

**Minutes of a General Committee Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2006 at  
2 St Mary's Glebe, Edlesborough.**

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

**1 Apologies for Absence**  
Diana Phelps.

**2 Minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> March**  
Signed and approved subject to amendment of Grass Roots Final date to  
Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> Sept. and Centre Stage Final to Sat 9<sup>th</sup> Sept. both at 11am at  
Northampton.  
Item 6 addition to Treasurer's report 'The purchase of hoops and balls was  
discussed and LB agreed to lend his set of hoops to the club. It was agreed  
to purchase a gazebo.'

**3 Matters arising**

- a) Coaching days. Diana, Sally, Yvonne and Tony Wells attended the  
golf croquet coaching day at Watford on 21 May. Despite continual  
rain throughout the day all soldiered on and agreed that it was a  
worthwhile and rewarding experience. The Wrest Park coaching day  
on 18 June is over subscribed. Irene Davies and Gillian Antosiewicz  
are on the waiting list ( \*both now accepted on the course).  
Courses for prospective coaches. \*The course held at Henley on 29/30  
April had taken place RK will participate in the course at Edgbaston  
on 8/9<sup>th</sup> July.
- b) L-L School Sports Partnership. Andrew Mawdsley has left Vandyke  
School however RK has been in contact with Chris Boardman (Schools  
Sports Partnership Coordinator) and arrangements for pupils (9-13 yr  
olds) to have two 25 minute taster sessions (12.25pm and 12.50pm) on  
Tuesday 13 June (\*since postponed to 20<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> June) at the  
Memorial field at Leighton Middle School are in place. One club  
member per group of 4 will be needed preferably a younger person.
- c) Social Club. The club will not be running during the summer months  
possibly reopening in October. Installation and monitoring of CCTV  
camera would be a consideration in conjunction with SBDC. It was  
agreed that any proposal for this activity to be under the auspices of the  
Club would need to be brought to the AGM in November.
- d) EACF. RK reported that he attended the East Anglian AGM on  
Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March. There had been an explosion of golf croquet over  
the last 5 years. There is a new EACF website. A disabled East  
Anglian committee member reported on a day event day in Downham  
Market which was attended by 100 disabled members. The loan hoops  
system was working well resulting in the purchase of two sets. The

indoor representative reported a successful tournament at Soham and that more were planned. A golf referee course is planned for this season. The Croquet Gazette and FACE were circulated. Thanks were expressed to John, Martin and Len for marking out the lawns for the league match on 9 May.

- e) Future developments of the Town's sport and leisure infrastructure has been discussed by a working party and MB explained that an ambitious 'wish list' has been drawn up with each item given a level of priority. The list includes a new Leisure centre (high priority) to include facilities for indoor croquet. Three outdoor croquet lawns, with possibly a lawn for juniors, are medium priority.

#### **4 Secretary's report**

RK had written to Len's neighbour who had kindly repaired a hoop. It was agreed that the club purchase new hoops and balls. In order to qualify for a grant of £250 awarded to the club from The L-L Sports Council, LB will issue another cheque for £10 Affiliation fee as the original cheque was lost. RK & TW would represent the club at the ceremony on Monday 12 June at the L-L Town Council.

MB had received nomination requests from L-L & District Sports Council for Sport Awards of £50 to both a male and female sports person who has contributed to the development of their sport.

The Croquet Association is organising a garden croquet event during the summer. John Bevington from Wrest Park had received a request to host this event. John was not keen because of the reduction of lawn size required. It was not known if other venues had been sought and as yet LL club has not been approached.

A letter received from Martin regarding a reduction of membership fees for junior and adults in full time employment who were able to play fewer weekly sessions. It was agreed to ask Martin's permission to publish his letter in the newsletter as it was considered a club concern and should be submitted as a proposal to be discussed at the AGM

RK is continuing to write to John Connew to book the lawns. Tuesday sessions are being monitored as attendance has been low however the recent wet weather has affected all play and Tuesdays in particular have suffered.

JC/RK aiming to publish next newsletter in about the last week of June.

#### **5 Membership Secretary's report**

The club has 41 paid-up members at May 2006.

Come & Try Day. As a follow-up to this successful event, 19 letters were written to potential members whose names and addresses had been collected on the day. So far three new members have actually signed up. Thanks to John Fogg for his efforts.

Local enquiries relating to cost and work involved for levelling and extending lawns had been unsatisfactory. RK will contact Jennet Blake, Wrest Park and Letchworth who have recently opened new lawns.

**6 Treasurers report**

Accounts circulated. LB purchased a gazebo £79.99 balls £160 and centre post £14. The deposit account stands at £2,651.93 and the current account at £894.13

**7 New Lawn.**

The committee was in favour of offering to contribute to part of the cost of a new lawn. RK will write to Linda Hindson to ask for for a meeting between the Officers, herself and John Connew to discuss the possibility of extending the current lawns and levelling work for a further lawn. It has been suggested that fencing could be erected centrally and around the lawns.

It was agreed to purchase Sunshine secondary coloured balls and Jacques Championship hoops with the £250 grant awarded to the club from the L-L Sports & Leisure Council.

**8 Club events**

a) Grass Roots Day is on Saturday 10 June. There is a cricket match on 11 June and preparation of the square may make 3<sup>rd</sup> lawn unavailable.

16 members entered last year and if we were reduced to two lawns it would be difficult to complete play in the time available. National Grass Roots closing date is 31 May. It was agreed to restrict entrants to 6 handicap players only.

Centre Stage Day will take place on Saturday 17 June for players with Handicaps between 1 & 5.

Notices for these and other June events to go on the notice board.

b) Fun Day 16 July (new date) as original date clashed with cricket match.

c) Club Handicap Singles 22 July.

d) Garden Party. A request for member(s) to volunteer to provide a venue would appear in next newsletter and on notice board.

**9 EACF league & friendly fixtures & outside tournaments**

Thanks were expressed on behalf of the team to all those members who helped to make the first league match of the season a success.

League matches

Tues 4 July (A) Wrest Park

Friday 4 August (H) Letchworth

Friendly matches

Friday 26 May (A) Watford. Score 11-5 to Watford

Fridays 2 June (H) & 30 June (A) to Winslow

\*Ickworth Doubles

Sat 8<sup>th</sup> July – Allocation of 2 pairs

Ickworth Singles

Sunday 3 September. Allocation 3 places, handicaps will be used.

10

**AOB**

Dates of future meetings: MB gave apologies for the July meeting but John C. kindly agreed to chair in her place

Thurs 6 July (VJ) Monday 18 Sept.(RK)

The meeting closed at 9.45pm and Len & Eve were thanked for their kind hospitality.

John C. C. J.  
Acting Chair man

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