

Minutes of a General Committee Meeting held on 30th July 2008 at Pages Park Pavilion

Present: Margaret Brown, Len Buckingham, John Cundell, Tony Wells, Tony Stammers, Bryan Ferris, Val Jeffers, Irene Davis, Judith Cundell, Ann Smith

Judith Cundell was welcomed to the meeting. John Cundell was thanked for all his work on the newsletter.

- 1 **Apologies** Margaret Brown advised that Roger Stroud is very ill and we send our best wishes.
- 2 **Minutes of the meeting held on 11th June 2008** were approved and signed.
- 3 **Matters arising**
 - a) August Sessions for young people: Margaret Brown has spoken to Richard about more publicity and has written to the newspaper. One lady would like to bring four people from mentally handicapped group. No other enquiries at present.
 - b) Referees at Dunstable 2nd August: Sally Clay, Tony Stammers and Diana Phelps have volunteered.
 - c) Third Lawn: Margaret Brown has spoken to Linda Carter re urgency of third lawn which must be started and seeded by September. Regarding damage to lawns, Linda advised some parents wished to start a youth club in the Pavilion on Thursdays between 6.00pm and 7.30pm and wondered whether we could meet with them to explain croquet or show them how the game is played which may help them to respect the lawns. It was agreed some members would come for two sessions and Margaret will ask Linda to advise when the club starts.
 - d) Lawn levelling: Equipment Len has been investigating is old and may not be available. He is continuing to look into this. John Cundell reported that Letchworth has excellent lawns which the club did themselves using a small tractor mower with roller, towing an aluminium ladder. We have a friendly match in September and he hopes someone will come along to explain this fully. John Connew had advised that work should have been started on third lawn by 20th July and the contract may have to be given to another company. Margaret will contact Linda again.
- 4 **Secretary's Report:** No correspondence but Margaret has been approached by a local businessman wanting to hold an early evening croquet match as a team building exercise for his staff of about 12, and then take them to dinner. Would two members assist them? Must speak to Linda about this and Len will also check on position re insurance. Len to be contacted re charges.
- 5 **Membership Secretary's Report:** Judith Cundell advised there are 54 members and one complimentary. Six people have asked for forms for next year. Some members have only played a few times. It was agreed that Judith should accept members with a reduced fee for this year. Also agreed that members' names, addresses and telephone numbers should be given to all committee members.

- 6 Treasurer's Report**
£4211.92 in hand but could be a lot of outlay. Len demonstrated an anti-football device. Estimated cost £300 per lawn. Devices themselves would be given by a local garage. Council to be consulted. Possibility that Council could pay as vandalism money. All agreeable to Len discussing this with John and Doug and then Linda.
New balls: Cost £210 per set from Croquet Association – six sets of competition balls for three lawns, less 5% discount, £1197. Would only be used for competitions. We have received a replacement for yellow split ball. Need to bring up new balls at the January meeting for next season.
- 7 Sports Council – Youth Fayre 4th October.** Invitations to clubs and organisations to provide a display and demonstration at the Grovebury Road Scout Hut to encourage young people to join. Margaret will advise that we are interested.
- 8 Tournaments/events**
Matches booked for every Friday in August. All details in club house.
Garden Party 16th August: Len will buy prizes for a raffle and Bryan will run it. Will decide at next meeting what to do with proceeds. It was agreed we should give Diana a Garden Voucher for £25 which Margaret will buy.
- 9 Possible coaches' course/ celebrations for 10th anniversary**
It was agreed to advise Jeannet Blake that we are willing to hold a coaches' course here as part of our 10th anniversary to train people from other clubs. We would provide facilities. We need to give thought to other celebrations.
- 10 Any Other Business**
Irene Davis asked Tony if he had heard any more about indoor croquet at Soham. She will give him the name of lady who has taken over.
Proposed Youth Club in Pavilion: Assumed equipment will be used by youth club and Len thought our equipment, e.g. dart-board should be in a locker. He will speak to John Connew about this.
League Championship Matches: John C and Len B not happy with rules and consider time should be increased from 30 mins to 45 mins and matches should be home and away. They will prepare documents putting forward a proposal to the organisers.
Officers: Margaret pointed out there is only one more meeting before AGM and we need to think about new chair, vice chair and committee members.
- 11 Date of next meeting** 17th September at 1.00pm.