



LEIGHTON-LINSLADE CROQUET CLUB

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Founded 2000

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NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2012 Volume 13 Issue 1

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"Another Year - Another Season Beckons - Roll on March!"

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2012. Happy New Year to all members and friends. In the first newsletter of 2011 we looked ahead to a busy year and better play from our third lawn. The busy year certainly transpired and as well as all our 'normal' club and friendly events, including a new competition for the over 70's, we ran two League teams, both of which enjoyed excellent form and results; took part in the Inter-Club Murphy Shield; won back the Hunstanton Leighton-Linslade Golf Croquet Challenge Trophy; and a number of members entered 'open' events at clubs ranging from Watford, Wrest Park, Newport, Ipswich, Hunstanton, Birmingham and Nottingham - and some impressive results were gained.

The third lawn was much improved and is now probably our most level surface. Lawns 1 and 2 suffer from being the two nearest to the clubhouse so they tend to be over used - the remedy is obvious! We also suffered early in the year from the dandelion plague, however considerable hard work digging out the little devils by a few dedicated members - notably John Thorp and Pauline Lefrere - plus some spray treatment by Council Groundstaff helped; then came the drought! More about the lawns later.

Members who attended the AGM will have been brought up to date as to what has been a busy year behind the scenes; a full report on the AGM follows.

Annual General Meeting

The 12th Annual General Meeting was held at Northall Village Hall on Friday 11th November 2011, and the meeting started promptly at 7.30pm as our Chairman David Ball welcomed some 37 members, plus our invited guests - Leighton-Linslade Town Mayor Gordon Perham and his wife Carole. Secretary Roger Stroud then gave nine apologies for absence.

In Matters Arising from last year's minutes Tom Miller

reported to the meeting that following the request at the 2010 AGM for a survey to determine the average age of the membership, this came out as 72. The minutes of the 2010 AGM were then duly approved.

We had circulated the Officer's Reports with the AGM Agenda Pack before the meeting therefore they were not repeated verbatim, but updated as appropriate.

David Ball emphasised that there were a few members who do an awful lot of work behind the scene - for instance the six members who had scarified and mowed the lawns recently, saving the club some £600. There are many more lawn maintenance tasks to perform during the forthcoming close season and David asked the meeting to show their appreciation in the normal manner. He also asked for similar acknowledgement for all those who carry out the other duties required to keep the club running smoothly.

Roger Stroud stated that due to a number of reasons he had not been able to perform normal secretarial duties this year and he thanked John Cundell for taking over as Acting Secretary. He felt that our membership fee was very good value in terms of what we get for our money - good social play and good competitive play for those who desire it, and that members should bear this in mind in the future. He thanked Tony Wells for his five years of committee membership. He also thanked John Cundell for the newsletter which is enjoyed not only by our members, but also by other clubs who enjoy reading our news which is published on the EACF website.

The Treasurer Len Buckingham then reminded members that they had already received the uncertified accounts a few days previously for perusal, and that these had now been certified by our Examiner, Marjorie Cliffe. There was a query concerning the Referees course that was answered by the Treasurer. Len Buckingham stated he intended to approach the Town Council to investigate if there was any



chance of our annual 5% increase in Licence Fee being reduced. He was not aware of any imminent increase in the Croquet Association membership fee. He reminded members that now we are responsible for our out-of-

The winners of the Mix 'n Match Ladies Doubles, Judith and Una Pengelly, plus The John Fogg Trophy winners Malcolm Kirby and John Cundell, pose with the donor of the two trophies, Erica Fogg, and Leighton-Linslade Town Mayor Councillor Gordon Perham at the AGM presentations.



Top to bottom, left to right: Roger Stroud and John Cundell Mix 'n Match Handicap Doubles - Martin Field runner-up with Vic Peddar (not present); Judith and Una Pengelly for Mix 'n Match Ladies Doubles - Val Jeffers runner-up with Sheila Guest (not present); Malcolm Kirby and John Cundell for The John Fogg Trophy - runner-up Richard Keighley and Tony Wells (not present); Roger Stroud with Singles Trophy - Roger also won the Handicap Singles trophy.

season lawn maintenance – we have so far spent approximately £830 this winter for lawn treatment. We will try to raise money by various means; grants; social club that shows a profit and it would be nice to see increased attendance; and possibly a car boot sale at the beginning of next season. It is also proposed to organise Corporate events – if this can be arranged then we will need support and help from the membership to make these successful.

The committee has requested an increase in membership fee of £5 to a total of £70. There were no objections to this and the proposal was accepted by the meeting.



There was a query about Junior Membership fees which will be considered at the next Committee Meeting.

Len also stated that we are currently investigating purchase of a self-propelled rotary mower for out-of-season

work, and that we had approached the Council about storage of all the extra equipment we now have, and will need, to carry out our own maintenance.

The Officers' reports were duly accepted by the meeting.

The Chairman then thanked the Vice-Chairman John Cundell, the Officers, and all members of the Committee for their sterling efforts in the last year. He also thanked Marjorie Cliffe who examines our accounts and stated that she was willing to continue this for another year.

David Ball then conducted the appointment of the Officers and new Committee. Malcolm Kirby was proposed and seconded and approved as a new committee member. The appointments are below.

Margaret Brown commented that she was very concerned that there were very few female members on the committee. David stated that there were no extra nominations from the membership and perhaps the ladies would take this comment on board for future years.

Officers, Committee and Specific Duty Appointments

Officers

Chairman	David Ball
Secretary	Roger Stroud
Treasurer	Len Buckingham

Committee

Ex officio members

Vice Chairman	John Cundell
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Left, Malcolm Kirby happily receives the Handicap Singles runner-up trophy. Below, John Cundell and Richard Keighley for the Doubles; runners-up Eve Buckingham and Sheila Beal. Jean Ball was runner-up in the Singles.





The LJB 70+ Trophy winner was David Ball, seen at left with competition inaugurator Len Buckingham, and Martin Field who made the trophy. Winner of the Plate Trophy was Irene Davis, collected for her by husband Peter as Irene was not well; and Yvonne Banks won the consolation prize - an indoor croquet set donated by John and Judith Cundell. Right, John Cundell was Team Captain when we won back the Hunstanton-Leighton-Linslade Challenge Trophy.



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| Fixture Secretary | John Thorp |
| Members | Val Jeffers Eve Buckingham
Tony Stammers Malcolm Kirby |
| Specific Duties and Non-Executive | |
| Archivist | Malcolm Kirby |
| Catering Manager | Val Jeffers |
| Assisted by | Eve Buckingham, Jean Ball,
Margaret Lawson and Judith Cundell |
| Child Protection | Richard Keighley |
| Club Clothing | Judith Cundell |
| Coaching | Richard Keighley, John Cundell,
Eve Buckingham, David Ball |
| Competition Organisers & Managers | John Cundell, John Thorp,
Len Buckingham, David Ball |
| Handicappers | John Cundell, Len Buckingham,
John Thorp, David Ball |
| Lawn Layout and Maintenance, Event Preparation | John Cundell, John Thorp, Len Buckingham, David Ball,
Tony Wells, Malcolm Kirby, Roy Kemp, Pauline Lefrere |
| Membership Sec. | Judith Cundell |
| Newsletter | John Cundell |
| Publicity/Press | David Ball, John Cundell |
| Quartermaster | Eve Buckingham |
| Referee | Len Buckingham |
| Registers | Len Buckingham and Judith Cundell |
| Safety Officer | John Thorp |

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|---------------------|---|
| Schools Liaison | Tony Wells |
| Scoring Manager | Irene Davis |
| Selection Committee | John Cundell, Len Buckingham,
Eve Buckingham, John Thorp,
George Lawson |
| Sports Council | Tony Wells |
| Welfare Secretary | Judith Cundell |

Presentation of Awards

At this point David invited Town Mayor Gordon Perham to step forward and amongst much acclaim and good humour the following awards were presented:

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|-----------------------------|--|
| Mix 'n Match | |
| Handicap Doubles | John Cundell and Roger Stroud |
| Runners Up | Martin Field and Vic Peddar |
| Mix 'n Match | |
| Ladies Doubles | Judith Pengelly and Una Pengelly |
| Runners Up | Sheila Guest and Val Jeffers |
| The John Fogg Trophy | John Cundell and Malcolm Kirby |
| Runners Up | Tony Wells and Richard Keighley |
| Handicap Singles | Roger Stroud |
| Runner Up | Malcolm Kirby |
| Doubles | John Cundell and Richard Keighley |
| Runners Up | Sheila Beal and Eve Buckingham |



At the AGM party the Mayor seen in fund raising and humorous party mood. Below, Chairman David Ball thanked Diana Phelps for once again loaning her house and gardens for the Garden Party. Tony Stammers hard at work folding up the tickets for what was a very successful raffle.



Singles	Roger Stroud
Runner Up	Jean Ball
LJB 70+ Trophy	David Ball
LJB 70+ Plate	Irene Davis
LJB Consolation	Yvonne Banks

Hunstanton Leighton-Linslade Golf Croquet Challenge Leighton-Linslade – accepted by Team Captain John Cundell

Also on display were trophies won by David Ball at Nottingham; and Roger Stroud at Hunstanton.

Chairman's Closing Remarks

David Ball thanked Diana Phelps for once again loaning her house and garden for the Garden Party and presented her with a floral tribute. There has been comment from a number of members that we change the starting time of the Garden Party to 13.00 hours and have lunch such as cold meats and salad, etc., rather than afternoon tea. A vote and count was taken and there was a strong majority of at least 21 in favour, three against.

David then informed members that the date for the annual dinner is confirmed as 23rd March at the Leighton Buzzard Golf Club and distributed menus and booking forms.

The meeting was then closed by David and the party commenced. This was enjoyed by all, and as well as the raffle, organised by Tony Stammers, which raised a healthy sum - we were also entertained by Town Mayor Gordon Perham with an impromptu fund-raising competition and some humorous asides!

2012 Dates for your Diary

February

22 Committee Meeting

March

10/11 Soham Indoor

23 Annual Dinner - Leighton Buzzard Golf Club

31 LAWNS OPEN - weather permitting

April

7/8 Official Opening (To Be Confirmed)

14/15 Coaches Training Course - Letchworth

21 EACF AGM - Bury St. Edmunds

22 EACF Club Champions Tournament - Newport

May

12/13 Club 'Mix 'n' Match' Handicap Doubles

June

2/3 Club Ladies Doubles 'Mix 'n' Match'

9 East Anglian Counties Tournament - Hunstanton

13 Committee Meeting

23 CA B-Level Tournament (3-7) - Wrest Park

24 EACF Handicap Singles (8-12) - Bury St. Edmunds

July

7/8 Club Handicap Singles

21 Club Fun Day

23 U3A Dunstable Visit

28/29 Hunstanton Leighton-Linslade Challenge

August

4/5 Hunstanton Invitation Weekend (see below)

8 Committee Meeting

11/12 Club Mens Doubles 'Mix 'n' Match' John Fogg Trophy

26/27 Come & Try Day

September

12 Committee Meeting

14 LJB 70+ Trophy

22/23 Club Doubles

29/30 Club Singles

November

9 AGM & Party

The dates for other events such as League Matches, Inter-Club Shield, local Friendlies, Garden Party, etc., will be published in the next newsletter in early March.

Leighton-Linslade Social Club

The Wednesday morning social club is meeting regularly during the close season at Page's Park pavilion from 10.00am to 12.00, and on average a dozen or so members have been present. The fee is £2, and for that you get refreshments and the opportunity to play many board games, darts, snooker, dominoes and cribbage. The activities generally finish about noon, and the hall is already warm on arrival, so please support this venture if you possibly can. Friends of members are welcome for the same attendance fee.

Annual Dinner

This year's dinner will be at Leighton Buzzard Golf Club, Plantation Road on Friday 23rd March. Forms were distributed at the AGM and by post thereafter. There are no more spaces.

Soham Indoor

The annual Soham Indoor Golf Croquet weekend will be on 10/11th March. Saturday will be handicapped play, Sunday will be level. We can have two teams of two players each on both days. Cost is £30 per doubles team. If you are interested in taking part then please contact me (John Cundell) asap.

Coaches Training Course

This course over the weekend of 14/15th April, to be held at Letchworth, is for relatively experienced players who wish to become Golf Croquet coaches. The Manager is our Richard Keighley, assisted by John Cundell and coaches from other clubs.

EACF Club Champions Tournament

This is a new event at Newport on 29th April. Each club in the region is invited to send both their level play and handicap club champions from the previous year or suitable substitute, to play on an overall knockout tournament to determine a Regional Champion. Our participants will be Roger Stroud in the Handicap event and Jean Ball in the Level.

EACF High Handicap Tournament

This event is aimed specifically for those players whose handicap falls between 8-12, to give the less experienced player a chance to play in open competition locally, hopefully to tempt them into entering into a more senior Croquet Association event. This should go some way to filling the gaps left by the old National Trust Days which were previously held at Ickworth Hall prior to 1997. The

date is 24th June and the venue is Bury St. Edmunds.

Possible New Competition

There is a possibility that for 2012 there will be two EACF League competitions - the existing one for Handicap play will remain - however organiser Chris Howell is considering adding a Level play League aimed at the more senior/experienced players. We have expressed our strong interest for this and await developments.

Hunstanton Invitation Weekend

This is an annual open event at Hunstanton over 6/7th August. (This is not our annual Friendly event). Saturday is all Singles in two sections - (A) Level play for lower handicaps; and (B) Handicap play. Sunday is Pro-am Doubles where partners will be allocated by the club as per Handicap. The entry fee is £10 per player per day which includes light refreshments. For an application form go to www.hunstantoncroquetclub.co.uk.

Selection Committee

The general consensus from members was that the 'selection committee' arrangement for last year was successful and the committee has agreed that it will continue for 2012. The committee members are Len Buckingham, John Cundell, Eve Buckingham, George Lawson and John Thorp.

'Instant' Newsletter

Please include your email address when you complete this year's membership form. The newsletter will normally be distributed by email. As per 2011 please mark on your membership form if you are happy to print out your own copies of membership and any other forms which may be required. Postage costs are now very expensive and as club outgoings are going to rise now that we will be doing some of our own lawn maintenance, then every penny we can save is important.

Lawn Maintenance and Equipment Storage

At the close of the season five members took eight hours over two days to scarify the lawns.

Shortly before the end of the season our contractor killed off the poor grass at the right hand third of Lawn 2, and two weeks later, deeply scarified the area, removed the dead material, and re-seeded with grass recommended for croquet lawns. At the same time Lawns 1 and 2 were aerated and fertiliser was applied to all three.

In early November the two Johns rotary-mowed all three

lawns as the grass has been growing well due to the warm Autumn/Winter. Len Buckingham kindly loaned his mower which has not taken too kindly to the heavy demand. We have also cleared leaves as required and attempted to break up wormcasts. We are pleased to report that the warm conditions have allowed the new seed to germinate and there is already a healthy sward on the refurbished area. Whether this will be ready for the start of the season will depend on what the climate throws at us over the next few months.

We are pleased to report that after further negotiation with the Town Council, the off-season rotary mowing will now be carried out by Senior Groundsman Doug Bolton and his staff. Further necessary treatment as required will also be handled by the Town Council following requests from us, at costs to be determined.

We are also pleased to be able to report that we have been allocated a storage arrangement for our maintenance equipment and some playing equipment which will enable us to create more space in the clubroom.

Finally, at the end of December a path was laid by the groundstaff starting at the concrete slab outside our clubroom around to the toilets and the path on the cricket side of the pavilion.

Playing Sessions

Below is a reminder on the 'official' playing sessions for 2012 - no change from 2011:

10-12 Tuesday (Singles Handicap)
2-4 Tuesday (Singles Handicap)
10-1.00 Wednesday
10-1.00 Thursday
10-12 Saturday
2-5 Saturday
10-12 Sunday (Singles Handicap)
2-5 Sunday

Our Lawn Rent arrangements allow for playing sessions to be flexible to work around the weather - either good or bad - e.g., if morning is wet we can regroup pm or even on another day; if good then stay on as required. Also, members are able to go along for practice sessions at will.

The only provisos are that a) if the Council Groundstaff or any Contractors or our own members are working on the lawns, then they will have priority and players will have to wait until they are finished; and b) certain Mondays and Fridays when League and Friendly matches are scheduled when no club play will be possible.



Membership Fee Due

It's that time of the year again - the membership fee is due. Accompanying the newsletter is a membership application form for the 2012 season.

Please complete this and send with the appropriate remittance to the Membership Secretary, Judith Cundell, whose contact details are on the form and on the masthead of this newsletter.

If you have an email address please include this as we would like to send as many newsletters and other communications as possible by email to reduce postage and delivery costs.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - 2012 SEASON

I/we wish to join / rejoin the club.

Name(s):

Address:

.....

..... Postcode:

Tel No:

Date:

Email:

I am happy to receive all communication by email, including 'return forms': YES NO

A subscription for the full season is £70 per person. Potential new members may also pay a £5 fee for two trial sessions. This fee will be deducted if full membership is subsequently taken out.

I / we enclose a cheque for £..... payable to Leighton Linslade Croquet Club.

Please return this form and cheque to: Judith Cundell (Membership Secretary), 18 Saxons Close, Leighton Buzzard, Beds. LU7 3LT. Tel: 01525 374620.
Email: judith.cundell@btinternet.com