

LEIGHTON LINSLADE CROQUET CLUB

Minutes of General Committee Meeting held on 28th January 2009 at Page's Park starting at 12.15 pm

Present: Tom Miller (Chairman), Jean Ball (Acting Secretary), David Ball, Eve Buckingham, Len Buckingham, John Cundell, Peter Davies, Margaret Lawson and Tony Stammers.

1) Welcome and methods of communication:

- a) Tom, as the new Chairman, welcomed everyone present
- b) It was agreed that Committee communications would generally be by e-mail, including Minutes, but hard copies would be sent to Margaret L.
- c) Tom explained that he did not expect to be involved in all that happened in the Club but he hoped he would be kept "in the picture", preferably by e-mail.
- d) It was agreed that, if members of the Committee/Club represented the Club at a meeting, a brief report should be produced and at least sent to Tom.

2) Apologies for absence: Were received from Val Jeffers and Tony Wells (John Cundell would cover Tony's agenda items). David Ball had to leave at 12.45 and Peter Davis at 14.40.

3) Minutes of September 17th 2008: The Treasurer's report was corrected, i.e. £21.44 should read £2.44. The Minutes were then agreed and signed.

4) Matters arising:

4.1) Club Dinner: D. B. reported that 43 members were expected; everything was booked and paid for. The hire of the room, normally £150 was waived, as was the extra £1 for coffee. It was agreed that there would be no raffle but a collection for gratuities.

4.2) Corporate event held Sept. 26th 2008: Since this was a very successful event - overseen by four members - the club would, by word of mouth, welcome any other such events. The club insurance, via the Croquet Association, will cover these.

4.3) Fuel expenses: After much discussion regarding reimbursement of travelling expenses to league and friendly matches, it was decided that they would not now be paid from Club funds. Since car sharing (one car) is practiced to these away matches, it was felt that the occupants could contribute to the expenses.

5) Confirmation of non executive posts & Sports Council representatives:

- a) Non-exec. posts were agreed as per Appendix A to these Minutes.
- b) Margaret Lawson volunteered to represent the LLCC at the Leighton Linlade District Sports Council meetings. T.M. to contact Tony Wells to confirm that he also is willing to stand.

Action:

- i) Contact T.W. & advise J.C. of outcome **before January Newsletter publication – by T.M**
- ii) Advise Sports Council of change of representatives – **by T.M.**

6) Secretary's report and Correspondence:

a) In the absence of Roger Stroud, Jean Ball is Acting Secretary and Minutes Secretary. After Roger's treatment, the prognosis is very favourable and he hopes to be back in harness around April.

b) J.C. kindly offered to collaborate with L.B. to fill in forms and send cheque for our East Anglian Croquet Federation registration.

Action: Complete and send - **by J.C./L.B.**

c) Richard Keighley had forwarded information regarding a possible award, from C.A., of £250. L.B. offered to hold for future reference & consider if it would be viable.

d) Ronnie Richardson has written re. their competition in Dunstable, asking if we could supply two referees & advise when our season starts. T.S. will go and will recruit another volunteer.

Action: Reply to Ronnie – by T.S.

e) An e-mail was received from Lymington Croquet Club asking for information about our club and various financial matters. It was decided not to reply owing to the potential for confidential information being divulged beyond that specific club.

f) Margaret Brown's report on January '09 Sports Council meeting:

Team Beds have funds for items such as coaching costs. Sport England has £460 m, some of which the Croquet Association could benefit from. L.B. agreed to make enquiries regarding both.

Action: Look in to both potential sources of funding – by L.B.

g) M.B. had produced a list of suggested invitees for 10th Anniversary events. This would be held in the Secretary's file.

7) Treasurer's Report:

a) Len reported that, after having his computer updated, some Club data is not retrievable. Much of the 2009 paperwork has been affected. He has worked hard to reinstate this from other sources but at present cannot give detailed figures. He assured the committee that there was a healthy bank balance. To alleviate similar difficulties in future, the Committee agreed L.B.'s request regarding a memory stick.

Action: Purchase suitable capacity stick – by L.B.

b) Six cheques, for the annual dinner, were mislaid by the bank. Three have now been accounted for, i.e. not cashed but replaced. T.M. would ask at the dinner whether anyone has not had their cheques cashed and, linked to 7(a) above, ask everyone attending to give L.B. details of their payment.

Action: i) Speak at dinner – by T.M.

ii) Return to L.B. a copy of his 07.12.08 e-mail detailing lost cheques – **by T.M.**

c) The two grants, one of £1000 from Beds and Luton Community Foundation (last season) and another of £250 from Leighton Linlade Sports Council (this season 2009), will go a long way towards the purchase of 6 sets of competition standard balls and help to upgrade our equipment to national standards. There would be no VAT reduction on the quote for the new balls but, since the Club is a member of the C.A., we will get a 5% discount.

d) L.B. has a copy of the C.A. handbook, which will be placed in the Club Room.

8) "Facilities":

8.1) Third lawn & lawn levelling:

a) Status:

Third lawn: Parts of the site of the third lawn are waterlogged and it is thought considerable funds would be needed if drainage were to be installed. It is rumoured that since the cricket pitch is used only 5/6 times a year, the Cricket Club could be asked to relocate to Mentmore Road enabling us to again use the cricket square. Clearly LLCC is currently dependent on the Town Council. Linda Carter is to be approached as to her understanding of the status of the third lawn, given that she had given the ground staff a target of the start of this season to have it ready for play.

Action: Write to Linda Carter after she has received her copy of Newsletter – by T.M.

Levelling of existing lawns: This will be carried out as soon as conditions allow.

Action: Organise this, in liaison with ground staff as to a convenient time, preferably before the end of March – L.B & J.C.

b) Need to restrict membership?: There are a possible six new members for this year. Until the third lawn situation is resolved membership will be restricted to 60/65. Thereafter, a waiting list will be created.

c) Club sessions:

Despite the new agreement with the Council which allows flexible playing arrangements, the Committee considered it important to still have core playing times, as this gives members some

reassurance as to when colleagues would be attending – without the need to make prior arrangements. Therefore, the following sessions were agreed – including 2 new periods – whilst acknowledging they can be reviewed after a couple of months, based on experience.

Tuesday	10-12 Singles Handicap (new)	2-4 Singles Handicap
Wednesday	10-1	
Thursday	10-1	
Saturday	10-12 (new)	2-5
Sunday	10-12 Singles Handicap	2-5

League and Friendly matches would be scheduled for Mondays and Fridays and no club play will be possible on those specific days.

Action: Arrange matches accordingly – **by T.W.**

d) In answer to a question from P.D., the Committee confirmed that members may bring guests for free, with the caveats that they are not the same guests nor on a regular basis.

8.2) Clubroom modifications: J.C. and L.B. have purchased a small sink

Action: Install in Club Room **preferably before the season starts – by L.B. & J.C.**

8.3) New Equipment: Covered in 7(c) above.

9) Fixture's Secretary's report:

9.1) League: In the absence of T.W., J.C. reported that matches would be arranged with Letchworth, Northampton, Stony Stratford, Wrest Park and Watford.

9.2) Friendlies: A verbal invite from Hunstanton C.C. was thought to be a good idea but to stay and make a weekend of it would be up to the individual players. As usual other friendlies would be organised.

Action: Provide both league and friendly fixture lists to J.C. **by mid-March** for inclusion in the spring newsletter – **by T.W.**

10) Events:

T.M. tabled a draft programme of events – see Appendix B to these Minutes. The Committee accepted the principle of having a “Lead person” supported by an “Assisted by”, whenever possible, for all events.

10.1) Coaching weekend 28th/29th March:

a) The Committee was advised that George Lawson, Eve Buckingham, Peter Davis* & Irene Davis* were interested in attending (* subsequently had to drop out) and Dunstable CC representatives rescinded their interest.

b) Margaret B. had been the contact so far.

Action: i) Check pavilion has been booked – **by L.B.**

ii) Clarify Lead Person – **by T.M.**

10.2) It was agreed that, in the light of 8.1(b) above, there was no need for a “Come & Try” event.

10.3) 10th Anniversary events - see Appendix B.

a) The Committee whole heartedly agreed that the Club should support the anticipated Council's “100 years of Page's Park” event, as reported by Margaret B. from the last Sports Council meeting. In the light of its origins, it was likely our Sports Council reps. would be the Lead/Assistant but this depended on details. Margaret B. had suggested that Mayors of the last ten years could be invited to our element.

Action: Invite Mayor to officially “open the season” and highlight LLCC support for Page's Park celebrations – **by T.M.**

b) It was agreed to introduce a new “Mix'n'Match” Doubles tournament. George Lawson had very kindly donated a cup which, once modified, would be presented to the winners.

Action: Modify cup – **by J.C.**

c) Garden Party: P.D. offered to host this at Waterways, if Diana Phelps wish to “have a rest” this year.

Action: Clarify with Diana – **by J.C.**

10.4) Outside events/tournaments:

a) Soham indoor tournament 14th/15th March: T.W. is arranging our teams.

10.5) Leighton Middle School incl. loan of junior mallets: See 11(b) below. Neil Chalmers, EACF Equipment Officer had e-mailed Margaret B. regarding the loan of junior mallets and the payment of an invoice. L.B. agreed to deal with this.

Action: Pass hardcopy to L.B. for action – **by T.M. then L.B.**

11) Proposed Youth Club/Youth section/Youth Fair:

a) Whilst we had not had prior warning, today it became clear that the new Youth Club is starting in the pavilion tonight. We will await developments. The Social Club have left table tennis and snooker equipment out for the Youth Club’s use. Linda Carter to be advised.

Action: Call L.C. – **by L.B.**

b) T.M. tabled his draft suggested approach as to how the LLCC provide opportunities for young people to take up croquet. Whilst those present were supportive of the approach, Tom pointed out that 4 members were now not present and that he especially wanted to advise T.W. and P.D. of the content. As there was now limited time available, substantive discussion was held over to the March meeting.

Action:

i) Talk to T.W. & P.D. - **by T.M.**

ii) Include on Agenda – **by Secretary**

12) Social Club report:

L.B. reported that between 10 and 16 members use the facilities and is enjoyed by all. He is piecing together their accounts as per 7(a) above.

13) Newsletter Editor’s report:

J.C. reported that he was awaiting the outcome of this meeting, as the Newsletter is virtually complete and, in the first instance, will be distributed to those attending the annual dinner.

14) Any other business:

a) T.S. asked if consideration could be given to his suggestion that replica trophies be made available for Club tournament winners to keep. It was agreed this be considered at a future meeting.

Action: Include on Agenda – **by Secretary**

Since there was no other business, the meeting was closed at 3.20 pm.

Date of next meeting: 11th March 2009, 12.15 pm at Page’s Park

Future meetings: 3rd June, 29th July & 16th Sept. – all 13.00 at Pages Park