



LEIGHTON-LINSLADE CROQUET CLUB

Secretary:
Roger Stroud
Corks Cottage
180 Common Road
Kensworth
Dunstable
LU6 2PJ
Tel: 01582 873793
Email: rogerstroud302@hotmail.com

Founded 2000

NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2017 Volume 18 Issue 1

Membership Secretary:
Judith Cundell
18 Saxons Close
Leighton Buzzard
LU7 3LT
Tel: 01525 374620
Email: judith.cundell@btinternet.com

The newsletter Editor is John Cundell. Items for the newsletter can be sent to 18 Saxons Close, Leighton Buzzard, Beds LU7 3LT; or emailed to john.cundell@btinternet.com. Tel: 01525 374620

“Happy New Year”

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2017. Happy New Year to all members and friends. Our first report takes us back to the AGM.

Annual General Meeting

The 17th Annual General Meeting was held at Northall Village Hall on Friday 11th November 2016, and the meeting started promptly at 7.30pm as our Chairman Malcolm Kirby welcomed some 26 members and guests, and in particular the Leighton-Linslade Deputy Mayor Cllr Syed Rahman; also saying that he was pleased to see such a good turnout and asked members to please sign the attendance sheet.

Malcolm added that our club had recently had a meeting with Leighton-Linslade Town Council (LLTC) regarding our new licence which will operate from April 2017. Firstly he said that our new licence will have a discount on the 2016 rate. In addition the length of the new licence will be longer than the current licence, giving us the opportunity to discuss a grant from The Croquet Association. Malcolm also said that the 'Indemnity Clause' will not be included

within our new licence. (This clause, which is in our current licence, has meant that in the event of our club folding, we would still have been liable for the annual fee for the remaining years of the licence.)

Malcolm added that the agreed wording of the new licence is subject to a LLTC Grounds and Environmental Services committee meeting in due course.

Secretary Roger Stroud gave apologies for absence.

In 'Matters Arising' Malcolm asked if he could take the minutes of the last AGM (which was on 13th November 2015) as an accurate record of the meeting. Ross Bagni pointed out that there is an error in Section 7, Presentation of Awards. The Club Singles Handicap runner-up should be Judith Pengelly, not Roger Stroud as stated. Roger apologised and said that this will be changed.

There were no other matters arising and acceptance of the minutes of the 2015 AGM was proposed by David Ball and seconded by Tom Miller.

The reports of the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer (including Annual Accounts) had been previously



Above, left to right: Mix 'n Match Doubles Handicap winners were Judith Pengelly and Val Jeffers; runners up were Sheila Beal and Len Buckingham; Ladies Doubles Mix 'n Match winners were Una Pengelly and Jean Ball; runners up were Sheila Guest and Sheila Beal. Below, left to right: Club Singles Handicap winner was Jean Ball; runner up was Sheila Guest. Doubles winners were Judith Pengelly and John Cundell; runners up were David Ball and Jean Ball. Singles winner was David Ball.



circulated to members with the AGM Information Pack therefore the reports were not repeated. Chairman Malcolm had nothing further to add.

Secretary Roger said that our club website can now be directly accessed from the Council website using the designated links and also reiterated that the website can now be easily accessed by a mobile device Android or iOS. *The website can be found at www.leightonlinsladecroquet.org.uk. If you wish to access the members only area then drop an email to Roger at rogerstroud302@hotmail.com and he will forward the password.*

Roger also pointed out that, further to Malcolm's remarks about our meetings with the Town Council, we do have a good relationship with the TC, and have had so for many years. In addition Roger said that as a club we should be proud that we had done so well in competitions this year - and the Town Council published details of us winning the Murphy Shield in their 'About Town' publication in November/December 2016.

Treasurer Len Buckingham announced that he was retiring as Treasurer after doing the job for 16 years. He added that our expenses have been significant this year which included our contribution to the new fence of nearly £3,000 - he also said that Mary Kemp has agreed to stand as Treasurer.

At this point in the meeting, David Ball said that we should record our thanks to Len for the service he has done for our club.

Malcolm then asked if someone would like to propose acceptance of the three Officers' reports. Sally Clay proposed acceptance which was seconded by John Thorp and duly voted and accepted by the meeting.

Len proposed that the annual subscription for 2017 should remain the same as 2016 and added that he felt that it would be sensible to increase the subscription each year by the same percentage increase of our Council Licence rent.

Len finally said that our present auditor was unable to continue so we will have to find another auditor for the future.

The Chairman then stepped down and handed over to Secretary Roger Stroud who explained that we had received the following nominations:

Chairman - Malcolm Kirby, proposed by Sally Clay and seconded by Mary Kemp.

Secretary - Roger Stroud, proposed by Sally Clay and

seconded by John Thorp.

Treasurer - Mary Kemp, proposed by Sally Clay and seconded by John Thorp.

Richard Keighley proposed the motion for the three Officer Posts, seconded by Jean Ball and agreed by the meeting.

Malcolm read out the names of the retiring 2016 committee and made the point that Sheila Guest had said that she no longer wished to stand. He then thanked Sheila for the time she had spent as a committee member.

This gave us the following committee members: John Cundell (Vice Chairman); John Thorp (Fixtures Secretary); Val Jeffers; Ross Bagni and Sally Clay. Len Buckingham offered to become a committee member, proposed by Malcolm and seconded by Roger. Sheila Beal was also willing to become a committee member, proposed by John Cundell and seconded by Tom Miller. Malcolm invited an 'en bloc' proposal - received from David Ball and seconded by Sheila Guest. The proposal was duly accepted by the members present.

Chairman Malcolm then made some further comments. He said that during 2016 a first class fence has been installed around all three lawns and it has made such a difference. We have had no footballers and, after some discussion with the Town Council, anti-climb paint has been put on top of the gates which seems to have worked. In addition, he mentioned the benches recently given to us by the TC and also looked forward to the construction of steps between lawns two and three.

Presentation of Awards

John Cundell called forward Cllr Rahman, the Town Deputy Mayor, to present each of the prizes and then spoke to the meeting prior to calling out the names of the winners / runners up, saying that for each trophy he would call out the name(s) of the runners-up first, then the winners.

Mix 'n Match Handicap Doubles

Runners Up Len Buckingham and Sheila Beal
Winners Judith Pengelly and Val Jeffers

Mix 'n Match Ladies Doubles

Runners Up Sheila Beal and Sheila Guest
Winners Jean Ball and Una Pengelly

Handicap Singles

Runner Up Sheila Guest
Winner Jean Ball

Left to right: Singles runner up was Ross Bagni. Roger Stroud won our B-Level Tournament. Ross Bagni won two other B-Level Tournaments - Hunstanton and Nottingham. (As a point of interest Roger Stroud was second at Nottingham and John Cundell was third - also, John Cundell was second at Edgbaston B-Level). Right: Judith Pengelly won the East Anglian Croquet Federation's Champion of Champions Handicap Trophy.





Left: the East Anglian Croquet Federations' Counties Tournament is between six counties and this year the Bedfordshire Team comprising Roger Stroud, John Cundell, John Thorp and Judith Pengelly were triumphant. Right: the six team members - David Ball, Judith Pengelly, John Cundell, Ross Bagni, Jean Ball and Roger Stroud - who made up the LLCC team for the National Murphy Shield Inter-Club Tournament, with the winning trophy held by Councillor Syed Rahman - Deputy Town Mayor - who kindly presented all this year's awards. All photos by John Thorp and Ross and Sheila Bagni.

Doubles

Runners Up David Ball and Jean Ball
 Winners John Cundell and Judith Pengelly

Singles

Runner Up Ross Bagni
 Winner David Ball

B-Level Leighton-Linslade

Roger Stroud

B-Level Hunstanton

Ross Bagni

B-Level Nottingham

Ross Bagni

EACF Champion of Champions Handicap Trophy

Judith Pengelly

EACF Counties Wheeler Shield

John Cundell, Judith Pengelly
 Roger Stroud, John Thorp

The Croquet Association Golf Croquet Inter-Club (Murphy Shield)

This is a Knockout Competition between 19 teams from all over England - we beat last year's winners Nottingham at Nottingham, then Hunstanton at home, then Ripon Spa at Nottingham and in the final held at Surbiton we beat Guildford & Godalming. The team members were:

John Cundell, David Ball, Jean Ball, Ross Bagni, Judith Pengelly and Roger Stroud.

John Cundell mentioned that in the final, in addition to our team, we had a further six members who travelled to support our team; and that the final went to a cliff-hanging seventh deciding game with John Cundell beating his opponent at the 13th hoop. Congratulations to all concerned on the club's first National Team Competition win.

Annual Dinner or Lunch?

Malcolm said that he wished to organize a vote during the meeting, asking members if they would prefer our annual dinner to continue to be in the evening or to be at lunchtime instead.

A hand vote was taken with 10 members preferring lunchtime and 9 members preferring an evening. A number of members did not vote or were non-committal. Malcolm decided to further investigate our options and he

would let members know in due course. (See later in this newsletter).

Any other Business

John Thorp raised the issue of 'more help' to set up on match days.

John Thorp asked if we were progressing with design of shelters beside each lawn. David Ball responded that he was investigating possible ready-made sheds before embarking on a shelter design. Malcolm Kirby said that the committee had agreed to the installation of such shelters which would be an excellent addition to our facilities.

Closing Remarks

Malcolm said that he would like to thank everyone for attending and contributing to the meeting; also, all who brought food for the party. In addition, thanks to Tony Stammers for organising the raffle.

John Cundell said that our club should be extremely grateful to John Thorp for the role he carries out in liaising and booking all our League, Friendly and Club matches. It is not an easy job and John handles it very well indeed.

Malcolm finally added a vote of thanks to Cllr Rahman for attending our meeting and presenting the prizes to our club members.

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

Officers, Committee and Specific Duty Appointments - 2017

Thanks to all those members who responded to my recent email concerning club appointments. It is always very encouraging with the number of members who put themselves forwards for all the various tasks required to keep the club running smoothly..

Officers

Chairman	Malcolm Kirby
Secretary	Roger Stroud
Treasurer	Mary Kemp

Committee

Ex officio members

Vice Chairman John Cundell

Fixture Secretary John Thorp

Members Ross Bagni, Sheila Beal, Len Buckingham, Sally Clay, Val Jeffers

Specific Duties and Non-Executive

Catering Manager Val Jeffers

Assisted by Jean Ball

Child Protection Vacancy

Coaching John Cundell, David Ball, John Thorp, Eve Buckingham

Competition Organisers & Managers John Cundell, John Thorp, David Ball, Ross Bagni

Event Preparation John Cundell, John Thorp, David Ball, Malcolm Kirby, Roy Kemp, Roger Stroud, Ross Bagni, Tony Wells

Club Handicapper John Cundell

Assisted by John Thorp, David Ball

Lawn Maintenance John Cundell, John Thorp, Malcolm Kirby, Ross Bagni, Sheila Beal, Roy Kemp, Mary Kemp, Phil Rowe, Roger Stroud, David Ball, Sally Clay

Membership Secretary Judith Cundell

Newsletter John Cundell

Publicity/Press David Ball

Quartermaster Eve Buckingham

Referee Len Buckingham

Registers Judith Cundell

Safety Officer John Thorp

Scoring Manager Sheila Beal

Selection Committee John Cundell, David Ball, John Thorp

Sports Council Tom Miller

Tea Towel Laundry Jean Ball, Malcolm Kirby, Sheila Beal

Webmaster Roger Stroud

Welfare Secretary Judith Cundell

Leighton-Linslade CC Social Club

The Wednesday morning social club is meeting regularly during the close season at Page's Park pavilion from 10.00am to 12.00, and on average a dozen or so members have been present. The fee is still only £2.50 per session, and for that you get refreshments and the opportunity to play many board games, darts, snooker, dominoes and cribbage. The activities generally finish about noon, and the hall is already warm on arrival, so please support this venture if you possibly can. Friends of members are welcome for same attendance fee.

Annual Lunch

Following the inconclusive AGM vote, our Chairman, Malcolm, organised a total club vote by contacting all members to determine the preference for a Lunch or Evening meal. The vote was 28 for lunch and 15 for evening, so Malcolm has reserved the match room at the Leighton Buzzard Golf Club for Friday 24th March from 13.00 until 16.00 hours. You should have found the Booking Form with the email that this newsletter was sent

with - or in your envelope for those who are not on email. Please complete the form and send to Malcolm Kirby together with the required deposit as soon as possible. The price remains at a very reasonable £23.00 - no increase from 2015 - for a three course meal with a selection of three choices per course, and including coffee or tea with after-dinner mints!

2017 Dates for your Diary

March

8 Committee Meeting

24 Annual Lunch - Leighton Buzzard Golf Club

25 LAWNS OPEN - weather permitting

April

1/2 Official Opening. TO BE CONFIRMED

24 A-B Charity Local Inter-Club Competition (-6 to 5) - Leighton-Linslade

May

20/21 Club 'Mix 'n' Match' Handicap Doubles

27/28 Club Ladies Doubles 'Mix 'n' Match'

June

3 EACF Wheeler Shield Counties Tournament at Hunstanton

10/11 Club Handicap Singles

14 Committee Meeting

17 CA B-Level Tournament (3 to 8) - Leighton-Linslade

July

3 or 4 A-B Charity Local Inter-Club Competition (-6 to 5) - Wrest Park (Date to be confirmed)

14 C-Level Tournament (8 to 12) - Leighton-Linslade

August

3 A-B Charity Local Inter-Club Competition (-6 to 5) - Northampton

5/6 John Fogg Trophy (New format to be considered)

9 Committee Meeting

September

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

6 Committee Meeting

9 LJB 70+ Trophy (New format determined)

23/24 Club Doubles

30/Oct Club Singles

November

10 AGM & Party

The dates for other events such as League Matches, Inter-Club Shield, other local Friendlies, etc., will be published in the next newsletter in mid March.

Leighton-Linslade GC B-Level Tournament - 17th June

This competition was initiated in 2014 by Chris Roberts, the Editor of The Croquet Gazette, to try and bring a climax to the series of B-Level Tournaments held throughout the country. Chris's idea was to enlarge the competition by getting more clubs to take part and rationalising the events to allow play from the same handicap. This was finalised and the handicap level 3 to 8.

Winners of each round automatically qualified for a two-day final at the end of the year. The series is now in its fourth year and is very well supported. There are 19 tournaments throughout the country.

The full list last year had events at: Sussex, Watford, Wrest Park, Ealing, Northampton, Leighton-Linslade, Colchester, Hunstanton, Bury, Nottingham, Bath, Middlesbrough, Hamptworth, Guildford, Phyllis Court, Ashby, Budleigh, Hurlingham and Edgbaston. There is also a growing number of other clubs wanting to join the B-Level Series - so we await the 2017 list.

Our round in the 2016 tournament received twelve entries from eight clubs and was won for the second year running by our Roger Stroud against some excellent competition.

To play in any of these events, previously you needed to be a Tournament Member of The Croquet Association which cost upwards of £48.50. The situation has changed substantially as from this year, and the new membership requirements are detailed in the following paragraphs.

The date for this year's tournament is 17th June.

The Croquet Association - New Membership Arrangements

There are to be a number of radical changes with the way The Croquet Association organises its membership over the next few years. The changes that apply to 2017 are as follows:

Up to this year our club has been a Club Member of The CA which covers our members and the club for insurance purposes and allows any member to take part in League competitions and inter-club competitions. The club pays £9.50 for every member which comes out of your annual subscription fee - this will increase this year to £10.50.

Up to this year if you wished to take part in CA Fixture List events you needed to join the CA as a Tournament Member, as mentioned earlier. This involved an

introductory rate of £14.50 for single and £22.50 for dual membership in their first year. In the second year the rate is two-thirds of the full rate prevailing at that time. The full rate applies from the third year of membership - £48.50 for single and £73 for dual. From 2017 this Tournament Membership is now to be called a Premium Member. This will give you priority and cheaper entry to events listed in the Fixture List - cost is £14.50 for first year, £28.50 for second year and £45.50 thereafter. You also receive the CA Gazette. There are a number of other perks and discounts.

The major change is that as from 2017 all our Club Members will now be able to take part in many of the tournaments and competitions listed in the CA Fixture List without having to pay the Premium membership rate - but with certain provisos. You will have to pay an extra £5.00 over and above the required entry fee per playing day when you enter any Fixtures Book tournament, and you will also have a lower priority of entry than Premium members, so you may not get into the tournaments you would like, if they are over-subscribed.

Leighton-Linslade High Handicap (C-Level) Tournament - 14th July

The C-Level tournament is aimed specifically at those players whose handicap falls between 9-12, designed to give the less experienced player a chance to play in open competition, and hopefully to tempt them into entering more senior Croquet Association events.

This will be our third C-Level event - last year's was won by Brenda Theobald from Watford. The event is organised similarly to the B-Level Tournament. There is a small entry fee.

Continued overleaf



2017 Membership Renewal Form overleaf

The event was much enjoyed by all competitors and resulted in some exciting croquet from all concerned throughout an enjoyable, friendly and sociable day's play. The date for this year's tournament is 14th July.

EACF Leagues

The 2017 East Anglian Croquet Federation's League competitions will probably be run to a similar format to last year - although we hope there is some tightening up regarding the handicap rulings in the Handicap League.

For those not aware of the 2016 results, the Handicap League was won by Stony Stratford beating Letchworth Red. The Level Play League was won by Northampton beating Hunstanton.

The selection committee for EACF League teams this year will be John Cundell, David Ball and John Thorp.

Lawn Maintenance

In our sixth year of looking after the lawns during the close season, we are becoming more proficient and knowledgeable as to what needs to be done to maintain, and over the longer term to improve, our lawns. We have accumulated the necessary equipment by purchase - in 2015 a second rotary mower and a scarifier - or by borrowing/hiring to help us carry out the work required. At this point we would like to thank the Town Council and particularly the Head Groundsman Doug Bolton for assisting us in the loan of some of the Council's equipment.

On the 25th October last a dozen members turned up to help with the lawn maintenance. Doug Bolton and one of his staff mowed and solid tined the lawns for us - the

latter is an extremely physical task beyond most of our members. This will go a long way to aerating them. We applied top dressing to the bumpy surface of lawn 1 – and also some to the area of lawn 2 around hoop 4. Thanks to Ross Bagni, David Ball, Jean Ball, Sheila Beal, Sally Clay, John Cundell, David Gwillim, Roy Kemp, Malcolm Kirby, Philip Rowe, Roger Stroud and John Thorp.

We could not carry out the fertiliser/weedkiller application plus re-seeding on that day as the ground was too dry, however this was carried out in early November and appears to have been effective.

Also, since then the Council Groundstaff have kindly mowed the lawns and yours truly has removed worm casts on a number of occasions.

The Town Council has promised that the Council Groundstaff will carry out a hollow tining in late February, and we will apply further top dressing as required.

Instant' Newsletter

Please include your email address when you complete this year's membership form. The newsletter will normally be distributed by email. As per 2016 please mark on your membership form if you are happy to print out your own copies of any other forms which may be required. Postage costs are now very expensive and we would rather spend it on the club than the Post Office.

Also please add your mobile telephone number. This is very handy for chasing up those who forget they have entered a competition! - and also for members to arrange visits to the lawns outside of the regular playing sessions.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - 2017 SEASON

I/we wish to join / rejoin the club.

Name(s):

Address:

.....

..... Postcode:

Tel No: Mobile No:

Date: Email:

I am happy to receive all communication by email, including 'return forms': YES NO

A subscription for the full season is £75 per person. Potential new members may also pay a £5 fee for two trial sessions. This fee will be deducted if full membership is subsequently taken out.

I / we enclose a cheque for £..... payable to 'Leighton Linslade Croquet Club'.

Please return this form and cheque to: Judith Cundell (Membership Secretary), 18 Saxons Close, Leighton Buzzard, Beds. LU7 3LT. Tel: 01525 374620. Email: judith.cundell@btinternet.com