

2015 - 16th Annual General Meeting

Held on Friday 13th November 2015 at Northall Village Hall

Minutes

1. Welcome by Chairman

David Ball, our Chairman opened the meeting at 7.35pm and welcomed the 28 members present. David also said he was pleased to see such a good turnout and asked members to please sign the attendance sheet.

2. Receive apologies for absence

Roger had received 8 apologies for absence: -

Mary Murgatroyd, George & Margaret Lawson, Irene & Peter Davis, Caroline Stroud, Peter & Jackie Cole.

3. Approve minutes of the 15th AGM

David asked if he could take the minutes of the last AGM (which was on 14th November 2014) as an accurate record of the meeting.

There were no matters arising and acceptance of the minutes of the 2014 AGM were proposed by John Thorpe and seconded by Tom Miller.

4. Adopt reports of the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer (inc. Annual Accounts)

The Officer's Reports had been previously circulated to members with the AGM Information Pack therefore the reports were not repeated.

4.1 Chairman's Report

David Ball added that he was retiring from the post of Chairman - he had enjoyed his five years and thanked his fellow officers, committee and all members for their help and support over the years.

4.2 Secretary's Report

Roger said that one of the best aspects of our club is the social play, and mentioned seeing one of our newer members attempt and make a good jump shot over one of the top players in the club - the look of surprise and pleasure was excellent.

4.3 Treasurer's Report

Len Buckingham explained that there had been a delay in our accounts examiner finalising our accounts due to illness, however this would be sorted shortly. He said that he had been treasurer for over a decade and would be retiring as soon as the club's new licence with the Council (due to commence April 2017) was set up. He added that we had received written information from the Town Council Head of Grounds and Environmental Services that our new licence will not contain a clause saying that the club would be responsible for the total rent due for the duration of the licence if the club was to fail during the licence period.

Len added that we have received three keys to enable blue badge holders to access the 'cricket' car park - we await designated parking places to be marked. We are also in negotiation with the Council to provide security fencing around all three lawns. The committee has agreed that the club will make some contribution to the cost of the fencing.

4.4 Officers' Reports Acceptance

The Officer's Reports were then duly accepted by the meeting.

David then asked if someone would like to propose acceptance of the three Officers' reports. Ross Bagni proposed acceptance of the three reports which was seconded by Malcolm Kirby and duly voted and accepted by the meeting.

David also said that he would like to thank our Vice-Chairman John Cundell, Secretary Roger Stroud, Treasurer Len Buckingham, Fixture Secretary John Thorp, Membership Secretary Judith Cundell and the rest of the committee for helping him throughout the year and making his job easy.

4.5 Club Subscription 2016

Len proposed no increase in subs for the 2016 season and also stated that 2016 would be his last year as Treasurer and he requested that all members start thinking about the need for someone to come forward to take on this post.

5. Election of Officers

The Chairman then stepped down and handed over to Secretary Roger Stroud who explained that we had two nominations for Chairman, John Thorp and Malcolm Kirby. A paper vote was organised by Membership Secretary Judith Cundell and member Mary Kemp. The result was a majority for Malcolm Kirby to be the new Chairman. Malcolm took the chair and asked for a round of applause for our retiring Chairman.

While the vote was being determined, Roger had announced that he would stand as Secretary and Len Buckingham as Treasurer.

David Ball proposed the motion for the three Officer Posts and was seconded by Diana Phelps.

6. Elect the general committee members

The following were nominated as committee members - John Cundell, John Thorp, Sally Clay, Sheila Guest, Ross Bagni, Val Jeffers and Mary Kemp - these were duly proposed by Tom Miller, seconded by Sheila Beal and accepted by the members.

7. Presentation of awards

Malcolm then invited our retiring Chairman, David Ball, to step forward and present the following awards: -

Mix 'n Match Doubles Handicap	Roger Stroud & Roy Kemp
Runners up	Jean Ball & Sally Clay
Ladies Doubles Mix 'n Match	Judith Pengelly & Peggy Kenny
Runners up	Jean Ball & Sheila Guest
Club Singles Handicap	Ross Bagni
Runner up	Judith Pengelly
B-Level Leighton Linslade	Roger Stroud
B-Level Hurlingham winner	Ross Bagni
B-Level Hurlingham plate	Roger Stroud
Wrest Park Golf Tournament Doubles	Jean & David Ball
The John Fogg Trophy	John Thorp & Len Buckingham
Runners up	Malcolm Kirby & Roy Kemp

LJB 70 plus Trophy (Main)	John Thorp
LJB 70 plus Trophy (Plate)	Len Buckingham
Club Championship Doubles	Roger Stroud & John Thorp
Runners up	Malcolm Kirby & Sheila Guest
Club Championship Singles	David Ball
Runner up	Judith Pengelly

Roger Stroud had promoted a competition on our club website during the season and the winner of a bottle of wine was Phil Rowe.

8. Any Other Business

Tom Miller firstly thanked David Ball for his Chairmanship. He went on to say that Richard Keighley and John Cundell should be congratulated and thanked for their excellent Golf Croquet Coaching Manual that they had produced for the Croquet Association. This reflected well on our club.

John Thorp said that the club tends to rely upon just a few members who carry out all event preparation, whether or not they are taking part in the day's proceedings. If a member is taking part in an event, it would be much appreciated if he or she could turn out earlier rather than arriving at the start time, to assist setting up.

John Cundell added that both he and John Thorp were pleased with the extra help they had received this Autumn concerning lawn maintenance from both male and female members. Thanks to all concerned.

Our new Chairman, Malcolm Kirby, stated that when he ran his company, he had an 'open-door' policy, where, if anybody has anything to say, then do so to him or one of our committee members. His second point was that we need new members, particularly younger, and asked if anyone has any ideas?

Tony Wells why we do not have reports in the local newspaper? - Judith Cundell responded that our reports are not always published, and when they were, they were always 'edited', often incorrectly

Ross Bagni said that the Croquet Association was holding a National Croquet Day on 5th June 2016, a day on which the general public will be encouraged to try croquet anywhere in the country - it was agreed that we should support this.

Sally Clay felt that our website was one of the best places to advertise our club.

Sheila Beal mentioned the 'Train Days' held by the Leighton Buzzard Railway - **John Thorp** added that we should look at providing advertising boards alongside the fence for such occasions. Tom Miller added that on these occasions we should not wear whites to forstall the image that to play our game such clothing was a requirement.

Malcolm suggested that we should look at the special market days where a stall can be taken to advertise our club.

Malcolm gave the date for the Annual Dinner, 11th March 2016 at Leighton Buzzard Golf Club. He also reminded members of the Social Club held on every Wednesday morning at Pages Park Pavilion, costing just £2.50. Malcolm then thanked all who had attended the meeting, those who had provided the buffet food; Len Buckingham for arranging the hall; those who had set up the tables, etc.; David Ball for organising the raffle and past member Tony Stammers who had kindly sold and folded all the raffle tickets.

The meeting was closed by Malcolm at 8.20pm who wished all present a Merry Christmas and a Happy Croquet New Year.