

Leighton-Linslade Croquet Club

Minutes of a General committee meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2004.

1. Present: \_ George Lawson (Chair), Margaret Brown, Len Buckingham, Sally Clay, John Cundell, Erica Fogg, Edna Hickman, Val Jeffers, Richard Keighley, Diana Phelps.
2. Minutes of the meeting held on 2/06/2004 were approved and signed.
3. Matters Arising:
  - a. Loan Equipment. EACF was not willing to sell the set of hoops on loan to the Club, but would extend the loan period at a cost of £10 for this season, £20 for future years. It was decided to pay up this year, but to investigate the cost of having a new set made locally before making any other commitment.  
There were no mallets available for loan at present, but 2 new mallets had been made for LB. He would order 2 more with 34" handles.
  - b. Badges. JC to obtain prices for iron/sew on badges.
  - c. Affiliate Status. CA had granted this to the Club for an annual fee of £25. To be ratified at AGM.
4. Secretary's Report:
  - a. Correspondence
    1. Letchworth CC. Thanks for warm welcome and refreshments for league match.
    2. SBDC. Entry in Sports Clubs Directory.
    3. Croquet New Zealand. No takers!
  - b. Newsletter. RK and JC proposed to publish the next edition after the Club tournaments in September. Future contributions most welcome.
5. Membership Secretary's Report:
  - a. 35 paid up members so far, but no juniors. 14 letters sent out to interested parties had not produced huge result.
  - b. She would like to know if any member was ill, so card/call could be made.
  - c. Publicity should emphasise the "fun" aspect of croquet.
  - d. Consideration to be given to recruitment in 2005 e.g. -More than one "Come and Try"?  
-May Fayre/Carnival Float?  
-Juniors?  
\*To be discussed at next meeting.
6. Treasurer's Report:
  - a. Balance of Club funds £2017.75.

(e) Concern expressed about step to pavilion

- b. Expenses of £550.65 incurred to date.
- c. Income of £1556.50 to date.

7. Club Programme:

- a. Garden Party.(13 August) Invitations sent out with July newsletter. Response by 5<sup>th</sup> August requested. VJ to convene Library meeting of lady helpers. JC, RK & GL to bring garden games.
- b. Club tournaments. 18/19 Sept. 10-5. Extra hours to be booked. Closing date for entries 9<sup>th</sup> Sept.
- c. AGM. Northall Village Hall not available on Thurs.18 Nov. MB to try Billington VH, failing which RK to confirm booking of Northall on Friday 19 Nov.

8. EACF Golf Croquet Handicap League.

- a. Failure to win South section by narrowest of Margins.(W 2,L 1 -28 points- identical to Burnham, but they beat us!)
- b. RK to send assessment of trial year to organiser.

9. Friendlies: a. Versus Winslow away on 5<sup>th</sup> August at 2pm.  
(Team: MB, VJ, RK, DP. Reserve-SC)

- b. Catering. No need to cater so generously for afternoon fixtures

10. Tournaments: a. National Trust. Ickworth singles. (Team- VJ, DP plus 1)

b. Grass Roots

Club round completed on 17 July. Enjoyed by all and well organised by GL with help from Judith C. JC & RK to take part in Regional final at Northampton on 8/8/04. So successful a format that effort would be made to encourage up to 16 players to take part next year. Each to pay £2.50, with Club to make up any shortfall.

- c. All England Handicap. RK to go to Area Final on 14 Aug.
- d. Wrest Park tournaments. JC & LB/EB were warmly congratulated on winning the Singles and Doubles respectively. The Club had been well represented at both tournaments.

11. TEAM SELECTION 2005.

\_\_\_\_ Useful discussion as to how teams could be selected next season. The aim would be to give as many members as possible an opportunity to play in competitive matches if they wished to do so. It was proposed to agree a policy at the next meeting with a view to presenting it to the membership at the AGM for consideration. Draft policy :-

"1. At the start of the season, members will be asked if they would like to be considered for selection for the League team. The team (including reserves) would represent the Club for the whole season.

2. All members apart from the League team would be encouraged to apply to play in Friendly fixtures. If there were more players than needed for any match, names would be drawn out of a hat. There would be no play offs. Those unsuccessful in any draw would be given priority for the next match. Only if the number of players was insufficient for any friendly match would League team members be invited to play.

3. Priority to be given to members who have not taken part in National Trust events in the past to play at Anglesey Abbey & Ickworth.

4. A non-playing member would be designated to be in charge of each event hosted by the Club."

11. Publicity: Local press coverage of events had been very good. John Fogg's photos had enhanced both these reports and the Newsletter

12. AOB: a EF/JF had attended a coaching course at Blewbury. Enquiries to be made with Jennet Blake as to a possible course early next season.

b Thanks expressed to Peter Stevens for obtaining the handicap racks at no cost to the Club.

c. JC keen that members play more handicap games.

d. Additional sessions to be booked on Tuesday afternoons between 2pm and 4pm until the end of the season. Opportunity to play single games using handicaps, and possibly Association croquet.

17. Date of Next Committee Meeting: Thurs. 16<sup>th</sup> Sept 2004 at VJ's home.  
The Chairman and his wife were thanked for their kind hospitality and the meeting closed at 9.50pm.

