

**Minutes of a General Committee Meeting held on 6th July 2006 at
The Old Mill, Aylesbury Road, Wing.**

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

1 Apologies for Absence

Margaret Brown.

2 Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd May

Signed and approved.

3 Matters arising

- a) Coaching days. A successful days' coaching at Wrest Park on 18th June was attended by four club members. RK is going to High Wycombe 8/9th July for a coaching for coaches course.
- b) L-L School Sports Partnership. Thanks to Chris Boardman, School Sports Coordinator, for helping to organise taster sessions for 40 9-13 yr old pupils at Leighton Middle School on 20/24 June. Matthew and a friend represented the club highlighting interest in attracting younger players. Two more sessions are scheduled for 10/17 July. TW, SC, Tony Stammers will attend on 10 July and Erica and the two Tony's will help on 17 July. (We have since been advised that the 10 July session has been cancelled in favour of the school Sports Day which was postponed last week due to the heatwave.)
It is hoped schools may set up an evening club and we could probably arrange coaching sessions for youngsters on Saturday mornings.
- c) Sports Council Awards. It was agreed that the club nominate Margaret Brown for the Service to Sport Award this year.

4 Secretary's report

- a) Correspondence. RK wrote to Peter Edwards' family thanking them for kindly donating Peter's mallet to the club. A small plaque to this effect appears on the mallet.
The June edition of the Croquet Gazette was circulated containing an interesting article on the history of Wrest Park with photographs taken in the early 50s before the lawns were laid.
Details of a sponsored walk for the Pasque charity at Woburn Abbey on Sunday 24 September were circulated.
A letter from Jean Floyd was circulated thanking club members for their many messages, cards and donations received on the death of "Ollie"/Oliver.
- b) Report on meeting with Town Council. RK & LB attended an informative meeting to discuss enlarging lawns 1-2 to full size lawns with fencing down the centre and around the perimeter. Three addresses of charitable organisations were put forward as possible sources of funding. It is likely that the Town Council would be

agreeable to help meet costs and pay something in the region of £5K. RK checked out 'Awards for All'. To qualify for a Biffa Award (Waste Disposal) we have to be within a 10 mile radius, Pages is 8.6 miles and therefore could expect to be granted between £2,500 and £5,000. No funding is available from Littlewoods. The 3rd lawn occasionally used by cricketers is one of two pitches in Leighton Buzzard, the other is situated in Mentmore Road. The TC are unable to justify maintaining both pitches and at the moment they are just concentrating on Mentmore Road. However they can justify maintenance of the 3rd lawn for croquet use which keeps the area in good condition. Should the demand for a second pitch become an issue in the future the 3rd lawn may not be available to us.

5 Membership Secretary's report

The club has 42 paid-up members at June 2006. Interest from Wrest Park group members could result in potential new members. It was noted that the register had not been marked up for sessions held between 25/30 July. It was agreed to note the number of sessions non members attended.

6 Treasurer's report

Accounts circulated. RK to send receipts to the Sports Council.

7 Club events

- a) Fun Day 16 July. Response was generally 'fear of the unknown' and it was decided to take things as they come on the day. Payment will be a piece of fruit and veg. VJ & DP will arrange cakes for the event.
- b) Club Handicap Singles 22 July. There are 11/12 entries to date and format will be block play.
- c) Garden Party 19 August. Irene Davies has kindly offered to host this years' party at Waterways. It was agreed to donate profits from our raffle to Irene for a charity of her choice. JC will produce tickets with maps on the reverse. LB will purchase raffle prizes. VJ will coordinate food.

8 Update on EACF League & Friendly fixture & outside tournaments

To date we have played two League matches and together with Watford and Wrest Park we all stand at the same point. All depends on our final match against Letchworth at Pages on 4th August and Wrest Park's match against Watford. The four players in our team are Eve, Len, Val & George. George is concerned that his game is not on form this season and a substitute, possibly Margaret, may play.

It was agreed that the rules of the game be read out prior to the start of play. Grass roots. JC to write to Patricia Duke Cox advising that 8 players entered the competition and the top 4 would like to go on to play in the final at Northampton. Patricia understood that there were only 4 entrants and therefore allocated just 1 player to go on. It was agreed that the club will pay in this instance.

The National Trust Doubles at Ickworth 8 July.

Richard to call informing organisers that 2 of the 4 allocated players will go to Ickworth.

Friendly v Stony Stratford (H) 14 July

8 players entered.

Club Handicap Singles 22 July

Good response with around 12 entrants to date. Block play will be used.

Friendly v Stony Stratford (A) 4 August

List to go on the board this week.

National Trust Singles at Ickworth

3 places are available. 9.30 start £5 pp.

9 AOB

Croquet in Wingrave. RK reported on 3 successful taster sessions of some 30 participants 8/10 attended all 3 sessions. Funds were needed to convert field into lawns at Wingrave. In the meantime we have potential new members at L-L.

SC asked about acquiring official name badges for tournaments. JC will contact Roger Nicolls for further information.

Judith Cundell has taken over the role of Welfare from Diana for the time being.

LB reported that the new Sunshine balls for use on lawn 3 are being mixed up, they are clearly marked and have now been placed on the top shelf and should be stored only there. This will be mentioned in the next Newsletter.

It was agreed that LB will purchase another umbrella.

10 Confirmation of next meeting

Monday 18 Sept (RK). Erica and John gave apologies.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm

Val was thanked for her kind hospitality.

J. J. Brown

18.9.06