

# LEIGHTON-LINSLADE CROQUET CLUB

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2013  
At 1.00 pm - Page's Park pavilion

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

## Minutes

### **1. Welcome**

David opened the meeting at 1pm and wished Eve well as she is currently ill.

### **2. Apologies for absence**

Both Val Jeffers and Eve Buckingham had sent apologies for absence.

### **3. Minutes of meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2013**

David asked if the minutes of the previous meeting were an accurate record. The meeting agreed they were so David signed a copy of the minutes.

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

#### 4.1 Subscriptions (Section 11 of the minutes)

Len said that whatever increase our committee proposes should be put to our members at the AGM for their agreement. David agreed with this and he and Len would put our finalised proposals to members at the meeting.

After discussion, Len felt that whatever proposal is put to the members at the AGM, if the majority of members agree then this answers his concerns.

Roger said that it is important to clearly explain to members at the AGM the reasons for any increase especially in the light of our cash reserves in the bank.

David proposed to the meeting that we firm up on a £5 subscription increase for the 2014 season to be reviewed next year for the 2015 season – the committee agreed with this proposal.

#### 4.2 Number of teams in the handicap league (Section 6.1 of the minutes)

Len said that he did not agree that the number of teams in the handicap league should be reduced to one.

John Thorp said that it inevitably depends upon the number of players who put their names forward to play prior to the 2014 season.

The discussion focused on: -

- a) Firstly, selecting the best (most suitable) players for the handicap league.
- b) Secondly, with the remaining names who wish to play, have a number of internal competitions throughout the season to assist selection of further players for the league.

#### 4.3 Selection Committee (Section 6.2 of the minutes)

David said that he felt that it is not a good idea to have both a husband and wife on a committee so he had offered to stand down. To this end, Jean has opted to stand down leaving David on this committee so there is one vacancy; David also said that he will speak to Peggy re this vacancy.

## **5. Reports: -**

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

Roger has received email correspondence from Hamptworth Croquet Club which he will forward to John Cundell.

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

Len handed out a latest copy of the accounts showing a bank balance of £9,335.46.

Len referred to the contribution from the Social Club and that it would be increased if we were able to persuade additional members to the social club. Also, he had a note from the Council showing the amounts the Council charge to the cricket and football clubs, highlighting the fact that these clubs have no responsibility for the preparation of their pitches prior to a match. Len gave a copy of the note to Peter Cole for use at the meeting of the Sports Council, if appropriate.

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

John Cundell presented this report and said that there is nothing in particular to report. John also said that we have carried a lot of promotional activity during this year and it might bring in new members for the 2014 season.

## **6. Diary Dates update**

John Thorp said that we have just about completed the season with the final friendly match (against High Wycombe) on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September.

The committee agreed that John Thorp has done a very good job in his role of organising matches throughout the season.

## **7. Lawns Maintenance**

### **7.1 Scarifying & Top Dressing**

John Cundell reported that he and John Thorp had met Doug Bolton, who carries out lawn maintenance for the Council, shortly after the last committee meeting. During his meeting on the subject of the Council owned equipment, Doug said that he is prepared to use the 'hollow tiner' on our lawns but he would speak to Lisa Jarvis at the Council.

The outcome is that Lisa is prepared to lend us the machine and Doug will train a couple of club members to use the machine. The timing is dependent on Doug's commitment to maintenance of the cricket pitch but is likely to be the first or second week in October.

Specifically the machine would be used on Lawns 1 & 3 and the left hand two thirds of Lawn 2. About 12 members will be required to help remove the soil plugs. Top dressing will be required to fill in the holes and we have asked the Council if they can order it for us. We will also require 20kgs of seed and John Connew of the Council is aware of the type of seed used in the past. Our understanding is that we can borrow the spreader for seed to give an even coverage.

Seed will be added to the top dressing and following the seed spreading we will use the spreader for winter slow release fertiliser to be added in late October.

John Cundell is to send a note to Lisa confirming the above.

John's cost estimate for the materials for this work is around £500.

Peter Cole will have a copy of the bills for materials to be available for use at the Sports Council meetings if appropriate.

### **7.2 Referee's Room in the Pavilion**

There was a discussion on our use of the Referee's Room in the pavilion as we use it for storage of lawn maintenance equipment. John Cundell said, following a discussion with Doug Bolton, we can continue using it currently and will be told when we have to empty it.

## **8. AGM**

There was a discussion about some of the specific items we need to include in the agenda of the AGM, namely, subscription increase, annual dinner, arrangements for competitions, handicap league (including travel arrangements & costs).

John Thorp said that some members were enquiring about coaching courses for 2014.

David said that he has booked the Golf Club for our annual dinner.

Roger said that he needs the annual reports from the Chairman and Treasurer, to include in the AGM information pack, by the end of September.

## **9. Any other business**

### **9.1 Lawn Stop Boards**

Initiated by Tony Stammers, there was a discussion on the subject of ‘stop boards’. It was recognised by the committee that it would be expensive and a strong possibility that the boards would be vandalised unless moved into storage each day. This was recognised as impractical especially as we have no storage available.

Len suggested that it might be an idea to tack some orange material around lawns to stop the balls.

The idea of fixing some permanent substantial boarding as a stop board near to the pavilion was thought a good idea and David will investigate the idea. Len did know of someone who might have some timber available free to a collector.

### **9.2 Voluntary Paid Work**

Malcolm had spoken to Ross a while ago and Ross mentioned a scheme whereby voluntary work carried out by club members might be paid for by a funding organisation. John Thorp was aware of this and said that the scheme was no longer running.

### **9.3 Lawn Watering Equipment**

Roger suggested it might be worthwhile to contact the technical department of a company such as Hozelock regarding setting up equipment to water our lawns without having to move the spraying equipment many times.

**David requested that we thank all members who have worked hard on all aspects of running the club.**

The meeting closed at 2 22pm.