

## LEIGHTON LINSLADE CROQUET CLUB

### Minutes of General Committee Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> March 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, Margaret Lawson, Tony Stammers and Tony Wells.

#### 1) Welcome

The chairman welcomed all present.

2) Apologies for absence: Were received from received from Peter Davies and Val Jeffers (who will be away until April).

#### 3) Minutes of January 28<sup>th</sup> 2009:

The minutes were agreed as a true record, with the following amendment and then duly signed. In the chart in Appendix B, the "\*\*\*" should be against "Garden Party" not "Club Doubles".

#### 4) Matters arising & review of Actions (if not included later on agenda):

4.1) Communications: The Committee confirmed that e-mail communication was working satisfactorily.

4.2) Item 5 (i) & (ii): Completed - T.W. had agreed to serve on Sports Council and the latter and J.C. had been so advised. As a result, M. L. and T.W. had received letters from the Sports Council welcoming them as LLCC representatives and their first meeting is on the 30<sup>th</sup> March 2009.

4.3) Item 6 (b): Completed.

4.4) Item 6 (d): Tony Stammers needed Ronnie Richardson's contact details regarding Dunstable's competition. **Action:** Obtain from other Committee member and reply to Ronnie – **by T.S.**

4.5) Item 6(f): L.B. reported that his enquiries found the funding opportunities were not currently applicable to LLCC.

4.6) Item 7: All actions completed.

#### 5) Secretary's report and correspondence:

a) In the absence of Roger Stroud, Jean Ball is Acting Secretary and Minutes Secretary.

b) The new C.A. fixtures book had been received along with reimbursement forms for the coaching course on the 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> March. The latter were passed to L.B. for use as appropriate.

c) Richard Keighley has written to advise of a coaching course for beginners and improvers, at Wrest Park on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April. **Action:** Advertise in the Newsletter – **by J.C.**

#### 6) Club Dinner 13<sup>th</sup> February 2009

a) Whilst the event was enjoyed by all, there was a problem in that Tilsworth Golf Centre would not reimburse those who could not attend the rescheduled date. After much communication to the Golf Centre, T.M. finally received a letter stating that they would, after all, reimburse them but the wine we accepted on the day would be chargeable and, hence, financially counteracted any reimbursement! After a vote of 7 for and 2 abstentions, the Committee decided to reimburse those concerned (4 people) from Club funds. Having anticipated this outcome of his proposal, L.B. had drafted a letter to them – see Appendix A. **Action:** After confirmation of content by T.M., send letter – **by L.B.**

b) For the next and subsequent years a cancellation policy would be put in place – see Appendix B.

- c) Timing of the annual dinner will be discussed at the next meeting. **Action:** Include on agenda – **by J.B.**
- d) L.B. confirmed he received all the “lost cheques” information, he required, from attendees.

#### 7) Treasurer’s Report:

- a) L.B. tabled balance sheet as at 1<sup>st</sup> March '09 and reported that, after the payment for the new competition quality balls, the bank balance stands at £5530.78.
- b) He is waiting to hear when the council would like the lawn rent. It was decided to send the £1,200 immediately – before Linda Carter’s imminent departure - to ensure we have the agreed unlimited use. David Ball gave a vote of thanks to Len for all his work.
- b) J. C., on behalf of Judith Cundell (Membership Secretary), advised that we have 42 paid up members and one complimentary member, plus a possible 11 more, so we are well within our temporary maximum of 60. There are three people who have paid £5 for trial games and they will be asked to contact J.C. or L.B. to arrange games.
- c) Audrey Bunn is having a hip/knee operation this year and as she only played for a couple of hours last season, it was agreed that her 2008 subscription be carried over to 2009 season.

#### 8) “Facilities”:

##### 8.1) Third lawn & lawn levelling:

a) Status: L.B. and J.C. reported that the existing two lawns will be ready for 21<sup>st</sup> March. T.M. had written to Linda Carter re. status of third lawn, only for her to advise that she is leaving the Town Council! L.B. & J.C. had met with an expert contractor, who advised that little could be done regarding the major dips at the edges of the lawns and their general unevenness, without spending a substantial sum. Further Club action to level these is “on hold”. The same independent contact provided L.B. with a quote, to produce a playable third lawn (for 2010), of £1,645+ VAT. This included aeration to 100mm, applying 10 tons of top dressing, luting the entire court and supplying 50kg. fertilizer. As the council may contribute to the cost/part cost, it was decided to set up a meeting with John Connew (Town Council Operations Manager) to discuss this and also to confirm whether fencing would be erected around it. The Committee considered the fencing to be a primary concern because there is clear demarcation of the existing two lawns, due to the barriers and signs, but no way of telling that the new lawn area is intended as a croquet lawn.

##### b) “Give It a Go in 2009”:

Laura Swanston-Team Beds&Luton Sports Development Officer - had been in touch re. inclusion in their brochure. It was decided to progress this for the June edition by way of free publicity but the lack of third lawn would restrict membership. Publication deadline is 8<sup>th</sup> May. **Action:** Submit form by deadline – **by T.M./J.C.**

8.2) Clubroom modifications e.g. sink: Thanks to L.B. and J.C. we now have a new sink in the clubroom, plus other helpful modifications.

##### 8.3) New Equipment/Purchase of existing hoops:

a) The new competition standard balls have now arrived and are stored in holders made by D.B. They are to be used only for league and friendly matches, not general play.

b) Negotiations are continuing, regarding the purchase of the hoops, with East Anglian Fed. Equipment Officer. **Action:** Conclude as appropriate (for £50?) – **by L.B.**

8.4) Replica trophies: It was decided not to purchase replica trophies but to obtain an “honours” board to be hung in the clubroom. **Action:** Come back to Committee with suggestions – **by D.B.**

#### 9) Fixture’s Secretary’s report:

##### 9.1) League:

a) T.W. reported that he had been in touch with Watford, Letchworth, Stony Stratford, Wrest Park and Northampton. League matches fixed to date are:

Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> May	Letchworth	Home
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Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June    Watford                      Home

b) Letchworth suggested playing on a Saturday. The Committee agreed to this, as it is only once a year.

9.2) Friendlies:

a) Arranged so far are:

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May            Watford                      Home  
Monday 10<sup>th</sup> Aug.        Watford                      Away

b) T.W. to liaise with Hunstanton re. dates, then members can make their own arrangements re. travel/accommodation etc.

9.3) Communication: **Action:** All of the above to be communicated to the Members via notices in the Club Room and/or the Newsletter – **by T.W.**

9.4) Outstanding fixtures: **Action:** Complete fixture list at the very earliest opportunity – **by T.W.**

10) Events: See Appendix C

10.1) Coaching weekend 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> March: Len had very kindly agreed to be the Lead Person for this significant event. The majority of the arrangements are now in place but the entry forms had not yet arrived. There will be free tea/coffee throughout the day, with tea and cakes served at 4 pm.

10.2) The Mayor has agreed to officially open the season on 4<sup>th</sup> April. J.C. confirmed there was no need for an “official assistant”.

10.3) 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events:

a) 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Page’s Park: Since no information could be given by the council, T.W. and M.L. are to glean information at the Sports Council meeting. Failing this, the Mayor would be approached on 4<sup>th</sup> April.

b) “Mix’n’Match” Doubles tournament. Carried over - **Action:** Modify cup – **by J.C.**

c) Garden Party: J.C. confirmed that Diana Phelps is happy to hold this event.

10.4) Outside events/tournaments:

a) Soham: T.W. reported that this indoor event was very popular, thus LLCC has been restricted to one day only.

b) Watford has a level B competition on 11<sup>th</sup> May for 3-7 handicappers only. The cost will be £8 and interested parties are to contact Roger Nicholls. **Action:** Communicate to the Members via notices in the Club Room and/or the Newsletter – **by T.W.**

10.4) Leighton Middle School: It was agreed that we would wait until the school contacted us. As they are now set up to be able to play, they may not need our help but possibly may like to use our lawns for their championship games and prize giving. L.B. has dealt with the issue of the loan of junior mallets, with the EACF Equipment Officer.

11) Young peoples’ involvement

11.1 LLCC’s approach:

a) T.M. had sent the draft policy, which he tabled at the last meeting, to Richard Keighley, in his Child Protection role. He had offered very helpful amendments and T.M. had circulated a new version with the agenda. In addition, as per the previous Minutes, T.M. had: i) Spoken to T.W. – he was supportive, ii) E-mailed Val Jeffers but had not received a response, iii) Had not been able to speak to Peter Davis, as the latter had been on holiday.

b) With the addition of “which approaches it” to the first line of paragraph 2, the Committee agreed and adopted the policy as shown in Appendix D. Hence, this will be applied as of today’s date.

11.2) Youth club in the pavilion at Page’s Park – Wednesday evenings:

After considerable discussion, centring on the perceived need for at least one CRB checked member to be available to help supervise any use of the lawns, whilst recognising we could not stop their use, it was decided that we would leave further consideration until we are approached.

12) Social Club report:

L.B. reported an attendance of between 10 and 16 and everyone enjoyed the mornings.

13) Newsletter Editor's report:

J.C. reported that the next newsletter was nearing completion and should be circulated within the next few days.

14) Any other business:

14.1) L.B. highlighted the need to change the format of the Croquet Club member's attendance calendar, in the light of the new flexible playing regime. **Action:** Produce new format – **by L.B.**

14.2) T.M. had received an invitation to any member that may be interested to hear a concert given by the James Goff Band at the Raven Theatre at Cedars School, in aid of the Mayor's chosen charity.

14.3) Margaret Brown is writing a booklet on the history of LLCC. J.C. and T.M. have read the draft and there are certain aspects of the content, e.g. finance information, which they believe need to be addressed/removed. J.C. and T.M. to approach her prior to publication. They also need to clarify who will be publishing it and, hence, who is liable for the cost of the same.

**Action:** Resolve the content/publication issues – **by T.M. & J.C.**

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 3.25pm.

**The next meeting was planned for 3<sup>rd</sup> June, at 13.00 at Pages Park.**

**PLEASE NOTE: Subsequent to the meeting, the date of the next meeting had to be changed to 10<sup>th</sup> June 2009 at 13.00 at Page's Park.**