



# 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 - MAY 2004**  
**Volume 5 Issue 3**

**“It’s like Snooker, but with more rain”**



**W**elcome to the third Newsletter under the Editorship of Richard Keighley - compilation / distribution by John Cundell.

Right: The Mayor and his wife strike the first ball of the season.

## 2004 diary

- May 20 League v Southchurch Park (A)
- June 9 Friendly v Stony Stratford (H)
- June 11 League v Letchworth (H)
- June 27 Wrest Park Singles
- July 3 Friendly v Dunstable U3A (H)
- July 6 League v Burnham on Crouch (A)
- June 24 Grass Roots – Club play off
- July 10 NT Doubles- Anglesey Abbey
- July 13 Friendly v Stony Stratford (A)
- July 25 Wrest Park Doubles
- August 5 Friendly v Winslow(A)
- August 7/8 Croquet Marathon
- August 8 Grass Roots Regional – Northampton
- August 13 Garden Party – the Phelps residence
- August 14 All England Handicap/Area Final
- Sept 5 NT Singles-Ickworth
- Sept 12 Grass Roots Final –Solihull
- Sept 18 Club Singles
- Sept 19 Club Doubles
- Nov 18 AGM

Above: Some members who braved the elements. Photos: John Fogg.

## ...a very successful “Come and Try” Day on 2nd May

On a fine afternoon, 22 people came to Pages Park to play golf croquet, almost all for the first time. It remains to be seen whether any of them will decide to join the Club, but thanks are in order to our 16 members who hosted this event and to those who brought refreshments so that everyone seemed to go home well fed and watered.

## Down to the Wire!

Our first Friendly fixture against Winslow took place on 9th May at Pages Park.

Winslow has a membership of about 20 players. It has one small lawn and it fields a team in the South League consisting of clubs from Bucks, Oxon and the Isle of Wight. Against us, it selected a team of 4 ladies who came dressed immaculately all in white and who looked very professional indeed. Undeterred, our Doubles pairings of Una and Judith Pengelly and Margaret Brown and Peter Stevens prepared to do battle.

Each of our pairs had to play both Winslow pairs in the best of 3 game matches.

Una and Judith started strongly, then faltered slightly but clinched their first match in the deciding game. (7-5, 3-7,7-4). Margaret was out of touch initially and she and Peter lost their first match in

## A Soggy Start to the Season.....

On 18th April, our Club Committee and some stalwart members braved heavy rain to welcome and to invite Town Mayor Peter Snelling to strike the first ball of the season. He did so enthusiastically and he and his wife expressed the wish to play some croquet if time were to permit! We were also pleased to greet Linda Hindson, now the Deputy Town Clerk to Leighton-Linslade Town Council, who has been a true friend to our Club since its foundation.

In spite of the rain, the press publicity generated by the occasion enhanced our poster campaign for..



The very busy 'Come & Try Day'. Let's hope we get some extra members.

straight games (3-7, 3-7).

It was a case of "déjà vu" for Una and Judith as they were taken to a decider in their second match. Once again, they played really well when it mattered and they won. (7-6, 3-7, 7-5).

Margaret discarded her wrist strap and found she was able to play with much more freedom. Peter was playing consistently well all afternoon. Their 2nd match stood at 1-1 in games and the overall result of the Friendly depended on who won the final game. No pressure!

Margaret and Peter went into a 6-4 lead, but were then pegged back to 6-6. Winslow had a chance to win the final hoop, but missed! Up stepped Peter and he calmly slotted his white ball home. (7-4, 4-7, 7-6). So our Club won by the narrowest of margins (6-5 in games), but more importantly players and spectators alike had enjoyed an afternoon of golf croquet against very good and friendly opposition.

### **East Anglian Golf Croquet League -South Section**

In this trial year, our Club has 2 trips to the seaside! On the 20th May a team comprising John Cundell, Val Jeffers, Richard Keighley and Diana Phelps is off to Southend to play at Southchurch Park. Wish them luck!

Fixtures follow against Letchworth at home on 11th June and at Burnham on Crouch on 6th July. Please bear in mind that a different team of 4 players can be selected for each match and you are encouraged to put your names down on the notice board if you would like to take part.

### **Grass Roots - Apply now!!**

This is a national competition for beginners and high handicap players in which our Club has taken part every year. The first round is to be played as a club event and this is to take place at Pages Park on Thursday 24th June 2004. At least 4 players will progress to the regional final at Northampton on 8th August, but possibly more depending on the size of the entry.

There is an entry fee of £5 per player, which of course does not guarantee you a place in the next round.

The closing date for our Club to enter is rapidly approaching, so please put your names down by 22nd May at the very latest.



### **Would you like some coaching?**

A Golf Croquet coaching course for players with higher handicaps is to take place at Blewbury CC, Oxon on Sunday 4th July. The entry fee is £8 and full details can be obtained from the Course manager, Jennet Blake (01865 882838).

NB Blewbury is a village south of Didcot and is not to be confused with Blueberry Hill, which Fats Domino made famous.

### **A good omen for a Garden Party?**

Diana Phelps has graciously agreed to host this event again this year at her home at 135 Hockcliffe Road on Friday 13th August. Let's face it - it cannot possibly rain on that day of all days! If he has been told about it, thanks also in anticipation to Diana's husband Jim, our genial co-host.

### **Friendlies**

Please note that the date of our home match against Stony Stratford has been changed to Wednesday 9th June at 10.30am.

### **Golf Croquet - Rule Changes**

The Half Way rule has been changed slightly. Now the opponent decides where the ball past the half way line must be played from. This ball must be moved before the shot following that in which a hoop is scored.

A little more technical is the change to the rule about Striking Faults e.g., double hits, crush shots etc. After such a Fault, the opponent can now decide if he wants the balls left where they lie or replaced in their original positions. So after that almighty crush shot that scores a hoop and gets the ball down to the next hoop, it is unlikely to be replaced so you can have another go in the next shot.

Players are invited to welcome one of the new members joining the club for the 2004 season. Ern is expected to take part in every session and is rumoured to be hot stuff. Photo: John Fogg.

