

LEIGHTON - LINSLADE CROQUET CLUB

Founded 2000

Contact - 01525 373 860

MAY 2003

VOLUME 3 No. 4

2003 SEASON LAUNCHED

At about 2p.m. on Sunday 13th. April members started to arrive at Page's Park to find that the groundsman had got the lawns in very good condition. Our treasurer.Len, with some assistance had made a very good job of marking out the lawns and other members had worked on the clubroom to make that spick and span. Our thanks are extended to all those people for their efforts. Eventually there were some 20 members present enjoying the good weather. Unfortunately some members were absent through illness and we wish them a speedy return to good health, others were on holiday and these we hope had a

The deputy Mayor, Clir. Colin Hinchcliffe and his wife arrived and . after introductions, he drove a ball through the blue hoop at 2.30 pm and the new season was opened. Play then began, Cllr.and Mrs. Hinchcliffe both stating that they liked the game and might, when duties permitted, come along and give it a try.

Tea and light refreshments were served later thanks to the efforts of some of our lady members and much appreciated. We packed up at 5p.m. with the new season well and truly launched.

George Lawson - Chairman

NEW MEMBERS Welcome to new members Jean Lawes and Matthew Housden. Matt. is our first JUNIOR member. Several other folk are considering membership.

EVENTS DIARY If you would like to take part in any of the fixtures listed below and ON THE YEAR PLANNER in the clubroom. FLEASE tell Audrey Bunn (372083) who has to make up the teams - not an easy job. She will be giving priority to anyone who has not previously had the opportunity to play in such fixtures.

Wednesday 4th June Stony Stratford Club members will visit Page's Park, Lunch follows the games.

Tuesday 8th July We send eight players for a return match at Stony Stratford. Saturday 12th July Anglesey Abbey, National Trust Doubles tournament. Saturday 16th August Match against Dunstable U3A group at their venue. Sunday 7th September Ickworth National Trust singles tournament.

\$

The four names of our team to play in the area finals of this match have to be submitted to the Croquet Assoc. by the 31st JULY

ALL-ENGLAND GOLF CROQUET HANDICAP The area finals will be played on AUGUST 18th/19th . The area winners play in the finals at Wrest Park on SEPT. 22nd/23rd

Well worth a visit to watch the experts.



HANDICAPPING

WHY?

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.

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 handicapee.

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 earings to keep the draught out of the holes" ANON!

SNIPPETS MAY FAYRE 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.ASS.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 Assciation'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 16th 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