

LEIGHTON-LINSLADE CROQUET CLUB

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Wednesday 12th June 2013
At 1.00 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 at 1.05pm and thanked everyone for attending.

2. Apologies for absence

Tony Stammers had informed the secretary that he could not attend the meeting.

3. Minutes of meeting held on 19th February 2013

The minutes of the February were accepted as correct.

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

A gazebo has been purchased from Aldi.

5. Reports: -

5.1 Secretary's report including correspondence to Club and feedback from John Hobbs visit.

There has been no correspondence.

The feedback from members regarding the visit to our club by John Hobbs was very positive also from John Hobbs himself. John sent us a cheque for £100 and suggested that he would be interested in future visits being arranged. John Thorp did ask him whether he would be interested on a friendly match being arranged between our club and his club, Tunbridge Wells. John Thorp was given the impression that there would be no interest from Tunbridge Wells's club.

5.2 Treasurer's report

There is a current cash balance of £11,065.15. Len believes that about £2,000 will be needed to come off this balance for payments related to our on-going lawn treatment. Len is also currently considering reviewing the annual membership fee.

David believes that our current annual membership fee is very reasonable, especially compared to other croquet clubs.

There was a discussion about the liability of the three club members who signed the agreement with the Town Council. David said that there is at least one other member who would be prepared to join the three members who are acting as guarantors.

Len has received a letter from the Council regarding shutters being left open in the pavilion. Whilst this does not necessarily mean that our club is responsible we need to ensure that we are extremely vigilant in complying with our responsibilities.

5.3 Membership Secretary's Report

John Cundell announced that we have three 3 new members since the last meeting - Derek Haines, Vivienne Horner & Catherine Wallis.

Peter Cole commented about members we have lost. John Cundell pointed out that Yvonne Banks & Ann Smith had not re-joined due to medical problems and we could expect them to re-join when they are fit again. It was also noted that Lyn & Vic Peddar did not re-join in 2013.

6. Fixtures

John Thorp announced that all league matches are booked.

The level play match against Chelmsford is on Friday 14th June & the Murphy Shield match against Kenilworth is on Monday 17th June.

John is yet to arrange a date for a friendly with Stony Stratford and is also pursuing the possibility of arranging a friendly match with Tunbridge Wells.

7. Diary Dates update

No further updates at this time.

8. Proposed sensory garden at Pages Park

David announced that the Town Council is talking about making the football area next to Lawn 1 into a sensory garden.

John Cundell read out details of recent Council meetings: -

Council Meeting on 8th April – the committee had received a report regarding various projects on-going in Pages Park one of which was the proposed Sensory Garden. The decision was made to go ahead with these projects.

Council Meeting on 3rd June – the sensory garden was not on the agenda.

Next Council Meeting on 22nd July – the sensory garden is not on the agenda for that meeting.

David & John are putting a note together expressing concern about the location of the proposed sensory garden which will be sent to the Council (see attached note).

John Thorp has approached the groups who play football in that area and suggested that they or their parents write to the Council regarding the proposed location of the new sensory garden.

John Cundell feels that the proposed sensory garden should be in Parsons Close.

There was a general discussion about the liability of the effects of vandalism.

Our club has previously told the Council that we cannot be held responsible for vandalism as it is outside our control.

Peter Cole said that he recently noticed a surveyor looking at the guttering on the pavilion and noting the details.

There was a discussion about the Council making additional parking in Pages Park.

John Cundell said that at the meeting with the Town Council (Lisa & the Mayor) – we did put forward our idea of incorporating the referee's room into our club area with a doorway giving us additional clubroom space.

9. Lawns

9.1 Maintenance

On-going maintenance has been carried out with the group doing aeration and following this the lawns have tolerated rain without seeing so much surface water.

John also reported that following a discussion with the council grounds man, has resulted in our lawns being treated with chemicals to kill the weeds - the weed treatment includes fertiliser and the treatment will be repeated if it is needed.

Also, the mower height will be reduced to cut the grass to a lower height.

John Thorp had a good discussion with Geoff Race, the grounds man at Hunstanton, getting good advice regarding ways to improve the quality of our lawn.

John Cundell also pointed out that whilst the height of the cutter on our mower is low, we must not attempt to try to cut long grass as it would damage the mower.

10. Corporate visit brochure

Len reported that he has not had the time to work on the brochure and said that he will try to find time to move it forward.

Roger reported that Erica is involved in organising a playing session for the Lions Club and has indicated to them the cost of £3.50 per person.

John reported that Diana is involved in organising a playing session for a group of Girls Guides. Following a discussion Malcolm proposed that we should say no to visits by groups of children – seconded by John Cundell and it was unanimously passed by the committee.

11. Sports Council

Peter Cole reported that he is awaiting notification of the next meeting which should be in June. He also said that Sports Council has received funding and suggests that we ensure that we put forward our proposals for funding assistance.

Peter also suggested that we put a name forward from our club for 'contribution to sport' which could result in a £50 award to our club.

At this point in the meeting, David suggested that we include in the minutes, a formal 'Thank You' to all club members involved in carrying out the many tasks involved in the running of the club.

12. Any other business

Peter Cole

Lawn Boarding

Peter suggested whether it would be possible to fit boarding around the lawns as are fitted at some clubs. David said that the idea had been costed and rejected as being too costly.

John Cundell Heath & Reach

John was asked by Peter Davis if he could meet the grounds man at Heath & Reach regarding their proposed new croquet lawn. We understand the reason for the meeting is the grounds man seeking advice.

John Cundell & David Ball have planned a meeting and are interested in the potential of the proposed site at Heath & Reach.

David said that with his knowledge of the area he feels that the site they have allocated for croquet is not really suitable.

Croquet Balls

A number of the committee remarked that we have a need for replacing our secondary balls.

General Croquet Play

Irene Davis has written to John Cundell congratulating the facilities and organisation of the recent Club Ladies Doubles competition. Irene did comment about some players taking a very long time to play a shot. Dee and Una also made the same comments.

John said that there will be organisers watching out for this for the Handicap Singles club competition on June 15th.

Roger Stroud

Roger said that if a project gets off the ground to take over the referees room in the pavilion with a connecting door to our current club room, would it be possible to use the pavilion toilets without the need to open up the pavilion end shutter.

John Cundell thought that this would not be possible as the Council are keen on leaving the end shutter door open for the general public to use the toilets.

David

David received the following email from our current Mayor regarding the Pages Field celebrations: -

Dear All

Thanks for all your help yesterday and in the run up to the event. I think that the residents had a good time and there was a real community spirit. It is a pity that the weather wasn't warmer but you can't have everything.

Chaz: Could you thank your neighbour who helped as I don't have her email.

Thanks again

Amanda

Cllr Amanda Dodwell

Town Mayor for Leighton-Linslade

Vehicles in Pages Park

Eve commented regarding no vehicles being allowed in Pages Park.

John Cundell said that exceptions are allowed such as bringing heavy equipment to the pavilion. John also said that there is a need for a 'barrier key' for ambulances to access the park using as an example when we had to get an ambulance to Bryan Ferris one day during a croquet match.

Tea Towels

David said that we need some new tea towels in the club house. Eve said that we do not need to buy any as she has some spare at home and will bring them to the clubhouse.

Soap

David reported that we need some soap in the gent's toilet.

Len commented that the Council have said that new facilities should be fitted in the gent's cloakroom.

Council Croquet Team

David Ball reported that there is interest for a team from the White House (Town Council offices) to come and play croquet.

New Town Council Clerk

David suggested that we make an appointment to see the new town clerk as to date there has been no meeting between him and our club.

Meeting closed at 14.37