



LEIGHTON-LINSLADE CROQUET CLUB

Secretary:
Richard Keighley
The Old Vicarage
Leighton Road
Wingrave
HP22 4PA
Tel: 01296 681235
Email: the_keighleys@btopenworld.com

Founded 2000

NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 2006
Volume 7 Issue 1

Membership Secretary:
John Fogg
16 Cotefield Drive
Leighton Buzzard
LU7 3DS
Tel: 01525 375787
Email: jcfogg@waitrose.com

“A BUSY AND EXCITING YEAR AHEAD”



AGM pics by John Fogg - top, members obviously very interested in the business of the meeting before the party took place. Left: Joan Slow, who donated the Club Singles and Doubles trophies, presented Singles winner Richard Keighley with the cup. She then also presented Richard with the trophy for the Club Handicap. Doubles winners, Judith and Una Pengelly were not present as they were on holiday but they also were warmly acclaimed. Below: Treasurer Len, Chairman Margaret, and Secretary Richard look determined for business!



A Busy and Exciting Year Ahead. Our newly elected Chairman, Margaret Brown, has made this confident prediction as we welcome you to the January Newsletter under the joint Editorship of John Cundell and Richard Keighley.

Here is a list of our Officers and Committee members for 2006:

Officers

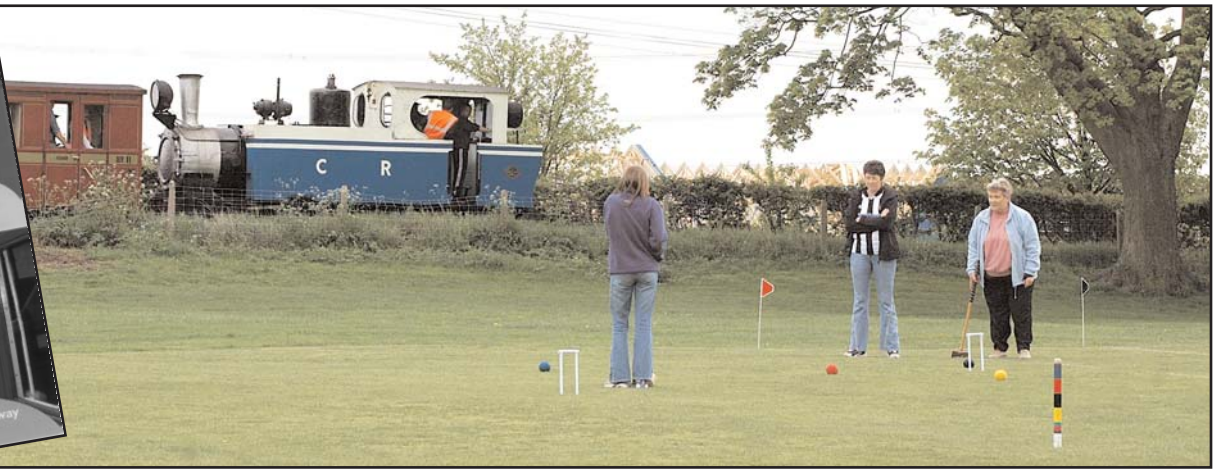
Chairman	Margaret Brown
Secretary	Richard Keighley
Treasurer	Len Buckingham
Membership Secretary	John Fogg

Committee Members

Sally Clay	Val Jeffers
John Cundell	Diana Phelps
Erica Fogg	Tony Wells
Edna Hickman	

Annual General Meeting

As retiring Chairman, George Lawson welcomed 26 members and their guests to our 6th AGM at Northall Village Hall on 18th November. He was very grateful for all the cards and “get well” messages he had received. When Margaret Brown was installed as the new Chairman, she was quick to pay tribute to George for his service and for the “conscientious and charming” way he had performed his duties.



Each year the Leighton Buzzard Narrow Gauge Railway distributes tens of thousands of copies of its promotional timetable leaflet around the UK. The new edition for 2006 includes a photograph showing one of the trains passing through Page's Park with the croquet lawn and some of the club members in the foreground. Photo: John Fogg.

Margaret also announced that John Fogg had agreed to succeed her as Membership Secretary. (His computer skills and mischievous manner have already surfaced!)

Len Buckingham reported a healthy bank balance, but recommended that the annual sub be raised from £45 to £50 to anticipate increased lawn fees and expenses. He also outlined his proposals for a Social Club during the winter break and requested feedback from members. (More on this elsewhere in the newsletter).

It was decided to hold a Club Dinner for the first time early in the new year. Joan Slow kindly presented cups for both the Club Handicap and Club Singles tournaments to Richard Keighley, having exacted an undertaking from him to keep them clean during the year.

Margaret Brown closed the meeting by thanking the Officers and committee members and those responsible for the newsletter, photos and press publicity and food supplies.

Members were then able to enjoy the party and inspect both the Archive display prepared by Erica and John Fogg and the Certificate presented to the Club's League team, which had been kindly framed by Eve Buckingham.

Committee news

The Committee met on 19th January to make plans for the coming season. Please refer to the Diary for the dates agreed so far, especially that it is hoped to restart playing on Saturday 1st April if the lawns are ready. The Town Mayor has kindly agreed to strike the first ball.

All the places have been taken for the Coaching course at Wrest Park on 18th June but it is hoped to organise a Beginners' Course early in the season.

Initial contact has been made with the Leighton-Linslade School Sport Partnership with a view to providing taster sessions at local schools. Recruitment issues and promotion of the Club generally were discussed.

2006 Dates for your Diary

February

3 Club Dinner

March

25 EACF AGM

April

1 Opening of Season

29/30 Coaches qualification course at Henley

30 Come and Try Day

May

21 Coaching Course at Watford

June

10 Club Grass Roots Day

18 Coaching Course at Wrest Park

25 Wrest Park Singles (Provisional)

July

8/9 Coaches Qualification Course at Edgbaston

8 National Trust Doubles at Ickworth

9 Club Fun Day

23 Club Handicap Singles

30 Wrest Park Doubles

August

5 All England Area Final at Newport

12 Regional Grass Roots Final at Northampton

September

3 National Trust Singles at Ickworth

10 Grass Roots Final at Northampton

23 EACF League Semi-final at Newport

24 EACF League Final at Newport

30 Club Singles

October

1 Club Doubles

November

10 AGM & Party

EACF League

16 clubs from the region have entered the League which our club is organising this year. Clubs will be split into four areas. Our club will probably have to play Letchworth, Watford and welcome newcomer Wrest Park for a place in the Semi Finals on 23rd September at Newport. The Final will also take place at Newport on the following day.

Letter from the Chair - Margaret Brown

Greetings and sincere wishes to all members for an interesting, profitable, and preferably healthy 2006.

The new Committee has begun work on an exciting programme of matches and other events. We hope that everyone will feel able to take part in the friendly matches and/or League fixtures. As we won the Regional golf competition title in 2005, our club has to organise the 2006 programme which puts an especially heavy burden on our



Some idea of the indoor croquet facilities at Soham, near Newmarket, which were enjoyed by six club members in early January. See report.

Secretary, Richard. (Richard would be very grateful if someone could record the minutes of committee meetings - four a year - please let us know if you would be willing to do this.)

We pride ourselves on our friendly and accepting attitude to new members and on everyone's willingness to help in the many small tasks it takes to run the club. The plan is to put up a list of specific roles which people have kindly taken on but if you see something that needs doing - don't be shy - just ask and then pitch in.

Here's counting the weeks until we are back on the lawns!
Margaret Brown.

News of members

We are pleased to report that Eve Buckingham is recovering well from her enforced bout in hospital over the New Year following two heart attacks. She has asked us to pass on her thanks for all the cards and good wishes received from members which were much appreciated.

Honour for Joan Slow

One of our longest standing members, and past Chair, Joan Slow, has become one of the first people in the country to receive a new honour. Joan was awarded a 60-year long service medal by the Scout Association. She first became involved with organisation of scouting when at the age of 14 in 1941, she and her brother were determined to keep the village of South Mimms' group going when the leaders went off to war.

Over the years Joan held many posts, culminating as District Commissioner. As well as her work with the scouts, she has been a long-term member of St John Ambulance - and became a Serving Sister - one of the highest awards the organisation can give its members.

Observer Sports Review

Did you notice that the club received two honourable mentions in the Leighton Buzzard Observer's Sports Review of 2005 published in the 3rd January issue?

September: Leighton Linslade Croquet Club won the South section of the East Anglian Golf Croquet League.

October: Leighton Linslade Croquet Club won the East Anglian Championship.

Indoor Golf Croquet at Soham

The East Anglian Croquet Federation organised the first ever indoor golf croquet tournament for clubs in the region at Soham over the weekend of 14/15th January. It was a great success and each day attracted an entry of 22 players from four different clubs.

Leighton-Linslade was represented by three pairs, namely Yvonne Banks and Diana Phelps, Len Buckingham and Martin Field and John Cundell and Richard Keighley.

They were all keen to try out the extremely fast playing surface of the carpet laid out on the floor of the Ross Peers Sports Centre. The hoops were bolted to heavy steel plates which were let into precisely-cut holes at the appropriate points in the carpet. There was no "give" in the hoops and players found them more difficult to run than typical outdoor hoops.

It was a learning curve (literally on some hoops!) for almost all participants. After each pair had played five timed games against different opposition, the Sunday winners were declared to be from Norwich and the Leighton-Linslade teams came away empty handed but very pleased to have taken part.

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.

Private Sales

If any member has a croquet-associated item they wish to sell, please send details to John Cundell for inclusion in the next newsletter.

In this issue Diana Phelps has a Hogan mallet for sale. It's in excellent condition, is the standard 36ins and weighs 2lbs 14ozs. The price is £45 ovno. You can ring Diana on 01525 379482.

Newsletter on-line

If any members would like their newsletter delivered as a PDF on-line please email:

John.Cundell@nexusadsl7.demon.co.uk.



Remember the glorious weather we enjoyed at the close of last year at the Club Doubles and Singles? Above: this must be some kind of croquet fashion statement from models Val Jeffers, Audrey Bunn and Judith Cundell. Right: successful Doubles winners Una and Judith Pengelly.



Missing Balls!

A number of newer members have asked if they can borrow some croquet balls to take home and practice with. We did have a spare set of balls in the clubroom earlier this year but these have gone missing. If anyone has borrowed them or knows of their whereabouts, we would be pleased if they could contact Len Buckingham or John Cundell.

Proposed Social Club - from Len Buckingham

The following is an announcement that Len has been circulating to other interested parties, as well as of course, to you, our members.

Hello! My name is Len Buckingham, and I am the treasurer of the Leighton Linslade Croquet Club, and a member of U3A, and Old Glory. The croquet club is based at Pages Park, and we play on lawns behind the pavilion. During our end of season competitions we were using the hall in the pavilion when it was noticed that a table tennis table was stored there. Some members of the club asked if

it could be used in our closed season.

As a result of this I have been in touch with the Council who are willing to allow us to use the hall for table tennis, etc. At present there is also a quarter size billiard table, and I have provided a darts board and mat. We also anticipate playing various board games i.e., chess, dominoes, cards, etc.

We will have the use of the kitchen, fridge, and microwave, there will be constant hot water and the hall will be heated prior to our arrival. If you are interested would you please let me know by telephone on 01525 221079. When I have some reasonable idea of interested numbers and possible hours each week I shall then be able to obtain an indication of cost, which on good authority I am assured will be very reasonable.

At present we would seem to have some 15 members of our club interested, and we have been promised a further table tennis table by one of our members if needed. The hall will comfortably accommodate two TT tables, a darts area, the billiard table and several tables for board games. With the lack of daytime winter indoor activities of this social nature I feel that this venue will be able to provide many with company, warmth, and an enjoyable winter entertainment.

Two trial sessions have now been agreed with the Council; they are Wednesday 15th February, and Wednesday 1st March, both from 10am to 1pm.

Depending upon the response and your comments from these meetings I will make a firm decision as to the viability of the venue and practicability of the idea.

Please bring any board games, cards, darts, etc., that you may require. Thank you.



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 2006 season. Please complete this and send with the appropriate remittance to the new 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?