



# LEIGHTON-LINSLADE CROQUET CLUB

Founded 2000

Secretary:  
Richard Keighley  
The Old Vicarage  
Leighton Road  
Wingrave  
HP22 4PA  
Tel: 01296 681235  
Email: the\_keighleys@bopenworld.com

Membership Secretary:  
Margaret Brown  
40 Miles Avenue  
Leighton Buzzard  
LU7 3LG  
Tel: 01525 373860

Email: tonybrownhome@freeuk.com

## NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2005

### Volume 6 Issue 1

## “BOOK EARLY FOR OUR TRAINING DAY”



Joan Slow presented the Club Trophies to Judith and Una Pengelly, Club Doubles Championship winners; and to John Cundell, Club Singles Championship winner, at the Annual General Meeting back in November.

Photos: John Fogg.



Welcome to a new year and the January Newsletter under the Editorship of Richard Keighley and John Cundell.

Here is a list of our Officers and Committee members for 2005:

### Officers

Chairman	George Lawson
Secretary	Richard Keighley
Treasurer	Len Buckingham
Membership Secretary	Margaret Brown

### Committee members

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

### Annual General Meeting

There was a good turnout for our AGM held at Northall Village Hall on 19th November. The business took longer than usual to transact but some important decisions were taken which may affect the future development of our Club.

It was agreed to amend our Constitution to allow Officers to stand for re-election for longer than the previous maximum of 3 years, but this does not alter the basic principle that each of them and each Committee member is elected (or re-elected) to serve for one year only at each AGM.

The Committee was asked to consider its long term Financial strategy and to report back. It was a pleasure to thank Marjorie Cliffe in person for her services as Auditor

and then to promptly re-appoint her for her pains!

It was agreed to apply to the Town Council for a further lawn at Pages Park and to enquire about progress with the proposed Stanbridge sports area.

A team selection policy for the 2005 season was agreed.

Joan Slow kindly presented cups to the winners of the Club's Knockout Competitions. They were Una and Judith Pengelly (Doubles) and John Cundell (Singles).

An enjoyable party followed for members and their guests, who were also able to inspect the impressive archive display presented by Erica and John Fogg. A big thank you to all who helped to organise and cater at the party!

### Training Day

Improve your croquet! At our request, the Croquet Association has agreed to provide 4 qualified coaches for a Golf Croquet training day at Pages Park on Sunday 24th April 2005, starting at 10.00am until 4.00pm. The course is aimed at both Beginners and Improvers and there are only 16 places available. There will be a fee of £10 to cover expenses and participants will be expected to provide their own packed lunches. Hot and cold drinks will be provided throughout the day. The Training Day is open to members of other Clubs and it is already being promoted on the CA website. **Our advice is to BOOK immediately!** Places will be allocated on a 'first come, first served' basis. **The closing date for applications is 28th February. WHY NOT PAY YOUR SUB AND BOOK A PLACE ON THE COURSE NOW?** Please note that applications for the course will only be accepted from fully paid-up members. A form is included with this newsletter for you to complete and send to our Membership Secretary, Margaret Brown.



Richard Keighley took on the best at the Golf Croquet All-England Handicap competition held in Colchester at the end of last season.

Playing against some of the best players in the country, he did us proud. See the report elsewhere in this issue.

Photos: Jean Keighley



## Some 2005 Dates for your Diary

More details on these events and a more complete list will be in our March newsletter.

April 2	Season to be opened by the Town Mayor
April 24	Training Day
October 1	Club Singles Championships
October 2	Club Doubles Championships
November 18	AGM

## 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. Contact John Cundell on 01525 756971 or see him at Pages Park when the season commences.

## East Anglian Golf Croquet League - South Section

For this inaugural tournament in 2004 the clubs were divided into two areas, North and South with each club playing the others in each area and a play-off between the area winners to determine the overall champions. 5 clubs contested the Northern Area, Bury St Edmunds, Sudbury, Downham Market, Wells and Newport and 4 the Southern, Southchurch Park, Leighton-Linslade, Letchworth and Burnham on Sea. Bury won the North with 3 wins against 2 by Sudbury and Newport and one each by Downham and Wells, while Burnham won the South after a tie on 2 wins with Leighton which was resolved by the 'who-beats-whom' rule. In a closely fought final played at Newport on 16th September Bury beat Burnham by 10 matches to 8.

This year there will be six teams in each of the North and South Leagues with a play-off at Newport to determine the champions.

We have entered and now need to formulate a team. As agreed at the AGM, we are now asking members if they would like to be considered for selection for the League Team. The team (including reserves) will represent the Club for the whole season at both home and away matches - at least three games away. Please remember that League Team members will not have first choice to play in Friendly fixtures, but will only be considered should it not be possible to raise enough players for Friendlies from other Club members. If you wish to be considered for the Team please let either Len Buckingham (01525 221079) or John Cundell (01525 756971) know as soon as possible.

## Richard takes on the Best

Richard Keighley became our first player in the Club's 5 year history to take part in the 2-day Final of the Golf Croquet All England Handicap at Colchester back in September.

There were 14 finalists from clubs all over the country. On Day 1, the priority was to establish the top 6 players. The group was split into 2 blocks of seven players with each player having to play all the others in his block. Richard won 3 of his first 4 games against opponents with lower handicaps than himself but could not clinch a win in either of his remaining 2 games and narrowly missed the cut.

On Day 2 he took part in a mini-tournament to establish places 7 to 14 in the Final. With the benefit of the extra shots to which he was entitled by his handicap, he took a 6-5 hoop lead against last year's winner with a handicap of -3. One more hoop would have assured him a play-off for



Our last Friendly of 2004 was at Watford - see report elsewhere in this issue. This photograph by Richard Keighley was taken at the dramatic moment when the outcome depended on which team ran the final hoop in the last two games.

7th or 8th place, but his ball stuck agonisingly in the hoop from where it was removed by his opponent, who went on to win the game 7-6.

Richard later won the play off for 11th and 12th places. He really enjoyed playing against some of the best players in the country. At this level, missing makeable hoops is very costly but he learnt a lot from taking part and raised the profile of our club. One bonus was that he was able to persuade a leading coach to come to Pages Park to provide a day's coaching as detailed earlier in the newsletter. Well done Richard.

## Watford Friendly - 24th September

A team of 8 journeyed to Cassiobury Park, Watford for the return Friendly against a strengthened Watford team, played in perfect competition conditions.

The match was played on a pairs format with each pair playing one 13-hoop game against each of the four opposition pairs. It was nip and tuck throughout. The score stood at 2-2 after the first series of games, then 4-4 after the second. We then moved into the lead at 7-5 with the final series to play. With the match scores at 8-6, the outcome depended on which team ran the final hoop in the final two games. If Watford achieved this, they would have won the match on hoop countback. In the event, we won both and took the match by 10 games to 6.

Leighton's heroes were Len Buckingham and new member Tony Wells, who won all four of their games. Margaret Brown and Una Pengelly had three wins, Eve Buckingham and Sally Clay two wins and Val Jeffers and Diana Phelps one vital win.

Leighton-Linslade Croquet Club's Overseas Tour of 2004 unwittingly despatched its ever-so-nearly doubles champions to the Orchid Gardens Croquet lawns in Puerto De La Cruz, Tenerife. Such was the advance reputation of the LL delegation that the response from local PDLC players to an invitation game was understandably restrained. Ball-high grass is counterbalanced by having hoops twice as wide as the balls. Despite this both players improved their handicaps by adopting the Rioja training regime. Eventual winner, Judith Cundell poses under the Dragon tree with JC awaiting the drinks interval.



Photo: John Cundell.