



# LEIGHTON-LINSLADE CROQUET CLUB

Founded 2000

## 2017 - 18<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting

Friday 10th November 2017

### Draft Minutes

#### 1. Welcome by Chairman

Malcolm opened the meeting at 7:30pm welcoming everyone and in particular Councillor Alan Brandham who will later be presenting the trophies.

Malcolm also read out a summary of points from his report: -

- a) The installation of the steps between lawns 2 and 3 by the Council which should encourage more members to use lawn 3.
- b) Purchase and erection of the three shelters organised by David Ball.
- c) Four benches donated by the Council.

In addition, Malcolm said the bald patches on lawns 1 and 2 have been scarified plus top soil and grass seed added.

#### 2. Receive apologies for absence

Roger had received apologies for absence from Diana Phelps and Sheila Guest.

An attendance sheet had been passed around showing that present were 28 members plus Councillor Alan Brandham who will be presenting the awards, and John Jeffers.

#### 3. Approve minutes of the 17<sup>th</sup> AGM (11.11.2016)

Malcolm asked the members if there were any queries with the minutes of the 2016 AGM.

There were no queries so Malcolm signed a copy of these minutes.

**Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Ross Bagni and seconded by David Ball.**

#### 4. Adopt reports of the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer (inc. Annual Accounts)

Roger said to the members that we now need to approve these reports which were circulated to all members in the Information Pack with an expectation that members will have read these reports; and that the officers are not going to read them out.

Malcolm said that he has nothing further to add to his Chairman's report.

Roger said that in addition to his written report he would like to add the following points: -

a) 2017 has seen several members improve their play significantly.

b) Whilst it is difficult to highlight the contribution to our club from any one individual, Tom Miller has continued in his role as our representative on the Leighton Linslade Sports Council doing an excellent job. Only a small number of members are aware of Tom performing this role and we will now show appreciation for his efforts.

c) Ross has played extremely well this year resulting in his handicap of 2, which means he will no longer be able to play in the round of B-Level tournaments in 2018.

As Treasurer, Mary had earlier given members a print of the profit and loss account and balance sheet for the year ended 31st October 2017. She now asked members if there are any queries. David Ball asked what was included in the Misc. Costs of £215. Mary explained that this consisted of numerous very small expenditure items which, if each one was shown on the list, would clutter it with too much detail. Mary keeps a detailed record with back up claim forms for every item however small.

Len Buckingham also added that various grants might be available to our club with us now having a 15 year lease - the difficulty being that until we get our new licence from the Council we cannot show this to prove the length of our lease. Len suggested that we write to the Council explaining this so we can get our formal licence, which has already been agreed in a Council Meeting, as soon as possible.

In a discussion about communicating committee members decisions during the year, Len suggested that members should look at the minutes of each meeting on our web site. Malcolm added that we will also put a printed copy of the minutes in the club house. Roger said that if anyone has any queries regarding access to our web site then to ask him.

Councillor Alan Brandham offered to assist the club if we inform him of any problems we have regarding our licence.

Roger asked then for a member to propose acceptance of the three reports - **Tom Miller proposed acceptance which was seconded by John Thorp.**

## 5, Approve the membership fee recommendation for 2018

Mary said she sees no reason to change the annual membership fee - **Len proposed that we keep the same fee for 2018 and Malcolm seconded the proposal. It was agreed to keep the same membership fee for 2018.** Len referred back to his comment when retiring as Treasurer last year that we should consider increasing our membership fee by the same annual percentage increase applied by the Town Council for our lawn rent.

## 6. Appoint an auditor

Mary said that our accounts auditor for 2017, Graham Quick, has agreed to audit our accounts for 2018. Roger agreed to write to our auditor thanking him for the professional work he is doing for our club.

## 7. Elect the Officers – Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer

At this point, Malcolm stood down and handed over to Roger to carry out the Election Of Officers. Roger said that he had received two nominations for the three posts, one from Sally Clay and one from Diana Phelps. Both nominations were for: -

Chairman - Malcolm Kirby

Secretary - Roger Stroud

Treasurer - Mary Kemp

As there were no other nominations for Chairman, Malcolm took the Chair again and asked members for a proposal for all three Officer posts. **Jean Ball proposed the three officers nominated which was seconded by Ross Bagni.**

## 8. Elect the general committee members

Malcolm read out the list of current committee members, all of whom are prepared to continue on the committee except for Len who wishes to step down.

Therefore the remaining committee members are: -

John Cundell

John Thorp

Val Jeffers

Ross Bagni

Sally Clay

Sheila Beal

Malcolm then asked all members present if there was anyone who wished to join the committee and no one offered to join the committee. He added that whilst Len did not want to be on the committee, he would like Len to act as a 'conduit' between the committee and members ensuring that members are fully informed about decisions made by the club.

Malcolm then invited a proposal for all committee members to be elected 'en bloc'.

**The proposal was made by Helen Wilkinson and seconded by Tom Miller.**

## 9. Any other Business

Sheila Beal said she wishes to thank all members who helped as 'scorers' during the year and made a plea for members to assist as scorers during 2018 even if a member can only come once.

John Thorp explained some of the details about the new competition which will be running during the 2018 season. John added that all members would be automatically included, a draw made and if a member wishes not to take part then to opt out, giving his / her opponent a bye. All games will be played over 19 hoops - further details will be worked out by the committee in 2018 prior to the start of the season. Ross Bagni offered to help organise this competition.

**Sally Clay made a proposal that in Friendly matches, instead of playing with the same partner during the whole match, mix it so during the four games, a player will partner each of our other players in turn.**

Malcolm said that we could not adopt that system in 'away' friendlies but it could be considered for home friendlies; and then said we will take a vote from members present. Ross spoke up for keeping the current system and explained that when he was learning croquet, partnering a more experienced player was of enormous benefit in improving his game. Malcolm explained exactly what Sally's proposal was and asked members to vote on the proposal which was 14 votes to keep the current system (keeping the same partner throughout the match) and 7 votes to endorse Sally's proposal.

**It was therefore decided to keep the current system.**

John Cundell presented to members the recent membership proposals made by the Croquet Association, also saying that if any members wished to ask for any further information then to see him after the AGM. During a general discussion about these proposals, Helen Wilkinson asked if

there were any benefits to the club by members joining the Croquet Association (CA). The general feeling was that the CA are likely to give us preferential treatment the more members we have registered with the CA as 'standard members'.

Malcolm mentioned the raffle and Tony Stammers was selling the tickets.

## 10. Presentation of awards

John Cundell was organising the awards with each award being presented by Councillor Alan Brandham.

The awards were presented in date order and were: -

### **Leighton-Linslade Croquet Club Winners 2017**

#### **Mix 'n Match Handicap Doubles**

Runners Up

**SHEILA BEAL and ROY KEMP**

Winners

**RONNIE RICHARDSON and JOHN THORP**

#### **Mix 'n Match Ladies Doubles**

Runners Up

**SHEILA BEAL and HELEN WILKINSON**

Winners

**SHEILA GUEST and VAL JEFFERS**

#### **Handicap Singles**

Runner Up

**JOHN THORP**

Winner

**UNA PENGELLY**

#### **Doubles**

Runners Up

**JOHN THORP and HELEN WILKINSON**

Winners

**JOHN CUNDELL and JUDITH PENGELLY**

#### **Singles**

Runner Up

**JUDITH PENGELLY**

Winner

**ROGER STROUD**

B-Level Nottingham

**ROSS BAGNI**

B-Level Hurlingham

**ROSS BAGNI**

Alan Brandham spoke and said that sport was also important to him - his sports being table tennis and badminton.

Malcolm thanked Councillor Alan Brandham for presenting our awards.

## 11 Closing Remarks

Malcolm then thanked everyone who brought food for our party, all those who helped set up the hall for the meeting; to Mary for booking and organising the hall and to Tony Stammers for his assistance with the raffle.

He added that the annual dinner will be in March which is yet to be organised and reminded people about the social club which meets during the winter at Pages Park Pavilion each Wednesday morning at 9.30 to 11.30.

He then wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and closed the meeting at 8.30pm.