



LEIGHTON-LINSLADE CROQUET CLUB

Founded 2000

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NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2004 Volume 5 Issue 2

IT'S NEARLY CROQUET TIME!

Welcome to the second Newsletter under the Editorship of Richard Keighley - compilation / distribution by John Cundell.

2004 diary

April 18	Season opens
May 9	Friendly v Winslow*
June 2	Friendly v Stony Stratford
June 27	Wrest Park Singles
July 3	Friendly v Dunstable U3A
July 10	NT-Doubles Anglesey Abbey
July 13	Friendly v Stony Stratford
July 25	Wrest Park Doubles
August 5	Friendly v Winslow*
August 7/8	Croquet Marathon
Aug 14	All England Handicap / Area Final
Sept 5	NT - Singles at Ickworth
Sept 18	Club Singles
Sept 19	Club Doubles
Nov 18	AGM

(*to be confirmed)

The Season opens

Members are invited to come along to Pages Park on **Sunday 18th April at 1.30pm** for the opening of the season by the **Town Mayor, Councillor Peter Snelling** who will strike the first ball. Play will then commence for one and all!

For the very keen amongst you, the Clubhouse will be opened on Saturday 17th April. The priority will be to prepare for the following day, but there is sure to be an opportunity for a crafty practice game!

EACF Golf Croquet Handicap League
East Anglian Croquet Federation is proposing to organise a golf croquet handicap league for the first time this season. A decision will be taken at their AGM on 20th March.

Our Club has stated it would like to take part. Only players with a handicap of 3-6 (which means all our members who have a handicap!) are eligible to take part. Four players will take part in each match, but this does not mean the same players each time. **Watch out for further details!**

Weekly Sessions

As before, but we propose to start at 2pm on Sundays.

Wednesdays	10 to 12 noon
Thursdays	10 to 12 noon
Saturdays	2 to 5pm
Sundays	2 to 4pm

"Come and Try!"

Please bring along your friends to have a go at the great game of golf croquet on Sunday 2nd May at 2pm! It is free and refreshments will be provided.

Guests

For the trial period of this season, your Committee has decided to allow members to bring along guests to a Club Session on no more than 3 occasions without charge. The review will be at the AGM.

Tournaments

The National Trust is organising a Doubles Day at Anglesey Abbey on Sat 10th July at 10am. The Singles Day is at Ickworth on Sun 5th September.

Our Club has taken part in both events every year and they have been very enjoyable. If you would like to play this year, please put down your names on the Club Notice Board at the start of the season as the closing date for entries is **30th April 2004**.

Wrest Park is organising two one-day competitions for group members only. However, if places are still available nearer the time, the invitation to play may be extended to members of local clubs who are not group members at Wrest Park. There will be an entry limit of 24 for the Singles on **27th June** and 48 for the Doubles on **25th July 2004**.

Grass Roots - The Croquet Association has taken over the running of this and the **Centre Stage** tournaments. Participating clubs must have a minimum entry of 8 players with a handicap of 5 or 6 to take part in Grass Roots, and 4 with a handicap of 1-5 for Centre Stage. Please watch the Club Notice Board for further details. The closing date for entries is **26th May**.

Two players from our Club entered the **All England Handicap** last year. It was a steep learning curve for both of them, but very good experience. This year, the rules require an entry of 4 players from clubs taking part, with 1 player to go forward to the Area Final on 14th August, probably to be held at Newport in Essex. Have a go! It gets the adrenalin flowing!

Friendly matches

We hope that all members will be keen to take part in friendlies against other clubs this season. These have proved to be great fun in the past. This season, we hope to play Winslow for the first time as well as old rivals Stony Stratford and Dunstable U3A.

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!

FEE UNCHANGED £45 - TURN OVER FOR FULL DETAILS

“Disurnable” Progress

Our Treasurer, Len Buckingham, reports that his local garage has donated to the club a water heater for catering purposes etc. Len has asked Richard, our Secretary, to write and thank them on behalf of our members. They are very nice people and carry out MOTs while you wait, and will repair anything on wheels at very reasonable prices; they even put the petrol in for you! Should you wish to use them at any time they are Edlesborough Autos, Tel: 01525 222224. This plug for the garage is at Len’s

Gobbledygook....

Your Secretary has searched the Web for information as to how handicaps are applied in Doubles play.

Here is the advice given to their members by the South West Croquet Federation.

Make of it what you can!

“In singles play the weaker player shall receive a number of additional strokes equal to the difference in the two players’ handicaps.

In doubles play these strokes are awarded to individual players and not to a side. The lower handicapped player of one side shall compare his handicap with that of the lower handicapped player of the other side and additional strokes shall be awarded to the player with the higher of the two handicaps. The number of additional strokes shall be equal to the difference in the two players’ handicaps divided by two, but rounded up to the next whole number. The same arrangement shall be made between the higher handicapped players of each side. If the players of either side have the same handicap, the captain shall in each case nominate which of the two players is deemed to be the higher handicapped player and which the lower handicapped player for the purpose of this sub law. Under this arrangement it is possible for players on both sides to have additional strokes. They should not be netted off against one another.”

Now here is my translation of this advice into plain English using an illustration.

Blue and Black are playing Red and Yellow. Blue has a handicap of 4, and Black 5.

Red has a handicap of 2, and Yellow 6.

Blue and Red are the low handicappers on each side.

Blue will receive one additional stroke from Red. ($4-2=2$. 2 divided by 2 is 1.)

Yellow and Black are the high handicappers. Yellow will receive one stroke from Black. ($6-5=1$. 1 divided by 2 equals one half, rounded back up to 1.)

So in the course of the game Blue and Yellow will each have an extra stroke.

All clear!

suggestion - the owners gave us the urn, expecting nothing in return.

Len is still working on acquiring a small table fridge, but so far no success.

He is also looking to purchase two quality mallets for the use of club members, and has arranged for our existing hoops to be sand-blasted and stove enamelled.

Finally, he has purchased a new cork-board which will be fixed to the wall at the Clubhouse to display competition and friendly match information.



In the ‘Letters’ pages of the February 2004 Croquet Gazette was the image above, espied on a greetings card found in the village Post Office in Chew Magna by correspondent John Shipton of Winchester. John felt that the artist, Rebecca Lardner, had obviously either played or watched Croquet, as the detailing in her card is correct. Subsequently it was discovered the artist had never touched a mallet in her life, but had watched the game. Colour prints of the image are available direct from the artist: Rebecca Lardner, 51 High Street, Fordington, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1LB. You will need to check the price.

We would like to point out that the Lady Players shown are not typical, nor in fact have we met any even remotely similar!

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW! - FEE UNCHANGED £45

Practice makes Perfect! - Membership Secretary Margaret Brown makes the case

Did you know that 21 members played over 20 sessions of croquet last season?

Top attender John Cundell played on 71 occasions and went on to win the Singles!

It cost him less than 64p per session- a bargain or what!

Membership Renewal 2004

It would be very helpful if all you keen members would send or give me your cheques as soon as possible ready for the season. If you know of anyone who might like to join, or rejoin, please let me have their details and I’ll contact them promptly with an invitation they cannot refuse! Where else could you get up to nine hours of recreation with such lovely company and coffee/tea for £1.75 per week? (My contact details are on page 1.)