

**Minutes of a General Committee Meeting held on 18th September 2006 at
The Old Vicarage, Leighton Road, Wingrave.**

Present: Margaret Brown, Len Buckingham, Sally Clay, Edna Hickman, Richard Keighley, Diana Phelps.

1 Apologies for Absence

John Cundell, Erica Fogg, Val Jeffers, Tony Wells.

2 Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd May

Signed and approved.

3 Matters arising

- a) Coaching. RK attended course held at High Wycombe (8/9th Sept) there were only 3 on the course 2 of which were coaches. RK received a badge and reported that it was a well run course and would recommend it.
- b) L-L School Sports Partnership. Christine from Leighton Middle School is applying for funds to set up a school club following the successful taster sessions held this summer. Martin and Judith expressed an interest in coaching pupils. The school is prepared to replace the missing ball LB will contact.
- c) Sports Council Awards. LB will send receipts for balls and hoops purchased.
- d) Croquet in Wingrave. RK reported that croquet was played by a few in a makeshift field over the summer during his absence. 4-6 expressed an interest in attending taster sessions in Wingrave Park, if this is not possible it is hoped to encourage them to L-L.
- e) Official name badges for tournaments. There are no official name badges. Watford made their own. JC will design club name badges for next season.

4 Secretary's report

Correspondence

The County Sports Partnership has been reconstituted as set out in the Newsletter titled Team Talk circulated. CA has released September issue of their Noticeboard. Items of interest include 'Young Players', requesting that clubs forward names of talented youngsters to Cliff Jones, so that the player can be included in the plans he is developing for the more gifted youngsters.

Newsletter

RK,JC agreed to publish the next Newsletter 1-2nd week October.

5 Membership Secretary's report

The total paid up membership at 14 September is 43. This is likely to be the final figure for the 2006 season. John Fogg has looked back over the records since the club opened, it is interesting to note that over the years some 83

people have at one time or another been members. Playing records showed between 11-13 on all sessions apart from Tues which averaged 6. The records show that there were only 7 sessions when there was no play presumably due to adverse weather or clashing event dates.

6 Treasurer's report

Balance sheet 1 November 2005 to 18th September 2006 was circulated. Total expenditure £2,430.25 Deposit account £2,851.93 Excess of income over expenditure, represented by cash at Alliance & Leicester is £2,712.67.

7 Lawns project with L-LTC (LB/RPK)

LTC are probably to reclaim 3rd lawn for cricket next year. LB/RPK met with Linda Hindson and John Connew to discuss extension of existing lawns. We are still waiting for a quotation unfortunately John Connew hasn't contacted contractors as agreed or responded to messages left by LB. If we are reduced to 2 lawns next season we may have to consider offering additional sessions. RK/LB had met with Peter Cooper from Aylesbury Little Diggers and a broad brush view was that to level an area for a new lawn would be a costly major job. Peter Cooper estimates the amount for extending, levelling and moving turf on existing lawns would be £1,800 + VAT. It is proposed to erect a fence between the two lawns. LB measured the present lawns and both lawns fall short of a full size lawn by 8 yards. A full size lawn is 35 yards long. 10 metres of earth would need to be moved and in view of this the price would be substantially higher. LB recommended that we should aim to extend. LTC have agreed to the fencing at their expense. Bringing in top soil and levelling can only be done at this time of the year. We can extend if it's feasible but levelling could not be done until next year if we have to bring in top soil the cost would be higher. MB suggests fund raising might be necessary for this project possibly by applying for grants. MB suggested approaching her son for his opinion. It was agreed that extending the existing lawns to full size is priority. We are waiting for figures and will then present them to the Council and offer to contribute. Thanks were given to Richard and Len.

8 Club events

Review of Club's summer events

a) Fun day 16 July attendance was low largely due to the scorching conditions but participants declared the event thoroughly enjoyable and worthy of repetition.

The July handicap singles were well supported. RK suggested we adopt a score card for competitors.

The Garden Party. Irene Davies kindly hosted our party this year.

Attendance was low probably related to the venue. Entrance fees amounted to £90 and £88.68 accounted for food.

b) Club Doubles/Singles (30/9-1/10). 7/8 pairs are entered for the doubles matches and some 18 for the singles. LB to close and draw up the competition. 1/10 Official closing of the season.

c) AGM (10.11.06) Hall booked for meeting at 7.30 pm followed by a party. Fees for hiring the hall will be £16-£20. Agreed LB would purchase raffle prizes to the value of about £20 and that whatever monies are raised be donated to Keech Cottage Hospice. VJ to coordinate food. LB to prepare accounts in time for AGM and all reports should be with the secretary by Monday 16 October. It was agreed that we invite Marjorie Cliffe, Linda Hindson, John Connew, Elaine and Peter Newman (MB to contact) and John Bevington. A couple of games would be available.

9 End of season review of tournaments entered and league/friendly matches

Grass roots. It was agreed not to apply for this tournament next year. Ickworth. We have to commit early in the season and in view of this years' response, it was felt this tournament had probably run its course, therefore it was agreed not to apply.

Friendly matches. The club aim to have more Friendly fixtures next season. The League. We are organising the final at Newport (23/24 Sept). We need 8 helpers.

10 AOB

Social Club. LB reported that the U3A had contacted him regarding our club offering to run a group within the auspices of the U3A. The idea of inviting other members was to introduce them to the croquet club. If the club were to run it ourselves we would have to look into the insurance. If it's run under the auspices of the U3A we wouldn't have to worry about insurance. The Council will still charge the same. LB will look into the insurance. Club meeting days to be reviewed.

We are paying insurance for croquet for 12 months. If a Social Club is set up under the auspices of the club the constitution would need to be amended. LB to produce a resolution for the AGM to discuss and decide.

DP had received a message from Judy at Wrest Park with a reminder singles/doubles matches would have to be run by ourselves next season. Subscriptions for group members of Wrest Park are to be increased. Enquires would be made if L-L members would be entitled to pay a reduced affiliation fee to WP.

Club members have been invited to take part in the indoor croquet matches at Soham in January.

It was agreed to table a proposal at the AGM that a club dinner be held in the New Year.

RK suggests we appoint a fixture secretary. TW would be approached.

MB to ask absent members of the committee meeting if they intend standing again next year. Edna and Erica are standing down.

11 Provisional Date for next committee meeting

The date of the next meeting will be set after the AGM.

The meeting closed and Richard was thanked for his kind hospitality.

M. T. Brown. 18.1.07