



HANDICAPPINGWHY?

We shall need our 4 best available players for the All-England match. Knowing your handicap is also handy at the Nat.Trust and other matches because you get extra strokes if playing a more expert opponent.

WHO?

John Cundell and Len Buckingham have offered to act as our official handicap setters this year.

HOW?

Acquiring a handicap is NOT painful.  
1) You simply play a single ball through 6 hoops and count the number of strokes you take.

2) You repeat the process twice more.

3) You average out the three totals and tell the 'official' handicapper. S/he then tells you your handicap- e.g. it could be 6. If you then play someone whose handicap is 3 you will get 3 extra strokes.

NEWS OF MEMBERS Dorrie Skennerton is hoping to be well enough to play soon.

Joan Slow has offered to donate a silver cup to be used as an Annual Club award. Joan has also given us a specially designed croquet gavel and mallet made for her as previous chairman. George used this to mark the end of our recent committee meeting.

HEARD ON THE LAWN.

"Gosh it's windy. I almost wish I'd worn my earrings to keep the draught out of the holes" ANON !

SNIPPETS MAY PAYRE Our invitation went to the wrong address so when the organiser eventually reached your sec. there was insufficient time to organise things. We were missed!

COACHING Eight of our members, who are also group members of Wrest Park Club, have been attending a short course on Association croquet led by two of our founder members, Elaine and Peter Newman. Some may be inspired to take up this version of the game but we all should have benefited from the lessons in ball control etc..

REFEREEING We are to approach Bill Arliss of the Croquet Ass.to ask if he would be willing to put on a course, possible using the Wrest Pk. Club facilities, for eight or more people to include some from other local Clubs/groups.

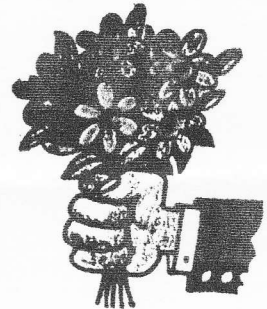
EQUIPMENT Moves are afoot to purchase two tables, several chairs, a shelter/ gazebo and possibly a small urn. Richard Keighly has kindly offered a kettle.

C.A.S.S.GAZETTE Copies of the magazine are available for members to 'read and return' - see notice board. The March issue tells you all you ever wanted to know about setting hoops; how to organise a mad croquet match (PP 16/17) and gives the rankings of top UK players-no-one from LLClub at present!!! Reg.Bamford e.g.has won 83.8% of his Assoc. games and 91.5% of golf croquet matches.

CHILD PROTECTION At the recent committee meeting it was agreed that the Club will adopt the Croquet Association's model Child Protection policy (to be ratified at the A.G.M.) and that Richard Keighley will act as our Child Protection Officer. A copy of the policy will be displayed in the Club room for members information. All committee members will hold a copy.

#### REFRESHMENTS

Sincere thanks are due to Audrey Bunn who, as well as acting as fixtures secretary, has been co-ordinating the group which has provided such excellent food at all our events. Thanks Audrey - the flowers are for you!



Val Jeffers has now volunteered to be in the hot seat, ably assisted by the usual gang plus any other member who feels s/he could contribute to the feasts. Val's tel no. is 01296 688453 -please note for future reference.

Another notable date..... GARDEN PARTY at Diana and Jim Phelps, (opposite the garden centre in Hockliffe Rd.) on Friday JULY 25th at 3p.m..

REPORT FROM ROBERT KEIGHLEY our delegate at the recent AGM in Suffolk)

#### **East Anglian Croquet Federation Conference and AGM.**

Representatives from 20 of the 26 Clubs in the Federation gathered at Bury St Edmunds on 16<sup>th</sup> March for a Conference starring Quiller Barrett, the Chairman of the Croquet Association (CA). He was on a mission to demonstrate what the CA is able to offer local clubs, to obtain feedback from them and to persuade non-member Clubs to subscribe to CA. He wanted to "forge closer links" with them.

Firstly, he offered advice about the need for each club to adopt a Child Protection policy. He explained the intricacies of the automatic handicapping system and he explained the tax advantages of a club becoming a Community Amateur Sports Club (a CASC) if it were fortunate enough to receive donations.

Wearing his recruitment cap, he said that membership of CA had remained static for some time. He recognised that there were representatives present from clubs which had joined EACF but not CA. Why was this? It was because the present subscription system was perceived as being too expensive by small clubs. He said that serious consideration was being given to charging clubs a modest flat rate of say £25 and even less if the CA Gazette was not taken. The advantages of a club subscribing to CA included the ability to apply for grant aid, access to coaching and advice, discount purchases and potentially Civil Liability Insurance cover at a reduced pro rata rate if the policy was taken out by CA itself.

The AGM was short and sweet. The outgoing Secretary Judy Anderson was presented with a large bouquet in recognition of her many years outstanding service to the Federation. Unfortunately, no successor had been found but arms were being gently twisted as the meeting closed.

#### **Richard Keighley**

Please remember there is always room for drawings, comments, reports of your goings-on, etc. in the next Newsletter. Just pass them to me and fame will be yours!

Margaret Brown - Editor