



LEIGHTON-LINSLADE CROQUET CLUB

Founded 2000

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Wednesday 14th January 2015
At 12.00 midday - Page's Park pavilion

Committee Members present: -David Ball (chairman), Roger Stroud (secretary), Len Buckingham (treasurer), Eve Buckingham, John Cundell, Malcolm Kirby, John Thorp, Ross Bagni, Peter Cole, Sheila Guest, Sally Clay

Minutes

1. Welcome

David opened the meeting later than planned due to a meeting at 11:30 with Ian Haynes, a Council Officer who is responsible for parks in Leighton Buzzard. David welcomed everyone especially our two new committee members, Ross & Sally.

2. Apologies for absence

All committee members were present.

3. Minutes of meeting held on 10th September 2014

David said that, regarding the flurry of emails about Tom becoming the Sports Council rep, he felt that because Malcolm would not have been able to carry out the job of Sports Council rep, we should not have appointed anyone until a further decision was made at the next committee meeting.

David then signed a copy of these minutes.

4. Matters arising & review of Actions (if not included below)

Len had investigated the possibility of investing our cash, in order to get interest on the money, to allow one of our members to hold the money in their name whilst writing a clause into their will that the croquet club cash they have on investment should revert back to the croquet club. The advice given to Len is not to try that tactic as it would not work; the money would not revert back to the croquet club in the event of the death of the member holding the investment.

5. Reports: -

5.1 Secretary's report including correspondence to Club

Roger had very little to report as very little goes on during the winter months.

5.1.1 Sports Council Report

Tom Miller had attended a Sport's Council meeting and sent a report regarding a grant to our club and a monetary award to John Thorp whom our club had nominated.

Roger congratulated John T for this achievement including the hard work he has put into our club.

5.1.2 Hamptworth

Have now started to receive emails from Richard Jenkins, who organises coaching & tournaments at Hamptworth, regarding forthcoming events.

5.2 Treasurer's report

Len reported that during the winter he had finally received an invoice from the Council with reference to our annual lawn rental and had included this now into our accounts. A copy of the Income & Expenditure account was handed out showing that we have a bank balance of £11,580.60 as at 14th January 2015.

5.3 Membership Secretary's Report

John C reported on behalf of Judith regarding the latest position of our membership. John had been in touch with the organisers of the Mid Beds database who have now updated their database with our club details. In addition, John has also been in touch with Leighton Linlade Council regarding our club details on their website. They have been sent an introductory note and have also agreed to include a pdf of our introduction to the club leaflet for inclusion onto their website.

John also said that there was a possibility of seven new members based upon conversations had over the last few months, to which David added that he was aware of another three possible new members.

The January Newsletter will be out next week which contains our membership renewal form.

6. Specific duty appointments

John handed out our 'up to date' specific duties sheet.

Our original sheet for 2015 had previously been circulated by email on 4th December 2014 with a request from John to confirm agreement with the task. The sheet handed out at the meeting takes into account feedback or non-feedback from the one circulated last December. The details will be contained in our January Newsletter.

7. Fixtures: -

John Thorp outlined the arrangements he has made and discussions he has had to date re: the 2015 season.

7.1 EACF League

John has spoken to Jason Carley; Jason is trying to increase the size of the league. Jason has also made a request, asking us if we could loan our lawns out to other clubs with little facilities. Our committee agreed that we could do that and that Roger will write to Jason confirming this. John also said that for the 2015 season in the Handicap league the ruling is that a team must have total handicap of at least 16 and only one player less than 3. Our committee voted and agreed on our decision to allow other clubs to loan our lawns.

7.2 Friendlies

John reported that a Friendly match has arranged with Dunstable to be played on July 6th.

John made a request to be told by all those entering B Level Tournaments to be kept informed as to who is playing and when - this will help him when organising the timing of both League and Friendly matches.

8. Diary Dates

8.1 Opening Day

The committee agreed to ask the Mayor to carry out the Official Opening which will be on the weekend of April 4 / 5. David said he will contact the Mayor and make the necessary arrangements.

8.2 B Level tournament

John C reported that the date had been set for Saturday June 20th; it had been agreed at a previous meeting that the event should change from a Friday to Saturday

following comments made by several potential entrants who did not want to travel around the M25 on a Friday.

8.3 C Level tournament

John T reported that the date for this tournament has been set for Friday July 17th and it was agreed that we will charge £5 per entrant. John added that this tournament is for players who have a handicap in the range 8 to 12.

8.4 Garden Party / Fun Day at Pages Park

The date set for this in 2015 is September 5th.

8.5 Other Diary dates for the year

8.5.1 LJB trophy

There was a discussion as to why this had been scheduled for a Friday and it was finally agreed to hold this on Saturday 12th September.

8.6 Committee Meetings

The dates were set for the committee meetings for 2015: -

March 11th 12:00 to 2:00pm

June 17th 1:00pm to 3:00pm

August 12th 1:00pm to 3:00pm

September 9th 1:00pm to 3:00pm

AGM & Party November 13th 7:30pm

The January Newsletter includes a list of all known key dates.

9. Lawn & Clubhouse

John C has included a section in the January Newsletter about Lawn Maintenance.

Immediately before this committee meeting several members of our committee had a meeting with Ian Haynes, a recent new appointment on the Leighton Linlade Council responsible for parks in the town. He was aware of the problems we have regarding football being played on our croquet lawns, also wishing to talk to us on our potential use of a 'Referee's Room' within the pavilion.

Ian explained to us about his forward ambitious plan regarding the future use of Pages Park, his proposals for future use of the pavilion and the best way to service the aspirations of our club.

John C also reported that he had received an email from John Connew on damaged fencing. Concerning the suggestion discussed with Doug Bolton to remove the centre rows of fencing between lawns 1 and 2, John Connew felt that we should consider leaving at least one row of central fencing to deter football use on the lawns. John C had informed John Connew that we would discuss this at committee and report back. After discussion the meeting agreed to leave at least one fence between lawns 1 & 2 and to remove the fence row nearest to Lawn 1. John C would inform John Connew accordingly.

John C then spoke about the meeting that we had with Ian Haynes and added that at the last Leisure and Community Council Meeting the meeting had agreed to allocate the Referees Room in the pavilion to our croquet club. John added that Ian Haynes had said at our earlier meeting that his current main aim is for Pages Park to be turned into a cricket park along with plans to make the pavilion dedicated to cricket, including planting bushes for a windbreak. Ian Haynes stated that he considered there was little point in us moving forward on our current plans for the Referee's Room at the present stage as he was looking at longer term plans to improve the pavilion and during the discussion as to what our preferred long term plan was, an extension to the pavilion giving the croquet club a dedicated clubhouse and sufficient storage could be considered. Ian Haynes had also said at our meeting that we should make approach the Council's Leisure and Community meeting to put forward our aspirations to the Council.

Our committee agreed that in putting forward our aspirations to the Council in February we will propose an extension to the pavilion.

John C commented that in the meantime we must endeavour to retain annual use of the changing room we currently use for storage as agreed at the September 2014 Council Leisure and Community meeting.

10. Newsletter / Membership Forms & renewals

John C reported that the January Newsletter will be published within a few days and that the last sheet of the Newsletter is a membership renewal form.

11. Web Site

Roger offered to produce a website for our club which would cost about £80 pa for rental of server space and of course nothing for the technical effort required to produce the website. Roger added that nearly all clubs now have their own website and that one significant advantage of having our own website is that we may be able to sell advertising space bringing income into our club. Len was concerned about the cost of £80pa and a vote was taken on the suggestion. The Committee decided not to proceed and committee members said that they will think about it.

12. Any other business

12.1 Malcom Kirby

Malcolm spoke of the need to buy another rotary mower costing £4-600. Committee members voted to go ahead with the purchase. John T & John C will move this forward discussing the finance with Len.

12.2 Sally Clay

Sally offered to help wherever possible and asked if we could move the committee meeting from March 18th to March 11th which the committee agreed to do.

12.3 Malcolm

Malcolm asked "who is going to do mowing" - John C said that the Newsletter shows the members who have agreed to be involved in lawn maintenance. Malcolm also offered to donate his wheelbarrow to our club but cannot transport it to our pavilion as it does not fit into his car. Roger offered to assist Malcolm on this task.

12.4 David

12.4.1 Parking at our Pavilion

Roger would like this to be raised again at the next committee meeting as my recording of the meeting failed and is unsure about exactly what we are asking of the Council.

12.4.2 Annual Dinner

David reported that we have 26 people so far for our annual dinner.

The meeting closed at 2:10pm.