

LEIGHTON-LINSLADE CROQUET CLUB
GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING
11th January 2012
At 12.30 pm - Page's Park pavilion

Officers & Committee present: David Ball (Chairman), John Cundell (Acting Secretary), Len Buckingham (Treasurer), Eve Buckingham, Tony Stammers, John Thorp, Malcolm Kirby.

MINUTES

1. Welcome

David Ball welcomed members to the first committee meeting of 2012, particularly new member Malcolm Kirby. As Roger Stroud could not be present, John Cundell would be Acting Secretary for this meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

Roger Stroud, Val Jeffers.

3. Minutes of meeting held on 21st September 2011

A copy of the Minutes was duly signed by the Chair.

4. Secretary's Report

JC reported that correspondence had been forwarded by RS and DB and would be dealt within the agenda.

5. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Len Buckingham reported that there is currently just over £7600 in the bank. The main outgoing would be the CA fees once subscription fees were in. Expenditure on lawn maintenance was less than expected due to circumstances explained later.

JT stated that we need to look at replacing gazeboes as these are getting rather worn. It was agreed that members would discuss this in detail at the next committee meeting, together with other clubroom items/equipment that may need replacing.

LB is awaiting the necessary forms for a grant request from the Sports Council and the Town Council. He will ask for the maximum available and this would be requested to go towards lawn maintenance costs.

The Chairman asked the meeting to express thanks to LB for his continuing financial efforts on our behalf.

6 Membership Secretary's Report

On behalf of Judith Cundell, JC explained that membership renewal forms would be included with the first 2012 newsletter due for publication week commencing 15th January.

At the AGM, Margaret Brown asked the committee to look at providing a membership fee for children under 18. JC explained that the club has never had a reduced fee since inception.

After due discussion it was proposed by Tony Stammers and unanimously agreed that junior subscription for under 18s would be £25 for their first year and then 50% of the adult fee for the second year onwards.

7 Specific Duty Appointments

JC circulated a list of proposed member's roles for 2012, having already discussed roles with those involved before, during and immediately after the meeting.

Officers, Committee and Specific Duty Appointments

| | |
|-----------|----------------|
| Chairman | David Ball |
| Secretary | Roger Stroud |
| Treasurer | Len Buckingham |

Committee

Ex officio members

Vice Chairman John Cundell
Fixture Secretary John Thorp

Members

Val Jeffers, Tony Stammers, Eve Buckingham,
Malcolm Kirby

Specific Duties and Non-Executive

| | |
|---|--|
| Membership Sec. | Judith Cundell |
| Welfare Secretary | Judith Cundell |
| Competition Organisers & Managers | John Cundell, John Thorp, Len Buckingham, David Ball |
| Handicappers | John Cundell, Len Buckingham, John Thorp, David Ball |
| Lawn Layout, Maintenance, Event Preparation | John Cundell, John Thorp, Len Buckingham, David Ball, Malcolm Kirby, Roy Kemp, Pauline Lefrere, Tony Wells |
| Catering Manager Assisted by | Val Jeffers Eve Buckingham, Jean Ball, Margaret Lawson and Judith Cundell |
| Quartermaster | Eve Buckingham |
| Newsletter | John Cundell |
| Archivist | Malcolm Kirby |
| Registers | Len Buckingham and Judith Cundell |
| Scoring Manager | Irene Davis |
| Sports Council | Tony Wells |
| Publicity/Press | David Ball/John Cundell |
| Child Protection | Richard Keighley |
| Coaching | Richard Keighley, John Cundell, Eve Buckingham, David Ball |
| Schools Liaison | Tony Wells |
| Selection Committee | John Cundell, Eve Buckingham, John Thorp, George Lawson |
| Safety Officer | John Thorp |
| Referee | Len Buckingham |
| Club Clothing | Judith Cundell |

John Thorp was proposed by JC as Fixture Secretary and unaimously approved by the meeting. John T was thanked for agreeing to stand and was wished well in his new post. JC stated he would inform Chris Howell, the EACF League organiser, of John's appointment. David Ball thanked all those who give of their services and particularly mentioned Malcolm Kirby as the new archivist for his excellent work shown at the AGM. It was suggested that some of the archive material could be displayed at selected competitions during the season. Thanks were also expressed to Vic Peddar for his kind offer via Tony Stammers of mowing the lawns.

Tony Wells was thanked for his offer of continuing on with the post of club representative at the Sports Council and as he was no longer on the committee he would be asked to provide a short resume of each meeting to the committee. JC to action.

8 EACF League

JC distributed copies of the proposed new EACF League for Level play. This proposal is based mainly on feedback from our club at the end of last season. It was agreed that LLCC support this wholeheartedly and we will enter a Level play team plus two handicap teams. The selection method for this will be determined at the next committee meeting. JC will inform Chris Howell, EACF League Orgainser, of our support.

9 Diary Dates

JC circulated proposed diary dates for major events in 2012. These were discussed by the committee and will be published in the forthcoming newsletter.

9.1 Opening Day

This will be 31st March with an official opening by the Town Mayor on 7th or 8th April. Roger Stroud to be asked to contact the Mayor's secretary to make the arrangements.

9.2 Friendlies

When JT is in a position to start arranging Friendlies, it was considered that Ealing and Kenilworth should be considered in addition to Watford, Letchworth and Wingrave. Committee members were asked to come up with suggestions at the February meeting.

9 Storage and Lawn Maintenance

Since the September committee meeting the following is the situation. At the close of the season five members spent eight hours over two days to scarify the lawns.

Shortly before the end of the season our contractor killed off the poor grass at the right hand third of Lawn 2, and two weeks later, deeply scarified the area, removed the dead material, and re-seeded with grass recommended for croquet lawns. At the same time Lawns 1 and 2 were aerated and fertiliser was applied to all three.

In early November JC and JT rotary-mowed all three lawns using Len Buckingham's mower which has not taken too kindly to the heavy demand. We also cleared leaves as required and attempted to break up wormcasts. The warm conditions have allowed the new seed to germinate and there is already a healthy sward on the refurbished area. Whether this will be ready for the start of the season will depend on what the climate throws at us over the next few months.

We are pleased to report that after further negotiation with the Town Council, the off-season rotary mowing will now be carried out by Senior Groundsman Doug Bolton and his staff. Further necessary treatment as required will also be handled by the Town Council following requests from us, at costs to be determined.

We are also pleased to be able to report that we have been allocated a storage arrangement for our maintenance equipment and some playing equipment that will enable us to create more space in the clubroom.

Finally, at the end of December a path was laid by the groundstaff starting at the concrete slab outside our clubroom around to the toilets and the path on the cricket side of the pavilion.

JT and DB thanked all those who have worked and negotiated these arrangements throughout the Autumn and Winter.

10 Newsletter/Membership Forms

JC outlined some of the content of the newsletter that will be published within a few days.

11 Annual Dinner

DB reported that all places are now filled.

12 Corporate Events

LB outlined the feasibility of corporate events and mentioned the publicity that had appeared in recent copies of the Croquet Gazette. He detailed his proposed charges for groups from 4 to 24 people. LB and DB consider that the best approach is to try and meet directly with prospective companies and organisations rather than handouts etc. Malcolm Kirby, whose company we arranged a corporate event for a number of years ago, asked Len to demonstrate his and David's possible approach and offered some practical advice as to requirements before and after meeting clients. It was agreed that evenings would be the best time for such events.

13 Any Other Business

13.1 Pages Park Consultation Meeting

DB and JC will attend the meeting at The White House at 2.00pm on Friday 20th January.

13.2 First Aid Kit

JT asked if the First Aid Kit was in good condition. Eve Buckingham stated that she would check and renew as necessary as was her normal procedure before the start of the season.

13.3 Early Morning Help

JT suggested that we make a concerted effort before the start of the season to get a few more names helping in the early morning preparation before home events.

13.4 Trolley

JT will investigate the cost of a suitable trolley for moving items from the storage area on competition days.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 2.50pm.

Committee Dates

22nd February

13th June

8th August

12th September