

LEIGHTON-LINSLADE CROQUET CLUB

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Wednesday 14th August 2013
At 1.00 pm - Page's Park pavilion

Minutes

Committee Members present: -David Ball (chairman), Roger Stroud (secretary), John Cundell, Malcolm Kirby, John Thorp, Peter Cole

1. Welcome

David welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 1:15pm.

2. Apologies for absence

Val Jeffers, Eve & Len Buckingham sent apologies of absence. Tony Stammers was not present.

3. Minutes of meeting held on 12th June 2013

The minutes were adopted by the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

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

Correspondence received were emails from Hamptworth Croquet Club regarding forthcoming fixtures that were forwarded at the time.

John C had received a letter from Lisa Jarvis, LL Town Council, concerning the proposed sensory garden at Pages' Park. The letter reported on the Leisure and Community Committee meeting on 22 July attended by David and Len, where it was agreed that the sensory garden would NOT be positioned in the ball-play area, but would now be considered at a future L&CC meeting to be situated below our third lawn near to the railway station.

John C had thanked Lisa for the information on behalf of our committee.

5.2 Treasurer's report

In Len's absence, John Cundell presented the Treasurer's report handing out copies of the Income & Expenditure report. There is a current cash balance of £9335.46.

Donations and grants for this year are currently running at over £500. The lawn rent for 2013 has been paid. Len has suggested that as the invoice stated 1st April 2013 to 30th March 2014, we could play 24/7 for twelve months. John Cundell clarified that according to our Licence Agreement with the Council we are licenced to play croquet for a period of 29 weeks between March and October in each year.

5.3 Membership Secretary's Report

John Cundell presented the report saying that there are 49 members with further interest from several people who might become members for the 2014 season.

6. Fixtures

6.1 EACF League – level & handicap

David had requested that this be put on the agenda with a proposal that for the 2014 season that **we reduce the number of teams in the EACF Handicap League to one team. This was seconded by John C and the proposal passed.**

There was a discussion about our thoughts on handicap levels in the leagues, level & handicap, as well as the CA tournaments, e.g. B Class.

The discussion included whether scratch players ought to be included in the leagues that we play in as well as the possible introduction of A Class & C Class as well as the current B Class.

It was agreed that John C and John T would suggest to the League Secretary that the Level Play League should have a minimum handicap of 2 and that the total handicap of all four players should be at least 10 (similar to the Inter-Club Murphy Shield). In the Handicap League it was suggested by John C and John T that the handicap range should revert back to 4.

6.2 Team selection committee

David thinks that the 'Team Selection Committee' should comprise of people who attend regularly and proposed that we create a new selection committee. **It was agreed that the committee should comprise of 5 people and should include the captains of the level play league team and the handicap league team. The names were agreed on being Jean Ball, John Cundell, David Ball, John Thorp & Peter Cole.**

This was proposed by Malcolm Kirby, seconded by John Thorp and passed. **It was also agreed that the Selection Committee would be reviewed annually.**

7. Improver's Competition

John C and John T proposed that to assist in team selection, we create a competition for those members who wish to be considered for the Leagues and not selected for that year. This would be referred to as the 'Improvers Competition' and would consist of a number of events throughout the season. **This was agreed by the committee.**

8. Diary Dates update

John Cundell had no additional information. John Thorp had thought about a late friendly match with Stony but nothing specific planned yet. John T also recommended playing at Abingdon during the 2014 season – the tournament they hold is not a CA event but is a very enjoyable day.

9. Lawns

David raised this onto the agenda – he feels that work on the lawn that involves aeration is too labour intensive for our members to handle. The spiker we have on loan from the Council is very hard work and beyond our abilities. Cost of such a machine is prohibitive therefore we need to consider hiring one or using a contractor. **It was agreed that we will get prices for this work to be carried out.** The type of aerator we would request be used is one which removes plugs of earth rather than just spike the lawn. After completion by the contractor it will be necessary to apply top dressing and seed. **It was agreed that we would have the aeration carried out in October before the weather turns and also agreed that we will use the Council to order the top dressing.**

John C also pointed out that our two electric scarifiers are not really up to the task and when they need replacing **it was agreed that we will purchase a petrol powered unit, expecting to pay £450.**

10. Annual Dinner

David put this on the agenda as we have to make an early booking.

John C said that Len feels that we should have a change from the golf club. It was generally agreed that the consensus from most members was that they were very happy with the golf club and that there are currently no real alternatives in the Leighton Buzzard area, having previously explored a number of other options.

It was agreed that we will stay at the golf club for the annual dinner next March and that David will discuss the menu with the golf club re choices.

11. Subscriptions

David made a proposal that we increase our club subscription by 5% each year in line with the increase we have to pay to the Council. This proposal was agreed by the committee.

12. Sports Council

12.1 First Aid Courses

Peter presented the latest position with the Sports Council and said that he had attended the recent meeting. Peter added that the Sports Council are trying to establish whether Sports Clubs already have 'First Aiders' within their club with a view to ask the Council to fund First Aid courses. Discussion established that we have no First Aiders and the committee requested that Peter tells the Sports Council that we would require 3 places for a First Aiders course. John Thorp said that he would be happy to go on a First Aid course provided it is covered by insurance.

12.2 Sports Council Grant

Peter said that we need to submit any request for a Sports Council grant as soon as possible.

David requested at this stage of the meeting that we thank all members who have worked hard on all aspects of running the club.

13. Any Other Business

13.1. Guarantors

David explained that we currently have 3 guarantors related to the Licence we have with the Council – these are Len, John C & David. It was established that Roger & Malcolm are willing to be additional guarantors. David is keen to get the number of guarantors up to 10 people to make the financial commitment smaller for each guarantor. This would allow the club more flexibility concerning finance and grant applications.

13.2. Storage of equipment

John C said that we will shortly be asked to move our equipment out of the referee's room therefore we need to keep pressure on the Council in order to retain the referee's room on a permanent basis as soon as possible. This is dependent on the completion of Astral Park Pavilion and the relocation of some of the football pitches to that site. We need to keep impressing our contacts within the council that we need the additional storage as a matter of urgency.

13.3 Come & Try events

John T suggests that we organise these events so that members bring a friend and have a competition. The committee agreed that it is worth a try for a 2014 daytime event. Peter added that it would be worth contacting Three Counties Radio when we are having these events.

13.4 Players dropping out of events

John Cundell said that many problems are created when organising competitions with people pulling out at the last minute. The committee felt that a penalty may be considered regarding future events and that at the AGM the Chairman will make sure that people understand that travel may be involved and it is important that putting ones name down does mean a commitment.

13.5 Toilet Cleaning

Len had formulated a suggested letter to Lisa Jarvis at the Council reminding her that she had promised to have the toilets professionally cleaned and soap dispensers and towels installed. It was agreed by committee that this should not be pursued until after we have made more headway on securing the referees room.

13.6 Croquet vs. Bowls event

Roger picked on the idea from a recent conversation with Richard Keighley regarding an event that Wingrave organise at their croquet club and suggested whether we could also organise such an event during 2014. The committee felt that it only works at Wingrave as the croquet lawn is next to the bowls lawn.

13.7 Garden Party and Fun Day

David said that a number of members were disappointed at the loss of the Garden Party and the Fun Day and he suggested we combine these into an event at Page's Park in July, and on a day when there is not a cricket match in order that we can make use of the pavilion kitchen. The committee agreed that this was a good idea.

13.8 Friendly Matches

David feels that members who play a lot of B Class tournaments should be restricted to two friendly matches per season.

13.9 AGM

David said that he would contact the Mayor re attending our AGM in November.

13.10 Mayor's Coffee Morning September 14th

David reminded the committee about the Mayor's coffee morning and the Mayor would like donations of cakes, cookies, etc., for the event.

Meeting Closed at 15.00.