



LEIGHTON-LINSLADE CROQUET CLUB

Founded 2000

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NEWSLETTER - March 2007 Volume 8 Issue 2

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Not Long to Go Now!

Welcome to the second newsletter of 2007 under the joint Editorship of John Cundell and Richard Keighley.

2007 Dates for your Diary

March

24 EACF AGM - Bury St Edmunds

April

1 Lawns available for play!
14 Official Opening of Club Season
23 Referees Course at Henley
28/29 Coaches training course at Newport
30 Last day for entries to NT tournaments

May

6 Come & Try Day
15 League Match v Watford (H)
25 Friendly v Watford (A)
31 Committee meeting
31 Last day for entries to Centre Stage

June

16 Club Centre stage
20 B class tournament - Cheltenham
24 Wrest Park Singles

July

7 NT Golf Doubles at Ickworth
8 Club Fun Tournament - Organiser wanted.
17 Friendly v Watford (H)
21 Club Handicap Singles
22 B class tournament at Newport
22 Wrest Park Doubles - offer to organise?

August

2 Committee Meeting
4? All England Area Final at Newport
11 Club Garden Party - at Diana Phelps' home
25/26 B class tournament at Surbiton

September

8 Centre Stage Final at Edgbaston (NB Grass Roots at Northampton on same day)
9 NT Singles at Ickworth
18 B class tournament at Edgbaston
22/23 EACF League Finals
22/23 All England Handicap Final at Ramsgate
27 Committee meeting
29/(30) Club Doubles

October

6/(7) Club Singles

November

9 AGM & Party

Prospects for the season

Weather permitting, it is hoped to make the lawns available for play by members from Sunday 1st April although this will depend on final agreement from the ground staff, but the Official Opening (see below) will not



A pleasant recollection of last year - hopefully much of the area between the top lawn and the tennis court boundary will soon be extra playing area to make our two lawns full size and without the centre overlap.

take place until 14th April.

The Committee hopes that some members may like to become coaches or referees. Weekend courses for prospective coaches are to take place at Newport (Essex) on 28th/29th April, each at a modest fee of £10. There is a one day course for referees at Phyllis Court, Henley on 23rd April with a fee of £8. Further information available from the Secretary.

Last season, there was little take up of places for the National Trust tournaments at Ickworth. In the circumstances, the Committee only proposes to apply for places for 2007 if members indicate they would like to take part by 27th April latest. Entry Fee is £5 per pair and £3 per person for the singles. Please see calendar for dates.

It is proposed to invite players from other local clubs to join in a tournament organized on 'Grass Roots' lines for beginners and high handicappers. No date yet fixed.

Some details of EACF League fixtures have been received and are included in the diary. Other fixtures are awaited. The Committee proposes to adopt a policy of selecting the strongest available team, by reference to handicap and perhaps form, for each match. Members who wish to be considered for selection by John, Len & Tony will be invited to enroll at the beginning of the season by way of a notice in the clubroom.

Various B Class tournaments (players of say 4-1 handicaps) are being organised for good Club players by the Croquet Association or local Federations. If you are interested, please notify the Secretary.

The Committee agreed that in addition to the usual playing sessions of Tuesday afternoon (Singles Handicap), Wednesday and Thursday mornings, Saturday and Sunday afternoons - that we will try an evening session during the high summer months of June, July and August - from say 6.00pm onwards. First suggestion is for Wednesday evenings, however more on this as the season progresses.

Finally, we have just heard that the contractor will commence work on the extension of the lawns in the week beginning 23rd April, weather and ground conditions

permitting. We are hopeful that play can continue as per normal on the existing lawns whilst this work is going on, however we would ask all members to be careful when work is in progress.

Opening Day

Preparations are well in hand for the opening of the 2007 season on Saturday 14th April at 2pm when Town Mayor Mark Freeman has agreed to strike the first ball in accordance with a well-established and much appreciated tradition. Members are expected to turn up in great numbers to celebrate the occasion.

School Sports Partnership

Our Club has committed itself to introduce croquet to pupils of local schools. On 27th April, there is to be a Family Games and Social Evening at Leighton Middle School and four Committee members are to supervise croquet 'taster' sessions for pupils and parents alike. Another local school has expressed interest in our initiative and four volunteer members, who have already coached at the Middle School, are applying for official approval to enable them to commence coaching sessions at Pages Park. If any other members are interested in helping out, please let the Secretary know.

Come and Try Day - Sunday 6th May 2-5pm

This is the club's best opportunity during the year to recruit new members. You will find a poster included with this newsletter and if you can display this to advantage, please do so - and if you require any more then contact John Cundell on 756971. Perhaps you belong to a group which may be interested? Have you a friend or friends you would like to bring along?

Please come along and help explain the game to our visitors on the day - it can be very rewarding to explain the game to newcomers and encourage their participation and even more so if they then join us. New members are the lifeblood of any club and it is hoped that all existing members will do their utmost to help this recruitment initiative. Your Committee cannot do everything and we really do need assistance from all to help build our numbers.

Social Club

The Social Club has enjoyed an encouraging start since its first meeting on 3rd January and has met every Wednesday morning in the Pages Park Pavilion from 10.00am-12.00 noon. On average some 9-10 people have enjoyed a variety of games and pastimes - with a peak of 12. It would be nice if more members supported

the initiative for next season, which starts following the closure of the croquet season. The club is self-supporting and in profit and a small amount of money will be available for the purchase of some replacement or extra equipment for next season. Organiser Len Buckingham is to be congratulated in persevering with the club inauguration which was somewhat frustrating at times. Well done Len!

News of members

Not a lot to report as not much has been sent in or passed through the grapevine.

We would like to wish Sheila Beal a speedy recovery after a triple bypass operation in January. We look forward to seeing her wielding the mallet as soon as possible.

Also, we understand that Irene Davis has had a rough couple of months and we wish her well - as we do all members who have suffered the usual coughs and colds of the winter months. Roll on summer!

Club Dinner

On a very cold, frosty evening, a substantial contingent of club members turned up at the Cock Hotel, Heath & Reach, for the annual bun-fight. It was a good evening, the food was good as was the service - and we thank organiser Tony Wells for arranging the whole thing.

East Anglian Croquet Federation Website

Those members with Internet capable computers may be interested in the EACF website - www.angliacroquet.co.uk. It obviously covers our region; you can find the location and details of clubs; there is a diary of EACF tournaments and other events; tournament reports and Association and Golf League tables; news about what's happening; who's who in the Federation; and links to other croquet websites. It's worth a look if only to see a photograph of your newsletter editors after their victory at Soham in January!

Club Badges

Club Badges are always available. They are 3ins in diameter, cloth embroidered and can be ironed or sewn on to items of clothing. The cost per badge is £3.50. If you want one or more, just contact John Cundell on 756971.

Welfare Officer

Members are asked to note that Judith Cundell is operating as the club's Welfare Officer, with Diana Phelps backing up where necessary. So if you are aware of any member who may benefit from a card and some kind thoughts, please contact Judith on 756971 or Diana on 379482.

Reminder to a few! Membership Fee due!!!

If you haven't yet paid your membership fee this will be the last newsletter you receive. Another membership application form is included with this newsletter for those members who may have mislaid that in the previous newsletter. Please complete this and send with the appropriate remittance to the Membership Secretary, John Fogg, whose contact details are on the form.

Where else can you get up to 12 hours of recreation with such lovely company and coffee/tea for under £2 per week?