

HARWELL CROQUET CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 18th MARCH 2009

The meeting was held in the Harlequin Room and commenced at 13:00

Present: Mike Duck (Chair), Roy Platon (Treasurer), Steve Fisher (Secretary), Jim Bartlett, Steve Boddy and Ana and Gerald Mitchell.

1. Apologies for absence

None

2. Minutes of the 2008 AGM

These were accepted without correction

3. Matters arising

1. Jim was to have provided us with a poster to go on the notice board. He will do this.
2. A friendly between Harwell and Blewbury utilizing all four lawns was to have occurred. Mike will look after this.
3. Jim had a sign made but it has still not been erected. Steve will continue to ask Tony B. to do this.
4. Helen was to organise with the help of Jim short games at lunchtimes. This has not happened yet.

4. Reports:

4.1. Chairman

Mike had nothing to report except that he was glad to see the two lawns looking good.

4.2. Secretary

Steve F reported that the web site has been maintained for the year. It will probably cost £22.31 to have it hosted for another year.. Steve needs to register for: the croquet association at £7 per head (for members who have Harwell as their primary club) with a minimum of £50. He had registered for the Longman Cup by e-mail which will cost £27.50. Steve suggested that it would be good to have the AGM a little earlier in the year so that the decision to join take part in the Longman cup could be taken at that meeting During the year Tony B had asked for the replacement cost of the croquet equipment for insurance purposes. As this was wanted quite quickly a spreadsheet based on prices from the CA web site was provided. The cricket club are wanting to play for an increased number of nights this year. We need to discuss how to reach a compromise on this – maybe using just one court. It seems that the plan to build a hotel nearby has come to nothing so we are not able to make any arrangements with them. Note that at the last HLRA AGM it was agreed that “outside people” would no longer pay higher fees. Though the differential was small this is still good for us in principle. It should also be noted that the HLRA will make contributions to equipment needed by clubs, for example a new mallet or two.

In subsequent discussion it was noted that we had eight members for which Harwell was their primary club. The meeting felt that it was OK to just assume that we would continue to make an entry to the Longman Cup so that there was no need to bring the AGM earlier. Gerald said that the insurance replacement costs submitted by Steve were reasonable.

4.3. Treasurer

Roy reported that a few subscriptions had not been collected from last year resulting in a small reduction in the bank balance.

4.4. SCF League organizer

Mike reported that we had not done too well – we were again bottom equal with Blewbury.

5. The coming season

5.1. Club sessions

The meeting was not happy with the proposal from the cricket club to take some Wednesdays as well as probably Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday. Our preference is to continue with Wednesday morning and evening. It is hoped that by using just one court we should be able to co-exist with the cricket club. If Wednesday evening is not possible then Thursday would be a second choice. We will continue to play matches on Friday evenings. Steve will contact Rick Tanner and Tony B with this proposal.

5.2. Longman Cup

We had a bye in the first round but were knocked out in the second round where we lost 5-2 away to Hamptworth.

5.3. All-England Handicap

It was decided that anyone wishing to enter should do so via Blewbury and should contact that club directly.

5.4. Founder's bowl

Not many games had been played. Steve suggested that this was because of the rule that they were to be untimed handicapped games – which are obviously impossible to schedule. It was decided that last year's event would be abandoned with no winner as so few games had been played and that this year each game could follow any format agreed upon by the two players. It might for example be a 14 point game or the game could have an agreed time limit.

5.5. Golf croquet cup

One final game remains to be played – Gerald and Jim. Jim will get a suitable trophy.

5.6. League

We will enter again.

6. Election of officers:

Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and SCF League organizer were all re-elected.

7. Any other business

1. Gerald said that when marking out the lawn he would move it slightly further from the pavilion to get flatter ground near the boundaries.
2. Jim suggested that we should all try to bring one new person. He hoped himself to attract people from Wantage.
3. Jim suggested that we should join the SCF golf league – this was agreed. Gerald indicated that he would be pleased to play for us rather than for Thames Valley. Jim also offers coaching. The onus is now upon all those wanting coaching to approach Jim.
4. It was decided that Blewbury and Harwell would co-host the Solstice (golf doubles team) event on the 21st June. Steve will contact Tony B to book the facilities at Harwell. Mike will otherwise look after the organisation from the Harwell side.
5. Steve was asked to circulate an e-mail asking people what they wanted to take part in.

The meeting Closed at 13:52