

LEIGHTON-LINSLADE CROQUET CLUB

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Wednesday 9th August 2017
At 2.00 pm - Page's Park pavilion

Committee Members present: -Malcolm Kirby (Chairman), Mary Kemp (Treasurer), Sheila Beal, Len Buckingham, Sally Clay, John Cundell, Val Jeffers, John Thorp.

Minutes

1. Welcome

Malcolm opened the meeting at 2.05pm.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Roger Stroud and Ross Bagni.

3. Minutes of meeting held on 14th June 2017

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted and Malcolm signed a copy of the minutes.

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

None.

5. Reports: -

5.1 Secretary's reports including correspondence to Club

(Acting Minutes taker John Cundell reported:)

5.1.1 Report from Tom Miller of the Minutes of Leighton-Linslade & District Sports Council AGM on 12th June 2017 at The White House

Prior to the A.G.M. the Town Mayor presented grant awards to 5 clubs and 1 individual. Malcolm Kirby and Mary Kemp attended to receive LLCC's award of £300, as a contribution to the cost of erecting three shelters. The Mayor and guests then withdrew from the meeting.

Annual General Meeting

1) *In addition to the Chairman and Acting Secretary, there were 7 club representatives but no representatives from Leighton-Linslade Town Council (LLTC)!*

2) *The Chairman presented his Annual Report.*

3) *The following key documents, including amendments agreed by the Committee, have been sent to all members: a) Constitution b) Grant Aid Scheme c) Grant Application Form d) Meetings Schedule. I planned to send you copies. However, the Chairman considers that there must be a link between the Constitution and the Grant Aid Scheme documents, relative to not being in default in proof of expenditure of any grant received. He is due to*

put his proposed wording before the next Committee meeting for approval. At the same time, if the circumstances are appropriate, I plan to raise the issue of grants being allowed for capital expenditure in future. Currently the situation is not totally clear. This became a significant discussion point relative to our last submission. Because of the nature of our Club and our sport, it will often be the case that we desire financial support for what might be regarded as capital expenditure. I may well not succeed!

*4) Election of Officers: Yet again there were no nominations for the three positions, despite the Acting Secretary and the Treasurer having given notice, around three years ago, that they wish to relinquish the post having fulfilled the roles for many many years. As a result, the Chairman proposed that all Clubs should be **required** to make nominations to spread the workload. It was agreed that the matter should be discussed at the 2018 A.G.M.*

5) The Town Council's Sport & Physical Activity Development Plan. The Sports Council held a special meeting on 19th September 2016 and the outputs were sent to Ian Haynes on 2nd October. Disappointingly, to date no follow up or even an acknowledgement has been forthcoming! Sports development in the area seems to be at a standstill as far as the Town Council is concerned.

An attempt is to be made to raise the issue of any future developments and funding being considered for the Leighton Linlade area, with the Director of Team Beds. & Luton.

6) The Chairman stressed the need for all member clubs to spread the word, with the aim of increasing the number of clubs in membership of the Sports Council.

7) Progress with the Town Council web site: At the time of the meeting there had been no progress due to tardy responses from some clubs. However, I have checked today and the information about club web sites and contact details has now been updated BUT many of the links appear to be faulty! I will follow this up and advise you.

8) The next Committee meeting will be in late November/early December and the date will be advised in due course.

5.1.2 Pavilion Bookings.

Roger has booked today's meeting date and the committee date for 6th September. He was informed that the new Play Café (see below) has also booked the pavilion for 6th September but they are more than happy for us to use the main room for our meeting.

5.2 Treasurer's report

Mary Kemp passed around a copy of the latest Accounts situation. There is £4819 in current account but £1992 has yet to be deducted for shelter installation costs. The deposit account is £6029. Mary has had serious problems with Santander accessing incorrect accounts. The committee agreed that we should change

to another bank as soon as possible. Mary will investigate what is required.

5.3 Membership Secretary's Report

John Cundell reported on behalf of Membership Secretary Judith Cundell that we have 44 members, and that recently we have had interest from at least four possible new members through contacts by Sally Clay, Derrick Haines, John T and others.

5.4 Chairman's Report

Malcolm Kirby outlined that a Page's Park Play Café is to be started in the pavilion. This starts on 11th September from 12pm. We can still hold our Social mornings during the winter months. We need to negotiate with the Play Group as far as committee meetings are concerned. Since this meeting Malcolm has spoken to the organiser of the forthcoming Play Cafe to let them know that we are in agreement with their plans and they confirmed that they will attend our next committee meeting on 6th September to meet us all and explain their plans in detail.

6. New Licence?

John C reported that Roger Stroud has made a number of enquiries to Ian Haynes concerning the non-appearance of our new Licence with the Town Council. This has since been followed up by Malcolm Kirby who received the following response from IH on the 4th August:

I can ensure you that there is nothing for you or the club's members to worry about regarding the license. It is on my list of things to finish unfortunately it hasn't made it to the top yet.

I'll pull my figure out and will have something ready to sign etc... next week.

The committee look forward to receiving the Licence in due course.

7. New Shelters

Malcolm Kirby reported that the shelters have been completed and modified for the scoring system. The shelters will be painted in a shade of green. Malcolm is investigating and will organise. John T suggested that the lawn numbers could be attached to each shelter.

8. Fixtures

8.1 League Matches

John T reported that all matches are booked and teams selected for those remaining to be played in both Leagues. Because of the

last minute date changes by some clubs it is hoped that the League organiser can set fixed dates for future years.

8.2 Friendlies

John T reported that the Friendlies were not very well supported for much of this season – only now have we one entry list with more than the required 8 members.

8.3 John Fogg Trophy

As this event did not attract any entries, it was agreed the trophy will be allocated to one of our Mix 'n Match Doubles events in 2018.

8.4 LJB Trophy

The new trial format will be tried for this year. An alternative idea for 2018 is a knockout ladder system.

8.5 Fixtures Secretary

John Thorp announced he is not prepared to look after League and Friendly fixtures next year. We are looking at using a Google Spreadsheet which can be shared and accessed by a number of organising members for next season's diary list.

9. Lawn Maintenance

John C confirmed that it is the intention of the ground-staff to dig out the damaged patches in early October and re-seed. To action this we require one bulk bag of topsoil, plus 40 bags of top dressing and six bags of CleanPro fertiliser/weed killer for general maintenance. This needs to be ordered through Ian Haynes. Alternatively we are considering that deep scarifying the areas with our scarifier, followed by re-seeding and top-dressing, will be just as satisfactory. It was agreed that we try the latter procedure. Malcolm Kirby/John Cundell will contact Ian Haynes to order the necessary materials.

Len Buckingham is offering a ladder for levelling purposes.

10. Club Garden Party and Fun Day

After general discussion concerning this event scheduled for 2nd September, it was realised that the date had not been booked with the Town Council. John C telephoned the Town Council who stated this date was not available due to the closure of the cricket season. However 9th September is available. This was verbally reserved from 10am to 4pm. Roger Stroud to complete the necessary booking form and sent to the Council asap. Val Jeffers agreed to co-ordinate the lunch team. It was agreed the entry price would be as last year - £6 per person. John C will send out details and the money to be sent to Mary Kemp.

11. Any other business

11.1 Swisher

John C stated how important it is to use our worm cast swisher before we start playing on lawns 1 & 2, and that not doing this has a long term detrimental effect upon the lawns. This information again to be advised to all members.

11.2 Green Tents to Dunstable

It was agreed that the two green scoring tents are donated to Ronnie Richardson.

11.3 Marquee

It was suggested that the large marquee we have in store could be erected by the club as a permanent summer base.

Meeting closed 4.00pm