

LEIGHTON-LINSLADE CROQUET CLUB
GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING 12th January 2011
At 12.30 pm - Page's Park pavilion

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

Minutes

1. Welcome

David welcomed everyone to our first committee meeting of 2011.

2. Apologies for absence - none

David Ball congratulated John Cundell on achieving a 'Service towards Sport Award' from Leighton Linslade Sports Council.

3. Minutes of meeting held on 29th September 2010

No problems were identified so David signed a copy of the minutes.

4. Matters arising & review of Actions

4.1 Sports Council Grant

The grant application form was completed and submitted and we were awarded £300. Tony also commented that in future we need to have more supporting documentation, particularly from the CA, to back up any applications.

4.2 Letters re other croquet facilities

Val Jeffers and Tony Wells did not write to Ascott Hall and Heath & Reach Sports Club as they felt that we have reached a satisfactory agreement with Leighton Linslade Town Council.

4.3 Logo polo shirts

Judith has not progressed on prices and samples. John Cundell has spoken to Watford Croquet Club who is going to send some relevant information. John Thorp and Tony Stammers also offered to get some relevant information.

5. Secretary's report

5.1 Hunstanton Tournament 6 / 7 August

Roger received the details from Hunstanton Croquet Club and circulated the details at the meeting – application forms are available on their web site.

5.2 Hamptworth Croquet Club

Information received during the winter months regarding their winter croquet fixtures has been passed on as and when received.

5.3 Risk Assessment

This is up to date and will be reviewed periodically. Also, it was agreed that the assessment as it stands should be circulated with the newsletter published before the start of the season and a copy displayed in the Clubroom to be brought to the attention of visiting clubs.

6. Treasurer's report

6.1 VAT increase

Len not sure of the impact of the increase in the VAT rate and will investigate it further.

6.2 Funds

There is a balance in the bank of over £6,000 although we have not yet paid for the annual dinner.

6.3 White Lining Machine

He is also following up looking for a white lining machine for the croquet lawns and also suggested that Tony Wells talks to the schools as many of them have their own machines. A number of ideas were discussed but the general feeling is that we need a machine and Tony Wells will assist Len in the investigation.

7. Membership Secretary's Report

7.1 Membership Renewal

John said that his next task is to organise membership renewal. Membership renewal information will be in the newsletter published mid January. Judith Cundell anticipates a shortfall of up to 6 members.

7.2 Annual membership

John explained the note that Roy & Joy sent to the club regarding their membership. They raised the point that as they only found time to attend croquet once during 2010, they suggested that as they will be in a similar position during 2011, could they pay for each occasion they play croquet, rather than an annual membership. This was discussed and the decision was made to reject their suggestion and maintain our current policy of annual membership only.

Also that Roger would write to Roy & Joy and explain the club's position.

7.3 Come & try day

This event may attract new members it has been arranged for August this year.

8. Facilities & Equipment

8.1 Status on the three lawns

Council have already put some loam down and have cut the lawns already.

John and Len made the point that up until end of March 2011 maintenance of the lawns remains the responsibility of the Council. Assuming the new agreement is in place from 1st April the club will be responsible for lawn treatment.

8.2 Lawn treatments

John has extracted information from the quotes obtained by Richard Keighley and Tom Miller. He suggested a sub-committee of four should be set up once the agreement is in place to decide future treatment – John C, Len B, plus two others. Tony Wells will contact 2 local golf clubs for advice & useful information on lawn maintenance. Malcolm is to be asked if he can pick up similar information from his golf club – Leighton Buzzard.

8.3 First Aid Box

Eve spoke about the requirements for a first aid box and will ensure that we have all the necessary contents.

8.4 Club Chairs

John raised the point that one of our chairs collapsed last year when a visitor was sat in it. At our next meeting we will look at the quality and quantity of our chairs.

8.5 Clubhouse Rubbish Bin

Tony Wells raised the point that we needed a proper rubbish bin in the clubhouse rather than using a black bin liner loose on the floor. Everyone was in favour of that suggestion. Eve suggested it should be a small bin and agreed to source it.

9. Fixture's Secretary's report

9.1 New League

The EACF has announced the introduction of a new league to be level play. We are awaiting further details from EACF.

9.2 Schools

Due to the cut backs on schools funding – croquet involvement within schools is on hold currently.

9.3 Littlehampton

Littlehampton Croquet Club liked our club visit during 2010 and has suggested a further visit during 2011 on 31st May. Val made the point that she and other members who went on the 2010 visit felt that the fees to pay were expensive and the fish & chip supper not so good. Committee members were generally in favour of keeping the fixture seeing if there is enough interest in the club with a note on our board with first come first served. Tony will reply to Littlehampton and include the point about cost in his reply.

9.4 Sports Council

Tony Wells, who attends these meetings, said that the Sports Council committee would like to have an article from us to circulate within the town. Our committee felt this was a good idea which might attract more interest in our club and John will supply a suitable article.

9.5 Team Selection for League and Friendly's

Our decision is to continue the same process with the same members as last year.

10. Events

10.1 Opening Day

John suggested that March 26th is a good day to start using the lawns and the official opening by the Lord Mayor on 2nd or 3rd April. Roger to contact the Mayor's secretary to make the arrangements.

10.2 Improvers Coaching Day

Richard is planning to run an improvers coaching day (not beginners) but has not yet settled on a date.

10.3 Club events for the season

John has published all planned club events in the forthcoming newsletter which will be circulated in the next few days. Attached to the newsletter is a membership renewal form. An edited newsletter will go to Council & EACF website.

Handicap days remain at Sun am & all day Tuesday

B class tournament at Wrest Park – June 22nd

Tues times remain the same 10 – 12, 2 - 4 as last season

11. Members Roles

John had circulated a list of proposed member's roles for 2011 having already discussed roles with those involved.

11.1 Officers, Committee and Specific Duty Appointments

11.1.1 Officers

Chairman	David Ball
Secretary	Roger Stroud
Treasurer	Len Buckingham

11.1.2 Committee

Ex officio members

Vice Chairman	John Cundell
Fixture Secretary	Tony Wells

Members

Val Jeffers	Tony Stammers
John Thorp	Eve Buckingham

11.1.3 Specific Duties & Non-Executive

Membership Secretary	Judith Cundell
Welfare Secretary	Judith Cundell
Competition Organisers & Managers	

Handicappers	Len Buckingham, John Cundell, David Ball and Tony Wells
Lawn Layout & Maintenance	John Cundell & Len Buckingham
Catering Manager	Len Buckingham, John Cundell, David Ball, Tony Wells & John Thorp
Assisted by	Val Jeffers
Quartermaster	Eve Buckingham, Margaret Lawson, Jean Ball & Judith Cundell
Newsletter	Eve Buckingham
Registers	John Cundell
Archivist	Len Buckingham & Judith Cundell
Scoring Manager	volunteer required
Sports Council	Irene Davis
Publicity/Press	Tony Wells
Child Protection	David Ball
Coaching	Richard Keighley
During the discussion, John added: -	Richard Keighley, David Ball, Eve Buckingham & John Cundell
Schools Liaison	Tony Wells
Selection Committee	John Cundell, Len & Eve Buckingham, John Thorp, George Lawson & Tony Wells
Safety Officer	John Thorp

12. Any other business

12.1 John Thorp

He will not organise a 'ladder' during 2011 as there was little interest during the 2010 season.

12.2 Tony Wells

Tony described the recent Sports Council Meeting. There were 17 sports bodies there and the Town Council turned up at the meeting. The Croquet Club was awarded a £300 grant. Tom Miller had put John's name forward and he was awarded a 'Service to Sport' award. John may be on holiday when the presentation will be made so David may go to accept the award.

12.3 Len

Len has constructed a letter to circulate local businesses offering a 'Corporate Evening' at our Croquet Club. Details include a minimum of 4 people at a cost of £100, also, with more than 4 people a cost of £20 each.

The committee felt that it is a good means of raising funds for the club. Assuming the idea is acceptable to the Town Council and we decide to go ahead, then John Cundell stated he felt a firm commitment must be obtained from a large proportion of club members that they would provide guaranteed assistance in organising and running such events.

Len also suggested that he pass on his financial spreadsheets to John Cundell & Roger Stroud so that others are familiar with the general format and for purposes of backup.

Len is keen to get Morrison's as a sponsor being a major business in the town.

12.4 Val

Val described the system of fund raising that Waitrose does each month, raising money for local charities and other organisations. There is £1000 given away each month. Val will follow this up, contacting Waitrose and will give Len's name as the contact.

12.5 David

The annual dinner is fully booked.

13. Dates of committee meetings for the year.

The following dates were proposed by John Cundell and accepted by everyone: -

March 2nd – 12.30

June 15th – 1.00

July 27th – 1.00

September 28th – 1.00

All committee meetings in Pages Park pavilion.

November 11th AGM 7.30pm – Northall Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 2.24pm.