

LEIGHTON-LINSLADE CROQUET CLUB
GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING 2nd March 2011
At 12.30 pm - Page's Park pavilion

Officers & Committee present: David Ball (Chairman), Len Buckingham (Treasurer), Eve Buckingham, John Cundell, Tony Wells, Val Jeffers.

MINUTES

1. Welcome

David Ball welcomed members and explained that due to pressure of work at home for Roger Stroud, John Cundell had agreed to be Acting Secretary for the foreseeable future.

2. Apologies for absence

Roger Stroud; Tony Stammers.

3. Minutes of meeting held on 12th January 2010

No problems were identified. A copy of the Minutes was duly signed by the Chair.

4. Matters arising

4.1 Risk Assessment

John C passed around the revised copy of the Risk Assessment which will be sent to all members with the next newsletter. Members will be asked to sign an acceptance form and return to the Membership Secretary. Signing the form is a condition of membership.

4.2 White Lining

Council Groundstaff have promised to perform the initial white lining for the start of the season.

4.3 Individual Session Play rather than Annual Membership

Roger Stroud has written to Joy and Roy Liggett explaining that our current policy of Annual Membership only would continue.

4.4 Clubhouse Rubbish Bin

Eve Buckingham has supplied a suitable bin.

4.5 Archivist Appointed

Malcolm Kirby has offered to take on the post of Archivist. The Chairman will write a letter of thanks to Malcolm.

4.6 Waitrose Local Charity Scheme

Val Jeffers has made contact with Waitrose and we await a response.

5. Secretary's Report

There was no report available.

6. Treasurer's Report

6.1 Balance

Treasurer Len Buckingham reported that there is currently over £8000 in the bank, however shortly the License fee of £1575; the Annual Dinner payment (approx. £800); and The Croquet Association fee (approx. £350) need to be paid. He stated that with our License which will increase in cost by 5% per annum and the requirement that we now have to pay for lawn maintenance other than mowing and watering, we will need to be very careful with expenditure and need to raise extra income wherever possible.

7. License, Facilities, Maintenance

7.1 License status

The License was available for signing at this meeting which was duly performed by David Ball, Len Buckingham and John Cundell as authorised signatories. A Press Release has been drafted by Tom Miller and it is hoped to get this published in the LBO and other 'local' newspapers together with a picture of the Town Clerk and David Ball 'signing' the License, extolling the virtues of joining the club.

7.2 Financial Liability

Len explained that it has been impossible to find indemnity for the three License Authorised Signatories. The total cost to the club over the six year License period is just over £10,700. Len felt that the club members should be made aware of this fact and that it may be possible that some of the membership might be willing to each underwrite a small percentage of this liability. The subject to be raised at the 2011 Annual General Meeting.

7.3 Fund Raising / Corporate Events

Len Buckingham's idea of fund raising by encouraging local organisations and businesses to pay for us to host "Try the Game of Croquet" for their members/employees has been discussed with Tom Miller and they have come up with proposals to be acted upon after April.

7.4 Status on the three lawns

The lawns are looking good and will be treated for moss within a few days and are being mowed regularly by Council staff.

It was suggested that working parties could be held by club members to remove dandelion roots before they get a chance to flower and seed, as happened in 2010.

It was agreed that informal talks should be held with the Council Manager and Head Groundsman in April to ascertain the type of treatment required to maintain and improve the playing surfaces.

7.4 Club Chairs

Members to be asked if anyone has spare good quality club chairs, preferably stackable, that they could donate, as a number of our existing chairs will need to be thrown away due to weakness and age – otherwise new chairs will need to be purchased.

8. Membership Secretary's Report

Judith Cundell reports that currently 28 members have rejoined. It is expected that 17 more will definitely be joining with another 6 possibles – plus 2 from Wrest Park.

The committee hopes that the License Press Release will generate some interest; plus the Opening by the Town Mayor; and also our Come & Try Day scheduled for August Bank Holiday – possibly over Saturday and Monday - with the offer of membership for September to close of season at £10 only which may encourage more to try – and hopefully stay with us for 2012.

9. Fixtures Secretary's Report

9.1 League

Tony Wells has received EACF League documentation and has started arranging fixtures. It looks as though the proposed second level play League will not be happening but we may find out more on this at the EACF AGM on 19th March.

9.2 Friendlies

No reply from Littlehampton as of yet.

Fixtures will be arranged with Watford, Stony Stratford, Letchworth, Northampton and Wingrave.

10. Events

10.1 Date Confirmations and Changes

John Cundell outlined and confirmed dates for the following:

Opening Day – 26th March.

GC Improvers Course – 6th June – this will be open to LL members and local clubs.
B-Class at Wrest Park - date change to 25th June.
Hunstanton Friendly – date change to 30/31st July
Garden Party – 20th August – It was unanimously agreed that the Garden Party charge should be increased to £5.00 per person.

10.2 Enter Inter-Club Murphy Shield & League

Len Buckingham was requested to send off the entry fees for the above two competitions.

10.6 Inter-County Tournament

John C outlined the new Inter-County Tournament to take place at Hunstanton on 11th June.

11. Newsletter

The next newsletter will be published by 14th March at the latest.

12. Any Other Business

12.1 Membership List

Tony Wells asked when the membership list for committee members would be available. John C stated that it would be sent out as soon as the season opens.

12.2 Flat Shoes

David Ball asked that members be reminded that only flat bottomed shoes should be worn on the lawns – not some of the modern trainers that have formed semi-round studs or deep thin-ridged treads as these cause considerable damage to the lawns. This information to be published in the newsletter.

12.3 Parks Master Plan

Tom Miller has written to the Assistant Town Clerk concerning the scenario in the Town Council's Page's Park, Page's Field and Mentmore Park Master Plan which stated that "the Croquet Club to be expanded to include a fourth lawn." After consultation with the Club Officers, Tom has requested that the scenario be changed to "Development of the lawns and pavilion facilities for the Croquet Club." We need to be aware of when the consultation process begins for this plan – expected to be in June/July 2011.

13. Committee Dates

June 15th – 13.00

July 27th – 13.00

28th September – 13.00

All meetings in Page's Park pavilion.

November 11th – AGM – 19.30 – Northall Village Hall.