

## LEIGHTON-LINSLADE CROQUET CLUB

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2012  
At 1.00 pm - Page's Park pavilion

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

### Minutes

#### **1. Welcome**

David welcomed everyone at 13.09.

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

John Thorp sent his apologies as he was carrying out coaching at Dunstable Croquet Club.

#### **3. Minutes of meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2012**

David signed a copy of the minutes of the February meeting and an Indemnity Form from the Town Council.

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

Len read out a letter received from the Town Council thanking us for our support on Jubilee day.

#### **5. Secretary's report including correspondence to Club**

Roger had recently received an email from the Croquet Association giving details of an opportunity for croquet clubs to put an image and details of our club onto the BBC website as part of a promotion by the BBC to allow people to see 'what's on in your area' using their post code.

Action – John Cundell to contact CA to follow it up.

#### **6. Treasurer's report**

Len circulated the latest balance sheet as of 12<sup>th</sup> June showing a cash balance of £10,325.98. Len also pointed out that there are liabilities due to be paid which are not shown on the Balance Sheet.

Grass seed	£60
Lawn rent	£1,653.75
Lawn work yet to be carried out on Lawn 2	
General lawn maintenance at the end of the season	

Other potential short term costs are at least £300 for a rotary mower and also an amount for a gazebo.

Due to the financial agreement between our club and the Town Council covering a six year period (April 2011 to April 2017) we currently need a minimum balance on account of £7,500 to cover our total rent over the remaining four years.

Under normal circumstances the total rent payable over these four years would be spread over the whole period payable annually; however, if our club was to cease, the

**remaining** rent for the whole four years would still have to be paid to the Council and therefore is a potential liability. David Ball, John Cundell & Len Buckingham **are** guarantors for this potential liability and Len has recommended that we hold enough cash balance to cover this liability.

The overall liability reduces each year as the annual rent is paid, therefore reducing the necessary reserve to hold on this account.

The amount payable each year, and therefore the reduction of the liability is: -

Date	Amount Payable	Overall Liability
April 2012	£1,653.75	£9,138.01
April 2013	£1,736.44	£7,484.26
April 2014	£1,823.26	£5,747.82
April 2015	£1,914.42	£3,924.56
April 2016	£2,010.14	£2,010.14
April 2017*	to be negotiated	£0

\*At this point the agreement will have to be re-negotiated with the Town Council.

From April 2011, the rent we pay increases by 5% each year – Len has written to the Council to review this annual increase to reflect the current bank rate.

Cash Summary: -

Cash Balance as at 12 <sup>th</sup> June	£10325.98
Bills to be paid imminently (grass seed & Lawn Rent)	£1,713.75
Club potential rent liability	£7,484.26
Allowance for Lawn 2 work + end of season maintenance	?

Len also said that the Jubilee Day event was successful: food sold raised a profit of £167; the Produce Stall £207; and the Car Boot/Table Top sale £48 - totalling over £420. In addition, one new member joined at the reduced fee for the remaining part of the season at £40.

Val said that she had been given a cheque for £300 from Waitrose who had included our club in their voucher scheme in their shop.

The Committee thanked both Len & Val for their hard work.

## **7. Membership Secretary's Report**

John Cundell informed us about the results of the 'Come & Try' event on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June at the Jubilee event in Pages Park. Over 200 people tried out or enquired about croquet resulting in one person joining our club on the day, whilst 12 people gave email contact information. John thought that about six people may join our club next year as a direct result of this event.

## **8. Fixture Secretary**

John Cundell spoke on behalf of John Thorp.

John C had circulated a new version (3) of our club events plan (see Appendix 1)

We were also informed that there are on-going discussions with Chelmsford to arrange a friendly match.

## **9. Matches**

### **9.1 EACF League**

John C said that Malcolm Kirby (Yellow team) & Jean Ball (Green team) are doing a good job as the nominated captains.

Roger mentioned to Malcolm that it is important to have the handicap cards for each player on away games.

### **9.2 Friendlies**

It was decided that we would not pursue Stony Stratford CC for a replacement date for our friendly match. It was noted that the friendly match that was planned for 8<sup>th</sup> June at our club was cancelled by Stony Stratford using an email sent to John Thorp the evening before the match.

### **9.3 Club Tournaments**

Roger raised the point that the 'Champions Tournament' at Newport (Sunday July 8<sup>th</sup>) clashes with the club singles tournament (July 7 & 8) if this continues into a second day.

It was decided that Roger & Jean who will be playing at Newport can play in the Singles Tournament and it will be reviewed nearer the day when number of entries are known.

## **10. Lawns & Equipment**

### **10.1 Lawn Maintenance**

Need to get a group of people together to carry out aeration on lawn 1. Also, a need to scarify the lawns – Malcolm said he has a scarifier that can be used in addition to the one held by the club.

Doug Bolton (Council Groundsman) will be deeply scarifying lawn 2, re-seeding where necessary, applying several ton of top dressing and levelling the surface.

John Cundell said that John Connew (Town Council) is ill – it was decided that we will send a get well card.

We have a problem with long spikes of grass on the lawns and John proposed that the club gets a small rotary mower – 13 / 14". There was a discussion on the make of mower to get an agreement to look at several places that sell these mowers – it was agreed that we should purchase a rotary mower.

Roger asked why there has been no mention of using a roller on the lawns. John C said that the technical advice he has been given is never to use a roller on the lawns.

### **10.2 Gazebo**

One of our gazebos is slightly damaged although it would be OK to erect it alongside the wall of the clubhouse. There was a discussion as to whether we should get a small one (similar size to those we already have) or a large one. It was decided that it is better to get smaller gazebos as they are easy to erect & dismantle, and if needed, we could set two or three next to each other to make a large one. It was decided that we purchase another small gazebo.

## **11. Club badges**

There is currently a requirement for six club badges.

Our supplier requires a minimum order of 20 badges at £4 each giving an order value of £80. John C said that he is reluctant to order 20 having only six firm orders.

A suggestion was to ask members who have left / leaving in the near future if they could donate their badges to our club.

David Ball requested to leave the discussion with our supplier open for a month to allow him time to follow it up.

## **12. Garden party**

The Garden Party is planned for 25<sup>th</sup> August at Diana Phelps house. The committee is in favour of having a buffet lunch at 12.30 for 1pm and to charge those attending £7.50 each to cover costs. Also to request that people bring their own alcoholic drinks. It was decided that our club catering group purchase all the food. A note will be circulated to all members mid-July advertising the Garden Party.

## **13. Any other business**

### **13.1 Club Fun Day**

The club 'fun day' planned for July 21<sup>st</sup> will be organised by Erica Fogg, Helen Wilkinson & Sheila Beal.

### **13.2 Dunstable Croquet Club**

On 23<sup>rd</sup> July Dunstable Croquet Club are using our club lawns from 10am to 3.30pm and are paying £3.60 per person. On this day the lawns are closed to LLCC members. Helpers are required from our club.

### **13.3 Methodist Friendship Group**

On 24<sup>th</sup> July in the evening, the Methodist Friendship Group is using our lawns in the evening during which our lawns are closed to LLCC members. John will put a note on board asking for helpers for those two events above.

### **13.4 Weekend Whites (David)**

David said that a member suggested that members might play in whites or light colours at weekends. It was stipulated that it would not be compulsory. There was a discussion and the committee vote was 4 for & 4 against. It was agreed that each member of the committee would speak to members about this and sound out opinion.

### **13.5 Sports Council Meeting**

Tony Wells cannot go to any further meetings representing our club. Malcolm has been asked but is usually committed on the evenings it is held on. David will speak to Peter Cole and if necessary co-opt Peter Cole onto the committee to allow him to represent us on the Sports Council.

Meeting Closed at 2.40pm

# Appendix 1

## 2012 EVENTS PLANNER

### June

- 15 EACF Handicap League - LLCC Yellow v Northampton - Away
- 17 Wrest Park Club Singles - LLCC members welcome, no charge
- 18 EACF Handicap League - LLCC Green v Stony Stratford - Home
- 22 Letchworth Friendly - Home
- 23 CA B-Level Tournament (3-7) - Wrest Park
- 24 EACF Handicap Singles (8-12) - Bury St. Edmunds
- 25 EACF Handicap League - LLCC Yellow v Watford - Home
- 27 Inter-Club Murphy Shield Quarter Final - LLCC v Dulwich - Away**
- 29 EACF Level League - Enfield - Home

### July

- 2 Dunstable Friendly - Home
- 7/8 Club Handicap Singles
- 12 Watford Friendly - Home
- 14 EACF Handicap League - LLCC Green v Letchworth - Away (Re-scheduled)**
- 15 Wrest Park Club Doubles - LLCC members welcome, no charge
- 19 EACF Level League - Watford - Away
- 21 Club Fun Day
- 23 U3A Dunstable Visit (Lawns closed to LLCC members)
- 24 Methodist Friendship Group Visit (Evening) (Lawns closed to LLCC members)
- 28/29 Hunstanton v Leighton-Linslade Challenge - at Hunstanton

### August

- 4/5 Hunstanton Invitation Weekend
- 8 Committee Meeting
- 10 EACF League - LLCC Green v Northampton - Away
- 11/12 Club Mens Doubles 'Mix 'n' Match' John Fogg Trophy
- 17 EACF Handicap League - LLCC Yellow v Stony Stratford - Away
- 20 EACF Handicap League - LLCC Green v LLCC Yellow
- 25 Annual Garden Party
- 30 Watford Friendly - Away
- 31 Stony Stratford Friendly - Away

### September

- 5 Wingrave Friendly - Away
- 12 Committee Meeting
- 14 LJB 70+ Trophy
- 18 High Wycombe Friendly - Away - 6 people
- 22/23 Club Doubles
- 29/30 Club Singles

### November

- 9 AGM & Party