



# LEIGHTON-LINSLADE CROQUET CLUB

Founded 2000

## GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday 9th March 2016

At 12.15 - Page's Park pavilion

Committee Members present: -Malcolm Kirby (Chairman), 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.

#### **2. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Mary Kemp on holiday and Roger Stroud (indisposed).

#### **3. Minutes of Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2016**

Members had read the minutes of the previous meeting and were satisfied they were accurate so Malcolm 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 Sports Council

In the absence of the Secretary, John Cundell read to the meeting Tom Miller's report of the Leighton-Linslade & District Sports Council Committee meeting, held on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

Main items of interest appertaining to LLCC were that the Mayor, Councillor Berry, presented a grant cheque to Malcolm Kirby; and that there were still problems with the links on the Town Council's website to various sporting groups. This has since been resolved.

Club Affiliation Fees to the Council are due in May and the Treasurer will send out a reminder.

##### **5.2 Treasurer's report**

Len Buckingham passed to each member a printed copy of the latest Balance Sheet. Current balance is £13,481.24 – major outgoings expected are £3000 contribution to the Town Council for our new fence, and approximately £2000 for the annual licence fee.

At the previous committee meeting it was agreed that Margaret Brown and George Lawson should be removed as signatories. At a meeting with Santander on 8<sup>th</sup> March, this was actioned and Malcolm Kirby and John Cundell were installed as signatories.

Len stated that there would be a small loss concerning the Annual Dinner on 11<sup>th</sup> March as we had not reached the target attendance of 36 by two. John Thorp suggested that in future we should consider changing from an evening time to lunchtime. It was agreed that this proposal should be discussed at the Annual General Meeting.

### **5.3 Membership Secretary's Report**

John Cundell spoke on behalf of our Membership Secretary, Judith, and explained that we currently have 21 membership fees paid.

There was a general discussion about various methods of increasing our membership; town and village magazines; a notice about the club adjacent to the lawns once the fence is installed; flyers and postal distribution; Google; etc. John Cundell and Sally Clay felt that word of mouth to friends and family on every possible occasion was successful; also the recent 'Advice for the Retired' booklet by Margaret Brown, issued at Doctors' Surgeries and many local organisations contained an excellent mention of our club. Len is continuing to investigate a number of membership increase ideas.

## **6. Opening Day**

An email from the Town Mayor's Secretary had informed us that the Mayor could only make Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> at 12.30 pm. This was considered inconvenient and after a short discussion, John C suggested we postpone the 'official opening' until the fence was completed, and make a grand occasion of this. A vote was taken and Roger Stroud to be asked to contact the Mayor's secretary accordingly.

## **7. Fixtures: -**

### **7.1 Murphy Shield**

John C said that the entry fee for this competition has been sent to the Croquet Association by Len and that we await the draw. We also await confirmation of the handicap levels for this competition.

### **7.2 B-Level**

John C said that the entry number this year would be 12 rather than 14. He had already received seven entries.

### **7.3 C-level**

John C said that our inaugural event last year had been successful and that he has already received two entries for this season before the competition has been publicised.

### **7.3 League Matches**

John T reported that we are awaiting confirmation of the number of clubs taking part, particularly in the Handicap League as the organisers are trying to raise interest from single lawn clubs. This will slightly change the format that John T explained.

### **7.3 Friendlies**

John T reported that we already have dates for High Wycombe and Dunstable and others would be added shortly. He also stated we are warning clubs that there may be some last minute changes as and when the fence construction takes place.

## **8. Lawn Maintenance**

John C informed the meeting that the Council had kindly allowed Doug Bolton and his assistant Neil to mow the lawns as our mowers would not handle the wet and soft conditions. This was much appreciated and our thanks were noted. Doug Bolton has since unfortunately fractured his ankle. John C has informed Neil of our intended

opening date and has been promised that weather permitting there should not be any problems in mowing before our season starts on 26<sup>th</sup> March.

We have also ordered 20 bags of top dressing via the Council to repair the patches that have been damaged by the wet weather and some football play.

### **8.1 Hoop Layout and Clubroom Preparation**

It was agreed that hoop layout and clubroom preparation would be carried out on 22<sup>nd</sup> March. Help was promised by Malcolm Kirby, John Thorp, Ross Bagni, Val Jeffers and John Cundell.

### **8.2 Dew Switch**

John C proposed that we should purchase a Big Banana Dew Switch that removes dew and worm casts. The cost is £86. It was unanimously agreed that the purchase should be made. John C will action.

## **9. Newsletter**

John C stated the newsletter will be published within a few days. This will include latest diary dates, news about the fence, and a repeat of the Membership Forms and reminder that fees are now due.

## **10. National Croquet Day – 5<sup>th</sup> June**

It was agreed that an on-site meeting should be arranged in early May to discuss the detail for this event.

## **11. New Fence**

Malcolm Kirby and other committee members who had attended the recent meeting with John Connew and the Fencing Contractor described the decisions that had been made concerning the siting and installation of the new fence. We were promised that work would commence shortly and should take a couple of weeks.

There was much discussion as to operational details of competitions, siting of gazeboes, scoring positions, benches, notices, ball protection boards, etc., - until it was suggested by Ross Bagni and Malcolm Kirby that we leave this detail until the fence is complete.

## **12. Any Other Business**

### **13.1 John Thorp**

John T repeated his request originally made at the AGM that members who take part in competitions should be expected to arrive well before the start of play to assist in setting up all the required equipment. This was generally agreed as essential.

The meeting was declared closed at 14.15 hours.