



# LEIGHTON-LINSLADE CROQUET CLUB

Founded 2000

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Wednesday 14th June 2017

At 2.00pm - Page's Park pavilion

Committee Members present: -Malcolm Kirby (chairman), Roger Stroud (secretary), Mary Kemp (treasurer), John Cundell, Sally Clay, Val Jeffers, Sheila Beal.

## Minutes

### 1. Welcome

Malcolm opened the meeting at 2pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### 2. Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Ross Bagni, John Thorp and Len Buckingham

### 3. Minutes of meeting held on 8th March 2017

There were no comments about the minutes so Malcolm signed a copy of the minutes.

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

There were no matters arising and all actions are covered below in these minutes.

### 5. Reports: -

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

##### 5.1.1 Croquet Association (CA)

Roger reported that we had received our insurance certificate from the CA and also had received information about their publicised 'National Croquet Day'. There was further discussion about this publicised event with John C saying that over the whole history of our club we have never attracted any new members from this type of publicity. Our new members always come from personal contact.

##### 5.1.2 Web Site

Roger said that there are a few updates required on our web site which will be carried out shortly; also, said to Mary that he is happy to continue the method of payment to the service provider and periodically give outstanding invoices to Mary for payment.

##### 5.1.3 Booking meeting room

Roger added that when booking the room in the pavilion, he explained to 'Reception' at the Town Council that we had been told by Mark that we no longer have to pay for the use of the pavilion room.

##### 5.1.4 Licence

Roger explained that he had produced a 'Draft Licence' based upon our meeting with the Council last year. This licence had been circulated to our committee for their comment and all comments were included where appropriate.

The committee agreed that this should be sent to Ian Haynes (Council Officer) asap.

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

Mary passed around a copy of the latest accounts and comments were made by both Mary and John Cundell regarding forthcoming income from the various tournaments which do raise income for our club.

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

On behalf of the Membership Secretary, Judith Cundell, John C reported that we have 44 members, one more than this time last year, with other potential new members in discussion with our club.

Malcolm commented that it is a good idea to have an application handy in our pockets to give to any 'passers-by' if they seem to express an interest. (Copies of our Club Details and Membership Forms are always available from the file box on top of the tea and coffee store cupboard).

## **6. Shelters and Bases**

Malcolm said that our three proposed new shelters have been ordered and will be delivered within the next 2/3 weeks. It is a requirement that we have a solid base for each shelter and we have acquired some slabs for the base from Trevor. The supplier of these slabs have also given us a quote for laying them. It is also planned that we will make good use of the turf that will be taken up when laying the slabs.

The cost of purchasing the slabs and having them laid will be around £450.

## **7. Fixtures**

### **7.1 B-Level**

Our B Level tournament, organised by John Cundell, is Saturday 17th June. There will be 12 competitors including four from our club - Jean Ball, Malcolm Kirby, Judith Pengelly and Roger Stroud. Val established that there will be about 20 people at the event, including scorers and spectators and so three cakes will be supplied for 'tea & cake' after the event.

### **7.2 C-Level**

Our C-Level is for players with handicaps in the range 8 - 12 and is being played on Friday July 14th. This is not a CA sponsored event and is being organised by John Cundell. Details had been circulated to about ten clubs and we have 12 entries.

### **7.3 League Matches**

All league matches had been fixed up except for Northampton, handicap & level play both of which had been cancelled recently by Northampton. John Thorp has made comment to EACF organiser John Noble.

### **7.4 Friendlies**

All Friendlies have been arranged and the enrolment sheets for the next few are on our notice board for members to put their names on.

An overall point was made by John Cundell, stressing how well John Thorp organises or fixture programme. This point was agreed by the whole committee who additionally commented how hard John works for our club, not only with the fixture programme but the setting up of everything on match days.

## **8. Lawn Maintenance**

John C discussed the 'dead patches' problem and said that whilst the Council had offered to dig them up, laying new turf, it would have meant that we would not have been able to use those two lawns for some time which was impractical. The balls run freely over the patches and the Council have said that during the winter months they will dig out these patches and re-seed.

John also added that an old sit-on Council mower had been overhauled and can cut down to about 6mm. It also can be fitted with a towed spiker to aerate the lawns. Final close cutting is achieved by two Paladin mowers.

Malcolm commented that the problem with children playing on our lawns has been eliminated with the erection of the fence.

## 9. Any other business

### 9.1 Val

Val enquired whether we could arrange evening sessions and it was agreed that we should organise an initial evening to promote the new shelters when erected.

### 9.2 Roger

#### 9.2.1 Social Play

Roger asked if we could ensure that we used our peg system for determining 'playing groups, to make sure that players were mixed up, regardless of ability and to avoid any 'playing cliques' developing.

#### 9.2.2 Club Fun Day

Comments had been made regarding the organisation of the catering for the Fun Day.

The arrangements for the Fun Day (which is in September) can be discussed at our August committee meeting.

During our discussion of the Fun Day the subject of the big marquee cropped up which we hold in store for the Freemasons but we could not use it ourselves especially as we have no room for it with our surrounding fence. Malcolm agreed to liaise with David Ball concerning removal of the marquee as our storage space is limited and we have no use for this marquee.

### 9.3 Malcolm

#### 9.3.1 Funeral of Peter Davis

Malcolm has been told by Peter's family that Peter's funeral will be at 2pm on Wednesday 28th June at Trinity Church, Leighton Buzzard. After the service, the family will go to the crematorium at Milton Keynes, returning to Trinity Church for a celebration of his life.

Members of the croquet club will be welcomed at the Trinity Church for the service and later for the celebration of his life.

#### 9.3.2 Singles Handicap Tournament

Malcolm referred to the tournament and commented on how one-sided some of the games were involving those players with a high handicap playing against players with a low handicap. The final, for example, was 7-0 to Una Pengelly playing against John Thorp when Una had 9 free shots. John C commented that the Golf Croquet handicap system is working well since under the direction of Martin French and Una's handicap did drop from 11 to 10 as a result of the wins on Saturday.

#### 9.3.3 Additional Gate

Malcolm said that some members had suggested it might be a good idea if we had an additional gate in the corner at the back of the pavilion. After some discussion the general consensus was that little benefit would be obtained, saving just a couple of dozen yards, and it would provide another possible climbing ingress.

#### 9.3.4 Club Sign

Malcolm feels that a larger club sign might be beneficial in attracting new members. Roger added that a large sign, facing the railway line might also give information to passengers of the miniature railway. John C commented that the majority of passengers on the railway are visitors to the town, and that the present three fencing signs are adequate.

Malcolm closed the meeting at 3:45pm.