer)



**Watford (Cassiobury) Croquet Club**  
**Charitable Incorporated Organisation - Charity number 1185646**

**Annual report and financial statements**  
**for the period 7 October 2019 to 31 December 2020**

**Independent examiners report to the trustees**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Watford (Cassiobury) Croquet Club, a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, for the period ended 31 December 2020.

As the trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect, the accounting records were not kept in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Brian Havill  
Independent examiner

16 March 2021



**Watford (Cassiobury) Croquet Club**  
**Charitable Incorporated Organisation - Charity number 1185646**

**Annual report and financial statements**  
**for the period 7 October 2019 to 31 December 2020**

<b>Statement of accounts for the period ended 31 December 2020</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Donation from old unincorporated club		20,578
Other donations		<u>806</u>
Total donations		21,384
Membership subscriptions		250
Charity one ball event		650
Hire charges / guest fees		366
Tournaments		165
Key deposits (net)		<u>50</u>
Total income		22,865
Charity one ball donation	(650)	
CA / EACF entry fees	(54)	
New pavilion refurbishment	(329)	
Other non-playing equipment	(60)	
Trophies	(35)	
Refreshment expenses	(51)	
Other expenditure	(68)	
Insurance	<u>(167)</u>	
Total expenditure		<u>(1,414)</u>
Surplus for the period		21,451
Funds at start of period		<u>0</u>
Funds at end of period		<u><u>21,451</u></u>
Represented by		
Cash at bank		20,261
Prepayments		<u>1,190</u>
Total funds		<u><u>21,451</u></u>

In return for the significant donation, the CIO took on the potential liability of £240 should departing members return keys and reclaim their deposit.

The accounts were approved and authorised for issue by the trustees on xx March and were signed on its behalf by:

  
Janet Lewis  
Chair

  
Andre Machell  
Treasurer