



LEIGHTON-LINSLADE CROQUET CLUB

Founded 2000

2013 - 14th Annual General Meeting

Held on Friday 8th November at Northall Village Hall

Minutes

1. Welcome by Chairman

David Ball, our Chairman opened the meeting promptly at 7.30pm, welcomed some 25 members plus our new Financial Examiner, Terry Marsh & his wife as well as the Town Mayor Amanda Dodwell. David also said he was pleased to see such a good turnout and asked members to please sign the attendance sheet.

2. Receive apologies for absence

Roger had received 14 apologies for absence: -

Rose Gillett, Peter & Irene Davis, Vivienne Horner, George & Margaret Lawson, Peter Stevens, Derek Haines, Margaret Brown, Caroline Stroud, Sheila Bagni, Peggy Kenny and Pauline & Martyn Field.

3. Approve minutes of the 13th AGM

David asked if he could take the minutes of the last AGM (which was on 9th November 2012) as an accurate record of the meeting – there were no matters arising and the minutes of the 2012 AGM were duly approved with David signing a copy of the 2012 AGM minutes for the record.

4. Adopt reports of the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer (inc. Annual Accounts)

David said that he hoped that everyone had received the AGM information pack and had read these reports.

4.1 Chairman's Report

David said that we have three new members (Vivienne, Derek & Catherine) who appear to be enjoying their croquet and also said that in early October we had some nine members assisting in tining and raking up the cores which were used to fill in a couple of the valleys in lawn 2. He also thanked everyone in our club for their help during the year.

4.2 Secretary's Report

Roger added that club members have been taking part in many top level competitions and were well respected by many other clubs. He also mentioned the improvement in our understanding of the maintenance aspects required for the lawns. We have had assistance from the Town Council and the ground staff with the loan of some equipment and built up our knowledge as the year progressed. Due to the excellent work of a small number of members, our lawns are looking as good as they have ever been.

4.3 Treasurer's Report

Len Buckingham had earlier circulated our annual financial report and asked if there were any questions related to the accounts. He confirmed that the final statement from the bank agreed with his draft reports circulated to members having only received the bank statement the previous day.

Len then explained the licence arrangements with the Council and the reason why we have to hold such a substantial capital reserve. The current Licence increases our payment to the Council by 5% each year even though inflation is and has been for several years only 1%. The Licence will be renegotiated in 2017 and we hope that in the new Licence we would not be liable for continued payment for the duration of the lease.

He went on to say that we still had to pay for last year's materials for the lawns as the Council had not yet sent us the invoice (about £400) and that shortly we will be buying three new sets of secondary balls with current ones nearing the end of their life.

Len proposed an increase in subscription for the 2014 season from £70 to £75 and made it clear that in order to increase the annual subscription we need a two thirds majority of members agreement. Len also requested that members support the Wednesday morning social club as the £2 charge goes a long way to boosting our funds.

This proposal to increase the subscription from £70 to £75 was put to a vote and passed unanimously. Len also thanked our new Accounts Examiner Terry Marsh for his help which had been very useful and informative.

4.4 Amendment to the Constitution of our Club

Following the reports from the Officers there was a discussion and proposals to amend Section 10.3 of our constitution with reference to the item covering the possible dissolution of the club. The amendment was to pass any remaining funds to our members and not equally between the Croquet Association (CA) and the East Anglia Croquet Federation (EACF).

John Thorp enquired whether our Constitution was drawn up by us or the CA. John Cundell said that when our club was formed we used a lot of documentation from the CA including a 'Model Constitution'.

Roger presented the proposed amendment to Section 10.3 of the Constitution, to state that **'on or after discharging all debts & liabilities of the club, the remaining assets will be distributed equally amongst the full members of the club at the discretion of the officers and committee'**. After further discussion, it was decided to remove the clause **'at the discretion of the officers and committee'** and therefore read **'on or after discharging all debts & liabilities of the club, the remaining assets will be distributed equally amongst the full members of the club'**. The proposal made by Roger was seconded by Peter Cole - a vote was taken and the amendment approved.

4.5 Officers' Reports Acceptance

David then asked if someone would like to propose acceptance of the three Officers' reports. John Thorp proposed acceptance of the three reports which was seconded by Peter Cole and duly voted and accepted by the meeting.

David also said that he would like to thank our Vice-Chairman John Cundell, Secretary Roger Stroud, Treasurer Len Buckingham, Fixture Secretary John Thorp, Membership Secretary Judith Cundell and the rest of the committee for helping him throughout the year and making his job easy.

4.6 Club Guarantors

David then explained in more detail the situation with our three guarantors, David Ball, Len Buckingham & John Cundell. These three are the signatories on our Licence with the Council, to guarantee that should our club fold, we would pay the Council the outstanding yearly fees until the end of the Licence in 2017. This is the reason why the capital reserve is necessary to cover this eventuality. For the future, David has obtained promises from ten members who are prepared to act as guarantors from 2017 which will make better use of our reserves as required for lawn and equipment in the future, mentioning specifically a decent rotary mower. Len added that some form of legal agreement will be necessary with the guarantors at that time to which Richard Keighley added that this needs to be addressed in the future during the negotiations with the Council for our renewed Licence from 2017.

Ross Bagni asked if we had made any progress in trying to obtain a higher rate of interest for our capital funds. After a brief discussion it was agreed to raise this topic again at a future committee meeting.

5. Appointment of an Auditor

Terry Marsh has agreed to act as our auditor.

6. Election of Officers

David then stepped down and handed over the John Cundell, our Vice-Chairman who, after examination of nomination forms received, declared that David was our only nomination for Chairman, Roger our only nomination for Secretary and Len our only nomination for Treasurer proposed on a number of forms. David, Roger & Len were duly re-elected as Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer by a unanimous show of hands. David then resumed the chair and continued conducting the meeting.

Officers

Chairman	David Ball
Secretary	Roger Stroud
Treasurer	Len Buckingham

7. Elect the general committee members

David announced that Val Jeffers who had been a committee member for six years is standing down for health reasons and was warmly thanked for her service by David Ball and all members.

David went on to say that all other committee members had agreed to continue: -

Ex Officio Members

Vice Chairman	John Cundell
Fixture Secretary	John Thorp

Committee Members

Eve Buckingham, Tony Stammers, Malcolm Kirby and Peter Cole who has taken on the role of our Sports Council representative.

David also said that we have had a proposal for Sheila Guest to be on our committee, proposed by John Thorp and seconded by Eve Buckingham.

There was no other change except for the addition of Sheila Guest as a new committee member.

Ross Bagni proposed that we accept the officers and committee members which was seconded by Sally Clay and approved by all members present.

8. Any Other Business

David then handed over to John Cundell who said that we held an EACF Final on our lawns receiving many complimentary remarks from those taking part as well as receiving £50 for holding the event.

John also said that a number of members have been attending Croquet Association 'B' Level events for the last few years. Chris Roberts is now the CA organiser of these events and has now standardised on the handicap range for entrants as 3 to 7.

John also said that our club, organised by himself on 20th June and Wrest Park, organised by Richard Keighley on 21st May have put forward to each stage these B Level tournaments during the 2014 season. John added that this will be the first time that our club has organised such an event and he would like to think that we will be able to organise scorers on the day, commenting that having had scorers on the EACF Final went down very well and we are the only club that organise having scorers.

John went on to congratulate David & Jean Ball who got through to the 'B' Level Finals Tournament and whilst not winning the trophy, did very well in the event which was followed by congratulations from all members.

David then said that we have our Annual Dinner Friday 14th March at Leighton Buzzard golf club at 7pm for 7:30pm.

9. Presentation of awards

David introduced the Town Mayor Amanda Dodwell who was invited to present the awards: -

Mix 'n Match Doubles Handicap	Don Barrett & Roy Kemp
Runners up	Tom Miller & Ronnie Richardson
Ladies Doubles Mix 'n Match	Jean Ball & Helen Wilkinson
Runners up	Peggy Kenny & Margaret Lawson
Club Singles Handicap	John Thorp
Runner up	Tom Miller
EACF Champion of Champions Handicap	David Ball
B-Level Newport -	John Thorp
The John Fogg Trophy	Richard Keighley & George Lawson
Runners up	Len Buckingham & Roger Stroud
B-Level Edgbaston	David Ball
LJB 70 plus Trophy (Main)	John Thorp
LJB 70 plus Trophy (Plate)	Peter Davis
Club Championship Doubles	Sheila Guest & John Thorp
Runners up	John Cundell & Richard Keighley
Club Championship Singles	John Thorp
Runner up	Jean Ball

After the presentation of the awards, David thanked Amanda on behalf of the club for presenting the awards.

David then thanked Terry for his continued support in being our auditor and presented him with a token???

The meeting was closed by David at 8.20pm who wished all present a Merry Christmas and a Happy Croquet New Year, after which the party commenced.