

# LEIGHTON-LINSLADE CROQUET CLUB

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING 16<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2009

At 13-00 pm - Page's Park pavilion

**Committee Members:** -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**

Tom welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 13.07.

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

Apologies received from Peter Davis who is on holiday.

### **3. Minutes of meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2009**

#### Corrections

6.2.2 We pay £100 CA membership for the next year; for 2010 – 2011 we will pay £7 per member.

10.3 “The questions have been was posed” to read “The questions have been posed”.

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

#### **4.1 Dunstable Croquet Club**

Things went well regarding the assistance given to Dunstable croquet club.

#### **4.2 Erica Fogg Competitions**

Men's format will be the same as the Ladies. John Cundell will go back to Erica to clarify format.

#### **4.3 Croquet Association Membership**

There was a general discussion on membership of the Croquet Association.

What message do we want to convey to the members? Do we urge them to join?

Would the number of members affect any grants we might receive? The Chairman agreed to put these facts to members at the AGM.

John gave a reminder that an ordinary member receives their own copy of gazette six times per annum and would also receive discounts for CA shop purchases; also can enter only 1 CA tournament (life); whereas a tournament member can go in for CA tournaments.

#### **4.4 Garden Party**

The Garden Party went very well. Thanks should go to those who helped to set up and the ladies who provided a delicious tea.

#### **4.5 Leighton Middle School**

John Cundell sent some pictures of the children who took part to the teacher.

## **5. Secretary's report**

Roger reported that a Leighton Buzzard dental practice had contacted him with a view for a reciprocal arrangement on advertising. The dental practice would advertise our croquet club if we would advertise their dental practice (notice board, newsletter etc). The committee requested that Roger responds to the dental practice that we do not want such agreements.

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

The garden party showed a profit of £35 – the money was used to purchase the Davidson hoops (Lawn 2) which had been on rent at £20 per year.

There is the £250 grant cheque sitting waiting to contribute towards the payment of the new fence to surround the third lawn. Len showed the committee our hoop positioner which does need a repair. Len also explained that the cost of a new hoop positioner would be £59. The committee agreed to pay for modifications to our current hoop positioner.

The club accounts show that we have a balance of £5,355.87 in the bank.

The accounts close for the year on October 31<sup>st</sup>.

The Treasurer's Report for the AGM shows that the current membership fee of £55 will be maintained for next year. It is likely to increase in 2011 to £60, due to the additional cost per member to the club by the Croquet Association.

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

Written report from the Membership secretary was handed out by John the details of which will appear in the next newsletter.

There was a discussion about the costs involved when members bring friends to play.

John reminded the committee that potential new members pay £5 for two sessions then get the £5 refunded if they join.

Tom recalls that it had previously been agreed that friends can be bought a reasonable number of times for free.

Roger suggested that it is not a problem and it was agreed not to charge for friends – the committee agreed that guests should not be brought at particularly busy times. Tom said that he could raise it at the AGM but it will appear in the next Newsletter instead.

## **8. Facilities & Equipment**

### **8.1. Status with Town Council**

On 25<sup>th</sup> August, Tom went to the Town Council awards ceremony to receive a grant cheque for £250 and spoke to say what the money was being used for i.e. contribution to fencing of third lawn. Whilst there, Tom spoke to Pat Kingsnorth, Town Clerk, as we had not heard anything about our submission, in May, for 3<sup>rd</sup> lawn, its fencing or request for a formal agreement. She was surprised that we had not heard anything. Since the meeting Tom has emailed Pat Kingsnorth; she responded sending a copy of the specific minute of the Leisure & Community Committee meeting, i.e. "Members considered a report regarding ongoing discussions with the Croquet Club for the provision of a third croquet lawn at Pages Park. It was noted that Council had in 2008 given permission, subject to budget, for a third croquet pitch and the Committee hoped that this extra facility would be in place for the 2010 croquet season.

RESOLVED to note the report and reaffirm its support for a third croquet lawn at Pages Park."

Tom will draft a response to Pat Kingsnorth suggesting an urgent need to start the ground improvement for the new lawn.

### **8.2. Third lawn**

Last Saturday, John Connew spoke to John Cundell re 3<sup>rd</sup> lawn; the Council are waiting for quotes from fencing contractors. John also asked if weed killer could be laid where appropriate – John Connew agreed to carry it out.

### **8.3 Honours board(s) for clubroom**

John has given David Ball the winners information from 2000 – 2009 with confirmation from Roger regarding years 2000 – 2002.

### **8.4 Ground staff access to lawns**

David Ball reported that ground staff had found reluctance by a few members to vacate the lawns prior to mowing. This unacceptable situation would be highlighted in the newsletter and raised by Tom at the AGM.

### **8.5 General Lawn Condition**

John Skuse (Chelmsford Croquet Club) commented during their match on our lawns, that our croquet lawns are in good condition relative to many of the clubs in their region.

### **8.6 Purchase of loan hoops**

The loan hoops were purchased for £35.

## **9. Fixture's Secretary's report**

### **9.1 Indoor Croquet (Soham)**

Tony Wells reported that he has four names so far for this event.

### **9.2 Croquet Club Ladder**

It has been suggested by a member (John Thorpe) that we have a club 'ladder'.

It was noted that our club used to have one but no one ever used it.

The Chairman would contact John Thorpe stating the committee had no objection if he was willing to organise a club ladder. If agreed by John, this would be raised by Tom at the AGM.

### **9.3 Potters Bar Indoor Facility**

It had previously been suggested that there is an indoor croquet facility at Potters Bar.

After research, Tony has found that Potters Bar have never heard of an indoor croquet facility.

### **9.4. Winter friendly matches with Northampton & Stony Stratford**

Tony has approached the clubs - they are speaking to their committees.

### **9.5 Littlehampton Croquet Club**

Tony had approached Littlehampton Croquet Club about the idea of our club having an 'away day' at their club (similar to what we did at Hunstanton). They liked the idea and it is on their committee agenda.

## **9.6 Competitions in general**

There was a general discussion to gauge opinion as to how the competitive aspect of the club can be fostered for those who want it.

John Cundell commented that members can take part in the league and Inter-Club competition without being CA tournament members. There is an Inter County competition and a number of individual competitions but all of these require CA tournament membership. It was agreed that members should be offered further coaching at Club level in 2010. A note would go in the newsletter to this effect. Our potential coaches are eligible to coach at our Club level only. If they wish to coach at other clubs they will need to join as full CA individual members.

## **9.7 Inter-Club Plate competition**

John Cundell reported that Letchworth won their semi-final and will be our opponents in the final which is to be at Wrest Park. The final is currently scheduled for Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October - to be confirmed by Letchworth.

The committee gave congratulations to the team that won the semi-final against Chelmsford. Team selection for the Inter-Club Plate Final will be as for the semi-final.

## **9.8 Team Selection for League and Friendly Matches**

### **9.8.1 League Matches**

John and Len recommend that for the 2010 season we apply to the league to have two teams – an A and a B team. Also, that we should select 5 or 6 regular players for the 'A' team and attempt to accommodate all others interested in the 'B' team. We should endeavour to form a selection committee for the League and Inter-Club competitions. Volunteers would be asked for at the AGM. It was envisaged the committee would consist of five total including JC and LB.

The committee agreed that we progress as recommended.

### **9.8.2 Friendly Matches**

Regarding selection for Friendly matches, one or two complaints had been received concerning the method used for 2009 which was outlined by John C. After discussion it was agreed to carry on with this system for 2010.

## **9.9 Matches in General**

Tony requested that all arrangements for matches against other clubs (league or friendly) should be made through him. The committee agreed with that arrangement.

## **10. Sports Council Report**

Tony Wells reported that the District Sports Council meeting has only £2,800 to hand out to clubs. Also, that the Sports Council are noting who turns up at their meetings taking into account which clubs have applied for grants.

Tony also reported that Sport England has money to be handed out for all sports in England.

## **11. AGM**

### **11.1 Arrangements**

AGM will start at 7.30pm & then the party at 8.30pm. The raffle will be organised by having the winning numbers stuck on the prizes. Val Jeffers will organise the food + assistants.

## **11.2 Officers / Committee / Roles**

All the committee members are willing to stand for re-election.

## **11.3 Cups & shields**

Brian Ferris will organise the engraving of the cups and shields.

John Cundell will organise getting the trophies to Brian for engraving.

There is a requirement for an extra 'runners-up' trophy for the 'Mix 'n Match competition.

The Hunstanton vs. Linslade annual trophy will be engraved.

## **11.4 Invitations**

Tom will write to Nigel Clarke, Marjorie Cliffe & Joan Slow inviting them to the AGM Party.

If Marjorie Cliffe can come she will be asked to present the prizes.

Every member can bring a guest if they wish.

## **11.5 AGM Information Pack**

The Chairman, Treasurer & Secretary will each include a report covering the 2009 season.

The committee decided to send all members a hard copy report rather than a combination of email and hard copy to get to members by mid October.

The Officers and Committee members' nomination form states that any nominations need to get to the Secretary by October 30<sup>th</sup>.

**11.6 Gifts** Margaret Lawson will look after getting a gift for Diana (for organising the garden party) and Marjorie Cliffe (for acting as auditor).

## **12. Outline for 2010**

March	Annual dinner
April	Season opening with the Mayor
May	Club mix and match doubles
June	Ladies doubles trophy Foggy Gentlemen's doubles trophy
July	Club fun day Club handicap singles
August	Garden party LLCC Hunstanton challenge
September	Club doubles
October	Club singles
November	AGM

## **13. Young Peoples Involvement**

### **13.1 Child Protection Policy**

The question was posed – "What if two young people turned up to play when no CRB checked members are present?"

After consulting Richard Keighley, Tom had produced and tabled a draft update to our policy. It was agreed that he would give the Committee members time to consider the document and would ask Richard for his views. He would then seek the Committee's agreement to the new policy. If appropriate, Tom will send John Cundell a brief summary for inclusion in the Newsletter.

### **13.2 Health & Safety**

Does CA insurance give us Health & Safety protection? - We are covered for 3<sup>rd</sup> party. Children are covered if they are playing with our permission.

### **14. Handicaps**

John Cundell and Len Buckingham outlined suggestions concerning club handicaps. If any member feels they should have a better than current handicap they can request to take the handicap test again; anyone who does not want to have a handicap cannot enter a club handicap competition.

It was agreed that all members who wish to take part in club handicap competitions must play at least 10 handicap games in the available sessions in that season prior to the competitions.

John Cundell feels that games in league matches should be played using handicaps and not be timed or be timed games with level play – this will be raised with the league organisers in due course.

### **15. Timing of Annual Dinner – Change to end March**

### **16. Social Club - Starts on the 7<sup>th</sup> October.**

### **17. Any other business**

Halfway markers will not be used in future matches.

### **18. Date of next meeting - AGM Friday November 13<sup>th</sup>**

It was proposed to hold our first committee meeting of the 2010 season on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January.

Meeting closed at 16.40