

# LEIGHTON-LINSLADE CROQUET CLUB

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2010  
At 1.00pm - Page's Park pavilion

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

## Minutes

### **1. Welcome**

Tom welcomed everyone at 1.03pm.

### **2. Apologies for absence**

Tony Wells had sent an email to say he could not make the re-arranged date.

### **3. Minutes of meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2010**

Amend Section 4.5 to "David's brother made the trophy case and the honours board".  
The Minutes were then signed by the Chairman.

### **4. Matters arising & review of Actions**

The £50 was paid for the trophy case and the honours board.

Public liability insurance details passed on to Len still have to go to Richard Keighley.

Tom has sent the unsolicited email from "Funding4sport" to Len, John & Roger.

Tom thanked Len for the prompt arrangement for the labelling of the fences which has been done.

The croquet evening with the 'Woodcraft Folk' went very well.

Rotary club croquet evening also went very well – they thanked us and said a donation of £55 to our club is on its way.

An up to date membership list has been circulated.

### **5. Secretary's report including correspondence to Club**

Nothing to report

### **6. Treasurer's report**

Len tabled the accounts to 4<sup>th</sup> August and announced that 28 people will be attending the garden party and that we have a balance of approximately £6,000.

Tom raised the specific matter of compensation for the members who had recently had to travel to Northumberland & stay away overnight, to represent the Club in the Inter Club Shield. John has investigated the policy of other clubs and found that Letchworth and one other Croquet Club expect members to pay all their own expenses.

Whilst Tom feels the people concerned should share petrol cost - which was £60 – he proposed that a donation should be made to those members who played at Belsay Hall of £50 per head, which was agreed, to meet some of the costs they incurred.

John did not agree with the payment and Len suggested that anyone who did not agree could make an equivalent donation back to the croquet club. This was accepted.

This situation was seen as a 'one off' and should not set a precedent. To aid this, John has suggested to the competition organiser that if a journey is more than 150 miles then the match should be played at a halfway house.

## **7. Membership Secretary's Report**

John reported on behalf of the membership secretary and announced that there are 57 members including complementary members.

## **8. Social Club – venue & costs**

Tom has heard nothing further from the Council but had monitored their Leisure & Community Committee proceedings. They have considered the cost of using Council assets. The Minutes show that for the use of the Town Council's open spaces and parks, a fixed daily fee of £150 + staff costs be charged to profit making organisations, with free of charge bookings for charity or community groups. They agreed that a more specific definition may be required on "charity or community groups" (for example, whether based within the Parish) and also that the proviso be added that the event would be of benefit to the Parish. Pavilions are not specifically mentioned but there appears to be hope for optimism in respect of what we might be charged from October onwards.

Len is booking the pavilion with John Connew, identifying the social club as a community group, from 6<sup>th</sup> October until further notice and will await notification as to any charges for use of the pavilion for the social club.

## **9. Facilities & Equipment**

### **9.1 General**

John commented that he feels that in the early part of the season we were not getting sufficient lawn maintenance due to Anglia in Bloom.

Len commented that Hunstanton's 5 lawns are maintained by their council at less cost than we pay.

John said that maintenance work is needed on the fencing around the croquet lawns and had noted that the fencing on the 3<sup>rd</sup> lawn is of a lower standard than that on lawns 1 & 2

Tom had identified that we need to include 'watering' in our agreement with the Town Council.

John had discussed lawn watering with the ground staff and he noted that there is no objection to using a sprinkler system on our lawns when watering is necessary.

### **9.2 Hoop Drill**

John has been investigating the provision of a hoop drill and with assistance from John Thorp has drawn modified version of the one CA use. An approach would be made to Nigel Clark for possible manufacture.

### **9.3 Timers**

John has selected electronic timers as used by the CA.

Suggestion to buy 6 timers for the club – go ahead on that £64.05

John will ask around and purchase more for members who wish to have their own.

### **9.4 Status with Town Council re formal agreement**

Tom sent the Committee an updating email on 1<sup>st</sup> August. It highlighted that as per the post meeting note in our last Minutes, LLCC's first draft of a formal agreement with LLTC was emailed to Pat Kingsnorth on 22<sup>nd</sup> June. Having heard nothing, a repeat email was sent on 16<sup>th</sup> July. When sending her the updated Risk Assessment on 1<sup>st</sup> August - see 9.5 – Tom highlighted the foregoing and that he had not received a response. He has now received a 'Read receipt' from PK to this latest email.

[Post meeting note: Richard Keighley & Tom will be meeting PK on 27<sup>th</sup> Sept.]

### **9.5 Risk assessment**

Tom emailed the Committee on 1<sup>st</sup> August sending them a copy of his email to Pat Kingsnorth, of the same date, to which his revised - agreed by Richard – Risk Assessment was attached. We now await their response regarding LLTC's RA regarding the operation of manual roller shutters. Everyone present is happy with the risk assessment and approach taken. Roger agreed that, *once the RA is finally agreed*, he would advise the Secretary of any visiting team that the RA is available for perusal. It will not be sent to Clubs; not least as it could change. He would point out: "As we play in a municipal park and utilise Town Council property, we have produced, at their request, a Health & Safety Risk Assessment. This will be available, within our Club room, for members of your visiting team to consult."

## **9.6 Graffiti on the concrete.**

Council gave us a full tin of paint to do the steps and the concrete standing. Peter Davis has done the windbreaks for the scorers at matches and fixed the signs and has offered to do the painting on the concrete outside the clubhouse. Agreed that Tom would email Peter to give him the Committee's thanks for all his efforts and take up his offer.

## **10. Fixtures Secretary's report**

### **10.1 Inter-Club Shield**

We had a bye from the Nottingham match and lost to Belsay Hall 3-4. The semi-finals are Belsay Hall vs Broadwas and Dulwich vs Sussex – the final may be at Wrest Park or Nottingham.

### **10.2 EACF League**

'A' team beat Watford, Letchworth & LL'B' but lost to Wrest Park & Stony Stratford (on the play-off hoop).

'B' team beat Wrest Park and lost to Stony Stratford, Watford, Letchworth and LL'A'.

### **10.3 Internal Competitions**

Handicap singles won by John Thorp.

Ladies mix 'n' match doubles had 14 entries – winning pair were Eve Buckingham and Margaret Lawson.

The entries for the Men's Mix 'n' Match Doubles is low – all potential club members have been approached except for Peter Davis.

### **10.4 Friendly Matches**

We won our friendly match against Letchworth by 10 – 6.

### **10.5 Hunstanton visit to us**

Len suggested to Hunstanton that they might want to visit our club in 2011.

John is concerned about how our facilities compare with those at Hunstanton.

It was agreed to continue further by investigating costs of accommodation, venues for a meal, etc..

### **10.6 Ryde IOW**

Val told the meeting that she had recently played at Ryde on the IOW. They have 4 lawns with underground irrigation and told Val that they would love us to visit them for a friendly match.

The committee agreed that Tony should discuss this with Val for a potential visit during 2011 but Val pointed out that it is ideally better to go for a longer period than a weekend due to the high cost of the ferry..

## **11. Events**

### **11.1 Fun Day**

The Fun Day had a good attendance of 27 members plus three visitors.

### **11.2 Garden Party**

28 tickets have been sold.

We agreed to buy 3 prizes for the raffle – David getting the prizes using a budget of £15 – £20.

### **11.3 “Come & try day” midway through season**

Next year will be end June / early July

### **11.4 AGM – potential committee vacancies**

Need a new chairman & talking about these vacancies.

## **12. Any other business**

### **12.1 Croquet at a Bowls Club**

Tony mentioned that there might be a possibility of playing croquet at the bowls club during the winter. Tony will find out more information with a view to Bowls Club officials visiting us to see what is entailed..

### **12.2 Toilet Facilities**

Eve is concerned about the safety of one of the w.c. pedestals in the ladies toilet and a lack of a holder and toilet paper. Tom will raise this with the Council.

### **12.3 Annual Dinner**

David suggested that we have the specific details available at the AGM as most people go to the AGM and details can be discussed at that meeting. It was agreed he will investigate possible venues in/close to the town.

### **12.4 Local Community Policing Group**

John said that during the last 2 weeks there have been difficult late afternoons related to youngsters hanging around our club drinking and generally being a nuisance. There was an community event near to where John lives and he took the opportunity to meet with the police there and had a long discussion with them. The police have promised to have a presence in the vicinity of our club. The police told John we should ring and, if no answer, leave a message with them on every occasion that we have a problem. This then provides them with a log. Also to help alleviate the problem with youngsters, John suggested that we again ask the Council put a notice on the old tennis court fencing that football can be played there. Tom will raise it with LLTC.