

**NORTHAMPTON
CROQUET CLUB**

Northampton Croquet Club Trustees Annual Report

Charity Registration: 1191519

Reporting Period: 01/11/2021 to 31/10/2022

1. Introduction

This report covers a momentous year for Northampton Croquet Club as it began development of what is hoped will be our long-term home at Roade, Northampton. The trustees accept that they have overall responsibility for the direction, management, and control of the CIO.

2. Objectives and Activities

The object of the CIO is the promotion of community participation in healthy recreation for people of all ages in Northamptonshire and the surrounding area by providing facilities to participate in the sport of amateur croquet at both competitive and social levels (facilities means land, buildings, equipment and organising sporting activities).

The CIO is also involved in promoting croquet as an activity that contributes to both physical and mental welfare and through social interaction creates a supportive environment for its members.

The membership is engaged in social and competitive play both as individuals, and teams. The latter ranging from doubles partnerships to larger teams involved in competitive play in the regional croquet leagues (at various levels of play) and inter-club competitions.

Whilst still operating from our temporary home at the Old Grammarians Memorial Sports Ground in Northampton we have also been preparing and commissioning ground works at our new home in Roade, Northampton, with a view to establishing full occupancy in 2023. The club has been engaged in extensive fund raising so that two full croquet lawns could be commissioned from professional providers. The trustees having assessed the issues with a self-build and concluded that we have insufficient experience to go this route but may well experiment on any future lawn development that the site will support.

The volunteers that assist the trustees are drawn both from the membership and those that are associated with the club commonly these are partners of members. The club regularly runs introductory sessions and coaching to all levels and ability, and this year promotional activities and fund raising have featured extensively.

As part of regular maintenance, the trustees regularly review the club risk registers, club handbook and key policies updating and communicating them to the membership as appropriate. These policies include Safeguarding, Equality, Disciplinary, Reserves policy and Data Protection (GDPR). Some of the material related to site specific requirements are in the process of review in anticipation of the move to Roade.

As Trustees, we have regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance and have taken it into account in all decision making. We are fully aware of our place in the wider community and believe that we have complied with our duty to have regard to the published guidance on public benefit. Membership is open to all, including those with restricted ability to pay.

All Trustees gave their time to the Charity voluntarily and received no Honorarium, emoluments, or other benefits aside from receipted expenses.

3. Achievements and Performance

This year has been another challenging one as we have continued to return to full play (post COVID-19) as well as raising the necessary funds and commission the ground works necessary for developing a site at Roade, Northampton for croquet.

The first challenge was to obtain the appropriate planning permission to develop the site as well as affect change of use to facilitate its purpose as a sports ground. Whilst this was accomplished the response from the West Northamptonshire council was protracted due to the backlog of other applications and its own change of status and lack of staff. Initial enquires were supportive of our intentions, so we began soliciting quotations for the groundwork and the associated fund raising to commission the works.

We were successful in running a 'Crowdfunder' campaign that raised over £20k and since this event, have been able to support other clubs and charities by relaying our experiences and lessons learned. Moving forward we are reviewing another such campaign, this time related to providing a modest club house to escape the inclement weather and provide a meeting place for members and visitors.

We have also been successful in obtaining grant funding through the local parish council and the governing body of our sport (The Croquet Association) to support ground development and purchase a used shipping container for use as secure storage, a composting toilet (as there are no services to the site) and the necessary lawn care equipment such as cylinder and rotary mowers. We have also sought advice from those involved in lawn care to establish and budget for the groundwork going forward.

Two croquet lawns were prepared in the Spring of 2022 and a water connection also financed. This work whilst successful was affected by the long hot summer but has since recovered due to the late Summer/Autumn rains. This has given us an appreciation of the need for the water connection as part of a longer-term plan to install suitable irrigation.

We will take up full residence at our new ground in 2023 and until then still operate at our temporary home at the Old Grammarians Memorial Sports ground in Wellingborough, Northampton.

On the participation front we have fully returned to play, and our members have taken an active role once again in participating in both social and competitive play.

We entered teams in the East Anglian Croquet Federation (Regional body) leagues. These teams represent a cross section of all abilities and codes (types) of croquet and all did well although none won their respective league.

Members who enjoy the competitive aspect of croquet were also able to participate in tournaments and several made it through to the National finals of their class.

At the top level of performance, one of our members represented the club and country at the Golf Croquet World Championships held in the UK this year and another at the inaugural European Women's Golf Croquet Championship in Latvia.

On a more social level several 'friendlies' were held with other local clubs and enjoyed by all with the club being well represented. The most notable, receiving local media coverage was that with Peterborough Croquet Club – The Nene Challenge. Signalling to all that the Northampton Croquet Club is still going strong despite its change of circumstance. This year the event was also followed up by the local radio station where interest again raised the profile of the charity.

We have also held our equally varied club competitions and regularly publish the results on social media such as Facebook.

We have also managed to resume our ability to host groups for 'Have a Go' events during the summer. Local WI groups, and a u3a group were introduced to the sport, not only providing a modest source of revenue but as importantly introducing new people to the sport and the club. The club also supported national croquet week, an open event for people to come and try our sport and which was well supported by the local community and from which we drew some new members. We continue to publicise the club and sport through local magazines and have plans to do more once we move to the Roade site. Several people cognizant of our work at this site have expressed an interest in trying the sport when we open.

As part of establishing our place in the community the club also fielded a 'Have a Go' event at the Roade Jubilee celebrations again with plenty of local interest being demonstrated and no doubt contributing to the sympathetic hearing that our grant request received at the local parish council.

The 'buddy' scheme set up to help support new members by providing an established and knowledgeable member as mentor continues to operate effectively.

The trustees believe that the club is forging links with its new local community and looks forward to continuing to develop the site and promoting croquet for the benefit of its members and all those that it supports.

4. Financial Review

As mentioned in the previous Trustees Annual Report the reserves formally held in the building society account have been assigned to the development of the charity's new home at Roade. These funds have been bolstered during the year by various fund-raising activities. In compliance with the charities financial policy its current account holds sufficient funds to manage its running costs such as ground rent, affiliations, insurance, and administration support costs.

As at 31/10/2022 the total club funds stood at £24,154.

The income for the year was £44,555, with an expenditure of £42,451 and outstanding liabilities of £15,650.

The substantial increase in income arose from the extensive fund raising conducted in the year via grant applications including the local Parish council and the sport's governing body, a Crowdfunder campaign supported by Sport England as well as more traditional events such as quiz and race nights. Also, members past and present were generous in their giving.

The expenditure largely relates to the professional development of two croquet lawns and the purchase of the necessary ground care and secure storage equipment.

All outstanding liabilities will be settled from the unreserved funds. The trustees monitor the outstanding payments that are accrued from work commissioned or orders placed, recording the liabilities above £1,000 that will be settled prior to the next subscription round (1st April each year).

Whilst the club is not formally required to conduct an independent examination it has traditionally commissioned one and will continue, reflecting the professional way the finances are dealt with and giving confidence to the membership and any interested third parties.

As suggested in the previous Trustees Annual report most of the club reserves have been invested in preparing the new ground and its facilities at Roade. Going forward, they are also to be used in the provision and maintenance of a club house.

The trustees maintain both a business risk register and a Health and Safety register. These are reviewed regularly regarding all issues pertinent to the charity.

4.1 Receipts and Payments Account



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Northampton Croquet Club

1191519

Receipts and Payments Accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

01/11/2021



To

31/10/2022

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Subscriptions	5048	-	-	5,048	4615
Coaching	325	-	-	325	0
CA / League Competitions	15	-	-	15	0
Club Competitions	185	-	-	185	0
Club Events	0	-	-	0	0
Group Visits (W1, u3a etc.)	675	-	-	675	777
Visitors	100	-	-	100	95
Fund Raising / Grants	38200	-	-	38,200	739
Other	5	-	-	5	13
Building Society Interest	2	-	-	2	11
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	44,555	-	-	44,555	6,250
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	44,555	-	-	44,555	6,250
A3 Payments					
Grd Rent/Fees	1899	-	-	1,899	1296
Insurance	190	-	-	190	321
Buildings Pur / Mnt	2186	-	-	2,186	0
Equipment Pur / Mnt	4535	-	-	4,535	7
Ground Development	31297	-	-	31,297	0
Club Events	36	-	-	36	0
Relocation Costs	502	-	-	502	553
Competitions	9	-	-	9	213
Affiliations (CA & EACF)	489	-	-	489	413
Officers Expenses	62	-	-	62	14
Fund Raising	1000	-	-	1,000	0
Other	245	-	-	245	0
Sub total	42,451	-	-	42,451	2,817
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	42,451	-	-	42,451	2,817
Net of receipts/(payments)	2104	-	-	2104	3,433
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	22,050	-	-	22,050	18,618
Cash funds this year end	24,154	-	-	24,154	22,050

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	NatWest (Current)	9658	-	-
	NatWest (Development)	14372	-	-
	Stafford Railway Account	22	-	-
	Petty Cash	103	-	-
	Total cash funds	24,154	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	2022 Rental Period	Unreserved Funds	£2,250	Nov-2022
	2023 Annual Rent	Unreserved Funds	£4,500	31 March 2023
	Mumby Landscapes (Ground Works)	Unreserved Funds	£3,300	< March 2023
	Morris & Bugg (Water Contractor)	Unreserved Funds	£3,600	< March 2023
	Composting Toilet	Unreserved Funds	£2,000	< March 2023
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees				
Signature		Print Name		Date of approval
		Martyn Palmer		21/12/2022
		Paul Chard		21/12/2022

4.2 Independent Examiner's Report



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Northampton Croquet Club

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31st October 2022

**Charity no
(if any)**

1191519

Set out on pages

This page

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/10/2022.

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Signed:

Date:

24/12/2022

Name:

John F. Deakin

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

Chartered Accountant F.C.A.

Address:

Dorset House, Meadow Gate, Perks Lane,

Prestwood, Buckinghamshire.

HP16 0JN

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

**Give here brief details of
any items that the
examiner wishes to
disclose.**

5. Structure, Governance and Management

The charity is setup as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and controlled via its constitution.

Trustees are elected from the membership according to the process and provisions within the constitution.

The constitution sets out the eligibility requirements for a trustee and the process for those eligible to be considered by the membership. The incumbent trustees offer advice to anyone wishing to be considered regarding the role and associated responsibilities along with the Charities Commission documents including the 'Welcome Pack for New Trustees.'

On election each new trustee will receive:

- (a) a copy of the constitution and any amendments made to it.
- (b) a copy of the club handbook and policies.
- (c) a copy of the CIO's latest trustees' annual report incorporating the statement of accounts.

The charity has a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 7 trustees. It also has introduced several specialist teams to assist the trustees in taking the club forward.

Northampton Croquet club is a member of the sport's governing body – The Croquet Association (CA) and it also affiliates to the regional organisation the East Anglia Croquet Federation (EACF).

The trustees serving over the period of this report were:

Trustee	Role
Paul Chard	Chair
Mike Hills	Secretary
Martyn Palmer	Treasurer
James Skelton	
Lionel Tibble	
Peter Taylor	

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the issues involved in re-locating the club then the trustees meet via the Zoom video conferencing tool fortnightly. With special meetings set aside for risk register review or the management support teams.

The trustees are satisfied that our processes and systems are both legally compliant and adhere to the requirements of the charity commission.

The appointed Independent financial examiner for the period of this report:

John Deakin FCA	Dorset House, Prestwood, Bucks. HP16 0JN
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The charity has no corporate or advisory trustees. It has no trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity and no Funds are held as custodian trustees on behalf of others.

There are no reasons supporting 'non-disclosure' of key personnel details.



6. Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Northampton Croquet Club
Other name the charity uses	Not applicable
Registered charity number	1191519
Charity's principal address	<p>The principal office of the CIO is Wellingborough Old Grammarians Memorial Sports Field, Sywell Road, Wellingborough, Northants NN8 6BS.</p> <p>However, for postal purposes, including the receipt of documents, its address shall be the home address of the secretary of the CIO, which shall be shown on all correspondence from the club and on the Contacts page of the CIO's website.</p> <p>Secretary: Mike Hills 168 Ryeland Road, Duston. NN5 6 XJ</p>

7. Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Paul Chard	Martyn Palmer
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair of Trustees	Trustee
Date	24/12/2022	