

LEIGHTON-LINSLADE CROQUET CLUB

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Tuesday 19th February 2013
At 3.00 pm - Page's Park pavilion

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

Minutes

1. Welcome

David opened the meeting and welcomed everyone at 3.05pm.

2. Apologies for absence

Len & Eve are on holiday in Spain and Val is on holiday in Australia.

3. Minutes of meeting held on 15th January 2013

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed to be accurate and signed by David.

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

None

5. Reports: -

5.1 Secretary's report including correspondence to Club

Roger had received the papers from the Croquet Association requiring us to pay our annual subscription to the CA. These will be passed on to Len through John C. The CA handbook received with the papers will be put into the clubhouse for members to read.

5.2 Treasurer's report

John Cundell was standing in for Len and circulated a statement of accounts as at 12th February 2013. John said that the final balance of £9,057.33 needs adjusting now as we have received about 20 subscription cheques and we have also paid the annual lawn rent to the Council of £1736. There will be a charge to the Croquet Association shortly of £423. The balance as of today is £8113.

5.3 Membership Secretary's Report

John speaking on behalf of Judith said that 21 members had renewed to date and he would be putting a reminder in the next newsletter that will be issued in early March.

6. Corporate visit brochure

Peter had produced an example brochure which he passed around.

The brochure was well liked and the committee thanked Peter for this work.

Peter also said that it would be more professional if we had an email address in the brochure which referred to the croquet club.

John Cundell suggested that as Len has been closely involved in the promotion of corporate visits, we speak to Len when he is back from holiday.

John also said that one of Len's friends, Steve, is a computer expert and might be able to achieve replacing Len's current email address on the brochure with a more professional one for the purpose of this brochure.

Malcolm suggested that we should put an indicative price in the brochure which was agreed by the committee.

The committee agreed that we should go ahead with this brochure taking into account the above mentioned amendments.

7. Fixtures

7.1 EACF League

John C said that currently there is no 'one prepared to run the league so no fixtures can be arranged yet.

7.2 Murphy Shield

John Cundell said that we will again be taking part and Len will send the £20 fee to the CA to enter – the closing date is March 17th.

7.3 Friendlies

John Cundell said that John Thorp has done a fantastic job and organised the following friendly matches: -

April 22 nd	High Wycombe	Home
April 26 th	Dunstable	Home
May 23 rd	Watford	Away
June 21 st	Letchworth	Home
August 5 th	Watford	Home
August 19 th	Letchworth	Away

7.4 Soham

John Cundell said that Mike Percival has taken over the running of Soham which is on the 16th / 17th March.

Handicap play is on Saturday 16th & level play on Sunday 17th.

7.5 Hunstanton Challenge Trophy

John Cundell explained that this has always been a free draw based upon those members who put their names on the list. John went on to say that Hunstanton always pick their best team raising the point whether we should continue doing the free draw or whether we should now carry out a selection process based upon those members on the list.

It was agreed by the committee that as it is a competition, a selection process will be carried out, based on the names on the list.

8. Diary Dates update

John Cundell will circulate details to members of the committee based upon the latest calendar.

John Cundell mentioned the 'EACF Handicap Singles Tournament (8 – 12) at Bury St Edmunds on July 7th' and said that we should encourage our 'High Handicap' members to take part. John Guest was last year's winner of this tournament.

The updated diary dates will be in the next newsletter which will be circulated shortly.

9. Lawns

9.1 Maintenance

There was a discussion about lawn maintenance. John Cundell said that we still need to mow lawn 3.

John Thorp made the point that we will liaise with Doug Bolton (Grounds man) to cut the grass to different levels according to the weather.

John Cundell said that we need 6 people to aerate the lawns, but it is difficult to plan a specific date due to the weather. We frequently only know at very short notice when the weather is suitable for lawn maintenance.

10. Gazebo

John Cundell had raised this with Len – thoughts are to delay as we might be able to use the pavilion and if a gazebo is needed urgently Len can get one at short notice.

11. Clubroom preparation for new season

John Thorp thinks the clubroom needs a fresh coat of paint on the walls. John Cundell and others explained the difficulty of accessing the walls with all the furniture in place and moving the furniture out of the clubroom is a massive job.

There was a discussion as to whether we could get rid of one of the large cabinets. It was agreed that we do need both of the large cabinets.

John Cundell said that we need to move some of the maintenance equipment into the green storage container when the season starts prior to moving this to the Referees Room after the football season finishes.

The date set for marking out the lawns is 1pm Tuesday 19th March – action by JC, John Thorp, David Ball, Malcolm Kirby.

Clubroom preparation is to be on Wednesday 20th March following the Social Club.

12. Sports Council

Peter had circulated a report.

We managed to get a £300 grant from the Sports Council which we will use for maintenance equipment.

Peter also mentioned that the Mayor is on the Sports Council and seems enthusiastic about our club and sports in general.

At the recent Sports Council meeting it was stated that each year two people get rewarded for efforts within their sports club – Peter would put any ideas we have forward to the Council.

Thanks to Peter for the good work on this topic.

13. New Trophy

A tankard donated by John Thorp to be given to the most improved player. Engraving to read 'Leighton-Linslade Croquet Club' – 'Most Improved Player of the Season'.

Voted to be awarded this year and on-going. The trophy to be displayed in the clubroom in a small cabinet along with winners' names on a notice.

14. Vehicle Expenses

The practice has recently been when giving people a lift to an away match to divide the fuel cost by the number of people in the car and the passengers to donate to the driver the calculated amount.

David Ball suggested it should be double that amount to allow for other cost factors (tax, insurance, wear & tear etc).

After discussion it was agreed to use a fixed cost of 20p per mile with mileage calculated from Google Maps – the total cost then to be divided by all occupants to calculate a donation to the driver. This is not mandatory – just a suggestion from the committee. Details would be circulated by John C to regular known drivers who will be responsible for explaining the system to their passengers if they wish to do so.

15. Any other business

David Ball said that re the dinner on 15th March, balance to be paid by 1st March. John C will circulate this to all members by email, or by David they are not on email.

John Thorp said that we had previously agreed to buy a cutter for the lawns costing about £80 – the committee agreed that we should purchase it immediately.

The meeting ended at 4.35pm.