

**Minutes of a General Committee Meeting held on 23rd March 2006 at
308 Grasmere Way. Linslade**

Present: Margaret Brown (Chairman), Len Buckingham, Sally Clay, John Cundell,
Erica Fogg, Edna Hickman, Val Jeffers, Richard Keighley, Diana Phelps, Tony Wells.

Apologies: None.

1 Chairman's opening statement

MB welcomed SC back from her Australian trip.

2 Minutes of the meeting held on 19th January

Signed and approved subject to slight amendment in item 1 para 1
last line to read 'Individual Committee members had agreed to perform
specific roles and tasks.'

3 Matters arising

- a) Coaching days. There may be 1 or 2 vacancies available on 18th June
at Wrest Park. Diana, Sally and Yvonne are on the reserve list. SC
will contact Roger Nicholls to enquire if there are any places available
on the 21st May for the Coaching Day at Watford.
- b) Courses for prospective coaches. Courses will be held at Henley on
29/30 April and at Edgbaston on 8/9th July. RK will be attending the
course at Edgbaston in July. He asked if anyone would be interested in
taking a coaching course.
- c) Twinning Sports Day. No news about this but carnival has been re-
scheduled to 9th September.
- d) Leighton Linslade Sports Partnership. Andrew Mawdsley from
Vandyke School will liaise with Christine Boardman from Leighton
Middle School with a view to introducing croquet to pupils. RK
agreed to contact Andrew Mawdsley to arrange some taster sessions.
We may need to supply several smaller mallets. Audrey Bunn may
have one. It was suggested that some club mallets could be shortened.
Some might be purchased at a latter date depending on the response.

4 Secretary's report

Publications circulated included The Croquet Gazette which included the
2005 Golf Croquet Review by Bill Arliss.

An invitation from Mark and Sue Freeman to the 'End of Year Show' on
April 22nd.

The Voluntary and Community Action Newsletter containing some useful
information on grants, possibly scope for encouraging youngsters.

5 Membership Secretary's report (see attached) *Agreed: to buy a gazelle*

LB offered to lend hoops for use on 3rd lawn

6 Treasurers report (see attached)

7 Report on Social club

16 people attended on 22nd March. 5 or 6 non club members expressed an
interest in joining. LB will discuss insurance with Linda. The club has

permission to use the existing cupboards but the question of acquiring cupboards at some stage was discussed. LB
The club has permission to leave games/equipment set up.
Present trends are encouraging and there will be a meeting next week.

8 Club events

- a) Club supper. Some 30 members and guests attended and it was agreed to make it an annual event.
- b) Opening on 1st April. LB has checked with John Connew the condition of the lawns. Concern was expressed due to the recent cold spell but generally the lawns had held up pretty well. JC will arrange with John Connew to mark out the lawns and it was agreed that LB, JC and Martin, if he is agreeable, to meet on 29th Mar to measure out and mark positions. The Mayor will strike the 1st ball on Saturday 1st April at 2.00 pm. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be supplied. VJ
- c) Come and Try Day 30th April 2.00 pm – 5.00 pm. RK will contact the local paper to arrange press coverage. The White House has advertised the event in their newsletter. RK will book the lawns as last year. Publicity – Posters. LB/JC will produce posters. DP/EF will distribute, MB offered to assist before going away. VJ will organise refreshments. EH,DP,MB agreed to tidy up the room.

9 EACF league & friendly fixtures & outside tournaments

RK will attend the East Anglian AGM on Saturday 25th March. Burnham are not happy about the shoot out procedure. RK will thank Burnham for the feedback and pass on to EACF. Fixture dates:

League matches

Tues 9 May (H) Watford

Tues 4 July (A) Wrest Park

Fri 4 or 11 August (H) Letchworth

Friendly matches (doubles 8 entrants)

Monday 24 April (A) Watford

Friday 16 June (H) Watford

Friday 14 July (H) Stony Stratford

Tues 15 August (A) Stony Stratford

Watford are running a tournament on Friday 12 May at a cost of £20 per pair.

Cheltenham are holding a tournament on Wednesday 7th June for those with handicaps between 0-4.

Grass Roots – regional final

Saturday 12 Aug Northampton

National final

Saturday 9 Sept Northampton

Sunday 10 Sept Final of Centre Stage Northampton

All England

↙ Group entry not less than 4 competitors (closing date for entry 18 May)

RK will be unable to take part this year.

Wrest Park

RK has agreed to help Ronnie Richardson (Dunstable) with their handicapping. JC,SC,DP will assist on Monday 8th May.

10 Future developments of the club

John Connew approached the club regarding the possibility of the present cricket pitch being converted into a croquet lawn. It was agreed that MB would express our interest in acquiring a third lawn.

a) Recruitment of new members. TW has 8 people coming to 'Come & Try Day'. It was suggested that those wishing to pursue less strenuous hobbies might be the people to target e.g. U3A.

b) Publicity. MB will contact Mick King, journalist with LBO with a view to him putting in an article before the 'Come & Try Day'.

LB will prepare forms for participants at the 'Come & Try Day' and write offering coaching sessions.

It was agreed to continue to contact local press with our match results. JC will investigate including items in the 'What's On' section and to distribute posters for the 'Come & Try Day' in the Library.

11 AOB

JC will not be available on some week days due to work commitments.

He requested that the club doubles match be held on Saturday 30th

September and the singles on Sunday 1st October this was agreed.

RK is trying to get a croquet lawn in Wingrave. He has had a positive response and is hopeful that in the meantime people will come to our events with a view to becoming members of LL.

12 Dates of committee meetings

Tues 23rd May (LB)

Thurs 6th July (VJ)

Wed 20th Sept (RK)

13 The meeting closed at 9.40 pm and Edna was thanked for her kind hospitality.

J. J. Brown - Chair 25.5.06