



LEIGHTON-LINSLADE CROQUET CLUB

Founded 2000

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Wednesday 9th September 2015
At 1:00 pm - Page's Park pavilion

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

Draft Minutes

1. Welcome

David welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 1.05pm.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Ross and Peter. David explained that Peter had an accident on Monday and was unable to come to the meeting.

3. Minutes of meeting held on 12th August 2015

The minutes of the August meeting were accepted and David signed a copy of the minutes.

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

There were no matters arising.

5. Reports: -

5.1 Secretary's report including correspondence to Club

5.1.1 Hamptworth

Roger said that we had received details of the Winter Croquet schedule from Richard Jenkins at Hamptworth which has been put on our web site.

5.1.2 Correspondence with the Council

Roger said he had sent an email to the Town Clerk (see Appendix 1) and replies (in green) were added by Ian Haynes (Council Officer). Roger added that Ian Haynes includes in his reply that the decision about the fence around our lawns has been moved to the November Community and Leisure meeting. Consequently, Roger said that as we have been told that a donation regarding the cost of the fencing from the Croquet Club would be helpful, we need to make a decision today on how much we could afford. In the context of the first quote for the fencing received by the Council (Moore Fencing) we need to take a vote on what percentage we feel we can afford. The committee voted by 6 votes to 4 in favour of a 10% donation towards the cost. In addition, the committee asked Roger to ask Ian Haynes for information on further quotes as they are received - Roger agreed to do this.

5.2 Treasurer's report

Len passed a copy of the Balance Sheet - November 2014 to October 2015 and invited any queries. John **Thorp** noted that there had been no expenditure of items for First Aid and suggested that we ought to consider upgrading our First Aid Kit.

Len said that the lawn rent paid to the Council shown in the accounts as £3,665 is the rent for two years.

Roger asked how much money we currently have in the bank - Len said that our current bank balance including our current a/c and deposit a/c is about £13,000.

5.3 Membership Secretary's Report

John C reported that we currently have 46 members and are likely to lose 6 or seven members due to members moving away and other reasons.

6. Fixtures: -

6.1 EACF Leagues

John T said that our league fixtures are now completed with Watford having won the Level Play League and Letchworth second.

John T said that we have performed well in the Handicap League. David added that we should train our less experienced players.

6.2 Friendlies

John T said the Friendly Matches went off well.

7. Lawn Maintenance

John C said that treatment would be on a similar basis to last year. Worm casts are a problem at this time of the year and it would be appreciated if other members were to use the swisher before playing.

In addition, our work programme for the end of this season will include scarifying, then tine the lawns (just punching holes in the lawn), re-seed, top dress and fertilise. Then to fertilise and apply moss treatment in March. Also to look at further levelling of the lawns if we get a fence around the lawns.

John T added that we need more people to help in lawn maintenance, with an idea to produce a list of people who are willing to help on the lawns.

John C also said that we should start the scarifying on Wednesday 30th September.

8. Garden Party / Fun Day

David said he liked it and others agreed - John T said that it would be good to put a list of ideas regarding next year's Garden Party well before the event. Sally commented about not having a raffle to which David said that we simply forgot about the raffle.

9. AGM / Trophy engraving

9.1 Engraving

John C asked the committee for all trophies to be returned for engraving.

9.2 AGM

Roger said that he has started work on the 'Information Pack' that we circulate to all members at least a month before the AGM. In addition, reports will be required from the Chairman (David) and Treasurer (Len).

Roger said to all Officers and Committee Members to consider whether they would like to continue next year. Len confirmed that Northall Village Hall is booked for our AGM on Friday November 13th.

10. Social Club

Len discussed the possible dates to re-start the Wednesday morning social club and settled on Wednesday 7th October.

11. Any other business

11.1 David

David said he has been Chairman now for 5 years and would be happy to stand down if there is another person willing to be Chairman.

11.2 John T

John T said that he would be happy to pass on his current job of 'Fixture Secretary' if there was someone willing to take on the role.

11.3 Eve

Eve requested that we extend playing hours to include Wednesday and Thursday pm - the committee voted and approved the request.

11.4 John C

John C spoke about the organisation of the day on Saturday for the LJB trophy. John said that there were 12 people taking part and we would be using all three lawns and that Lawn 1 would be available for club members social play in the afternoon.

The meeting ended at 2.15pm.

Appendix 1

Emails sent to Council Officers following our meeting with them on 30th July.

The text in green is the comment added by Ian Haynes (Council Officer)

From: Roger Stroud [mailto:rogerstroud302@hotmail.com]

Sent: 17 August 2015 16:33

To: Mark Saccoccio <Mark.Saccoccio@leightonlinlade-tc.gov.uk>; Ian Haynes <Ian.Haynes@leightonlinlade-tc.gov.uk>

Subject: Pages Park Croquet Club

Mark / Ian,

Following our meeting with yourselves (30th July) and further to our club committee meeting (12th August), we would like to confirm our understanding of your current view regarding the croquet club.

1. New Licence to run from April 2017

Whilst the detail of this licence has yet to be discussed and agreed, you said that the new licence would not contain a clause saying that our club would be responsible for the total rent due for the duration of the licence. **Yes, this is correct.**

2. Proposed New Fence

Whilst we welcome the proposed new 1.8 metre fence around the croquet lawns, we would like you to send us the estimated cost and plan of the new fencing as soon as possible. We need this cost in order to consider the contribution from our club well before the next meeting of the Sport & Leisure Committee (September 7th). **At the moment we only have one quote (attached) However, to fully inform Members we really require 3 quotes to demonstrate that we are achieving best value etc.. It has been decided that deferring the report to the November Leisure and Community Committee meeting with allow the required time by both the Town Council and the Croquet Club to evaluate the costs etc... From my professional experience the attached quote is going to be region. As you can see I have asked for three options. Please do let me know which the club would prefer and what contribution could be made.**

3. Pavilion

We understand that you are planning modified use of the pavilion, with football being moved to Astral Park and Pages Park being made a 'Centre of Excellence' for cricket; and, that in the long term, if your plans are successful, there could be major reconstruction of the pavilion, with the possibility of a separate pavilion for the Croquet Club.

For the immediate future, we do require at least our current storage use for our equipment. **No, at the moment there is no need to change our current arrangements. Improvements are based on external funding.**

4. Car Parking

You will provide three car park spaces (for Blue Badge Holders) in the area of the Green Container and would mark them out. In addition, the lockable posts in the park

would be maintained and four keys given to the Croquet Club. Three keys would be allocated/loaned to club members holding blue badges. One key would be used by our club for bringing in equipment with the vehicle then returning to the car park. Yes, once the keys are ready I'll get one of the lads to drop them into the club.

Regards

Roger Stroud
Club Secretary