

LEIGHTON-LINSLADE CROQUET CLUB

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Wednesday 3rd March 2010
At 12.15 pm - Page's Park pavilion

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

Minutes

1. Welcome

Meeting opened at 12.20

Tom welcomed the committee.

2. Apologies for absence

None

3. Minutes of meeting held on 27th January 2010

Minutes agreed and the Chairman signed a copy of the minutes.

4. Matters arising & review of Actions (if not included below)

David Ball gave the time of the annual dinner as 7.30 for 8.00. David also said that he has 36 names and the restaurant will try to sell off the other 4 places as the price was based upon 40 people.

Diana has been contacted re the Garden Party and has agreed to hold the Garden Party at her home as in previous years.

5. Secretary's report including correspondence to Club

5.1 Hunstanton Croquet Club

Received an email from Myfanwy Dunford, secretary of Hunstanton Croquet Club giving us advance details of the Golf Croquet tournament taking place at Hunstanton on 7/8 August. This was forwarded to John who will be including details in the next newsletter.

5.2 Croquet Association

An information pack was received from the CA with the latest copy of the CA Gazette, membership renewal form for the club and details of the various CA competitions throughout the year.

6. Treasurer's report

6.1 Postage Costs

Postage costs have been corrected from the previous accounts report.

6.2 Social Club costs

Following the correspondence with the Town Council, Len has received a credit note for £95. Further invoices have been received which have been queried so there are on-going discussions with the Town Council re Social Club costs for the 1st qtr 2010.

6.3 EACF League

Len is to send £20 for EACF league fee (£10 per team) to Chris Howell.

7. Membership Secretary's Report

7.1 Recruitment

We had previously said that we would deal with recruitment of new members at this meeting.

7.1.1 Open Day

Our club open day will be on Bank Holiday Monday 3rd May when potential new members can come and try croquet. The May bank holiday includes a twinning day event with Coulommiers (France) and Titisee-Neustadt (Germany). Tom will prepare an email for David Ball (as he would be co-ordinator) to send to the Mayor suggesting that visitors from either of the twin towns might like to come to our club Open Day and try croquet.

7.1.2 Local Village Magazines

David will produce an advert suitable for the various local village magazines and forward on to Len (Edlesborough & Eaton Bray), Val (Wing) & Roger (Kensworth, Studham & Whipsnade). The ad will mention the Open Day on 3rd May so it must go into the April issue of the magazine.

7.1.3 Newspaper Advertising

David will produce a report including photos of the official opening day (Sunday 28th March) and send to the LB Observer for publication during the first week in April. This will mention the Open Day (3rd May) and say that new members would be welcome.

7.2 Membership Generally

42 members have rejoined and 16 not yet rejoined.

It was agreed that the membership list on the club notice board is to contain names and phone numbers only.

8. Social club – venue & costs

Tom updated the Committee on this issue by email of 25th February.

Recent correspondence has solved the immediate problem of costs of hiring the pavilion for the social club. There is on-going correspondence (see 6.2 earlier) dealing with the hire of the pavilion for the first quarter 2010. Tom & Richard are meeting with the Town Council on Monday 29th March prior to the Council's Leisure & Community Committee meeting on the evening of the same day.

Other venues for the social club have been investigated including Northall Village Hall which costs £4.50 an hour on a long term booking. Other possible venues have been costed as approx. £8 per hour.

Tom pointed out that there is an advantage from running the social club where the croquet club is. It was also pointed out that on match days we do use the tables and chairs from the pavilion. It was agreed that: a) the preferred outcome is for the Social Club to remain at Page's Park, as long as the hire charge is reasonable; b) A charge of £5 per hour may be acceptable.

9. Facilities & Equipment

9.1. Status with Town Council

Tom said that he and Richard will be meeting with the Town Council on 29th March to discuss the 'Agreement' between the Council and the Croquet Club, also covering any other outstanding issues.

The Council had agreed to send a draft agreement to the Croquet Club by 7th March. Richard has researched the experience other croquet clubs have on Agreements with their local Council and has found that if we successfully conclude an Agreement with

our Council it might be a 'first'. Tom has obtained a copy of the agreement a major athletics club has with their Council. He has also researched the Minutes of both the LLTC's Leisure & Community Committee and its Policy & Finance Committee back to late 2008, in preparation for the meeting with the LLTC. Also he has obtained, and circulated to the Committee, the notes of the series of meetings the LLTC had with various sports clubs, on 23rd January this year. LLCC had not been invited. There is likely to be no further developments until the meeting on 29th March.

9.2 Anglia in Bloom

Tom said our potential involvement had been raised by LLTC. The judging is in early July and we could perhaps make arrangements with the Council so that we could be playing croquet on the day the judges come. The Committee concurred with this, so Tom will progress it with the Mayor.

Further information regarding this event can be found on the website: -

<http://www.leightonlinlade-tc.gov.uk/news.asp?>

9.3 Status on the three lawns

Due to the recent bad weather the three lawns are too wet for any current maintenance. Next Monday a group of members are going to mark out the corners of the lawns and if time, prepare the clubhouse.

If the lawns are still too wet for the season start date then members will have to be notified about a delayed start.

John spoke about hoop device advertised in the CA Gazette which would make the setting of the hoop widths a lot easier. The committee decided to purchase this device as soon as they are available in the UK.

The additional labels for the third lawn fences have been purchased at a cost of £75 and are currently having holes drilled for fixing to the fences.

9.4 Clubroom cleanup

It is hoped to do this next Monday after marking up the lawns.

9.5 Risk assessment

Tom updated the Committee on this issue by email of 25th February. He has submitted our risk assessment document to Pat Kingsnorth (Town Clerk) – any issues will be discussed at the meeting on 29th March.

It is expected that our members will need to each sign something to say that they have read the Risk Assessment document.

It was noted that there is still the outstanding question of opening / closing the roller shutters for which the Council may already have covered on their own risk assessments.

It was also said that there is a Council plan to electrify all roller shutters which may cover the ones we use in the pavilion.

10. Fixture's Secretary's report

Tony Wells reported that other clubs have congratulated our club on the level of support that is usual at our matches.

10.1 Hunstanton & Littlehampton Challenges

Tony Wells will arrange the friendly at Hunstanton. There are no dates yet.

The Littlehampton Challenge has been arranged for Tuesday 1st June and Wednesday 2nd June. We will send a team of 8 players – there will be a fish & chip lunch. This fixture is a new experience for the Golf Croquet section of the Littlehampton club.

Players who are chosen by draw to play at Littlehampton will only be entered into the draw for the Hunstanton Challenge if there are not enough members interested in the latter.

10.2 Planned League Matches

A team vs. Watford June 4th
B team vs. Watford July 23rd

10.3 Friendly Matches

LL vs. Watford August 20th
Watford vs. LL May 17th

10.4 CA Tournaments

The decision has been made to enter the CA sponsored Inter Club Shield this year. John Cundell will be including in the newsletter details of CA tournaments.

10.5 Team Selection

Notices will go on the board for people to put their names down for team selection for league and Inter-Club Shield competition.

11. Events

11.1 Opening Day

Official opening Sunday 28th March 2pm (clocks change the night before).
Cakes will be required on this day.
We will also arrange for a ribbon to be cut opening the third lawn.

11.2 John Fogg Trophy

This is on August 14th / 15th, a mix & match Men's doubles event and is to be known as the John Fogg Trophy.

11.3 Catering

At each event where catering is to be done, those involved should inform Val so she knows what there is.

12. Child Protection

Tom updated the Committee on this issue by email of 25th February. The revised policy has been circulated via email and there has been positive feedback from Margaret Brown.

The policy will be put onto the notice board and will be sent out to all members with the next edition of the newsletter.

13. Any other business

13.1 Croquet Balls

Due to the distance from the clubhouse to the second and third lawns, croquet balls should be fetched in after each game unless the next players are there ready to start the next game.

13.2 Leighton Middle School

Tony Wells said that Leighton Middle School is to have the same event as last year and they will update, as necessary, his CRB etc. documentation.

13.3 Swoosher

Tony Wells also requested that we purchase a swoosher (for the lawns). The committee agreed and requested that Tony goes ahead with the purchase, up to a cost of £25.

13.4 Visitors

David asked for a reminder of our club policy regarding visitors. Tom advised the Committee that they had discussed this matter at the January and September meetings in 2009 and the Newsletter of October 2009 carried information on this subject. However, the Minutes of the AGM 2004 state: "Minute 12: The Chairman proposed that the present policy of allowing members to bring along guests free of charge on up to 3 occasions during the season be extended indefinitely and this was agreed by the meeting". Also, this should be at a quiet time.

13.5 Coaching

John reminded us that there is a Coaching Day at our club on April 9th. Also there is a further Coaching Day on April 18th at Watford for beginners.

The next committee meeting was changed to Wednesday June 9th at 1pm.

Meeting closed at 14.40 (2 hours 20 minutes duration)