



LEIGHTON-LINSLADE CROQUET CLUB

Founded 2000

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NEWSLETTER - JUNE 2005 Volume 6 Issue 3

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“Season now well under way - wish someone would tell the weather”

Welcome to the March Newsletter under the Editorship of Richard Keighley and John Cundell.

DIARY 2005

June

13th League v Burnham (H) 11.00am
26th Wrest Park Singles

July

1st League v Watford (A) 10.30am
9th NT - Doubles at Ickworth 9.30am
15th Friendly v Stony Stratford (H) 10.30am
24th Wrest Park Doubles
28th Committee meeting 7.30pm
31st Club Singles Handicap

August

4th League v Letchworth (A)
6th All England Handicap / Newport 9.30am
12th Ladies Doubles tournament / Abingdon
16th Friendly v Stony Stratford (A) 10.30am
20th Garden Party - at Diana Phelps home

September

4th NT - Singles at Ickworth 9.30am
6th Committee meeting 7.30pm
10th Grass Roots Final / Solihull 11.15am
16th Friendly v Watford (A) 10.30am
24/25th AEH Final at Nailsea 9.30am

October

1/2nd Club Singles & Doubles

November

18th AGM/Party

Opening sessions

The season opened on Saturday 2nd April when Town Mayor, Councillor Russ Goodchild struck the first ball and kindly presented prizes to the four winners of the crossword competition.

There was a very good turnout of members on a blissfully sunny day and they were suitably impressed by the good state of the lawns, the new roof on the Pavilion and the new step into the Clubhouse. Thanks go to Julian Brown, Len Buckingham, John Cundell and to the four Council workers for their assistance with this project.

Coaching Day

On 24th April, 16 members had the benefit of a day's coaching by four qualified Coaches supplied by the Croquet Association. New rules introduced this year, particularly as to what happens if you strike the wrong ball, were explained and demonstrated. In fact, most of the day was spent out on the lawns and trainees learnt a great deal about the rules and tactics generally.

Come and Try Day ... and some new members!

On 1st May, 10 potential members came along to sample the delights of Golf Croquet. We are delighted to welcome



The season commenced on 2nd April when Town Mayor, Councillor Russ Goodchild, struck the first ball - watched by Margaret Brown, Yvonne Banks and Diana Phelps. And as we reported in the last newsletter, one of the four Crossword Winners was Edna Hickman - seen here receiving her prize from The Town Mayor. There will be another crossword later this year. Photos: John Fogg.



Peter Edwards, Rita Kingston and Pat Higginson as new members and to welcome back Martin Field, who has rejoined our Club.

Match Report - Friendly v Winslow

An all lady team represented Leighton-Linslade Croquet Club for the first friendly fixture of the season against Winslow at Pages Park on 9th May. It was a match winning combination as the pairing of Margaret Brown and Erica Fogg won both their games and Yvonne Banks and Diana Phelps won one and lost one to give a team score of 3-1 when play had to be abandoned owing to squally rain.



Coaching Day brought together 16 club members who were split into four groups of four - each group with a Coach. Left we have Edna Hickman, Judith Cundell, Irene and Peter Stevens. Above are Audrey Bunn, Sally Clay, Yvonne Banks and Audrey Cross. Below left are Una Pengely, Margaret Lawson, Len Buckingham and John Cundell. Below are George Lawson, Diana Phelps, Eve Buckingham and Judith Pengely. Bottom: a welcome break for tea and bananas. All photos: Richard Keighley.



Match Report - League v Chelmsford & Bentley

We narrowly defeated Chelmsford & Bentley by 10 games to 8 in our first fixture of the second year of the East Anglian Golf Croquet Handicap League on 16th May. Twelve clubs are taking part and these have been divided into North and South sections with the winners playing off in a Final in September. The team consisted of Eve and Len Buckingham, Sally Clay and Richard Keighley. Each of them had to play a timed Singles game against each member of the Chelmsford team. The match score was level after the second and third rounds of games but we moved into a 9-7 lead in games after the final round. We now had to win at least one of the two doubles games to avoid the dreaded shoot out at the centre peg and we succeeded in doing so. Eve and Len each won two of their singles games as well as their vital doubles game. Sally also won two games, and Richard three, but this pairing was just pipped 3-4 in hoops when the whistle blew to end their doubles game.

Match Report - Friendly v Watford

Illness and injury problems led to last minute changes in the team of eight players taking part in this Friendly at home against Watford on 20th May. However, this did not



prevent a convincing win by 14 games to two. Each pair of players had to play one game against the four Watford pairs. Judith Cundell and Richard Keighley won their four games as did Sally Clay who was paired firstly with Yvonne Banks and then Martin Field. The pairings of Diana Phelps and John Cundell and Erica Fogg and Len Buckingham won three games each to round off an overwhelming victory. We have a league match against Watford on 1st July as well as a return Friendly in



This year's first EACF League match was against Chelmsford - here all eight players have just started the first series of matches. See report for what happened and who won. Photo: John Cundell

September, and doubtless we will face much tougher opposition. As always, the match was played in a fine and sporting spirit.

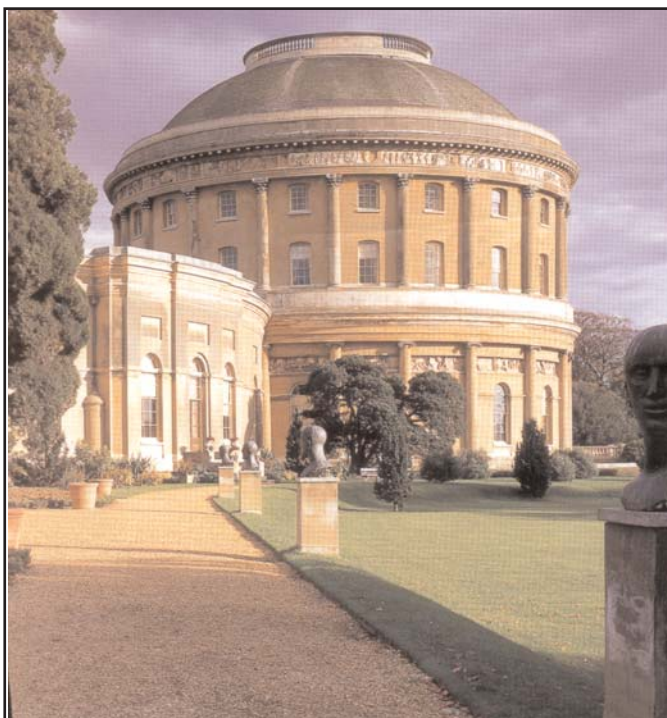
Match Report - Friendly v Winslow

Sally Clay reports that four members of the club received a warm welcome at Winslow for our return friendly match on 6th June. One of the Winslow team players described their lawns as 'Our fairy lawns' which was an apt description - they were small and uneven and proved to be challenging.

The scores in the first round were: Peter and Irene

This is Ickworth House, the National Trust venue for Doubles and Singles events open to any Club member on 9th July for the Doubles and 4th September for Singles. You need to put your name down on the entry form shortly to be displayed in the Clubroom for consideration. Priority will be given to non-League players and to those who have not taken part in these events in previous years.

This is one of the most unusual houses in East Anglia. The huge Rotunda of this eighteenth century house dominates the landscape. Ickworth's stunning Capability Brown park is rich in plant and animal life and provides acres of space for walks and family fun - plus of course, Croquet!



Stevens 5/7 7/5; Sally Clay and Diana Phelps 6/7 6/7.

Second round scores were: Diana and Irene 7/0 6/7; Sally and Peter 0/7 7/6. The final score was 5/3 to Winslow.

The weather was kinder to us than when Winslow played at Pages Park, cold but dry. During the break tea and home made banana bread was served in the pavilion. Our thanks go to Winslow for their hospitality and an enjoyable afternoon.

Grass Roots

As we go to press there has been a good response to the invitation to take part in the Club Grass Roots competition on 11th June. Ideally, an entry of 16 players was sought. Play is in pairs.

National Trust

The Club has been invited to send a pair of players to Ickworth on 9th July and four players to the same venue on 4th September for the singles. This is a really good day out with lots of croquet in beautiful surroundings. Watch the notice board and put your names down, particularly if you have not taken part before.

Handicap Singles

On 31st July, the Club is staging its first handicap singles competition. Most members now have a handicap and this is a good opportunity to claim and take advantage of any extra shots to which you are entitled. It really does level the playing field!

Garden Party

Diana Phelps has very kindly offered to host a Garden Party again - this year on Saturday 20th August, starting at 3.00pm. The cost will be £3.50. An application form is enclosed.

News of our members

Tony Wells, who joined us at the end of last season, is continuing his round-Europe journey and has been sending cards back to us so we can follow his progress - and he also turned up to play during a week back in the UK recently. He keeps up to date as much as possible through the Internet with what's going on at Pages Park, wishes everyone a good playing season, and is looking forward to playing on a regular basis next year.

We have all been very pleased to see Audrey Burton back playing after her recent illness - and also Val Jeffers with her new hip.

Playing the wrong ball - a costly non-striking fault!

Amongst the new Rules which were explained to those members who took part in the recent Coaching Day was what happens now if you play the 'wrong' ball. This now has a major effect on the game and on many occasions you may well end up losing the next hoop.

If a player plays a wrong ball (either his own ball, his partner's ball or an opponent's ball) he has committed a non-striking fault. The consequences are serious for that player, namely:

- a) All balls whose positions were affected by his striking the wrong ball are either replaced or left where they lie at his opponent's discretion.
- b) Any point scored is disallowed.
- c) His opponent may continue with either ball of his choice.

Remember it is not only "the wrong ball" which may be replaced but all balls affected by that stroke.



Help with the new rules

For many weeks there have been 'Help' sheets available for all members in the Clubroom. So far two members have taken a sheet - and one of those was by someone who was on the Coaching course.

The sheet was provided for us by the Coaches at the Coaching Day and helps clarify the major rule changes. Many of those members who attended the Coaching Day are doing their best to pass the information on to other members, however if all members made themselves aware of the changes it would certainly make things easier. . So to make sure that no-one can say "I don't know anything about these new rules", the 'Help' sheet has now been distributed with this Newsletter. Please take some time to read it.

Club Badges

Club Badges are now available and many took the opportunity to purchase at the AGM. They are 3ins in diameter, cloth embroidered and can be ironed on or sewn on to items of clothing. The cost per badge is £3.50. There are a limited number of badges displayed in a transparent envelope pinned to the rear noticeboard in the clubroom - you can take one or more from there and just leave your name and the correct money - or contact John Cundell on 756971.

Clubroom Keys

All members are welcome to a key to the clubroom at a small charge. If you wish to have a key please contact Len Buckingham on 01525 221079 or speak to him at Pages.

So why have we included a John Fogg photograph of the new fridge? Well, to remind members that when they leave the clubroom and lock up - and of course turn off the water heater (um) - to leave the fridge switched ON. The um and fridge work off the same plug, so all that needs to be done is to turn off the switch ON THE FRONT OF THE URN - NOT AT THE WALL. We dont want the milk going off during the long hot summer!



Our first friendly this year against Watford was a super day - see report - despite the early damp and windy conditions. Left: the morning briefing. Above: Richard Keightley and Judith Cundell enjoyed a successful day. Photos: John Fogg.

Newsletter on-line

If any members would like their newsletter delivered as a PDF on-line please email: John.Cundell@nexusads17.demon.co.uk.

At the end of the day - a member reflects!

What a wonderful club I belong to.

I wander across Pages Park and admire our croquet lawns with the hoops in place, the balls beside the starting corner - wonderful.

I just arrive at our clubroom and someone offers me a bag to select a peg - and we are off to play - wonderful.

I have a drink between games - there is always coffee, sugar, milk, boiling water, biscuits - wonderful.

I finish playing, say goodbye and walk away - it really is a wonderful club.

Isn't it good that the hooligans leave the hoops and balls alone, so that they are always there when I arrive, and that nothing is taken from the clubroom - does it have a door?

What a nuisance those metal poles and pieces of string are lying around in the grass. I wish someone would move them - can't think what they are for. Never mind, it's still a wonderful club!

Seriously, it would be a lovely surprise if all members gave some thought to helping get the lawns ready for play, and stay on to clear up at the end of the session. This year has seen virtually the same members carrying out these tasks. A little assistance would go a long way. Moan over!!

