

LEIGHTON-LINSLADE CROQUET CLUB
GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING 15th June 2011
At 13.00 pm - Page's Park pavilion

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

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 Wells.

3. Minutes of meeting held on 2nd March 2011

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

4. Matters arising

4.1 Risk Assessment

All members have signed the Risk Assessment form except Ann and Norman Lee who have not as yet attended Page's Park this season.

4.2 Waitrose Local Charity Scheme

Val Jeffers reported that no response has been received from the Waitrose Charity scheme.

4.2 GC Improvers Course

This was considered a fine success with 18 attendees from 3 clubs. Thanks to Richard Keighley, John Cundell, Eve Buckingham, David Ball, and Roger Nicholls and Janet Lewis from Watford as coaches.

5. Secretary's Report

An email of thanks from the Town Mayor Councillor Gordon Perham had been received expressing his enjoyment whilst performing the Opening Day and thanking all concerned for their fine hospitality.

6. Treasurer's Report

6.1 Balance

Treasurer Len Buckingham reported that there is currently just under £8000 in the bank. The License fee of £1575 has been paid; The Croquet Association fee (approx. £350) is yet to be paid. The Improvers Day income was £228 - there may be some minor outgoings. The £10 fee to the Sports Council has been paid.

7. License, Facilities, Maintenance

7.1 License status

David Ball, John Cundell and Len Buckingham explained that further negotiations had taken place with the Town Council, and following the recent Leisure and Community Committee meeting on 6th June, the meeting resolved to approve suggested amendments to the licence inasmuch as the TC staff will now carry out all necessary treatments during the playing season whilst the Club is responsible for treatment in the Closed season. This treatment will be dependent on our financial situation.

First thoughts are the proposed October treatments 2, 3, and 4 (fertiliser, scarification, aeration) for all three lawns. Top dressing which we know will improve the levels will have to depend on finance.

Initially our priority for improvement is Lawn 2 – our middle lawn with the poor grass at its right-hand side. A price to be obtained from Greenstripe for this work.

Len Buckingham said that a preliminary approach to the TC for work orders with our contractor to be placed by the TC, with us making a donation for the corresponding amount less VAT.

7.2 Fund Raising / Corporate Events

David Ball and Len Buckingham are endeavouring to find local organisations and businesses to pay for us to host “Try the Game of Croquet” for their members/employees. John Thorp asked for copies of the leaflet. Members discussed whether email, letter, telephone or a flyer campaign was the best way to progress the initial contact with prospective companies.

7.3 Status on the three lawns

The groundstaff re-treated the lawns with weedkiller which had a marked effect on the dandelions. Pauline Lefrere and John Thorp have spent considerable time digging out the dandelion roots. John Thorp, John Cundell, David Ball and Roy Kemp recently raked and rotary-cut the poor area on lawn two which has improved it somewhat. However the Chief Groundsman feels that this area really needs digging out and reseeding.

It was agreed that the Club purchase a quantity of ‘Lawn Weed and Feed’ and test this out on a couple of areas on the lawns to determine its efficacy. John Thorp agreed to look into this. (Subsequent to this meeting it was ascertained that Len Buckingham has a suitable spreader).

7.4 CCTV Camera

At the meeting with the Town Clerk/Assistant Town Clerk the provision of a CCTV camera was raised following our recent vandalism attacks on the fence and the attempted break-in. Tony Wells reports that at the June Sports Council meeting it was stated that this item will be raised at a future full Town Council meeting.

8. Membership Secretary’s Report

Judith Cundell reports that membership is 54 with 1 complimentary member. We lost 7 members from 2010 but gained 6 new members. Some members do not ever sign the Register. Committee members will impress on the membership that the register must be signed by all attendees.

9. Fixtures Secretary’s Report

9.1 League

All League matches are now confirmed and all team selections made. The ‘A’ team match against Stony Stratford was postponed owing to illness of a Stony Stratford member. This has now been rescheduled.

9.2 Friendlies

The Littlehampton friendly was cancelled as there was not enough support from the membership.

Fixtures have been arranged with Hunstanton, Watford, Stony Stratford, Ealing and Letchworth.

10. Events

10.1 Fun Day

Sheila Beal has agreed to help Tony Stammers. It was agreed that Tony can purchase a small selection of prizes.

10.2 Garden Party – 20th August

John Cundell will send out invitations mid-July. Members to be asked to bring games – Peter Davis to be asked about availability.

10.3 Come & Try 27/28/29th August

It was agreed that this should be held over the three days – 12.00 noon – 16.00pm. John will draft out a poster for David Ball, Len Buckingham, Val Jeffers, etc., to advertise.

11. Newsletter

The next newsletter will be published towards the end of the season as July/August is a very busy time with competitions, etc.

12. Irrigation Hose-reel

It was suggested that the Club should contact the TC concerning possible supply of a hose-reel capable of reaching the third lawn.

13. Club Playing Rules – Primary Precedence

David Ball proposed that a notice should be displayed to the effect that when playing doubled up games, that those playing with primary colours should be given precedence as to deciding which game proceeds first. This was agreed.

12. Any Other Business

12.1 Concrete Area Below Steps

Members will be asked not to site the two small tables on the concrete area immediately in front of the steps, not to place chairs in this area, and to refrain from sitting on the steps. This makes access to the clubroom difficult and is dangerous to those members who need access to the handrails at the side of the entrance. Members will also be asked to refrain from sitting on stacked chairs. This makes separation of the chairs very difficult and also damages them.

12.2 Club Singles Handicap Competition

John Cundell suggested that those members who have the green competition handicap cards could use these for this competition rather than the white club cards. After discussion this was put to the vote. It was rejected by a majority of 6 to 1. The white cards only will be used.

12.3 Heater Tap

Len Buckingham agreed to investigate purchase of replacement heater tap internals or if necessary a tap assembly as the existing unit is repeatedly failing.

12.4 Help Setting Up Equipment on Competition Days

John Thorp expressed that it would be nice if other members rather than the usual few offered to help on these occasions. It was agreed that approaches would be made to other members.

12.5 Younger Members

John Thorp raised the point that we should be trying to encourage schools and younger people to join the club. It was explained that Tony Wells already involves a local school and this year they will be playing their final games on our lawns. We have had local youth groups visit in the past but no new members resulted. The problem is that parents need to attend or we have to have one of our CRB checked members in attendance.

13. Committee Dates

July 27th – 13.00

28th September – 13.00

All meetings in Page's Park pavilion.

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