



LEIGHTON-LINSLADE CROQUET CLUB

Founded 2000

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday 13th January 2016

At 12.15 - Page's Park pavilion

Committee Members present: -Malcolm Kirby (chairman), Roger Stroud (secretary), Len Buckingham (treasurer), John Cundell, John Thorp, Ross Bagni, Sheila Guest, Sally Clay, Val Jeffers

Minutes

1. Welcome

Malcolm opened the meeting at 12:12, welcoming everyone and wishing all present a happy new year.

2. Apologies for absence

Roger had received an apology from Mary Kemp who is having physio treatment.

3. Minutes of meeting held on 9th September 2015

Members had read the minutes of the previous meeting and were satisfied they were accurate so our Malcolm signed a copy of the minutes.

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

Roger raised the point that in section 5.2 of the September Minutes, it was said that we ought to consider upgrading our first aid kit and asked about the status of this suggestion. Our Quartermaster, Eve Buckingham, would be requested to update where necessary – particularly replacing the plasters which a number of members remarked had lost their 'stickiness'.

Roger also said that in section 6.1 of the September minutes, David had said that we should train our less experienced players. See item 8.5 below – Improvers' Course.

5. Reports: -

5.1 Secretary's report including correspondence to Club

5.1.1 Sports Council

Roger spoke about the recent correspondence about the Sports Council including our correspondence with Amy Holden (council officer responsible for the Council web site). Roger's name has gone forward as the Croquet Club Contact on the Council web site. Amy has also a 'web link' from the Council web site directly to our club web site.

5.1.2 Croquet Club web site

Roger said he has prepared our club web site ready to include all the activities of 2016, clearing out some 'old' news making space for news items as they happen in 2016.

5.1.3 Soham

Roger, Ross & John T will be travelling to Soham for the annual indoor croquet tournament on Saturday 16th January.

5.1.4 Council Minutes (Leisure & Community)

Roger said he had viewed the minutes of the December meeting of the Council Leisure & Community Committee and had noted 'the committee endorsed the ten year building maintenance plan for Mentmore & Pages Park pavilions using the existing budget of £6,250 per annum.'. Roger also noted the date of the next Council Committee meeting is February 8th 2016, 7:30pm - 9:30pm. As yet there is no agenda for this meeting.

5.2 Treasurer's report

Len passed to each member a printed copy of the latest Balance Sheet. Len added that he did not yet know the Council charge to the Croquet Club for the year 2016 / 17. Ross raised a query about the amounts on the Balance Sheet which Len explained.

5.3 Membership Secretary's Report

John C spoke on behalf of our Membership Secretary, Judith, and explained that Catherine Wallace may re-join our club and that we are likely to get about 46 members in 2016.

6. Specific duty appointments

John C had already prepared and circulated a suggested 'specific duties register' and said at this meeting that everyone had agreed with it.

7. Fixtures: -

7.1 In General

John T explained that no fixtures have yet been arranged as it's too early in the year and that shortly he will be asking members for availability during the season in order to ascertain who can play in which matches.

7.2 EACF League

No arrangements made yet. There was a discussion about the situation where some clubs want to play subs during League matches. The view of our committee and in particular, Malcolm, is that we will oppose this unless it is an emergency. It was agreed that a message from our club committee would be sent by John T to other League representatives reflecting our decision.

7.3 Friendlies

Little Gaddesden Croquet Club are enquiring about having a friendly with us.

8. Diary Dates

John C had proposed many of the activity diary dates which are below: -

March

9th - Committee Meeting

11th - Annual Dinner - Leighton Buzzard Golf Club (choice of food with newsletter)

26th - LAWNS OPEN - weather permitting

April

2nd /3rd - Official Opening. DATE AND TIME TO BE CONFIRMED

May

14th /15th - Club 'Mix 'n' Match' Handicap Doubles

28th /29th - Club Ladies Doubles 'Mix 'n' Match'

June

5th - National Croquet Day

11th /12th - Club Handicap Singles

15th - Committee Meeting

18th - CA B-Level Tournament (3-8) - Leighton-Linslade

July

15th - C-Level Tournament (8-12) - Leighton-Linslade

August

6th /7th - Club Men's Doubles 'Mix 'n' Match' John Fogg Trophy

8th - U3A Dunstable Visit Fun Day

10th - Committee Meeting

September

3rd Club Garden Party and Fun Day at Page's Park (10.00am - 4.00pm)

7th - Committee Meeting

10th - LJB 70+ Trophy

17th /18th - Club Doubles

24th /25th - Club Singles

November

11th AGM & Party

8.1 Opening Day

John C's suggestion of April 2nd / 3rd was accepted and it was agreed that Roger will write to the Mayor's PA and ask if the Mayor is available to carry out the official opening on one of these dates.

8.2 B Level tournament

John C who is organising this has fixed the date to be Saturday June 18th and has restricted the maximum number of players to 12 (it was 14 last year). John added that the CA have asked all B Level organisers to start processing all applicants on the closing date rather than as received.

8.3 C Level tournament

This has been fixed for Friday July 15th. John T said that we need to advertise this tournament.

8.4 Garden Party / Fun Day at Pages Park

This date has been set for September 3rd.

8.5 Improvers' Course

Richard has offered to do an improvers course possibly on a Friday with a maximum of 12 people.

9. Lawn Maintenance

John T said that we have a willing group of people and now we need some dry weather to start mowing the lawns. John C added that the first mow will need to be twice due to the height of the grass and the more people the better. John C also said that the lawns are currently saturated due to the consistent rain we have had. A further discussion described how their needs to be careful thought on the location of the 'equipment entrances' if we have a fence erected around the lawns.

10. Newsletter / Membership Forms & renewals

John C said that publication of the first newsletter for 2016 is imminent and that the last page of the newsletter is the member's renewal form

11. Referees Room

John C said there was nothing to discuss here until we hear what the Council's plans are to develop the pavilion.

12. Treasurer Post

Len gave some of the background regarding choice of bank. Initially it was the National Westminster Bank in Leighton Buzzard where each cheque required two signatures. Len changed our club bank account to the Post Office (Alliance & Leicester) which, through mergers, became Santander.

One current anomaly is that Margaret Brown (a past Chairman) is still one of the possible signatories, even though she is no longer a member of our club. It does say in section 6.2.1 of our club constitution that our cheque signatories should be an officer of our club.

Len said that he will be retiring as Treasurer at our 2016 AGM or before and suggested that it might be helpful if he had an assistant with whom he could train to use his computer software.

Malcolm said he was happy to be a cheque signatory and will also go with Len to Santander, Leighton Buzzard, to take any actions which require a visit to the bank. Malcolm proposed that Margaret Brown be removed as a cheque signatory which was seconded by Roger and this proposal was passed by the committee.

13. Any other business

13.1 John Thorp

John showed the committee a brochure produced by Margaret Brown titled 'Information for Older People', specifically for Leighton Buzzard. Our croquet club is mentioned in this brochure as an activity for older people.

13.2 John C

John reported that our club now has four gate keys for the car park barrier - three will be in use with one spare. These will only be for members who hold blue badges.

13.3 Sally

Sally requested if we could move the date of the proposed committee meeting from 16th March to 9th March - the committee agreed this new date.