



# LEIGHTON-LINSLADE CROQUET CLUB

Founded 2000

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2014  
At 1.00 pm - 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 12.45 and welcomed everyone to the committee meeting.

### 2. Apologies for absence

Apologies from Sheila.

### 3. Minutes of meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2014

The minutes of the June meeting were accepted and David signed a copy.

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

No matters arising

### 5. Reports: -

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

Following the June committee meeting, Roger had written to Lisa Jarvis, Operations Manager Leighton Linslade Town Council (Appendix 1).

Further to this letter, David had found out at a Council coffee morning that Lisa was no longer employed by the Council and Councillor Alan Brandham had asked us to send him a copy of the letter.

Subsequently, Roger had arranged a meeting with Alan Brandham at our clubhouse on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> August. On Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> August Roger received an email from Alan Brandham (Appendix 2) saying that he and Paul Russell, an officer from the Council had visited the pavilion that day giving us details of their action plan.

Roger handed around copies of the email received from Councillor Alan Brandham and the committee decided that Roger would write to Paul Russell (Leighton Linslade Town Council - Interim Head of Grounds & Environmental Services) to arrange a further meeting to discuss our additional storage requirements and renewal of our licence agreement with the Council which expires in March 2017.

A discussion followed making reference to the correspondence (Appendices 1 & 2).

#### **5.2 Treasurer's report**

Len reported that we have about £13,000 in the bank.

Len also spoke about the committee going ahead with the purchase of two new sets of balls.

During the following discussion, it was established that a set of Dawsons are £300 + pp and that Sunshine balls are £200 per set.

Sunshine has no secondary balls in stock.

It was agreed that Len would continue with the purchase of the required balls getting the best price possible.

Len mentioned about his free golf croquet tuition at the club on Sunday morning 17<sup>th</sup> August and that he is going to be interviewed by the local radio station early on Sunday morning as well as having an article in the local Vine and Focus publications.

### **5.3 Membership Secretary's Report**

John Cundell spoke on behalf of Judith, our Membership Secretary and said that we currently have 46 members.

There was a discussion about visitors coming to our club with regard to payment following recent visits from Judi Priestly and Margaret Marshall.

## **6. B Level Tournament**

John C thanked all the people who helped and supported the event which was a success. Thanks for a good event were received from Kath Wright (Long Eaton CC) and David Boxell (Hunstanton). John added that Louise Taylor of Merton CC has since been heard to say that she enjoyed the event and recommended others to attend next year. John also said that comments received from players at other clubs in Essex, who did not enter our tournament, was that attendance on a Friday was not popular due to the M25 congestion, and they would more than probably support a Saturday or Sunday. Consequently we will think about a weekend day for next year.

John added that after purchase of a glass prize and payment of the CA levy, the event yielded a profit of £70.

## **7. Fixtures: -**

### **7.1 EACF Leagues**

John T said that the league matches have gone well in both the handicap and level play leagues. In addition, he said he is unhappy about the Northampton decision saying to move their fixture because they could not get the team they wanted on the day that the match was to have been played.

### **7.2 Friendlies**

John T said that by the end of the season we will have played 11 friendly matches and we are trying to use days other than Monday & Friday.

## **8. Lawn Maintenance & Mowing**

John C said that the Council will continue to order materials for us and that we will try to use top dressing to fill in some of the sinking that has taken place on lawns 1 & 2. He added that there is no need to hollow tine this year although we must solid tine, scarify, and that we will need another bag of seed.

John also added that we will be 'getting bodies together' at the end of the season for work on the lawns and that last year was a learning curve – should do better this year.

## **9. Garden Party / Fun Day**

John C started a discussion about how the arrangements are progressing for this event on September 6<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 4pm.

Peter has offered his marquee which would be very useful if there was any rain on the day.

Eve is having on-going discussions about the food & drink requirements with Val Jeffers and Jean Ball and that it will be a 'sit-down' lunch with cold meats etc plus deserts.

The tickets are priced at £6 each and John C will print them out.

It is felt that in order to hold the event we need a minimum number of 20 people. Poster will be put up in the clubhouse and members can bring their friends along. On the day there will be a variety of events going on including fun competitions, coaching, general play etc.

#### 10. Purchasing Requirements

David will organise purchase of new guy ropes for the gazebos.

#### 11. Any other business

Malcolm suggested that we have a toolkit in the clubhouse for use on small jobs and it was generally felt that this was a good idea.

At the end of the meeting David extended a 'big thank you' to all members for all the hard work and assistance put in over the season.



# LEIGHTON-LINSLADE CROQUET CLUB

Founded 2000

Secretary: - Roger Stroud

Corks Cottage, 180 Common Road, Kensworth  
Dunstable, Beds. LU6 2PJ

Tel: - 01582 873793

Mob: - 07546 350591

E-mail: - [rogerstroud302@hotmail.com](mailto:rogerstroud302@hotmail.com)

Leighton Linslade Town Council  
The White House  
Leighton Buzzard  
Bedfordshire  
For the attention of Lisa Jarvis, Operations Manager

Dear Lisa,

Further to a recent conversation between John Connew, your Operations Manager, and John Cundell, our club Vice-Chairman, John Connew had said about your fitting of croquet ball 'stop' boards on the side of our Lawn 3, nearest to the new Community Garden, due to the possibility of balls going off the lawn onto the area of the garden. We obviously agree entirely with that decision.

However, when John Cundell and I inspected the upright posts throughout our three lawns, looking at the fencing posts and rails generally, we found that many of them were loose. Our inspection revealed that: -

Lawn 1(nearest to the pavilion)	12 posts were loose out of the 72 posts
Lawn 2	22 posts were loose out of the 72 posts
Lawn 3(the newest lawn)	Posts were OK

In many cases, the wood at ground level was rotten, and sections of the fencing are in imminent danger of collapse. You will recall from our Licence Agreement, section 5c, that 'the Council will maintain the surrounding fences in a suitable condition'.

We do feel that the loose posts need attention.

Yours Sincerely

Roger Stroud  
Club Secretary

## Appendix 2

To: rogerstroud302@hotmail.com  
Subject: Leighton/Linslade croquet Club  
From: sbrandham1@aol.com  
CC: Paul.Russell@LeightonLinslade-tc.gov.uk  
Date: Tue, 12 Aug 2014 09:55:12 -0400

Dear Roger,

Regarding reference your e-mail on the 6th August 2014, Myself and an officer Paul Russell visited Pages Park today so please do not expect us on Wednesday.

The following action is proposed-

- 1- The guttering will be repaired in the next few weeks.
- 2- The locks on the ladies toilets will be repaired on an urgent basis.
  - a) We will be putting initially a wire netting barrier around the edge of lawn 3 nearest the edge of the sensory garden, depending on our budget we may be putting a small hedge at a later date.
  - b) We agree that the condition of some of the posts are in need of repair and it is planned to investigate a timing on this, again depending on our budget.

Thank you for making us aware of these matter.

Regards

Cllr Alan Brandham