

Leighton-Linslade Croquet Club

Minutes of a General committee meeting held on 22nd September 2005.

- 1 Present: Richard Keighley (Chairman of the meeting), Margaret Brown, Len Buckingham, Sally Clay, John Cundell, Erica Fogg, Edna Hickman, Val Jeffers, Diana Phelps.
2. Apologies : George Lawson. The Committee was pleased to hear that he was home again following his operation and progressing well.
3. Minutes of the meeting held on 28/07/05 were approved and signed.
4. Matters Arising:
 - a) Coaching. A coaching day may be held at Wrest Park in May 2006.
 - b) Carnival Float To be mentioned in next Newsletter to see if anyone interested.
 - c) Hoops. LB reported that sets of new hoops and balls would cost £159 each from Jacques. Agreed to continue to borrow hoop set from EACF at £20 per season.
5. Secretary's Report
 - a. Correspondence.
None except relating to tournaments and fixtures
 - b. Newsletter. RK and JC proposed to publish the 5th Edition for 2005 in October.
6. Membership Secretary's Report:
 - a. Joan & Brian Ferris brought number to 39(13 men, 26 women).
 - b. Geoff Tegerdine recovering. He and Ann grateful to receive Newsletter.
 - c. Thoughts for future : 1. Need to keep Club developing with new members.
2. Could we agree to recommend running a short course for beginners to the new committee?(After the "Come & Try")
3. Any thoughts about the "grey" image?
 - d. Publicity. Thanks to those responsible for newsletter, press reports and Photos.Agreed : to enquire further about taking part in the Town twinning sports event in 2006.
 - e. MB will analyse attendances and report to AGM.
 - f. Replacement for Membership Secretary in 2006?
7. Treasurer's Report : ** Attached.
 - a. Insurance brokers insisted that, as an affiliated club, there was cover under the CA umbrella policy. CA had agreed and a certificate had been issued without any payment. RK to check paperwork.
 - b. LB was aware of Council's intention to level the lawns and extend them to avoid any overlap. However, he understood that the Council had bid for funds for a far more ambitious sports project including the landscaping of the whole of Pages Park. Outcome would be known in November.
 - c. The raffle at the Garden party had raised £34.
 - d. Any expenses incurred must be notified by end of October.
8. Match reports
 - a) In the EACF League, the final match against Letchworth on 2/8/05 had been lost 10-8, but the 3 earlier wins were enough for the Club to have won the South section. The play off final against Downham Market was on 8 Oct. at Newport, Essex. The handicap system was still not working properly.

- b) Grass Roots. Sally Clay and Sheila Guest had taken part in the Final at Solihull. A very well-organised day, but we must insist on being told day of Regional final before the start of the season.
- c) National Trust Singles at Ickworth. 4 members had taken part but had not progressed beyond the block stage.
- d) Friendly against Watford away had been very enjoyable but a strengthened team had beaten us by 9-7. Different date next season?

9. Tournaments:

- a) All England Handicap.
RK was in the final 16 taking part at Nailsea (Bristol) over the weekend of 24/25 Sept.
- b) Club Singles & Doubles.
JC/LB were organising. 14 in the Singles and 10 pairs in the Doubles.
Format was to be block play with Semi-finals and Final in the Singles, but just a Final in the Doubles.

10. Garden Party

DP was thanked for hosting a very enjoyable party, which had been well-supported by members and guests. EH suggested that the raffle money be used to buy prizes for the AGM party raffle and this was agreed.

11. Plans for the Future of Club.

- a) Work on the lawns would begin on 3rd October.
- b) The stone floor of the clubhouse needed re-painting.
- c) After discussion, it was agreed to put forward a resolution at the AGM recommending that the Annual sub be raised from £45 to £50 in 2006. Members would be allowed to pay by 2 instalments if they wished.

12. Arrangements for AGM on 18th November

- a) VJ would kindly supervise the provision of food. (01296 681938)
- b) Raffle prizes(3) would be purchased.
- c) Marjorie Cliffe, Linda Hindson and John Connew to be invited.(Card & Present to be bought for groundsman Neil, who was getting married)
- d) Each member to receive an updated Constitution with AGM papers.

13. New business.

- a) DP & SC wished to sell their mallets. Club would not buy them but ad could be placed in Newsletter.
- b) SC proposed that a Club Dinner take place in say February 2006. Proposal Welcomed and would be put to members at AGM. DP also enquired if there would be interest in a croquet weekend at the Ripon Spa Hotel, but cost would need to be ascertained.
- c) Erica and John Fogg were willing to organise a Fun Croquet afternoon next season. They were thanked for their offer which was readily accepted.
- d) JC enquired the whereabouts of two sets of Club balls. Newsletter?
- e) MB had attended meeting of Sports Council. Any grant application would need to be made promptly. Chaotic situation at Stanbridge. Next meeting on 5/12/05.
- f) LB complained that some members were not washing up their mugs, switching off heater or water after Club sessions. He also had no record of receiving fees from members taking part in NT days.

13 .Date of next Committee Meeting :

The next meeting would take place at the home of Len and Eve Buckingham on Thursday 19th January 2006 at 7.30pm.

Jean and Richard Keighley were thanked for their kind hospitality and the meeting closed at 9.40pm.

H. J. Brom