

LEIGHTON-LINSLADE CROQUET CLUB
GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING
27th July 2011
At 13.00 pm - Page's Park pavilion

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

MINUTES

1. Welcome

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

2. Apologies for absence

David Ball, Roger Stroud.

3. Minutes of meeting held on 15th June 2011

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

4. Matters arising

4.1 Fun Day

Tony Stammers expressed his disappointment at the low attendance and agreed that he would like to retire from organising this event. We thank him for his work over the last five years. John Cundell explained that Sheila Beal and Helen Wilkinson, with possible assistance from another club member, would be prepared to take on the organisation. The AGM would be asked if they wished this event to continue in future.

4.2 Waitrose Local Charity Scheme

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

4.3 CCTV Camera

JC reported that the Town Council Operations Manager had indicated to us that cameras are planned for the tennis end of the pavilion and above our clubroom steps.

4.4 Water Heater repaired.

Len Buckingham reported that a replacement tap/washer had been purchased for the water heater and installed by John Thorp.

5. Secretary's Report

JC reported on a telephone call from a new charity on Sandhills for a Community House aimed at residents on the new estate. They intend to have action days at Page's Park for various activities. They have been informed about our 'Come & Try' days in August and have agreed to place one of our posters at the House. We have also informed them of our policy regarding young people.

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 next meeting should be in a position to discuss what lawn treatment should be considered at the season end.

John Thorp asked whether the donations for the replacement keys had covered the cost. The response had been very good and the shortfall was insignificant.

Prior to the AGM Len hopes to be able to distribute an un-audited version of the accounts to all members in order that they have the opportunity to study them before the meeting.

6.2 Corporate Events and Fund Raising

LB had received a list of the companies that might be interested in 'corporate sessions' from David Ball and others. It was agreed that priority should be given to this approach in 2012.

Eve Buckingham suggested a Table Top Sale to raise funds. See item 8.2 below.

6.3 Lawn treatments and Irrigation

A trial with 4+1 Weed and Feed has proved successful. Cost of treating all lawns would be £75-£100. The TC have agreed to fertilise and herbicide the lawns during the season – we have asked for herbicide treatment as soon as possible and await developments before committing the club to expenditure.

A rotary mower is available from Len Buckingham and Tony Stammers. We will endeavour to action this in early August.

Peter Davis has offered the club his scarifier. This will be collected in early August. Greenstripe will be contacted as the end of the season draws near to discuss contract treatment.

Tony Wells has contacts that may be able to provide us with a blower as it looks like leaf fall will be a serious problem this Autumn.

The hoses have now been set up for irrigation. The present system is somewhat labour intensive. We need to investigate obtaining a Hozelock wall bracket which can be fixed to the trolley – JC and JT to action.

7. Fixtures

7.1 League

The club is having a very successful year in the EACF League. At least one of our teams will win the Western Division and/or the other may well be second. The semi-final will be against the Northern Division and will be a team from Hunstanton.

7.2 Friendlies

Tony Wells reported that the Ealing Friendly was very successful and they wish a return match in 2012. There should also be a Friendly against Wingrave at Page's Park. It was agreed that next year Friendlies should be arranged with Watford, Stony Stratford, Hunstanton, Kenilworth, Ealing and Ramsgate.

7.3 Murphy Shield

After beating Kenilworth the club met Letchworth in the quarter-finals who proved much too strong for our team. They look like possible champions.

7.4 Visit by Croquet Association Chairman

LB explained the background as to why the CA Chairman Barry Keen was intending to visit the club, possibly on 10th September. He is coming to assist LB and David Ball in their desire to become Golf Croquet Referees - and to introduce himself to the club.

7.5 School Competition

Tony Wells reported that the annual final for the school competition is in doubt, however we are happy to host this as in previous years as required.

8. Other Events

8.1 Garden Party 20th August

Val Jeffers will arrange catering as required. Tony Stammers will co-ordinate the raffle. JC and JT will liaise with others as necessary to move the tables, heater and chairs to Diana Phelps' house.

8.2 Come & Try Weekend

An email to all members will be sent out by the end of July asking members if they can display a poster; and also that a Table Top Sale will be arranged over the three days to raise funds. Members will be asked to liaise with John Thorp if they are interested in donating items for this. It was agreed that attendees may join the club for the rest of the season for the sum of £5.00.

9. New Competition

9.1 League

Len Buckingham is putting up a trophy entitled 'The LJB Trophy' aimed at members over the age of 70. The event will be knockout and played over 19 holes. It was agreed that 16 would be an ideal entry. The date will be Friday 16th September.

11. Any Other Business

11.1 Friendlies/Coaching/League events on Saturdays

One member who works asked if the committee could consider hosting some of these events on Saturdays. The committee felt that holding such events on the busiest session days of the week would not be very acceptable to the majority of members as the League and Friendly competitions only involve 4 or 8 members, but require all three lawns. Tony Wells added that he had broached this subject with other clubs who were against Saturday/Sunday play for the same reason.

11.2 Competition for Handicaps of 8+

JT reported that Irene Davis had asked that the committee consider organising an event for handicaps of 8+ as she felt that this would give the less experienced member more incentive to take part. It was pointed out that recent handicap club competitions had resulted in some high handicap players winning the events which tends to vindicate the present system.

11.3 Handicap Assessment

David Ball has proposed that a sub-committee of the club handicappers plus two other members should re-assess all club cards before the start of next season. This was agreed and will be imparted to the membership at the AGM.

11.4 Snooker Table

A grant was received earlier this year from the TC for £300 for purchase of a replacement snooker table for the Social Club at Page's Park. This has now been actioned and a table obtained.

13. Committee Dates

21st September – 13.00 – Apologies from Tony Stammers and Val Jeffers.

All meetings in Page's Park pavilion.

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