

LEIGHTON - LINSLADE CROQUET CLUB

Founded 2000

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"We were most impressed how relaxing and enjoyable playing croquet can be. I certainly hope to play again soon. Many thanks for a lovely afternoon"
Mayor, Cllr. Henry Fried

"Just a brief note to say thank you for supporting the May Fayre and making it a success again. I aim to come down for a game, or three, once I have stopped organising things." John Halstead, Rotary Club of Leighton-Linslade.

"I am writing to thank members for all the efforts put into the Jubilee celebrations on Monday. Your 'Alice in Wonderland' costumes were wonderful, particularly the flamingo mallets and hedgehog balls, which were a masterstroke. Thank you for taking part and for being so enthusiastic and creative."
Donna Hughes, Promotions Officer, Town Council.

GOSH!! Didn't we do well? All good publicity for croquet.

WELCOME to new members Edna Hickman and Audrey Cross who hope to play on Saturdays (and maybe other times?).

SESSIONS We have booked July as for May and June, i.e. Wed. and Thurs. 10am-12noon, Sat.'s. 2.00-5.00pm, and Sundays 2.30-4.30pm.

Thanks to a letter initiated by our treasurer and approved by the Committee, the Town Council have reduced our hiring charge from £3.50 to £2 per hour. WELL DONE LEN!

GETTING BETTER! We are pleased that Joan Slow, Dorrie Skennerton, Les Jones, Judy Anderson, Margaret Dilley, and Marion Farmer are on the mend. We send best wishes to Peter Stevens for his forthcoming medical treatment.

ATTENDANCES In April 136 attended, in May 107 and in June 113. In June, Sat. was the most popular with 42 attending, Sun. 33, Wed. 26 and Thurs. 12.

FUTURE FIXTURES

We wish our players success in the NATIONAL TRUST tournaments on July 13th at Anglesey Abbey and Sept. 1st at Ickworth Hall in Suffolk.

A number of our members are involved with 'play-off' matches in the WREST PARK golf-croquet tournament. No date fixed yet for the semi-finals stage. Handicaps and bisques are being used - very necessary against some of the championship players involved.



TAKE
NOTE

FUTURE FIXTURES cont.

GRASS ROOTS TOURNAMENT 2002 Audrey Bunn has succeeded in booking a team-place in this year's competition. The preliminary round of 8 players is held to decide on the 4 who will compete in the regional round at Northampton on SAT. AUGUST 3rd. Please tell Audrey (tel. 372083) if you would like to be one of those playing the preliminary match - entry fee £3.50 - and she will arrange a suitable time for it. Grass Roots is for comparative newcomers to the game -i.e. all of us!!

ON SATURDAY AUGUST 10th -2.00pm - 5.00pm we propose to hold a friendly match against the Dunstable USA group. All welcome to attend and as many as possible to take part. Refreshments should be available. Offers of help to Margaret Dilley (376504)



PICNIC IN THE PARK You probably will have seen the wonderful photographs produced by John Cundell and others. One snap has been sent to the Editor of the Croquet Assoc. 'Gazette' so we hope to see an account of our 'goings on' in a future edition.

Diana Phelps writes "We all enjoyed playing the 'Alice' version of croquet. it was great fun and the crowd seemed to enjoy it. Rabbit (Sally Cross), Alice (Yvonne Banks), Queen of Hearts (Judith Cundell) and even the

Cards were very good and it was certainly a funny game. Quite a few new players joined in at the end as well. Special thanks must go to Joan (our chair) for her super flamingos and little furry hedgehogs."

Judith Cundell says "The 'Cards' game (costumes by Margaret and Tony Brown) rather degenerated more into hockey than croquet. An enthusiastic 'Page' (John Hogg) led an impressive procession of characters around the lawn - by-passing the mobile toilets!"

NEWS SNIPPETS 1) Equipment. The C.Assoc. shop advert is in the back of the Gazette. (Copies in Club-room) Mallets can be cheaper if ordered together and/or collected from the shop.

2) Town Sport's Council. The recent Awards meeting had to be held outside the White-House because no-one, including the mayor, had a key. Our grant application had been lost so we'll have to try again.

3) Astral Park - better known to us as RAF Stanbridge site - seems to be no further forward. We hope it will not be too long before we can be accommodated there on some full-sized lawns.

4) Football Damage to Lawns. Members will be aware that various groups of 'lads' of all ages enjoy goal-scoring sessions on our well-mown, level lawns. Len recently discussed this with one group and the outcome is that the long-suffering park staff are to be asked to mow a special football pitch for them which we hope they will use. Thanks again to Linda Hindson and to Len for this initiative.

5) S. Beds. Sports Development Review. Margaret Dilley attended this meeting for us. Guidelines are to be produced about approaches to schools and about applying for grants. The Dev. Plan should be published soon.

6) Indoor Croquet. A match is to be held (golf croquet) on Nov. 9th/10th at Soham. We could enter some players. It would be interesting to experience an indoor carpet. Southchurch Club, Southend, recently obtained a £5,000 'Awards for All' grant which it is spending on equipment and an indoor carpet to publicise the game in their area. Could we do the same in the future?

7) Exhibition. Joan invites us to view the needlework of her 'specialist' group at the Library - open 9.30-6.30pm until 24th July.



DO THEY PLAY CROQUET IN CHINA?

Linda Hindson has written for us the following account of her visit to the Great Wall, but she doesn't answer the question!

The Wall of China was great! Great fun and a great deal of hard work but worth it to put a smile on the face of disabled children somewhere. Thanks to those members who helped me to raise over £2,800 for Whizz-Kidz.

The first full day of walking began with a climb of over 4,500 feet in a temperature of 86°F to reach Mount Si Ma Tei. After that anything was easy! Over four days we walked the Ming section of the Great Wall, from Si Ma Tei to Gu Bei Kou, which lies in Hebei province north west of Beijing. This section was built in the 17th Century at a rate of 1kilometre/year and was intended to keep the Manchurians out of Beijing.

The views from the wall were spectacular and all the photographs in the world could not do it justice. The accommodation was less spectacular with two-man igloo style tents, chopsticks for all meals and a little blue tent in the corner of the field (complete with spade)!! The final day in Beijing was spent walking around the Forbidden City and Tianamen Square and shopping in the markets. An exhausting trip, but it was one that I would not have missed.

WELL DONE LINDA!

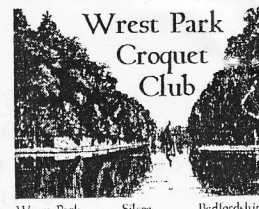
COACHING BEGINNERS There were 18 'students' and 6 coaches/leaders on the very first golf-croquet coaches course which I attended at Surbiton in March. The AIM of the course was to teach us all how to coach complete beginners. We came from 11 counties from Hants. → the Tyne and !! Switzerland. Robert Fulford, recent World champion, was one of our coaches and he autographed my copy of 'A Guide to Golf Croquet'. Yours truly was the only idiot not to take a mallet but John Hobbs, one of our group, lent me one of his own make. *see below.

We spent two busy days on talks, demos, and all of us had to demonstrate how we would deal with newcomers. There were lesson preparations to do when we got home on Sat. ppm and these were marked as part of our assessment on Sunday.

Golf croquet is becoming more popular than Assoc. it appears, so we hope that some more of our members will be able to attend future such courses and gain the basic qualification - useful if we want to introduce youngsters in schools to our game.

*Since borrowing John's mallet I've succumbed to temptation and the urgings of Tony and Martin and bought one of his. It may not improve my game but it is much easier on the neck and shoulders.

Margaret Brown



WREST PARK The Club at Wrest Park have very kindly granted non-members the privilege of joining as GROUP MEMBERS for a reduced fee. John Bevington (Secretary) has explained that there are now four key-holders for the Groups:- Dunstable UBA -leader, Veronica Richardson: Silsoe W.I. -leader, Dorothy Craggs: Waterways -leader, Irene Davis and Leighton-Linslade Club - leader, Margaret Brown.

Each group is invited to choose a day and time when it would like to play. Our GROUP has chosen Monday afternoon/early evening for the time being. We should of course, avoid Thursday ppm's which are Wrest Pk. Club nights and all days when the lawns are booked for tournaments and other events. We can check these by reference to the W.P. Newsletter which is now sent to all GROUP members.

If a particular Monday is completely un-playable the GROUP could decide to go on another day of that week, avoiding booked times as above. This is a great privilege and we GROUP members must be careful not to abuse it or it may cause W.P. Club trouble and we may lose it.

Just to clarify, John adds "If a FULL MEMBER of Wrest Park Club invites a non-member the Club asks him or her to sign the visitor's book and pay the fee of £3.50.

PRIVATE CROQUET PARTY SESSIONS at Page's Park. If any member would like to run a croquet session for friends, colleagues or family please contact either Len or Margaret so that the lawns may be booked. The usual visitor fee of £2 per head for the session applies.

LOOKING AHEAD The Committee has agreed that it would be a sensible idea to sub-divide the tasks at present undertaken by the secretary. They have asked that these be listed in the hope that some members (you?) could volunteer to take on one or more of these at the November AGM. Our present secretary has to retire from the post in 2003.

The jobs are:- Archives -keeping the photos, cuttings etc.
 Attending Sport's Council Meetings (monthly)
 Booking lawns (monthly)
 Keeping in touch with sick members.
 Membership sec.-records, issuing memb. cards, etc.
 Minute-taking at committee meetings.
 Newsletter
 Press, posters and publicity

This would leave the Hon. Sec. with the official correspondence, preparation of and sending out notices of AGM's etc., minuting the AGM and generally co-ordinating business with the Chair and Treasurer.

FINALLY If there are any matters you would like raised at the next Committee meeting on AUGUST 28th please let our Chairperson Joan (on 373600) or Margaret (on 373860) know.

Little Known Facts About Croquet Players!

51% had played croquet in a garden,
 with a quarter starting in their teens.



83% of croquet players enjoy a nice bottle of wine.

Happy

Holidays!

