

Leighton-Linslade Croquet Club

Minutes of General Committee Meeting 1.5.03

Present M. Brown, L. Buckingham, A. Bunn, V. Jeffers, R. Keighley, D. Phelps, G. Lawson,  
J. Slow, J. Cundell  
Apoloquies U. Pengelly

3. Minutes of 27.2.03 Agreed with one amendment. Item 5d to read "the committee concluded".

4. Matters Arising a) Croquet Association As agreed the sec. has joined. After discussion it was confirmed that the chairman will also join on behalf of the Club.

b) Club trophy No response from possible sponsors. Joan Slow kindly offered a silver cup which will need re-engraving.

c) EAC Federation AGM 16.3.03 R.K. reported on this meeting of 20 clubs from 26 in E. Anglian region. Chair of the C.A. was the speaker. R. raised the following points for discussion: - i) Child protection policy. After discussion it was Agreed that we shall adopt the 'model' circulated by the CA and that we accept R's offer to act as our ch. protection officer. Copies of the policy to be sent to all committee members and news of this step to be publicised via the newsletter.

ii) Amateur sports club status. If adopted this would give us tax advantages and enable us to receive donations.  
iii) Membership fees. The CA is considering a flat-rate fee for clubs so as to increase membership. Agreed sec. to write explaining our reason for not continuing membership i.e. present system of fee-rates.

R. then summarised the Chairman's list of 'benefits of CA membership'.

d) All-England Golf Croquet Handicap Team of four has been entered - not named. Play-offs 18/19th August, finals at Wrest Park in Sept. Agreed we need to re-set handicaps and that L.B. will ask the Stevens' if they would act as Club handicappers again this year. We shall need to choose our best 4 available players for this national event.

e) Tiddenfoot open day M.B. had displayed information on the day in a very central position.

f) Short Croquet J.C. had produced copies of the leaflet and these had been distributed.

5. Secretary's Report a) Correspondence i) Copies of temporary changes to G. Croquet rules were distributed.  
ii) Letter of thanks to M. Field and invitation to opening session.  
iii) Internet site offer from ICT schools challenge project but they had not followed this up.

iv) R.K.'s holiday dates listed.  
b) Membership i) 27, inc. 4 temp., have paid fees. It seems likely that our first JUNIOR member (Matthew Housden) will join.

ii) M. Field and M. Farmer have resigned.  
iii) several 2002 members have not re-joined.  
iv) 2 enquiries have been received as a

result of the newspaper articles. v) All known members who are ill have been contacted.

c) Newsletter Next edition soon after this meeting in order to keep all members informed. Contributions needed from G.L. re opening session; L.B. re purchases planned; A.B. re fixtures. R.K.'s report re EACF meeting and the date of the proposed garden-party (Friday 25th July at 3p.m. Helpers 2.30) will also be included.

Cont

d) Publicity i) All contacts had been written to with copy of leaflet and invitation to opening session.

ii) All Middle schools and Wing secondary had been written to re possible recruitment of juniors etc. No replies or acknowledgements received.

iii) May Fayre. The invitation to take part had gone to Bob Walmsley's address. Eventual approach was such short notice the officers decided we could not take part this year.

iv) 3 items had appeared in the local press, using our text. Notice of 'Come and Try' session had been sent with picture to the Diary column. Thanks to JC for photos.

v) U.P. had sent a piece to the U3A newsletter as requested. G.L. to ask her if she would be willing to act as Press Sec. M.B. has all the details of contacts.

e) General Points i) Keys. Agreed that L.B. to obtain 5 or more keys ready for new members.

ii) Day to day refreshment supplies. E. Buckingham to be asked if she could look after these.

iii) Events catering. A. Bunn has been organising the food etc. for these as well as arranging fixtures. Agreed that we need a catering officer and V.J. agreed to take on the co-ordination of this task.

6 Treasurers Report a) Financial Situation Carried forward from 2002-£504.81  
Income so far £1,573.01, Expenditure £116.

b) Bank Account Nat West has been unsatisfactory in several ways so it was Agreed to (provisionally) change our account to Alliance and Leicester. L.B. explained that only one signature would be required for cheques but that we would insist on duplicate statements going to another officer, the Chairman (as the sec. will be changing at the 2003 AGM) as a safeguard. These points were Agreed and the Mandates were signed. To be reviewed once the response to our application is received.

c) Equipment for Season Playing equipment not required, unless we wish to replace the second set of hoops loaned by the Buckinghams. R.K. is donating a kettle. Agreed that V.J. and D.P. to research costs etc. of small urn and a shelter/gazebo and bring results to next meeting. Meanwhile D.P. will lend a shelter for the next two fixtures.

d) Grant application to LL Sports Council This has been submitted for £100 to purchase 12 stacking chairs and two lightweight folding tables.

7) L.L.Sports Council G.L. reported that he and M.B. had attended most of the Council's meetings. Astral Pk sports area has now been reduced from 18 to 12 acres. Managing Trust to be formed shortly but it now seems unlikely that our particular needs will be met at the site.

8) Club Development a) Sec's Role M.B. once again expressed concern that the job of secretary should be defined and shared in order that volunteers to take on the different aspects of the present job could be more easily found. G.L. felt we needed three roles filled i) Hon. Sec. - minutes and correspondence.

ii) Membership sec.

iii) Publicity and press

It was Agreed to discuss this more fully at a future meeting in preparation for a smooth handover at the AGM.

b) Referee Training Agreed sec. to contact Bill Arliss to discuss possibility of a local course. This could include folk from other local clubs/groups. Sec. had contacted John Bevington who felt that such a course could be held at Wrest Park Clubhouse.

c) Coaching/coach training No-one had attended the April C.Ass. course.

d) School contacts See item 5d) above.

9) Future Programme a) May Day See item 5 d) above.

b) 'Come and Try' i) Publicity. Agreed L.B. and J.C. to try to produce some posters which members offered to place in Libraries, British Legion, Sport 'shop, Garden Centre etc.. ii) Arrangements. J.S. agreed to collect £2 fees from visitors. M.B. to provide 'turn numbers' if a queue forms. All to try to be available to take folk around. iii) Refreshments. V.J. and group to provide simple fare.

c) Events i) A.B. has arranged several 'matches' and has posted these on the wall planner so that people can let her know in which they would like to play. Places are limited which means there may be competition for some matches. In general it was Agreed that people who had not previously taken part in 'friendlies' should be given that opportunity.

ii) The Grass Roots organisers have not yet been in touch. A.B. will try to ring last years contact.

iii) Eynsham Club (Jenette Blake) is to approach us to try to arrange a winter match.

iv) Teams for tournaments. It was Agreed that play-offs between candidates should take place if necessary. We shall need to send our best available players for the All-England match.

v) D. Phelps offered to hold a garden party for Club members in July (see item 5c) above. This would be a social event though we could hold a jumble sale for Charity.

10) Any other Business None.

11) Next Meeting Thursday 12th June. 7.15 for 7.30pm. at Diana Phelps home. A.K. offered his apologies.

The meeting ended at 10pm, with thanks to Audrey for her hospitality and a ceremonial 'bang' on the gavel, which had been kindly donated by Joan Slow.

Signed  Chm.

Date 12/6/03