



# LEIGHTON-LINSLADE CROQUET CLUB

Secretary:  
Roger Stroud  
Corks Cottage  
180 Common Road  
Kensworth  
Dunstable  
LU6 2PJ  
Tel: 01582 873793  
Email: rogerstroud302@hotmail.com

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## NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2012 Volume 13 Issue 2

Membership Secretary:  
Judith Cundell  
18 Saxons Close  
Leighton Buzzard  
LU7 3LT  
Tel: 01525 374620  
Email: judith.cundell@btinternet.com

The newsletter Editor is John Cundell. Items for the newsletter can be sent to 18 Saxons Close, Leighton Buzzard, Beds LU7 3LT; or emailed to john.cundell@btinternet.com. Tel: 01525 400512 or 374620

### "Spring and Croquet is Here!"

Welcome to the second newsletter of 2012 as we look forward to longer and warmer days. The lawns are looking good and have benefited from the good work over the winter months, initially from some of our members, and latterly from the Council Groundstaff who, as we reported in the last newsletter, have taken over the winter mowing and are carrying out other necessary procedures which we pay for. Moss treatment in early January appears to have worked satisfactorily, and the relatively warm weather in February has allowed the grass to come along well.

Members will recall that shortly before the end of the 2011 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. The new seed took quickly at the end of 2011 and subsequent growth has also benefitted from the relatively warm winter - however there are still a number of areas that have been re-seeded, some further chemical treatment is required, and the surface needs a little more time to consolidate.

The Committee has therefore decided that **NO PLAY on Lawn 2 will be possible from the start date of 31st March until further notice. Please respect this and give the lawn a chance to mature. We estimate that this state of affairs will be necessary until the end of April when it will be further reviewed.**

### 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**



The club's first competitive outing of the year was at Soham for the Golf Croquet Indoor Weekend over 10/11th March. Saturday was Handicap play with Sunday for Level play. The Saturday teams were John Thorp and Malcolm Kirby; Tony Stammers and Vic Peddar. John and Malcolm were third and Tony and Vic sixth. On Sunday, teams were John Cundell and Richard Keighley; Martin Field and Pauline Lefrere. After a closely fought day's play, John and Richard held off the other main contenders from Bury St. Edmunds in a tense match to take the trophy, pictured above. Martin and Pauline were unlucky with two games going to a draw in the last few minutes when they were ahead, but they had the satisfaction of being the only pair to beat winners John and Richard and they finished fourth. A good day and thanks to organiser Chris Howell for all her hard work.

**they are finished; and b) certain Mondays and Fridays when League and Friendly matches are scheduled when no club play will be possible.**

### 2012 Dates for your Diary

As you can see it looks like another busy season. All fixture dates so far arranged are included below. EACF League and Friendly dates will be posted in the Clubroom as and when these become available from John Thorp. This is John's first year as Fixture Secretary - we wish him well in his new post.

**PLEASE NOTE THERE ARE SOME DATE CHANGES FROM THOSE PUBLISHED IN OUR FIRST NEWSLETTER IN JANUARY SO PLEASE CHANGE YOUR DIARY ENTRIES NOW!**

#### March

- 23 Annual Dinner - Leighton Buzzard Golf Club
- 31 **LAWNS 1 AND 3 OPEN - weather permitting**

#### April

- 8 Official Opening by Town Mayor Gordon Perham - 1.30 for 2.00pm
- 14/15 Croquet Association GC Coaches Training Course - Letchworth
- 21 EACF AGM - Bury St. Edmunds
- 29 EACF Club Champions Tournament - Newport

#### May

- 4 Watford Friendly - Home
- 12/13 Club 'Mix 'n' Match' Handicap Doubles

- 14 B-Class at Watford. For players with a handicap between 3 and 7. Contact Roger Nicholls on 01923 236068 or email roger.b.nicholls@btinternet.com. See below.

### June

- 1  
2/3 Club Ladies Doubles 'Mix 'n' Match'  
4 Diamond Jubilee Summer Fete at Page's Park - includes Come & Try Day - see below  
9 East Anglian Counties Tournament - Hunstanton  
13 Committee Meeting  
17 Wrest Park Singles - see below  
23 CA B-Level Tournament (3-7) - Wrest Park  
24 EACF Handicap Singles (8-12) - Bury St. Edmunds

### July

- 7/8 Club Handicap Singles  
15 Wrest Park Doubles - see below  
21 Club Fun Day  
23 U3A Dunstable Visit  
28/29 Hunstanton v Leighton-Linslade Challenge - at Hunstanton

### August

- 4/5 Hunstanton Invitation Weekend - see below  
8 Committee Meeting  
11/12 Club Mens Doubles 'Mix 'n' Match' John Fogg Trophy  
25 Annual Garden Party  
30 Watford Friendly - Away

### September

- 12 Committee Meeting  
14 LJB 70+ Trophy  
22/23 Club Doubles  
29/30 Club Singles

### November

- 9 AGM & Party

### Official Opening by LL Town Mayor

All members are warmly invited to attend the official opening of the season by Town Mayor Councillor Gordon Perham and the Mayoress, Mrs Perham at 2.00pm on Sunday 8th April. Please be in attendance by 1.30pm. It would be nice if whites were worn.

### Club Champions Tournament

This is a new event organised by the EACF in which each club is invited to send both their level play and handicap champions from the previous year, to play in an overall knockout tournament to determine a Regional Champion. The date is Sunday 29th April at Newport CC. Our representatives will be Roger Stroud in the handicap competition and Jean Ball in the level play. We wish them both well and are sure they will give of their best.

### B-Class Tournaments and The Croquet Association

B-Class tournaments are organised by clubs on behalf of The Croquet Association. To take part you have to be a CA Tournament member or have never previously played in one of these matches before - in the latter instance you are allowed one entry without being a Tournament member. Information can be obtained from John Cundell, Eve and

Len Buckingham, David Ball, Roger Stroud or Richard Keighley - or The Croquet Association website at [www.croquet.org.uk](http://www.croquet.org.uk). As from this year The Croquet Association have revised the fees for Tournament members to try and encourage more participation in CA events. There is now a Tournament Member Introductory Rate where new Tournament members pay an introductory rate of £12 for single and £19 for dual membership in their first year. In the second year the rate is two-thirds of the full rate prevailing at that time. The full rate applies from the third year of membership which is currently £42.

Other B-Class tournaments this year are at Nottingham, Edgbaston, Hamptworth, Letchworth, Phyllis Court - and of course - Wrest Park, the latter organised by Richard Keighley.

### Golf Croquet Club Days - Wrest Park

John Bevington from Wrest Park has sent the dates for Wrest Park's Club Days. These are Singles on Sunday 17th June, and Doubles on Sunday 15th July. LLCC members are invited to take part in these events. They are primarily social events so the more the merrier, especially as this is the last chance to play on the old lawns. Entry to the competitions is free, level play - and normally a good time is had by all. It would be very helpful to have an idea about numbers before the day(s), so if you intend to take part please let Richard Keighley know on 01296 681235.

### Hunstanton Invitation Weekend

This is an annual open event at Hunstanton over 4/5th August. 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](http://www.hunstantoncroquetclub.co.uk).

### EACF League Changes

We mentioned in the last newsletter that there was a possibility that for 2012 there will be two EACF League competitions - the existing one for Handicap play will remain - however organiser Chris Howell has been considering adding a Level play League aimed at the more senior/experienced players.

We are pleased to report that this has come to fruition. The Handicap League as played for the last decade or so will stay with little change. The Level play League will be to a similar format - four players per team, four singles and two doubles games - and time limit raised to 60 minutes - played level (no handicaps). A team will be awarded three points for a win, one for a draw. The club collecting the most points in a season will be declared the competition winners. There will be no semi/finals weekend as per the Handicap League.

**The Level Play League is open to all players regardless of handicap. All players can play in both leagues.**

Your committee decided that Leighton-Linslade CC will enter two teams in the Handicap League - as in previous years, but to be called LL Green and LL Yellow rather than 'A' and 'B'. We will also enter one team in the Level Play League. More details as they become available and an

entry list for interested participants will be displayed in the clubroom at the start of the season. The Selection Committee will then decide on the team formats.

### **Selection Committee**

The general consensus from members at the AGM was that the 'selection committee' arrangement will continue for 2012. The committee members are Len Buckingham, John Cundell, Eve Buckingham, George Lawson, and John Thorp.

The committee will be responsible for selecting League Teams plus Inter-Club Murphy Shield Team.

### **Diamond Jubilee Summer Fete**

The Town Council will be celebrating the Diamond Jubilee on Monday 4th June with a full day of entertainment and activities at Page's Park, from 11.00am to 5.00pm. This free community event will include live music and dancing, country games, competitions for all the family, dog show, classic cars, a tug of war, childrens' rides, and much more. There will be a large screen in the corner by the small car park on which it is intended to advertise events going on during the day; and later in the day it will be broadcasting the Diamond Jubilee Concert. An open-top double-decker bus plus some of the Leighton Buzzard Buzzers will be providing free transport from the town to the park throughout the day - and of course the LB Light Railway will be running trains.

We will obviously be attending and members are very welcome to come along and enjoy the day - please wear whites. We intend to make this a 'Come & Try' occasion as there will certainly not be another opportunity this year when the park is so busy.

We also plan to run a 'Produce Stall' on the day - those who attended last year's Come & Try weekend will recall that sales of produce such as sweets, cakes and fruit were very popular. So if you are prepared to help by providing suitable produce, please contact co-ordinator Eve Buckingham on 01525 221079.

### **Car Boot Sale**

Members will recall the sales stall that we ran at last year's Come & Try days which was successful. There were some items left that did not sell which are currently stored at a member's house. Rather than dump these, a number of members intend to visit a car boot sale in late April/early May and if anyone has other items that they would like to donate, then look out for details as to when and whom to contact which will be posted in the Clubroom as soon as the season gets under way.

### **Telephone List**

A list of members' telephone numbers for your use in

arranging sessions with other members if you so wish will be available as soon as the season starts. This will be emailed where possible and available to other members in the Clubroom.

### **CCTV Coverage**

Following our request at the end of 2011 we are pleased to report that the Town Council has installed three Closed Circuit TV cameras at the pavilion area. There is a camera covering both end shutters - toilet end and kitchen end, plus a third camera installed on the side of the pavilion adjacent to the five-a-side pitch which looks towards our steps and three lawns. Hopefully this may go some way to reducing vandalism and the litter problem.



### **Club Clothing**

As reported in the last newsletter in 2011, Judith Cundell has located a supplier for club branded clothing such as polo shirts, fleeces, sweat-shirts and caps - all in white - from a local manufacturer. Details were given to members at the Doubles and Singles weekends in 2011 and a number of orders were taken.

Orders are to be placed through Judith and we require cash or cheque when you place an order. Cheques need to be made payable to 'Judith Cundell'. Delivery will be approximately three weeks. A number of members already have sweatshirts and caps and are very pleased with the quality. Please contact Judith at 01525 374620 or email [judith.cundell@btinternet.com](mailto:judith.cundell@btinternet.com) for more information.

### **Leighton-Linslade Sports Council**

The club is a member of the Leighton-Linslade Sports Council and we are represented by Tony Wells. The Council currently requires a Secretary to minute three meetings per year, to look after a small amount of correspondence and book meeting dates as required. If anyone is interested in taking on this position, in the first instance please contact Tony Wells on 01525 379107 for more information.

### **LLCC's Child Protection Policy**

A number of members have asked about the club's policy for children playing croquet at Page's Park. You will find the current Child Protection Policy for the club at the end of this newsletter. Please note the requirements and act accordingly.



### **Subscription Reminder - Club Membership**

If you haven't yet paid this year's subscription you will find another membership application form with this newsletter in case you may have mislaid the original copy. 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 this method. Postage costs are now very expensive and as club outgoings are going to rise significantly now that we will be doing much of our own court maintenance, then every penny we can save is important.



# LEIGHTON-LINSLADE CROQUET CLUB

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This Policy was agreed by the General Committee on 27th January 2010 and supersedes that agreed prior to the 2009 AGM.

## LLCC and Children

The following policy has been agreed, as a way of clarifying the LLCC position, and will be issued to all existing and new members when they formally join the Club.

- 1) The LLCC's Child Protection Policy will be based on the Croquet Association's model policy at the time. Therefore, the Club's Child Protection Officer is Richard Keighley and, under the 1989 Children's Act, children are defined as persons of less than 18 years of age.
- 2) The Club will openly welcome children to try the game without payment or commitment and to join as playing members.
- 3) The Club would like to actively help any organisation which approaches it representing a disadvantaged group, e.g. Bedfordshire MIND, to experience croquet as a recreational event.
- 4) If approached, the Club is willing to show a group with a distinct affiliation (e.g. a local school) how to play the game either, and preferably, at special sessions at Pages Park or by "one-off" arrangements at the school or other location. Subsequent progression of the young people to playing the game will either be by: i) the affiliate driving the issue on their site and with their equipment, or ii) the young person/people joining the Club. If the former, the Club will make efforts to assist via its CRB checked volunteers but this cannot be assumed. In any circumstance, the "group" concerned will be responsible for child protection and should ensure any LLCC volunteer meets any legal requirement regarding vetting or registration.
- 5) When not associated with a "group", children will only be allowed to play, at Page's Park, if one of the Club's volunteers, who has a current CRB registration, is present or the child's parent or the responsible person accompanies them.
- 6) It will be the responsibility of the volunteer to obtain CRB clearance. From November 2010, all new volunteers, who want to work with children must be Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) registered.