



# LEIGHTON-LINSLADE CROQUET CLUB

Founded 2000

## GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2014 At 12.00 midday - Page's Park pavilion

**Committee Members present:** -David Ball (chairman), Roger Stroud (secretary), Len Buckingham (treasurer), Eve Buckingham, John Cundell, Malcolm Kirby, John Thorp, Tony Stammers, Peter Cole

### Minutes

#### **1. Welcome**

David opened the meeting at 12:15pm and welcomed everyone to our first meeting of 2014.

#### **2. Apologies for absence**

Apologies had been received from Sheila Guest.

#### **3. Minutes of meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2013**

David asked if anyone had any comments on the minutes of our meeting of September 2013. There were no comments so David signed a copy of the minutes.

#### **4. Matters arising & review of Actions (if not included below)**

There were no matters arising.

#### **5. Reports: -**

##### 5.1 Secretary's report including correspondence to Club

Roger reported that the only item was the correspondence that Richard Keighley sent on email regarding our proposed change to the Constitution (Appendix 1 to these minutes). This proposed change to the Constitution will need further debate and discussion in 2014.

##### 5.2 Treasurer's report

Len had received advice from his accountant about our need for separate insurance for our club assets (estimated £10,000 replacement costs) which are not covered by our club insurance through the CA.

Len also reported that the accountant is looking for ways to show our contingency fund in order to show that it is to cover a potential liability.

Len had also accessed the CA website and printed the new Golf Croquet Draft Rules which is 29 pages long. Clubs are being asked for comments before the rules are finalised.

##### 5.3 Membership Secretary's Report

John Cundell spoke on behalf of Judith and said that all information and forms for membership renewal / joining will be in the newsletter which is imminent. John also said that on the renewal form there is a request for a mobile phone number.

John also said that we have lost one member who has moved to Lincolnshire and gained one member who was known to Judith.

## **6. Specific duty appointments**

This information will be in the forthcoming newsletter.

## **7. Fixtures: -**

### 7.1 EACF League

John Thorp spoke about the changes made by the league organisers for 2014. These are: -

- a) One hour to play a match.
- b) Team presented in handicap order.

John said that all changes are described on the EACF website.

Specifically for the Handicap League, players having a handicap of 0 to 12 can be included.

John Cundell added that our approach ought to be to decide on our teams (level play & handicap), and whether or not we run one or two handicap teams, once players have put their names down as willing to play.

### 7.2 Friendlies

John T said that none have been booked yet as it is so early in the year, except for Dunstable. Note was made that both Dunstable home & away will be on our lawns. We have had an enquiry from Enfield.

John C mentioned that when Dunstable hire our lawns for their Club Fun Day and the U3A fun day, payment will be made of £4 per person to our club.

## **8. Diary Dates**

John handed round list of dates for our diary.

### 8.1 Opening Day

John C said that our Mayor was asked about this at the AGM and was willing to be at our Opening Day.

Roger agreed to contact the Mayor's secretary, Christine Barrow, to finalise this event on either Saturday April 5<sup>th</sup> or Sunday April 6<sup>th</sup>.

### 8.2 B Level tournament

John C handed out list of CA tournament dates for all CA B Level tournaments and the sheet describing the tournament at our club. The committee thanked John C for all of his efforts in getting a B Level tournament at our club.

### 8.3 Hunstanton Friendly

John C said that following recent discussion with Hunstanton, our usual date of a week before their singles / doubles tournament was not available and it was down to us to provide some alternative dates.

Due to an already busy season, the committee voted to give that event a miss this year.

### 8.4 Garden Party / Fun Day at Pages Park

John C led the discussion and re-iterated our plan to combine the Garden Party & Fun Day and have this event at our lawns, also making use of the main room in the pavilion. Len will book the pavilion for a date yet to be decided in July on a Saturday.

Len will contact the Council to see which Saturdays the pavilion is available for us to book. Our booking would be from 10 to 4 on the day.  
It was agreed that we would discuss the date & cost at the next committee meeting.

#### 8.5 Other Diary dates for the year

We agreed on the dates for our future 2014 committee meetings: -

March 19<sup>th</sup> 12:30 to 2:30

June 11<sup>th</sup> 1pm to 3pm

August 13<sup>th</sup> 1pm to 3pm

September 10<sup>th</sup> 1pm to 3pm

November 7<sup>th</sup> AGM

There was a discussion about the location of our AGM and the committee voted to keep it at Northall village hall.

### **9. Lawn Maintenance**

John C led the discussion on this topic and said that the newsletter gives details of the requirements for our forthcoming lawn maintenance for 2014. In particular, once the lawns are drier then we need to use the spiker on some areas. John made reference to the work done on the lawns at the end of last season and confirmed that it was very successful. Moss is appearing again, hardly surprising as it is so wet generally.

John T and John C are arranging for turf samples to be taken from each of our lawns by Duncan Hector of Letchworth club who can advise the best treatment for each of the lawns.

The purchase of new lawn maintenance equipment was raised – John C suggested that we do need to have the referee's room for storage to keep all equipment. In particular, John T will price up a new liquid sprayer.

### **10. Newsletter / Membership Forms & renewals**

John C said that the newsletter will be circulated to members within the next few days – the final page of the newsletter will be a membership renewal form.

### **11. Referees Room**

John C led a discussion which is dependent upon the movement of football pitches away from Pages Park to other parks in the town. There seems to be a lot of uncertainty on this topic – Peter Cole said that representatives from the football clubs will be meeting the Town Council regarding the availability of enough football pitches in the town.

### **12. Green Gym**

John C and Roger both attended a presentation at the White House about the setting up of a Green Gym in Pages Park. Whilst the Council plans are not finalised, locating the gym near to the pavilion seemed to be a preferred spot. This might bring about additional lighting and CCTV in the area of the pavilion which would be good for general security.

### **13. Any other business**

#### 13.1 Peter Cole

Peter said that the Sports Council will possibly fund courses attended by our members. Peter added that many football pitches are being closed down. Mentmore is to be closed down at the end of 2014.

The committee thanked Peter for his work with the Sports Council and congratulated him on his success with obtaining grants for our club..

### 13.2 David

#### 13.2.1 Annual Dinner

David discussed the club annual dinner scheduled for Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March and suggested that as we have some spaces we have an opportunity to invite some 'friends of the club' such as the Mayor.

#### 13.2.2 Press Coverage

David suggested that we ought to write a letter to the local press regarding the achievements and press coverage of our club, possibly mentioning events we will be holding this year such as the B Level Tournament. David also said that he wrote to the paper previously and following that got better coverage.

John C said he would attempt to promote the B-Level tournament through the paper when the season opens and we report on the Mayoral Opening day. John also said that he had received good co-operation from the LBO during 2013 but we are inevitably up against being regarded as a minority sport compared to football.

#### 13.2.3 All Saints Church

David said that on Feb 16<sup>th</sup> there will be the annual Civic Service at All Saints Church.

The meeting closed at 1.45pm.

## Appendix 1

**From:** [RICHARD KEIGHLEY](#)  
**Sent:** Monday, November 11, 2013 9:58 AM  
**To:** [RogerStroud](#)  
**Cc:** [DavidBall](#) ; [Len and EveBuckingham](#) ; [JohnCundell](#)  
**Subject:** Constitution change

Hello Roger

I apologise for not mentioning this at the meeting, but I have serious misgivings about the proposed change to the constitution. (My mind was not really in gear as I had spent the day firstly at a funeral and then at the Thanksgiving Service for one of my best pals in Wingrave. I delivered the eulogy and it was a very emotional occasion). The penny dropped eventually and I quickly expressed my anxiety to John and Len over supper and said I would check the position.

Two matters concern me:

1) Was our procedure correct?

I have not been able to put my hand on my copy of the L-L constitution, but I believe it closely follows the specimen constitution produced by the CA(attached). Please see para.9 "Amendments to the Constitution". You will see that all members are entitled to prior written notice of any proposed amendment which has to be formally proposed and seconded. The way to do this is to set it out in full on the Agenda as proposed Resolution. The attendance on Friday was a bit disappointing - about half the members or just over. Amongst the absentees were Margaret Brown, who was responsible for drawing up the constitution in the first place, Irene, George and Margaret and possibly other founder members. I can't help thinking that they may have a point of view about the proposed change, or at least ought to have an opportunity to comment.

2) What will be the effect of the change in relation to grant applications?

I believe the Club will not be considered for grants, if the proposed change is implemented. However unlikely, it would give rise to the Club being able to dissolve itself and distribute its assets amongst its members. Imagine the uproar if the Club had received a substantial grant shortly beforehand and either the funds or more probably assets purchased from the funds were sold and the proceeds distributed.

I have gained some experience in applying for grants to the National Lottery, Sport England, WREN and local Councils. Admittedly, these applications have either been on behalf of a Parish Council, a charity or a CASC( a community amateur sports club, like Wingrave CC)(Copy constitution attached). In every case, I had to ensure that the dissolution provisions met with strict criteria. I am convinced that the principle will apply to L-L CC too.

Whilst our Club is well-endowed at present, that may change and it would be a pity to disqualify ourselves from possible grant aid in the future.

What I am not saying is that the proposed beneficiaries should necessarily remain the same. The Wingrave CC ( a Case) constitution provided for a third alternative which might fit the bill for our club ie a sports organisation in the LB area, if there is a suitable one.

You may wish to check the position further and please let me know if I can assist any more.

Kind regards

Richard

From: john.cundell@btinternet.com  
To: the\_keighleys@btopenworld.com  
CC: rogerstroud302@hotmail.com; davidjean.ball@btinternet.com;  
delboyles@gmail.com  
Subject: Re: Constitution change  
Date: Mon, 11 Nov 2013 10:43:11 +0000

Hello Richard

Thanks for the info and comment. Certainly food for thought and a closer look at our constitution shows that the procedure was not correct – Item 9.1 “convened with the required written notice of the proposal”. (Copy attached.)

I have found the following information on the web which I am sure you are aware of concerning CASC. [http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/casc/casc\\_guidance.htm](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/casc/casc_guidance.htm). Obviously this whole subject needs further discussion in committee before the constitution is amended and circulated as it is apparent that the proposal and vote was invalid. On a separate topic I have heard from Chris Roberts that our inclusion in the CA National B-Level Tournament has been accepted and I have sent the necessary information to the CA for inclusion in the Fixtures Book.

Regards

John