

LEIGHTON-LINSLADE CROQUET CLUB

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Wednesday 8th
August 2012

At 1.00 pm - Page's Park pavilion

Minutes

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

1. Welcome

David opened the meeting and welcomed Peter Cole to join the committee with the specific role of representing our club at the Leighton Linlade Sports Council.

2. Apologies for absence

Roger had received an email from Malcolm Kirby with apologies for not being able to attend the meeting.

3. Minutes of meeting held on 13th June 2012

3.1 Garden Party

Len had spoken to Diana re the Garden Party as there was only a few members were interested in going. After a discussion it was decided cancel the Garden Party and Len will talk to Diana.

David then signed the minutes as an accurate record of our meeting.

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

4.1 Wearing whites at weekends

Discussion had taken place with members on this topic and the general consensus is that it should be optional not mandatory.

4.2 Sports Council

Peter Cole, now co 'opted onto the committee, has written to the Council on 24th July requesting details of forthcoming meetings. To date Peter has not had a response.

4.3 Visit by Dunstable Croquet Club

John Cundell had received a letter from Ronnie Richardson saying how successful the visit was and that they would like to have another visit next year.

4.4 Methodist Venture Group

Members of the committee stated that this group visit to our club went well.

5. Secretary's report including correspondence to Club

Nothing to report.

6. Treasurer's report

6.1 Rent Reduction Request

Len said that he had previously written to the Council asking if they would review the annual 5% increase due to the current economic climate. Having no response, Len paid the annual rent to the Council. Since paying this bill, Len has heard from the Council saying that our request for the reduction will go to the Council Committee meeting on 3rd September.

6.2 Cash Balance

Len commented that there was a reduction in our cash balance. This was due to having paid rent to the Council, purchasing a mower and a scarifier. The committee thanked Len for his hard work.

7. Membership Secretary's Report

John Cundell reported that he had given out a few membership application forms.

8. Fixture Secretary

8.1 EACF League

John Thorp reported that there are three league matches remaining.

8.2 Friendlies

Remaining friendly matches are away at Watford, Stony Stratford, Wingrave & High Wycombe. The matches at Wingrave & High Wycombe are limited to 6 members each.

8.3 Club Tournaments

The John Fogg Mens' Doubles is set up for the coming weekend with 14 entries.

8.3.1 Club Singles

David proposed that we split the club singles tournaments (handicap & level play) into separate tournaments for ladies and men. After discussion it was agreed to put this item on the agenda for the AGM.

9. Internal Handicaps

David Ball proposed that everyone new starting handicap games in the club, using the white card system, should be started on a 7. After much discussion, John Cundell stated that he had been requested by a Croquet Association Officer on the Handicap Committee that we should use the CA green card for Club Championships - the Handicap Singles and the Level Play Singles. White cards are only to be used for introducing members to handicap croquet and playing sociably at Page's Park. The idea of the white card is to protect more experienced players ending up with a false handicap whilst playing beginners. 'White card' initial handicaps will be decided by our Handicap Committee. 'White card' holders who then decide to move on to playing singles games at League, Inter-Club, B-Level, etc. will be given a Green Card based on their white card or as decided by our Handicap Committee as necessary

10. Diary Dates update

No specific updates.

11. Lawns & Equipment

11.1 Lawn Maintenance

John Cundell reported that a group of people have formed who generally carry out routine lawn maintenance – David, Malcolm, Ross, Pauline, Vic, John Thorp & John Cundell.

It was also reported that we have purchased a new scarifier replacing the one that broke down. John also said that we should be looking at putting down some top dressing over the winter months.

Next week council will bring up the top dressing it has in store for improving the right hand third area of lawn 2. They will scarify the lawn before laying the top dressing.

John also suggested that we should rotary cut once in January and once in February. There was a further discussion about the requirement of a 'turf cutter' which would allow us to replace sections of turf around each hoop. John Thorp will collect further information to allow discussion at the next meeting.

11.2 Replacement doors

No progress to date on the replacement doors.

11.3 Additional Gazebo

It was decided previously to get another small gazebo – will make the purchase during the winter when they might be reduced in price. Len will follow this up.

12. Club Dinner

David suggested that we continue to use Leighton Buzzard Golf Club.

Val thought that we ought to look for a larger place and suggested the Queens Head at Wing. Val will collect information and report at the next meeting. It will be planned for the end of March 2013.

13. Any other business

David queried whether to extend the season? It was decided that we would leave the lawns open for October and review it on an on-going basis. It was noted that the league matches will be over by end of August.

Tony Stammers met John Connew recently who commented that he was very pleased to have received a card from our club during his recent illness.

Peter Cole asked if he could bring his son plus a representative of Wickes to have a go at croquet on 18th August with a view to a possible corporate event with the company. It was decided that this was fine.

Meeting closed at 2.20pm