

LEIGHTON-LINSLADE CROQUET CLUB
GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING
12th September 2012
At 13.00 pm - Page's Park Pavilion

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

MINUTES

1. Welcome

David Ball welcomed members. As Roger Stroud could not be present, John Cundell would be Acting Secretary for this meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

Roger Stroud, Peter Cole.

3. Minutes of meeting held on 8th August 2012

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

4. Secretary's Report

JC reported that there was no correspondence passed on from the Secretary.

5. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Len Buckingham passed around the latest Balance Sheet. There were no comments on this.

He reported that our request to the Town Council Leisure Committee with regards to our request of 5th July to reduce our annual 5% increase in fees had been discussed at Council, and it was resolved that no change should be made to the existing agreement in respect of the 5% increase in fees.

Len explained that he and John Cundell were putting together a grant application to the Council for £500 towards lawn improvement. The progress so far was given to the meeting who were in agreement with the application. Len read out a news item to be included in the next newsletter explaining why the club needs to hold considerable capital reserves, and that such statement would be added to the grant application to explain same to the Council. The meeting was happy with the general wording of the item.

6 Lawn Maintenance

A general winter programme of maintenance is in hand. The Council will be carrying out work in early October on Lawn 2, plus worm and weed control on all three lawns. Our small maintenance team will carry out winter work as necessary; mowing, scarifying; plus top dressing as can be afforded. If required the Council will be asked to order top dressing on our behalf.

The committee agreed in principle to purchase a 'Lawn Doctor' in the new year; either from grant funding or from club funds if the necessary funding is available.

Regarding replacement gazebos it was agreed that we wait until the new year when it may be possible to purchase these at a reduced rate through contacts of the Treasurer.

7 Fixtures

It was agreed that in spite of the extreme problems with the weather, our fixtures had been successful, especially the two new Friendlies. The Chairman asked for a vote of thanks to John Thorp for his excellent organisation and commitment to this year's fixtures.

8 Other Events

a) Garden Party

There was a general discussion as to why the Garden Party had to be cancelled. It was agreed that this should be raised at the AGM to ascertain what we should do for 2013.

b) Annual Dinner

Following on from the previous committee meeting, Val Jeffers, Len Buckingham and David Ball had investigated costs and venues for the annual dinner held at the end of March. There was much discussion on all aspects of the dinner. It was agreed that one of the major complaints was the previous practice of asking for the full amount some five months ahead of the dinner. John Cundell proposed that when the invitation forms are circulated at the AGM, a deposit of £10 was required on a first come/first served basis. This would be non-returnable except for example, medical emergencies. The balance would be collected as near as possible to the dinner date.

There was then a vote on venue with a unanimous decision to remain at The Golf Club, Leighton Buzzard.

Val Jeffers was thanked for raising the issue and obtaining information from The Queen's Head at Wing.

9 Annual General Meeting

a) AGM Pack

Roger Stroud will produce the AGM Information Pack and will include reports from the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. This will be emailed except for non-email members who will receive a printed copy. Unexamined accounts will also be emailed before the AGM for members to print off and bring along to the AGM.

b) Trophies

Trophies are being returned to John Cundell for engraving. David Ball will produce display literature for the awards and trophies won by members at other clubs, and they are to be asked to bring these along for display.

c) Newsletter

John Cundell will be circulating the season round-up newsletter in early October that will be 24 pages long.

10 Any Other Business

a) Social Club

The Social Club mornings will restart on 10th October at Page's Park Pavilion.

Meeting closed at 2.26pm.