



LEIGHTON-LINSLADE CROQUET CLUB

Founded 2000

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Wednesday 5th September 2018 8pm - Page's Park pavilion

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

Minutes

1. Welcome

Malcolm welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 7.55pm.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies from John Thorp (moved to Lincolnshire) and Judith Pengelly (on holiday).

3. Minutes of meeting held on 8th August 2018

There were no queries on the minutes of the August meeting so Malcolm signed the minutes.

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

It was noted that John C had specified the new club meeting times in the minutes of the August meeting. These have also been incorporated in the club's Introductory Leaflet.

5. Reports: -

5.1 Secretary's report including correspondence to Club

Roger said that there was nothing to report.

5.2 Treasurer's report

Mary reported that the accounts payable are up to date and that the recent Garden Party Day made a profit of £136.

5.3 Membership Secretary's Report

John C reported that the evening sessions have been successful and resulted in 6 new members. John added that Roger Brock and Bill Ironside play to a good standard even though new to croquet. Other new members include Jeanette Ironside, Fred & Jill Watt, Val Poole and Enid Miller.

John also added that we are likely to lose Derek Haines as a member through illness and of course John Thorp has now moved to Lincolnshire - we will be down to 48 members next year.

6. Fixtures: -

6.1 League Matches

John C has told league people regarding John Thorp leaving our club. John added that for most of the season our club has been leading both the Handicap & 3+ leagues until recently when we were overtaken by Northampton Hoops in the Handicap League and Enfield in the 3+ League. Jean had difficulty in getting a team for the last game in the Handicap League at Northampton resulting in Jean having to play and giving away a lot of free shots. We had a problem whereby our 3+ match against Letchworth on August 10th clashed with several of our key players playing in the B-Level at Phyllis

Court, therefore unavailable to play against Letchworth. We will try to avoid this happening again in 2019.

John added that the 2018 League organisers Tracey Martin & John Noble have stated that they will not be doing it next year.

6.2 Friendlies

We were late this year in organising the friendly matches as we had to wait for the League information to be circulated which was late arriving. Another friendly is currently being organised with us playing at Wrest Park on September 19th.

7. Club Garden Party

Malcolm said that it was a good day, enjoyed by everyone who went to it. Roger added that we had received many complementary emails following the event.

8. Sports Council

We are up to date with submissions to the Sports Council.

9. AGM

9.1 Location

Roger said that we now have to start making the detailed arrangements for the AGM. In previous years it has always been at Northall Village Hall - for the first time this year it is in the main room at Pages Park pavilion. It was noted that using the pavilion does save us the £21 that we have spent in previous years on the cost of hire for the village hall.

Roger added that he will double check that the pavilion is booked for the event.

Roger also said that many members might not like the walk from The Vynes car park to the pavilion in the evening when it is dark. We will try to arrange escorting from the car park.

9.2 Facilities

It was felt by the committee that there will be enough chairs.

9.3 Catering

We had a quotation for food preparation by the playgroup ladies which we found was too expensive for us so we decided to continue what we have done in previous years with members bring food for the party.

To ensure that we get a wide selection of food, Val said she will do a list of requirements which Roger can circulate to members with the AGM Information Pack which goes out to members early October.

It was agreed that we would use mugs for tea and coffee.

Val said that she will bring sufficient plates & cutlery.

9.4 Trophies

John C said he will contact trophy holders to collect them up and arrange engraving prior to the prize giving at the AGM.

9.5 Prize Giving

Roger said that he will contact the Mayor's secretary to see if the Mayor, Councillor Clive Palmer can be at our AGM to present the prizes. If the Mayor is not available it was suggested that we could invite Richard Keighley to present the awards.

9.6 Raffle

Malcolm said that we will have 5 good raffle prizes and we will ask Tony Stammers to sell raffle tickets at the AGM.

10. Re-development

John C said that we have seen contractors visiting the pavilion evaluating the work required. John added that on 24th Sep there is a Council meeting to determine the way forward with the redevelopment.

The question was raised "What are we going to do with our stored equipment while the development is going on?" - this will have to be discussed with the Council.

Malcolm said that he will contact Ian Haynes re defibrillator.

11. Fixture Secretary

As John Thorp has moved away to Lincolnshire, our club now has a vacancy for a Fixture Secretary.

John T was responsible for setting up dates for league and friendly matches.

John C suggested that for 2019, as soon as the dates were announced by the EACF, prospective members who wished to take part should be asked for availability. Once players have said they are available they must stick to availability unless there is an emergency.

12. Any other business

12.1 Val

Val asked if it was possible for our teams to have very smart name badges.

John C said that if we had any then we would give them to people to look after themselves.

Ross said that there appeared to be a number of suppliers on Ebay. Mary Kemp said she would investigate further.

Val also asked if there could be a coaching evening for members.

Ross said that in 2019 he is going on a coaching course.

12.2 Sheila

Sheila said that one member had said to her that on the Wednesday evenings that we had, there should always be a member of our committee present. It was stated by John C that there was a committee member present at every evening. John C also stated that although not a committee member, our Membership Secretary was present every evening.

Ross suggested that in 2019 we should continue with the Wednesday evenings and once a month members can bring guests.

12.3 Malcolm

12.3.1 Competitions

Malcolm said that the club competition for the Peter Davis trophy has been extremely successful and that the final between Judith Pengelly and John Boon will be played on the weekend of our doubles competition. The final will be the best of 3 13pt games.

John added some details of the forthcoming doubles & singles competitions: -

Doubles currently have 7 teams and Val & Sheila decided that they would make up an eighth team making eight teams playing.

Singles currently has 11 names and will be closed at 12.

12.3.2 Lawns

Malcolm commented about our lawns, saying that they are very dry, and should we wait for rain before we try to improve them? He also said that the Letchworth web site suggested that to level a lawn, to drag a ladder around and throw sand in front of it, adding that Trevor has a vehicle we could use to assist the task.

John C said that you have to start with a fairly flat lawn for this process to work.

Malcolm asked "How do we do it for lawns 1 & 2?".

John C said that the Council Ground staff hope to sort out hoop 4 on lawn 2 during the winter. We will move lawns 1 and 2 across a couple of feet towards the railway line to eliminate the slope adjacent to hoops 1 and 4.

John added that some years ago, Duncan Hector did some core samples on our lawns and that it is necessary to dig a trench at least 2 metres deep across lawns 1 & 2 at the far side and fill the trench with sleepers.

The committee reached the conclusion that once the redevelopment is complete then we could ask Duncan if he could do a further evaluation and get the Council involved in the discussion.

The meeting closed 9.45pm.