



LEIGHTON-LINSLADE CROQUET CLUB

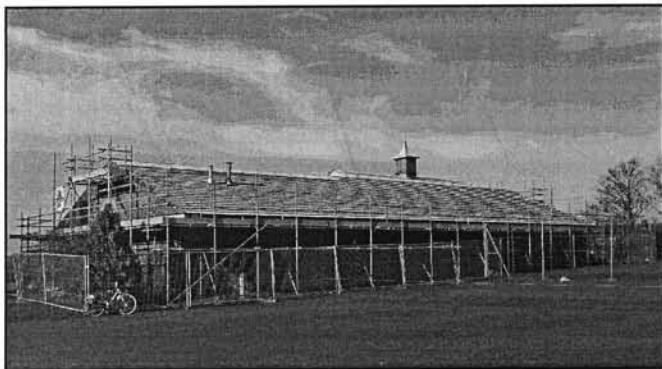
Founded 2000

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NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2005
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“Not Long to Go Now - We Hope!”



The current stage of re-roofing as at 18th March and the fencing presumably designed to keep some of the younger generation off the scaffolding! Unfortunately it keeps us out as well!

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

DIARY 2005

April

- 2nd Opening of season
- 24th Coaching Day

May

- 1st Come and Try Day
- 9th or 20th Friendly v Watford (H)
- 16th League v Chelmsford (H)
- 26th Committee meeting

June

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

July

- 1st League v Watford (A)
- 9th NT - Doubles at Ickworth
- 24th Wrest Park Doubles
- 28th Committee meeting

August

- 4th League v Letchworth (A)
- 6th All England Handicap / Regional Final at Newport
- 12th Ladies Doubles tournament/Abingdon

September

- 4th NT - Singles at Ickworth
- 6th Committee meeting
- 10th Grass Roots Final / Solihull
- 11th Centre Stage Final / Solihull
- 16th Friendly v Watford (A)
- 24/25th AEH Final at Nailsea

October

- 1/2nd Club Singles & Doubles

November

- 18th AGM/Party

Opening time!

Members are encouraged to come along to Pages Park on Saturday 2nd April at 2pm for the opening of a busy 2005 season by the Town Mayor, Councillor Russ Goodchild, who

will strike the first ball. General play will then commence on what we hope will be a fine afternoon after the deluge of last year!

(As we go to press, the pavilion is entirely surrounded with scaffolding, see photos above, whilst the roof is being replaced and we cannot obtain access, or build the step outside our clubhouse. If problems persist, we will let you know.)

Weekly Sessions

As before, but please note that Tuesday afternoon has now become a regular opportunity for Singles and Doubles Handicap play and that the Sunday afternoon session has been extended to 5pm:

Tuesdays	2 to 4.30pm
Wednesdays	10 to 12 noon
Thursdays	10 to 12 noon
Saturdays	2 to 5pm
Sundays	2 to 5pm

Croquet Association : Training Day

Members have enthusiastically signed up for a day's coaching at Pages Park on Sunday 24th April 2005. All 16 places have been taken and there is a reserve list! Would those of you taking part please aim to arrive at about 9.30am armed with a mallet (if you have one) and a packed lunch as there will be a briefing session before the course begins. Also, all members will find a copy of the 'Basic Laws of Golf Croquet' leaflet accompanying this newsletter - those attending the course are requested to take a look at this before the Training Day. Hot and cold drinks will be available from the clubhouse!

For those of you on the reserve list or perhaps for whom the date was inconvenient, do not dismay! Jennet Blake, the organiser of the course, has stated that it may be possible to run another one locally in the near future if there is evidence of sufficient demand. Watford may provide the venue as many of their new members would also appreciate coaching. A course is also planned at Blewbury on 30/31st July.

"Come and Try Day"

Please would you display the poster accompanying this newsletter to publicise this event which aims to recruit new members to our Club. You are cordially invited to bring your friends and acquaintances along for a trial session on Sunday 1st May between 2 and 5pm. It is free and light refreshments will be provided. If any member can place extra posters please telephone John Cundell on 01525 756971 for further copies.

EACF Golf Croquet League

The Club has entered a team in the South section of the East Anglian League and we now know we have home fixtures against Chelmsford and Burnham-on-Crouch and that we will be playing away at Watford and Letchworth. Check the Diary for the dates fixed so far. See the diary.

If you would like to be considered for selection to the League team, please contact John Cundell (756971) without delay - even if you have already tentatively supplied your name. Our aim is to have a list of about 8 players from which a team of 4 can be selected for each match. Please remember that League team members will not have first choice to play in Friendly fixtures, and will only be considered for Friendlies should it not be possible to raise enough players from other club members. They will though, be eligible for selection to play in all other events - i.e., Grass Roots, Centre Stage, National Trust events.

Friendly Matches

Provisional dates have been agreed for matches against Watford on a home and away basis. Please see the Diary.

We are also in touch with Winslow, Stony Stratford and Luton U3A. If you would like to take part, please sign your names on the Club Notice Board. Preference will be given to those members not involved in league matches.

Tournaments 2005

The National Trust is holding both its popular tournaments at Ickworth this year. Doubles Day is Saturday 9th July and Singles Day is Sunday 4th September. The Trust likes as many clubs as possible to take part and our entry is normally restricted to a maximum of 2 pairs and no more than 4 singles players. If you would like to play, please indicate on the Club Notice Board as soon as possible as we must confirm our entry before 30th April 2005. Preference will be given to members who have not taken part in previous years.

Wrest Park is again holding Singles and Doubles tournaments for its group members on 26th June and 24th July respectively. If numbers permit, it may be possible for non-members to play at this superb venue.

A new event is a Ladies Doubles Tournament at Abingdon, the home of Thames Valley Croquet Club. It will be held on Friday 12th August and full details are awaited.

Grass Roots

Your Committee has decided to hold a club competition on Saturday 11th June starting at 10am. There will be a small entry fee but we hope to attract an entry of 16 players to follow on from the successful day held last year with a smaller entry. The format is progressive doubles, and handicaps do not apply. Watch the Notice Board for more details and the entry form. If there is sufficient interest, the Club will invite the winners to progress to the Regional Final at Northampton.

The All England Handicap

In 2004 Richard Keighley was fortunate enough to reach

minimum entry of 4 players from a club taking part. They each play each other with the winner going forward to the Area Final at Newport in Essex on 6th August. It would be great if we could be represented again this year and an opportunity to take part will be posted up on the Notice Board at the start of the season.

A Third Lawn?

At the AGM, we decided to approach Leighton-Linslade Town Council to enquire about the prospects of creating a third lawn to play on at Pages Park. The initial response has been encouraging and we have now lodged a more formal application. Watch this space!

As an aside, those of you with fond memories of playing at the OK Corral at Winslow last summer will be relieved to know that they hope to lay a new lawn later this year.

Young members

In an effort to recruit new young members, we have adopted the suggestion of Chris Bolton, the Youth Sports Development Officer for South Beds District Council. He is forwarding an offer by us to attend local schools to give a short demonstration of the game of golf croquet. If there is sufficient interest, we may run a tournament on a Saturday morning in May at Pages Park.

News of our members

Members will be sorry to learn that Audrey Burton has been very poorly and is at present undergoing long term treatment before taking a holiday. We are sure that everybody will join us to wish her a full recovery and to hope that she will be able to come up to the Park when she is feeling better.

Val Jeffers is recovering from a successful hip replacement operation.

Diana Phelps is believed to be sailing up the Amazon - she is going to a lot of trouble to get the wood for a new mallet!

Garden Party

Would any member be willing to host a garden party this summer? There will be plenty of help available if a suitable venue can be found.

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 756971 or see him at Pages Park when the season commences.

Newsletter on-line

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

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

