



# LEIGHTON-LINSLADE CROQUET CLUB

Founded 2000

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2017  
At 2.00pm - Page's Park pavilion

Committee Member present: -Malcolm Kirby (chairman), Roger Stroud (secretary), Mary Kemp (treasurer), John Cundell, Len Buckingham, Ross Bagni, Sheila Beal, Sally Clay, Val Jeffers

## Minutes

### 1. Welcome

Malcolm opened the meeting at 2pm.

### 2. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from John Thorp who had a hospital appointment.

### 3. Minutes of meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2016

An error in the spelling of Ross Bagni's name has been corrected and Malcolm signed the minutes as a true record of the meeting.

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

Malcolm had invited David Ball to the meeting to speak about his findings regarding obtaining a 'shelter' for lawn 3.

David said that: -

- a) He had found a small business in Maulden who could make and erect three shelters which suit our requirements for £1,296.
- b) The supplier is a small family firm in Maulden.
- c) The dimensions are 7ft wide / 3ft 6ins deep + 1ft roof extension at the front / 6ft 6ins high.
- d) The current design does not include a fitted bench.

The committee agreed that once our new licence has been agreed then we would get in touch with the Council for them to approve the siting of these shelters.

### 5. Reports: -

#### 5.1 Secretary's report including correspondence to Club

Roger said there was not much to report, discussing two items: -

##### **5.1.1 Web Site**

Roger said that our web site has been prepared for the 2017 season and that 'behind the scenes' work has been carried out to assist the speed of updating the site during the season. Roger added that the Draft Minutes of the 2016 AGM are on our web site.

##### **5.1.2 New Licence with the Council**

Since the last committee meeting (September 2016), we have had a meeting with Council Officers at the White House. Whilst we have a general knowledge of what is likely to be the terms of the new licence, the Council Officers have yet to present this to the Committee Members, which is likely to be in March.

Following the March meeting at the Council we will have a clear knowledge of the financial impact of the new licence.

John Cundell added that we have recently received a report from Tom Miller of the recent Sports Council Meeting (Appendix 1), and summarised the report to the meeting.

### 5.2 Treasurer's report

Mary presented her first report as our club's new Treasurer, having taken over from Len. She explained that the computer system she would be using to maintain the accounts is 'VT Cashbook'.

Mary added that she has been working closely with our bank, Santander, to get the account set up exactly as she wants it.

Roger said that he will give her copies of invoices from 1&1, our web service provider where the expense has not been paid to him. In addition, Roger said that he would look into the possibility of having the web service provider collect the monthly fee directly from our club account with Santander.

### 5.3 Membership Secretary's Report

John Cundell presented this report and said that we now have 45 members and that for 2017 we are likely to lose 3/4 members. John added that if anyone knows of someone who might be interested in joining then encourage them to come and try it out where there would be no cost involved whilst 'giving it a go'.

Sheila Beal said she has two contacts interested in joining – John C suggested that Sheila gets them to make contact with Membership Secretary Judith Cundell as soon as the season starts – preferably in early April.

Sally knows of a local woman who may join.

General discussion about the merits of the Wednesday morning social club and possible contact with the Council to publicise the club.

## 6. Specific duty appointments

John C went through the specific duty appointments and highlighted the fact that since Richard Keighley will not be rejoining our club we need to replace him as Child Protection Officer. There was then a discussion about our written Child Protection Policy, which is a Croquet Association document. John added that we need a notice in the clubhouse highlighting exactly what our members need to know on this matter. Ross will investigate taking over the role from Richard Keighley.

## 7. Fixtures: -

### 7.1 EACF League

John C reported on this in the absence of John T, and said that it is early days yet. John also said the subject of handicapping in the League has been raised with the organiser.

### 7.2 Friendlies

John T was hoping to arrange a good number of Friendlies again this year. John T and John C are hoping for better support, especially at the start of the season.

### 7.3 John Fogg Trophy & LJB Trophy

John C has raised this because of the general lack of numbers of members wanting to take part and after discussion concluded that there is a preference to change the format of the competitions. This will be further discussed at our next meeting.

## 8. Diary Dates

John C had previously circulated a provisional list of diary dates and all dates were discussed by the committee.

### 8.1 Opening Day

The official opening this year will be on the weekend of April 1st / 2nd. Since Councillor Sayed Rahman (Deputy Mayor) expressed an interest in our opening this year we decided to contact his secretary to see if he is available to carry out this task on either date whichever suited him at 2pm. Roger will contact the Council and make the arrangements.

### 8.2 B Level tournament

John C, who organises this event, explained to the committee about the requirements to enter this competition, details of which will be included in the next club newsletter.

### 8.3 Annual Dinner

Malcolm, who has organised this, explained that it will be a lunch at Leighton Buzzard Golf Club on Friday 24th March and the room has been booked from 1pm to 4pm. Cost £23 per head. Details will be in the next newsletter.

### 8.4 Committee Meeting

The next committee will be on Wednesday 8th March at 2pm.

### 8.5 New 'A' Level Competition

John C and Ross explained about the introduction of this competition and the first date will be Monday 24th April. Sheila and John C agreed it would be nice to have scorers for the new event as well as League, the B and C Levels, and Murphy Shield events.

### 8.6 AGM

Len reminded us that we should book Northall Village Hall as soon as possible, especially as we know the date - November 10th. Roger will contact the Village Hall and make the arrangements booking the hall from 7pm to 10pm Friday 10th November.

## 9. Lawn Maintenance

John C thanked everybody who have put their names down to help in the working parties that we have from time to time. The Council groundsman, Doug, has been and will be mowing throughout the winter to keep the lawns in good condition.

John added that he will organise a day at the end of February to put down top dressing and will contact Ian Haynes of the Town Council re the purchase of the top dressing required.

Malcolm pointed out that we still have no steps between Lawns 2 & 3 and will contact Ian Haynes, especially as now is the best time to do it whilst the ground is soft.

## 10. Newsletter / Membership Forms & renewals

John C said that the publication of the first newsletter for 2017 was imminent and will contain a membership form for membership renewal or for new members.

## 11. Web Site

Roger said that our web site has been prepared for 2017 and that the 'Draft Minutes' of our 2016 AGM are on the web site in the 'members only' area. John C added that if anyone wishes to be reminded of the password, then please email a request to Roger.

## 12. Any other business

### 12.1 Sheila

Sheila commented on the poor state of the toilets that we use in the pavilion.

It was agreed that it would be better to wait until our new licence is signed and sealed; then to seek improvements such as the pavilion toilets.

### 12.2 John Cundell

John explained to everyone about the new terms of membership of the CA which has recently changed. The CA is trying to get more club players to become full members of the CA making them eligible to take part in all competitions at a reduced rate. As a club we pay to the CA £10.50 per club member which gives us all our insurance requirements as well as many other benefits. Roger will shortly be receiving an information pack from the CA including the forms for us to complete and return.

### 12.3 Malcolm

Malcolm requested if anyone else would be prepared to hold the Club Archives - Roger said that he will arrange this and take them from Malcolm.

## Appendix 1

### Report to the Leighton-Linslade Croquet Club (LLCC) of the Leighton-Linslade & District Sports Council (SC) Committee meeting, held on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2016

1) In addition to the Chairman, Acting Treasurer and Acting Secretary, there were 9 club representatives. None of the 3 nominated Council representatives attended (or tendered apologies).

[Currently 14 clubs are members of the SC]

2) Matters arising:

2.1 Town Council website.

The Chairman, Richard Clarke, and I had collaborated on producing a letter ready to send to the Town Council, in an effort to improve the quality of the web site relative to sport. The letter was approved by the Committee.

2.2 LLTC Sports Development Plan.

The SC had held a special meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> September to discuss the draft plan. The outputs had been sent to Ian Haynes at the Town Council on 2<sup>nd</sup> October. To date no acknowledgement has been received by the SC nor has it been informed of the next steps.

2.3 Town Council financial support to the SC.

The Acting Secretary, Jim Cornell, reported that the Town Council had agreed to support the SC with an annual grant for 4 years, starting with 2016/17. He asked that it be noted that, as a condition of the grant, the SC will have to demonstrate that a robust monitoring system is in place and that successful grant applicants spend the grants awarded on the particular elements contained within their applications.

3) Return of grants.

Two clubs were returning previously awarded grants because they or individuals were no longer able to use them for the original purpose.

4) Grant Applications.

There were 6 applications from clubs and 2 from individuals. All were agreed. Each recipient club was reminded that receipts to demonstrate how the grant monies were spent were required to be sent to the Acting Secretary.

There was a robust discussion regarding each award and the outcomes give some pointers to the approach which is likely to be taken in future. The following may help the LLCC Committee in its future applications.

a) Generally they related to coaching courses but grants were awarded for equipment, when it was not run-of-the-mill. For example: Safety masks for hockey players/under 8's cricket equipment/ multisport equipment for the tennis club.

b) The maximum grant is likely to be in the region of £400 but, as per the "rules", clubs or individuals are expected to be funding part of the total cost.

5) A.O.B.

5.1 I drew attention to the fact that the A.G.M. decisions were out of kilter with the timescale for the formal approval of the minutes. This was a particular issue with the changes to the Constitution and other important documents, agreed at last June's A.G.M but not as yet implemented. It was agreed that the matter would be addressed at the January 2017 Committee meeting.

5.2) The Canoe club had tabled a draft letter of support from the Sports Council, to be used as the club sought external funding. It was approved by all present and then signed by the Chairman. This approach could be noted for when/if the LLCC seeks external funding.

6) Date of Next Meeting: Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2017.