

Leighton-Linslade Croquet Club

Minutes of a General committee meeting held on 26th May 2005.

1. Present: : George Lawson (Chair), Len Buckingham, Sally Clay,
Erica Fogg, Edna Hickman, Richard Keighley, Diana Phelps.
2. Apologies : Margaret Brown, John Cundell, Val Jeffers.
3. Minutes of the meeting held on 10/03/05 were approved and signed.
4. Matters Arising:
 - a. CA Coaching course : 24/04/05.
A very successful and worthwhile day for the 16 participants. Important to pass on new knowledge of rules and tactics to other members. RK had thanked Jennet Blake and her fellow coaches. There was a prospect of a further course in our area, but not at our club.
 - b. Pavilion Step.
The new step had greatly improved access to the clubhouse. RK to write to thank Julian Brown, and Linda Hindson for help by 4 Council employees. LB thanked for his efforts.
 - c. 3rd Lawn
Linda Hindson had been asked by the Council committee to obtain quotes for levelling the land and the creation of a 3rd lawn. LB had obtained informal quotes of £1000 and £1500 for levelling the present lawns and the possible site of a new lawn.
 - d. Stanbridge sports area
Nothing to report. It was very doubtful that this was worth pursuing.
 - e. Young members.
Disappointingly, there had been no response whatsoever from any school in the area. Chris Bolton had been asked for further suggestions, if any.
5. Secretary's Report
 - a. Correspondence.
Pasque Charity 'Go Yellow' campaign.
 - b. Newsletter. RK and JC proposed to publish the 3rd Edition for 2005 in early June.(NB Send copy to Hilda & Les Jones)
 - c. GC Referee course
RK had attended a course by Bill Arliss at Newport in Essex, but failed to reach the required grade. He claimed he had learnt a lot anyway!
6. Membership Secretary's Report:
 - a) 35 members to date. New members are Peter Edwards, Martin Field, Pat Higginson & Rita Kingston. 6 persons had not rejoined this year. Audrey Burton had felt well enough to rejoin.
 - b) Tony Wells had been sending cards on his travels around Europe(and had turned up to play during a week back in the UK).
 - c) Members had agreed to help at Wrest Park on 30th May.
 - d) Copies of updated Constitution required.
7. Treasurer's Report :
Balance Sheet attached showing Club funds £2662.36. Expenses of £366.01 incurred to date with income of £1918.63 together with £1109.74 brought forward from 2004.Lawn rent predicted to be about £800 this season, an increase of about one third on last season's total.

It was agreed to offer reduced subs from 13th June on same basis as last season.

A new crossword compiled by Roy Couch was available.

8. Club Programme :

- a) Opening Day and Come and Try Day had been successful and well-Attended.
- b) Grass Roots day on 11th June 2005. 7 names already but other members to be encouraged to take part.
- c) DP very kindly offered to host a Garden Party again on Saturday 20th August at 3pm. Cost: £3.50. Raffle with 3 prizes only, comprising bottles of wine to be donated by RK who could not attend.
- d) Club Handicap competition(Singles) to be on Sunday 31st July.
- e) Keys to clubhouse available from LB, at a cost to be notified and refundable.

9. Fixtures

- a) Full list printed on reverse of agenda. Next matches against Winslow(friendly) and Burnham(League). RK to write with revised directions and match rules to be applied by us.
- b) No new fixtures to be sought as programme full enough already.

9. Tournaments:

- a. National Trust. 4 players accepted for Singles at Ickworth on 4th Sept., but no news about Pairs on 9th July.
- b. Ladies Doubles. At least 3 pairs had applied to take part in tournament at Abingdon on 12th August.
- c. Grass Roots entry fee had been sent to CA. RK had entered Club in All England.

10. Plans for the Future of Club.

The provisional consensus was that it was sensible to allow a small surplus to accumulate each year for the following reasons :

- a) the possibility that it would cost more to hire the existing lawns.
- b) the uncertainty as to whether a contribution would be required from the club, if a 3rd lawn was provided.
- c) the purchase of new equipment.

If the Council were to provide a new lawn at ratepayers' expense, it would obviously charge the club to use it. Hire charges would be expected to rise possibly from £800 to £1200, or £1500. A membership of 35-40 could not bear such increases and there was no present indication that a membership of 60 plus was achievable.

11. Date of next Committee Meeting :

The next meeting would take place at the home of Erica Fogg on 28th July at 7.30pm.

Len & Eve Buckingham were thanked for their kind hospitality and the meeting closed at 10pm.

Chairman.....