



LEIGHTON-LINSLADE CROQUET CLUB

Founded 2000

2011 - 12th Annual General Meeting

Minutes

Held on Friday 11th November at Northall Village Hall.

1. Welcome by Chairman

David Ball our Chairman welcomed everyone and was pleased to see such a good turnout, also welcoming the Town Mayor Gordon Perham and his wife Carole.

2. Receive apologies for absence

Roger said he had received apologies for absence from Margaret Marshall, Don Barrett, Ken & Maureen Gorton, Irene & Peter Davis, Judi Priestly, Tony Wells & George Lawson.

3. Approve minutes of the 11th AGM (12.11.2010)

David asked if he could take the minutes of the last AGM as an accurate record of that meeting. Tom Miller pointed out that in the minutes of the previous AGM, he was carrying out a survey of members to determine the average age. The result showed the average age to be 72 years old. John Thorp proposed, seconded by Len Buckingham, that we agree the previous minutes - everyone at the meeting then agreed with the proposal and David signed a copy of the 2010 AGM minutes.

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

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

4.1 Chairman's Report

David firstly spoke of his appreciation of the 'dedicated few' - a few members behind the scenes that carry out a lot of work for the club. An example of this is that at the end of the season, six members spent a day and a half scarifying the lawns, saving us a potential cost of £600.

David asked the members to show their appreciation for those involved at which point the members applauded.

David also asked members to show appreciation to all those who carry out the various jobs throughout the year and again the members applauded.

There were no questions for David, therefore Tom Miller proposed that we adopt the report which was seconded by Ronnie Richardson, followed by agreement from the members.

4.2 Secretary's Report

Roger thanked John Cundell for acting as Secretary for much of the year due to Roger moving house. He also stating that whilst we are in difficult economic times, the membership fee of our club is very good value for money.

Roger commented stating that whilst there are some members who take part in many competitions throughout the year, there is a greater proportion of members who visit the lawns playing croquet as a social activity.

Roger also thanked Tony Wells for his five years on the committee as he has had to stand down due to other commitments.

John Cundell was congratulated for the newsletters produced periodically throughout the year. Roger mentioned that some members of other croquet clubs look forward to reading John's newsletter on the CA website.

There were no questions for Roger, so Richard Keighley proposed that we adopt the report, seconded by Florrie Jeater, and approved by those present.

David also thanked John Cundell for his hard work whilst Acting Secretary for a long period during the year.

4.3 Treasurer's Report

Len Buckingham firstly said that since sending out the statement of accounts in the Information Pack, the accounts have been certified and if anyone wanted to see the certification details they are welcome to look at them on the table.

Len then asked members if there are any questions regarding the accounts.

Judith Cundell asked what the overnight expenses were in the accounts. Len said that he and David had asked for and were given a grant of £300 from the Sports Council in order to attend a refereeing course to cover for travelling expenses and overnight accommodation which was necessary. The amount actually used was less than the grant and the balance was transferred to the club fund.

Len went on to say that our club had agreed to pay the Council an annual increase of 5% per year for the lawns rent, and he has now asked the Council to possibly reduce this percentage increase considering the current economic climate.

He felt that the Croquet Association would not increase their fees this year and possibly a small increase next year and also said that our CA fees do include our insurance cover.

During the year we spent £830 on lawn treatment and managed to get £100 discount.

Len also said that he will continue to get as much income as possible from a number of sources including the Sports Council.

The Social club showed a profit and Len re-iterated that the Social Club is open to anyone, not just club members, so if you want to bring a friend then all are welcome.

Len proposed that we increase our membership fees by £5 to £70 – whilst reluctant to carry out this increase to retain as many members as possible. All members agreed this proposal.

Len said that he and David would try to arrange corporate events to help raise funds for the club and could need helpers to assist in the running and organisation of these events. It is possible when running a corporate event that we may need to hire a hall for a few hours plus caterers.

We are also trying to get a self drive mower.

John Thorp asked about the fee for a Junior and it was agreed it is £15 and that it would be further discussed at our next committee meeting.

It is recognised that we will need some storage beyond our small clubhouse room to keep items such as the new mower, and following discussions with the Council it was agreed that we may be able to have a half size container.

Len thought it would be a good idea to visit a car boot sale for items left over from a previous table top sale.

There were no further questions for Len and John Thorp proposed that we adopt the Treasurer's report which was seconded by Malcolm Kirby and agreed by all members.

At this point David thanked all members of committee for making his job as Chairman so much easier.

5. Membership Fee for 2012

It was agreed that the membership fee for 2012 will be £70.

6. Appoint an auditor

Marjorie Cliffe has agreed to act for another year.

7. Elect Officers – Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer

David said that current Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer had all agreed to stand again for 2012 and suggested a single proposal for all three posts. This proposal was made by Richard Keighley, seconded by Tom Miller and agreed by members.

8. Elect general committee members

David said that Tony Wells was unable to stand again and has worked hard for 5 years organising matches with other clubs.

The remainder of the current committee have agreed to stand, that is John Cundell (Vice-Chairman), Eve Buckingham, John Thorp, Tony Stammers and Val Jeffers. The proposal to accept these on-going committee members was made by Sally Clay and seconded by Richard Keighley.

Roger said that there was one nomination for a new committee member – Malcolm Kirby. The proposal to accept Malcolm was made by John Thorp and seconded by Eve Buckingham and agreed by members.

Margaret Brown said that it would be nice if there were more ladies on the committee. David replied that there were no other nominations and Margaret's comment might be considered by lady members in the future.

9. Presentation of awards

All trophies were awarded, being presented by the Mayor.

Mix & Match Handicap Doubles: –	John Cundell and Roger Stroud Runners up Martin Field and Vic Peddar
Mix & Match Ladies Doubles: –	Judith & Una Pengelly Runners up Sheila Guest and Val Jeffers
John Fogg Trophy	John Cundell and Malcolm Kirby Runners up Tony Wells and Richard Keighley
Handicap Singles	Roger Stroud Runner up Malcolm Kirby
LJB 70+ Trophy	David Ball
LJB 70+ Plate	Irene Davis
LJB Consolation	Yvonne Banks
Doubles	John Cundell and Richard Keighley Runners up Sheila Beal and Eve Buckingham
Singles	Roger Stroud Runner up Jean Ball

Hunstanton / Leighton Linlade Golf Croquet Challenge – winner Leighton Linlade accepted by John Cundell, team captain.

Also on display were trophies won by David Ball at Nottingham and Roger Stroud at Hunstanton.

10. Any other business

10.1 Annual garden party

David thanked Diana for hosting our annual garden party and presented her with a floral tribute. There has been comment from a number of members that we change the starting time to 1pm and have lunch such as cold meats and salad etc., rather than afternoon tea. A vote was taken and there was a strong majority of at least 21 in favour and 3 against

10.2 Annual Dinner

David said that our Annual dinner is on 21st March at Leighton Buzzard Golf Club and will be restricted to 38 people so please book early.

11. Closing remarks

David concluded in his closing remarks that 'what a year' we have had and that next year will be even better. Also, for those interested in competitions there will be even more next year. He concluded by wishing all present a Happy Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year to everyone.

Malcolm Kirby also welcomed David back after his operation.



LEIGHTON-LINSLADE CROQUET CLUB

Founded 2000

Secretary: - Roger Stroud

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2011 AGM Nomination Form

Please use this form to nominate candidates for the Offices shown and for membership of the General Committee. Please ensure that nominations have the consent of the candidate. I require this information by the 28th October so either phone or email me.

I wish to nominate _____ for the office of **Chairperson**.

Proposer _____ Seconder _____

I wish to nominate _____ for the office of **Secretary**.

Proposer _____ Seconder _____

I wish to nominate _____ for the office of **Treasurer**.

Proposer _____ Seconder _____

I wish to nominate the following members to serve on the General Committee (max 8)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

Proposer _____

Seconder _____



LEIGHTON-LINSLADE CROQUET CLUB

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2010 - 11th Annual General Meeting

MINUTES

Held on Friday 12th November at Northall Village Hall

1. Welcome by the Chairman

Tom welcomed 31 members and Marjorie Cliffe, our auditor, who has kindly agreed to present our prizes; also welcoming any new members who are attending for the first time. Tom also pointed out where there are repairs in progress to the floor requesting that everyone be careful not to trip over.

Tom asked everyone if they could sign the attendance sheet being passed around and also said that everyone should have received an information pack containing the agenda and the reports of the Chairman, Secretary and the Treasurer.

2. Apologies for absence

Tom announced that he had invited Joan Slow and had recently received a call from her declining the invitation as she is ill. Also he had received apologies from Nigel and Julie Clark.

Roger said that he had received apologies from the following people: -

George & Margaret Lawson, Diana Phelps, Caroline Stroud, Denise Ewing, Rose Gillett, Erica Fogg, Gillian Antosiewicz, Roy & Joy Liggett, Ann & Vernon Smith, Yvonne Banks & Irene Davis.

3. Approve minutes of the 10th AGM (13.11.2009)

Tom asked if he could take the minutes of the last AGM as an accurate record of that meeting.

Everyone at the meeting agreed and Tom signed the copy of the minutes of the 2009 AGM.

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

Tom pointed out that these reports had been circulated to all members and hoped that everyone has had a chance to read them in advance.

For the Chairman, Secretary & Treasurer reports Tom wished to handle them as follows:

- a) Each of us in turn will present our report and then take questions in our turn.
- b) After all three of us have spoken Tom will ask for proposers, seconders and voting to adopt each report.
- c) Approval of the membership fee recommendation for 2011 will then have a separate seconder and voting, as the Treasurer will have proposed it.

4.1 Chairman's Report

Tom paid tributes to Len, Tony Wells and Roger, who through various personal difficulties have soldiered on with their roles for the Club. "Thank you". He explained one of his difficulties during the year related to our relationship with Leighton Linlade Town Council on two particular issues.

4.1.1 Social Club

Tom explained that it was related to the hiring cost of the Pages Park Pavilion, which is not just for members of the croquet club, visitors are also welcome.

In March we found ourselves battling the imposition, retrospectively, of a 523% rise in the hire charge. He presented our case to the Town Council's Leisure & Community Committee and, thankfully, the increase was rescinded.

However, this decision only applied until April 2010. So, for this winter we needed to engage them afresh. Having put together an amended strategy, he again presented to the same committee on 25th October.

Prior to the meeting, Len especially did a great deal of researching of the costs of alternative venues. Tony Stammers and John Cundell chipped in. However, all along the preferred option was to remain at Page's Park because, whilst it is not a high quality venue, it has certain advantages. The research showed that to hire an alternative venue the minimum cost, for a two hour session, would be £18 compared to the £5.12 we had been paying. Via Tony there was the possibility of using the Bowls Club pavilion for an agreed donation.

The Council Leisure and Community Committee resolved that we would be charged £5.22 until 1st April 2011 and then £5.48 until April 2012. So we know where we stand for the next 18 months. The Officers hope you consider this a good result.

4.1.2 Formal Agreement with the Town Council

Tom had explained the background to this issue in his written report. On 27th September, the Town Council officials indicated that rather than an agreement that simply put down on paper what the Club has enjoyed for the last 10 years, they wanted the Club to pay a peppercorn rent but take over all the lawn maintenance and be responsible for making good any vandalism. Our General Committee met two days later on 29th September; as a result Tom wrote to the Council Officials dismissing the vandalism element but said we would investigate the other aspects of the option.

Tom had obtained a copy of the agreement between the tennis club and the Town Council as well as acknowledging complaints from within the croquet club as to the standard of the playing surface.

The view was taken that we should avoid such an onerous imposition. In any case, the Council had failed to come back with their draft document.

But what of maintaining the lawns ourselves? Again from much research, it was concluded that we should look to contract out the work. However, if we did this the annual subscription would need to rise to £122.

Therefore, we looked at what we called a hybrid approach, with Club looking after treatments for the lawn – that's fertilising and weed killing etc. plus scarifying – plus we would do the

white lining. Most importantly, in this strategy, the Council would continue to mow and water the lawns.

This approach, we calculated, could mean a subscription increase to £76 pa. Thanks again to people's time and effort, from the subscription rates for 17 other clubs, we deduced that the average is £112 pa.

So armed with the agreed strategy, he and Richard met the Council officials last Monday and proposed that the Croquet Club would look after the treatments and white lining AND pay them £1500 – this year's fee – plus 5% each year of the Agreement.

Where we now stand is that the officials have accepted “in principle” what I have described, subject to:

- a) Their internal discussions
- b) They will then re-draft the agreement we had previously produced for them and forward it for the Club's agreement
- c) This then needs to go to their lawyers – then back to us – and finally before the Leisure & Community Committee on 14th February.
- d) The intention is that the Agreement takes effect from 1st April 2011.

Tom pointed out the implications for the Club?

- a. The agreement is for 6 years with what is known as a break clause after 3. This means that at the end of 3 years, either side can give the other 12 month's notice but has to compensate the other by the subsequent 2 years fees. Therefore we have at least 4 years security of tenure but should have £3924.56 in the bank at 31st March 2015, in case we wish to pull out.
- b. Compared to the past, the Club would have to arrange and have the extra cost of lawn treatments and scarifying plus white lining.
- c. We would know what fees we are to pay for the next 6 years.

On the afternoon prior to the AGM the Town Council agreed to our proposal in principle and had re-drafted the agreement for our consideration.

Tom added a word of caution regarding the response from the Council to ensure that the wording ‘weekly mowing’ is retained and then asked if anyone had any questions.

Margaret Brown asked “*what will be the charges for next year*”?

Tom replied in saying that the charges for next season will be £1,575 – that is £1,500 (the 2010 Charge) plus 5%.

Elaine Newman asked, “*Regarding our use of a white lining machine, will we share a machine with others to minimise cost*”. Len answered by saying that “*he is following up several possibilities regarding shared use of a machine*”. John Cundell mentioned that it had been currently done every few weeks by the council.

John Thorp posed the question, regarding the ‘peppercorn option’ – “*is there someone around who would want to earn £1500 pa to mow the lawn*”. Len answered the question – “*we have been in touch with 5 contractors to potentially do our mowing and the cost of having it done is prohibitive*”. John Cundell added that the cost of the council mower maintenance was £1000pa.

Margaret Brown asked if, within the Agreement, “*Is the use of water & electricity included*”? Tom answered by saying that it is.

Peter Davis commented that our club is a bargain in that the Watford & Stony Stratford croquet clubs cost members £100pa.

Richard Keighley commented that it is important to build on the goodwill between our club and the Town Council built up over the 10 years.

Tom re-iterated that in general we will contract work out rather than ask our members to carry it out and whilst small tasks might be tackled by our members, mowing the lawns for example is ‘a bridge too far’.

Tom concluded by asking the members present to take part this evening in a survey of members ages retaining anonymity just writing down your age and putting the slips in the box provided. The information gained from this will be used at the meeting with the Leisure & Community Committee on 14th February. Tom also explained that he is willing to continue with the specific project in dealing with the Town Council if the new Chairman and the Committee wish him to do so. He has not put his name forward to be on the Committee and does not wish to be co-opted. He would not be dealing with other issues with LLTC, e.g. the H&S Risk Assessment or, say, deficiencies with the toilets.

It was agreed by the members generally that a good deal had been obtained for members and the meeting endorsed the re-drafted agreement.

4.2 Secretary’s Report

Roger thanked Tom Miller and Richard Keighley for the immense work they had carried out for well over a year now, with support from other members, in the negotiations with the Town Council which should give us a fine base for the future.

Roger also remarked that our newsletter is well respected and enjoyed not only by our club members, but also by many other clubs. It was this that prompted the decision to approach the CA, assisted by Tom Miller, suggesting that John Cundell be awarded a CA Diploma.

Tom added that our Town Council send a copy of our club newsletter to other Councils, clearly demonstrating the quality of our newsletter.

4.3 Treasurer’s Report

Len started his report by stating that all members owed an awful lot to Tom & Richard for their superb work.

Len presented the audited accounts for the year ending 31st October 2010.

He informed us that our yearly fees will now have to be £65 and not £60 as he had recommended in his earlier report feeling however that this still represents good value for

money. Maintaining the annual fee at this level does leave a shortfall of about £100 which will be made up from club funds.

Len advised us that it is not possible to predict what our annual fee will be in 2012 as we will get an idea throughout the 2011 season what costs are involved in maintaining our lawns.

He stated that in 2011 we will be paying the full Croquet Association levy (£7.30) as was agreed at previous AGM's; this is considered better value than separate insurance fees that would otherwise be necessary.

Len also pointed out that the Social Club annually raised about £400 for club funds.

He also suggested that advertising in our newsletter would raise funds for the club as well as trying to get a sponsor for the club. John Cundell suggested a cautious approach to these suggestions.

Eve mentioned that the Social Club is open to everyone, not just club members.

Roger proposed that both Len Buckingham & Irene Stevens have a free year for 2011 due to their inability to play during the 2010 season due to illness. This was seconded by David Ball and approved by all members.

Tom re-iterated that the agreement covers for a season of 29 weeks.

4.4 Reports Adoption

The reports just presented were then put to meeting for adoption.

Chairman's Report: Proposal to accept by David Ball and seconded by John Thorp and accepted unanimously.

Secretary's Report: Proposal to accept by Don Barrett and seconded by Eve Buckingham and accepted unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Proposal to accept by Val Jeffers and seconded by Brian Ferris and accepted unanimously.

5. Membership Fee for 2011

The Treasurer's proposed that the membership fee for 2011 be increased to £65 per member which was seconded by Margaret Brown and was accepted unanimously by the members.

6. Appointment of an auditor

Marjorie Cliffe has very kindly agreed to act for us again next year so Tom proposed Marjorie to be the auditor which was seconded by Richard. This was unanimously agreed by the members.

7. Election of the Officers – Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer

Tom announced that he is retiring as Chairman at this AGM. One nomination has been received for Chairman - David Ball. This was unanimously agreed by all members present. Tom said that he has agreed with David that he will take over as Chairman after the trophies have been presented.

Len and Roger said they are prepared to serve again for another year and have accordingly been proposed and seconded. There being no other nominations and all members present agreed with those appointments.

8. Election of the Members of the General Committee:

Tom pointed out that during the year Peter Davis was asked to take on a role external to the Club which, he felt, meant he could not continue to play his usual full role on our Committee, which was fully understood. Therefore, he stepped down from the committee part way through the year.

Also, Margaret Lawson indicated that if there was somebody to take her place, she would wish to step down at this meeting. Tom thanked them both for the service they have given the club.

Tom also said that all other members of the General Committee were willing to serve again. They have all been nominated along with John Thorp. They are John Cundell (as Vice Chairman), Tony Wells (as Fixtures Secretary), Eve Buckingham, Val Jeffers and Tony Stammers.

As there were no other nominations Tom asked the members for adoption which was unanimously agreed.

Tom also asked that if there is anyone else who would be willing to serve on the committee but is hiding their light under a bushel, he would be sure that David would be very pleased to hear from them.

Tom thanked the Committee for their commitment and patience in some rather lengthy meetings, while we wrestled with some difficult issues. Without your help the Officers would be struggling!

In addition, Tom stated we have the long list of specific, non-executive roles, without which the Club frankly just would not function. He was unaware that anyone of them wished to step down, and paid tribute to their unstinting help. A list will be given in the first Newsletter of 2011.

9. Presentation of awards

Tom announced that prior to the presentation of general awards he would like to make a special award to Richard Keighley.

Tom said that whilst there have been a number of people who have made significant contributions to the Club and helped me this year; there is one person who we must recognise as making a major input. He has very quietly, behind the scenes worked hard on all your behalves and given great help & support and, through his expertise, has saved us a lot of

money. That is Richard Keighley. Richard was then presented with an award of a book on cricket which is another interest of Richard's.

Tom also said that earlier this year the Croquet Association re-published its Guide to Golf Croquet, which had been updated by our members, John & Richard and that we would like to have a copy of this book signed by both of them for the Club's archive.

Marjorie formally presented John Cundell with the CA Diploma which was awarded to John for his services to croquet.

Marjorie then presented the trophies for the 2010 season: -

Mix 'n Match Handicap Doubles Runners up	Peter Stevens and John Thorp Sheila Beal and Sally Clay
Mix 'n Match Ladies Doubles Runners up	Eve Buckingham and Margaret Lawson Judith Pengelly and Caroline Stroud
The John Fogg Trophy Runners up	David Ball and John Cundell Richard Keighley and Roy Kemp
Handicap Singles Runner up	John Thorp John Cundell
Doubles Runners up	David and Jean Ball John Cundell and Tom Miller
Singles Runner up	David Ball Sally Clay

At this point, John Cundell & Len Buckingham re-iterated the appreciation felt by everyone about the work done by Tom & Richard this year. Marjorie then presented Tom with a lead crystal whisky glass engraved with the club logo and the words "Tom Miller O.B.E., Chairman 2009/10".

Marjorie was then presented with a horticultural gift for both acting as our auditor and presenting our awards. Mention was made that Diana Phelps had been given a similar gift the previous day for allowing the club to use her house and garden for the Annual Garden Party.

10. Any other business:

David announced that the club annual dinner has been organised and will be held at Leighton Buzzard Golf Club on 25th March. Also, numbers are limited to 40 people so please put your names forward if you wish to go as soon as possible.

Tony Stammers explained the organisation of the raffle for the evening.

11. Closing remarks

Tom said that it truly has been an honour to be Chairman for the last two years. However, he is looking forward to returning to anonymity “on the back benches” and once again becoming the guy who turns up late, is a bit too enthusiastic and noisy on the lawns and is usually first to the cakes. He also said that last year the Chairman at Letchworth told him that our Club is a beacon for collective contribution to running a club.

Tom also commented that at the end of this week’s meeting with officials at the Town Council, the Deputy Town Clerk thanked our club for the approach we had taken and said it was very honourable; and if we are known as an honourable Club, that is enough for me and is a great reflection on you its members.

David then spoke as the new Chairman.

He initially again thanked Tom & Richard for their efforts during the year.

“Tom’s closing remarks a year ago were “this coming year, the theme is one of ‘what a fortunate club’ and we are going forward”.

Well – wasn’t he right and what a good year for the club and it’s members.

We have three lawns, two teams in the league, with the A team coming second in the league with the B team doing well towards the end of the season.

The A team travelled to Newcastle for the Murphy Trophy and came second.

We purchased equipment to assist in setting and adjusting the hoops.

Our club had individual members competing in competitions in Ipswich, Nottingham, Watford, Edgbaston and Hunstanton where Roger won the day and came home with an engraved trophy.

John Cundell and Richard Keighley updated the Third Edition of ‘A Guide to Golf Croquet’.

We visited Hunstanton leaving the cup there but intending to be collecting it next year.

In general, there was a lot of fun and enjoyment and very competitive play amongst a few.

And to finish the season, well deserved diploma presented to John Cundell for his dedication to our club, the Croquet Association, and help to croquet in general.

Next year will be even better with lots more going on and recognition of our club amongst others.

On behalf of the committee and himself, David wished all those who do not attend our Wednesday morning club a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous and Healthy New Year and looked forward to seeing you on March 25th at the Annual Dinner and of course on the COURTS.”

The meeting closed at 9.02pm.

2011 - THE CHAIRMANS REPORT

WHAT A YEAR FOR THE LEIGHTON-LINSLADE CROQUET CLUB

We started of the year with the Town Clerk Pat Kingsnorth and me signing the 6 year license. John Cundell was honoured with the presentation of the Leighton-Linslade Sports Award. Well done John!

Still in March we had our 2010 Annual Club Dinner which was held at the Leighton Buzzard Golf Club. It was a great success thanks to Malcolm for his suggestion and support.

As usual we had our Town Mayor Gordon Perham accompanied by his wife the Mayoress Carole for the official opening of the Croquet Club which was followed by many enjoyable games being played on all three courts.

For those of you who are not aware we have seven members who belong to the Croquet Association which gives them the opportunity of taking part in competitions anywhere in the country and I'm pleased to say we had at least three wins and three seconds also another trophy was won in Hunstanton and one of our teams brought back the Trophy from Hunstanton which we loaned them last year.

I'm sure you will all remember our B Team thrashing our A team by 16-2 and going onto the semi-finals and doing the same to Hunstanton at Newport 15-3. The final was to be played at Bury St. Edmunds against Enfield and they came a close second at 10-8. What a good effort by our B Team!

Thanks to Richard we had a Golf Croquet Improvers Course held at Pages Park. Assisting Richard were our other three coaches and two more from Watford. This proved to be a great success with many compliments from the players.

I'm pleased to say that after negotiations with the council they have agreed to do all treatments added to what they already do during the playing season which leaves us to do all other treatments and work needed during the closed season.

As usual we have had all our Club Competitions and events including a new one dreamt up by Len (over 70's) which was a great success. They have all been well supported and enjoyed and I'm pleased to say a few new names on the Honours Board.

The Come and Try Day was well supported by the members even with a stall selling produce and bric-a-brac which raised over £100.00. Sadly not many takers but I understand we have a promise of a few new members.

Later in our season the Chairman of the Croquet Association arrived at Pages Park to re-examine Len and Myself for the referee's course. I am pleased to say that Len passed. Well done Len!. We now have four Coaches and one Referee in our club.

The next Annual Croquet Dinner will be held again at the Leighton Buzzard Golf Club on the 23rd. March 2012 and the venue only holds 38 people so If you are interested you must book early to avoid disappointed.

Those of you who are interested will see we now have a range of clothing for the club which will be on view at the A.G.M.

Again the Garden Party was well supported and I'm sure you will all agree we had great fun and a good feast, Thanks again to Diane

By my report and the news letters written by John you will see that the Club has achieved a great deal this year and I'm sure we will be recognised by the Croquet Association and many other clubs.

I cannot finish my report without mentioning “THE DEDICATED FEW” I hope you have read the paragraph in the news letter as I shall be asking you to show your appreciation in the usual manner.

It has been a pleasure and an honour to have spent the last year as your Chairman and I must thank all the committee and members who have all supported me so well and I have thoroughly enjoyed the year.

Many Thanks, David.

Secretary's Report

For most of the year I was unable to carry out the role of Secretary because I was Project Managing the rebuilding of part of our house. During this period, John Cundell acted as Secretary - thank you John.

This year has been a time of change with our club taking on board much of the responsibility of lawn maintenance and going through a learning curve with most of the various aspects of lawn maintenance.

We are all going through tough economic times but our annual membership fee still represents extremely good value for money.

Our committee members and several other members have worked hard during the year on both the various competitions and maintaining the assets of the club, particularly the lawn.

On our club competition days we are ever grateful for the organisation skills of Judith Cundell, particularly keeping the momentum going during the day.

Tony Wells has served on our committee for five years and also been our Fixture Secretary. Tony is unable to continue as a committee member. Thanks Tony for all the hard work you have put in over the years.

Roger Stroud
Club Secretary

Treasurers Report 2010/2011

Hallo valued member of Leighton Linslade Croquet Club! As usual I have been requested to report on the financial progress and status of the club. Firstly may I say that this report is being made on the 17th of September 2011, and all my comments are based on the situation at this time? It is my intention this year to try and provide all members with a balance sheet and summary of the financial situation as it will be on the 31st October 2011. This will not be authenticated by the auditor but it should give you more time to study the facts and figures.

The committee have asked me to increase our annual fee to £70 for the 2011to2012 season. The lawn rent for this period will increase to £1653.75, this equates to a minimum of 24 members at £70, we also will have to pay at least £7.30 for each and every member as capitation fees to the Croquet Association, which this year amounted to £401.50, reduced to £351.50 because we were allowed to deducted £10 for every member of the club who joins the CA during the current season (Please help to reduce our fees by joining this year, thank you). The club does get free insurance by being a member club, and we are also on their website, basically a good deal.

As you will be aware we are now responsible for the end of season lawn maintenance, a matter being looked into by the committee at this time, we have also looked into the purchase of a container for the storage of many of the items at present cluttering up the clubhouse. Enquiries have shown that the purchase of a second hand container 10ft by 8ft will cost delivered and installed on site at least £1350 plus Vat. Once again we are looking to obtain a grant which may enable us to proceed down this route, providing of course the Council will allow a container to be sited next to the existing Council container. Should they offer us a different site then we will have the further cost of providing a hard standing for a container.

Although over the past 11 years we have managed to accrue some £8000, this only means that we have actually on average saved £727.00 each year since the clubs inception and this without the expenses we now find ourselves facing in future years. I have inquired of many other clubs as to how much they pay for membership, and most are much higher than ours, and some are as high as £220 per year, plus they pay a set amount on top of this for every game they play.

A happy and satisfied membership is the most important and overriding concern of your committee, we have a reputation of being one of the most welcoming and highly regarded clubs in the Association, and we intend to protect this image at all costs. Will you please take time to study the balance and summary sheets when they are sent to you? We will want your feed back with regard to how we finance and progress the club through the 2011-2012 season, it is your club, and you are the club. Thank you for reading this report, and please attend the A.G.M in November. If it is the wish of the membership I shall be willing to continue as treasurer in the 2011-2012 season.

Len Buckingham Honorary Treasurer

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