



# LEIGHTON-LINSLADE CROQUET CLUB

Founded 2000

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2014  
At 12:30 pm - Page's Park pavilion

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

## Minutes

### 1. Welcome

David welcomed everyone present to the meeting which opened at 12:42.

### 2. Apologies for absence

Eve, Malcolm, Peter, Sheila

### 3. Minutes of meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2014

The committee agreed that the minutes of the previous meeting were satisfactory and David duly 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 spoke about the various meetings and correspondence with the Council regarding a number of on-going points but essentially about our request to be given the Referee's Room to extend our clubhouse. It culminated in a Council Officer (Paul Russell) presenting our case to the Council at a meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> September.

John Cundell thanked Roger for the work put in on that topic.

Roger also spoke about storage issues generally and the committee agreed that it would be beneficial if we purchased a fireproof box for storing petrol for the mower - John Cundell agreed to follow this up.

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

Len said that although he did not have the final accounts for the fête, we hold about £13k as a cash balance in the bank and he has been investigating the possibility of holding this balance as premium bonds. Whilst it is not possible for a club to hold premium bonds, Len is intending to talk to Richard as to the possibility of an individual within our club having the bonds in his / her name with a supporting legal document allowing any prize money to go to our club.

The committee was happy for this to be pursued by Len provided that it is legally acceptable.

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

John C presented the report on behalf of Judith saying as a result of the recent fête, we may have gained 4 new members.

## 6. Fixtures

John T reported that all the fixtures for the season are finished.

## 7. Lawn Maintenance

John C reported that the winter lawn maintenance plan will be similar to last year although we will only carry out solid rather than hollow tining. An order has been placed with the Council for 40 bags of top dressing, six bags of fertiliser/weed killer and one bag of dwarf rye seed as recommended by Duncan Hector on his earlier visit to our lawns. The work will be carried out as soon as possible after the season closes. The cost of the materials will be around £380.

## 8. Garden Party / Fun Day

This was regarded by all to have been a success with both David & John C quoting emails received commenting on how much members enjoyed the day.

The committee then discussed the future for this event using the knowledge gained from the recent experience. It was agreed that, in future fetes, we would get all those present first thing and explain about the games taking place in the morning.

David suggested that it would help if there were two people organising the games and Roger offered to assist.

John C commented that the day turned out like a 'come and try day' which may have been beneficial to our club in terms of gaining new members. John also said that in these future events we would limit croquet to 7 hoop games and concentrate on arranging visitors to play with members to encourage the visitors to join. David said that everyone involved in setting up and running the day should be congratulated.

## 9. Purchasing Requirements

### 9.1 New sets of balls

This is on-going being dealt with by Len.

### 9.2 Guy rope for gazebos

David has purchased new hi-vis guy ropes and showed them to the committee.

## 10. AGM / Trophy engraving

Roger said that after this committee meeting, the next meeting is the AGM and there is a lot of hard work over the coming weeks to: -

- a) Finalise the minutes of the last AGM
- b) Collect the annual reports from the chairman, treasurer & secretary
- c) Make up the 'Information Pack' and circulate to all members

John C said that members will be reminded to take along finger food for the party which follows the AGM and that we will have a raffle during the evening. The committee felt that it would be better to have a few good raffle prizes rather than many smaller prizes.

There was a discussion about whom to invite to present the prizes – John T suggested that Doug, our Council groundsman is an idea. David suggested that committee members think of ideas for a 'celebrity' to be invited to present the prizes.

The subject of the constitution change was raised which prompted a discussion about our reasons for wanting the change and the practicalities of pursuing this.

It was agreed that Roger would speak to Richard making reference to the various emails on the subject. David suggested that one option might be for the club to be a registered charity but there might be too much cost involved. Roger agreed to investigate the feasibility of this option.

## **11. Social Club**

Len & John discussed this and agreed that October 8<sup>th</sup> would be the best date to start up the social club again. Len reminded the committee that the cost of hiring the main room in the pavilion is £3.60 per hour.

The committee agreed that Len should contact the Council about making the arrangements.

## **12. Any other business**

### **12.1 Tony Stammers**

Tony remarked as to whether our previous regular annual fixture at Hunstanton would be continued next season. John C said that it really depends upon whatever dates can be arranged on and that he will speak to Hunstanton next year. John C also stated that in 2013 it had been difficult to raise a team for this event.

### **12.2 John Cundell**

#### **12.2.1 Sports Council**

John has found out that the next meeting of the Leighton Linlade Sports Council is in November and since the resignation of Peter Cole we need to find another club member who could represent us on this Council. It was agreed that Roger would contact Malcolm to see if he would be interested in taking up this role and that Roger would also write to Peter thanking him for all of the work he had put in during the time he was our Sports Council representative.

#### **12.2.2 CA Federation**

John spoke about the proposal in the CA gazette where the CA are seeking a response of views from all clubs regarding their proposal. It was agreed that Roger would respond to the CA using the form in their latest Gazette agreeing with their proposal. John also pointed out to the committee about the advantages of the CA proposal in that it would hopefully bring about the situation whereby the same set of rules would apply to all the various federations.

### **12.3 David Ball**

David circulated some raffle tickets amongst committee members. This raffle is being organised by the Mayor for the 'Town Mayor's Charity Fund' with the draw taking place on 18<sup>th</sup> October.

The meeting closed at 2pm