

# LEIGHTON - LINSLADE CROQUET CLUB

Founded 2000

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August has been kind and has seen the highest monthly attendance of 140 playing at Page's Park. Some members really 'get their money's worth' as it were, by playing 40+ times for the £45 membership fee. One round of invitation golf would cost at least £16 plus equipment.

The burning question is - has all this practice improved the standard of play amongst our members? The answer seems to be certainly! Some are beginning to take things quite seriously, unlike our first season where we dilly dally about with very little finesse or tactics.

A particularly happy development, in my opinion, is the involvement of such a large proportion of our members in 'outside' fixtures and tournaments, many acquitting themselves rather well. Thanks are due to our fixtures sec., Audrey Bunn for making all the necessary arrangements.

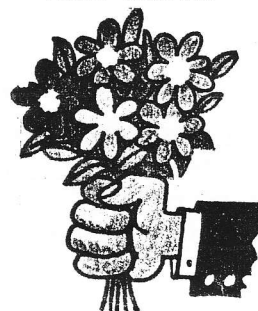
M.B. Editor

## NEWS OF MEMBERS

Sally Clay, famous interpreter of the white rabbit, rang after her release from hospital to thank us for her cards and to say she is doing well, aiming to be fighting fit for the party in November.

Peter Stevens is also making good progress and playing again.

Joan Slow is feeling somewhat better too. We hope she enjoyed the plant we sent as a thank you for her amazing props (hedgehogs and flamingos) made for the Jubilee picnic.



Best wishes to Jean Floyd who is not well.

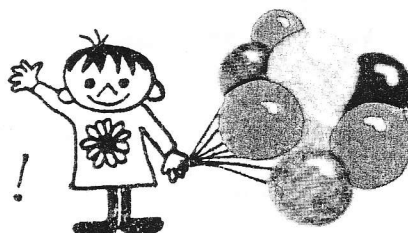
NEW MEMBER - We welcome Tom Miller to the Club as our newest member.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE    1) We shall be playing the usual sessions during September until the final official session on SAT. 28th - with tea to follow. All welcome, playing or not.

2) If the weather is good, we may go on playing informally until the middle of October. John Connew, our wonder-working groundsman, has agreed to postpone Autumn treatment of the lawns for a couple of weeks. If we play we shall of course have to pay the usual hourly fee to the Town Council. Len has agreed to organise the clearance and winter storage of our equipment by committee members after Wednesday 16th.

→    3) The A.G.M. and end of season party will be at Northall village hall once again. This year Thursday, 21st November, will be the great day - please try to keep the evening clear. All details will be sent out three weeks before although our 'social committee' will be beaver away planning the repast during its coffee-time meetings at the Library cafe.    ←

SEE YOU THERE !



FIRST AID Should anyone require it. Eve has put the basic requirements in the cupboard. Accidents, even if slight, should be recorded in the accident book - also in the cupboard.

PUBLICITY LEAFLET The committee has agreed that we should continue to recruit members to replace those who inevitably fall out each year. The sec. has drawn up an illustrated leaflet to assist in this and members will be asked to comment on/ approve its production and use at the AGM.

### WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT ?

If you have played recently you will have heard something about committee members visiting the Aylesbury Vale Golf Club near Stewkley - some members have asked the above question. Following the 'burnt car on the lawn' incident, Val Jeffers and her husband used their good offices to arrange a meeting between several of our committee members and one of the owner/directors of the golf club to discuss the possibility of our members playing there if the situation at Page's Park became untenable. Subsequent to that meeting the golf club have chosen and are mowing an area which could, they felt, become a croquet lawn or lawns. They have invited our members to try this out. Len Buckingham is following this up with a visit to inspect and possibly mark out (with strings). This could lead to an experimental playing visit there by interested members, possibly on the 18th Sept. though Len will let people know if/when such arrangements have been made.



INTERNATIONAL GOLF CROQUET this year was held at Ramsgate with players from eight countries and PRIZE money!! See page 22 of the July Gazette. How long before a Leighton-Linslade player represents England/Britain?

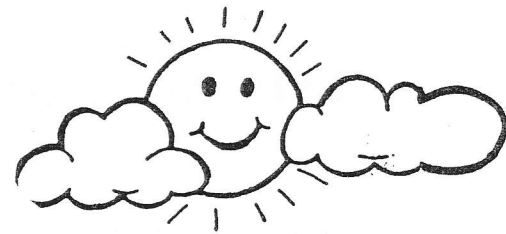


### DREAMS FOR THE FUTURE !!!

Len, George and Margaret B. attended some sessions on Club development some time back. One of the exercises was to compile a wish list for our Club. Here are some of the items:-

- To have 4-6 full-size lawns to county standard or better.
- Our own premises, available to let out to raise funds.
- A large and active membership taking part in inter-club matches.
- A full range of ages and physical abilities.
- Courses available for trainee coaches and referees.
- A strong committee, able to plan ahead with each comm. member taking responsibility for some aspect of the work.
- Sufficient funds to provide 'stars' with training.
- Good coaches available and other "facilities".
- Enough funding so that fund-raising does not become a drag.
- Some folk playing 'socially' with others progressing in the sport, both golf and association croquet.

WHAT WOULD BE YOUR WISH? - answers in the next newsletter.



## News of Matches

I have been asked to write a few words about the GRASS ROOTS TOURNAMENT at Northampton on August 3rd. Margaret and George Lawson, Margaret Brown and myself represented the Club.

We had a lovely day, also weather kept fine and the sun came out. They made us welcome.

All did quite well, George and Margaret B. having to have a play-off which G. won so that he goes forward as a reserve to the finals at Solihull on Sept. 3th. So all in all a most successful day and we wish George good luck in the final.

Diana Phelps

### Friendly at STONY STRATFORD

A very enjoyable day was spent with Stony Stratford Club on Wed. 14th August. We played two games in the morning followed by lunch which our hosts provided, then two games in the afternoon. The scores were 9-6 in favour of L.L. Club. Temporary membership was offered at £5 for the rest of the season, a generous gesture. A return match was provisionally fixed with L.L. providing the picnic.

Margaret Lawson

### Second visit to STONY STRATFORD

Eight more folk are to play at Stony on Wed. 11th Sept. Valerie Jeffers is kindly organising the food. We look forward to another pleasant and challenging occasion.

### WREST PARK GOLF CROQUET TOURNAMENT

A number of our players took part in the first such competition at Wrest Park. The heats were completed in Mid August and the best two from each group will be played-off in the semi-finals. Una Pengelly is our only representative at this level.

Well done!!

### ANGLESEY ABBEY Sat. 3rd. July

This was the first National Trust tournament this year. George Lawson writes "Len and Eve Buckingham won two games 3-6 and 7-6 and lost one 4-5. They missed a place in the semi-final on a countback of hoops played. George and Margaret Lawson lost two games. 6-8 and 4-5 and drew one at 6-6. The final was won by someone from Watford Club.

The weather was very good throughout the day. It was very enjoyable though we did not win. However, I think we learnt a few tactics if nothing else."

All the above reports seem to confirm what Richard K. says:-

"I consider that our members have nothing to fear in entering tournaments of this kind. Our general standard of play is at least on a par to that of other clubs".

**ICKWORTH HOUSE**, near Bury St. Edmunds, was the venue for a Golf Croquet Singles Tournament held on 1st September and organised on behalf of the National Trust. There were 24 competitors from 8 clubs divided into blocks of 6, who each played each other. The winners of each Block went on to meet in Semi Finals.

It was a glorious sunny day and the setting was perfect. An outdoor Proms concert had been held on the lawn two days previously but the groundman had achieved a good if rather spongy and uneven playing surface. Still, it was the same for everybody.

The fine weather drew many visitors to the house and gardens. There was excitement at one stage when the fire alarm went off in the newly opened hotel. 3 fire engines attended and circled the lawn. Several hundred visitors were evacuated from the premises and temporarily provided what must have been a record crowd for a local croquet tournament!

Our club was represented by Erica and John Fogg, Diana Phelps and myself. All of us did ourselves justice and we certainly enjoyed our games. John finished 2nd in his Block and I was fortunate enough to win my Block with 4 winning games and an attritional 3-3 draw. However, I met my match in the Semi-Final when I was defeated 7-5 by Shirley from Bury St Edmunds who played some timely jump shots.

And the winner...? You have guessed it... Sean, the Head groundsman at Ickworth House (who played with a mallet with a head made entirely of turf rather than just the end cap!) who gained suitable reward for all his efforts.

Richard Kelghley

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## MORE PAGES OF UNABBATED PARK TERROR. ELDERLY TROUBLEMAKERS REIGN SUPREME



Unfortunately, ugly scenes like this are becoming commonplace around Leighton Buzzard.

Armed Groups of "Pensioner-thugs" lay in wait & threaten harm to innocent children.

A spokesperson for local children's parents said today, "What the F\*\*\* do they expect our poor little Ba\*\*\*\*\*s to do in their spare time?"

"They're just usin their enishitive an developin their own amoosements. They are always careful where they set light to the cars, just a bit'a armless fun".

Another concerned parent commented "The social don't gi us enuf to provide the ole famly wiv all the fags, booze, videos an drugs we need. Persunly I'm glad they find uver intresin ways to pass their time untiwl they can get their own dole muneey an become independent!"

"The cars are probably unsafe anyway & it's betta they're off our streets".

In something of a knee-jerk response to this ugly situation a representative of the local council reiterated an urgent call to provide all of the town's children with mobile phones for direct access to "ChildLine" & other support groups.

CCTV cameras are another possibility, but local officials are concerned that monitoring from the centralised surveillance H.Q in Belfast makes timely response from Norwich a very real problem. "Local Police are currently overwhelmed with accurately recording unsolved crime reports & statistics; tracking the person(s) responsible for the state of the town's toilet and studying policing techniques in Zimbabwe & Mozambique. What do our public want from us for Heaven's sake?" Was the comment from one visibly disturbed local police chief. This is clearly a matter of some concern to a small minority, but hardly merits any serious degree of attention. Several of the "Hard Core" trouble makers (two pictured above) are known to local police but remain at large. It is thought they are in possession of "Very Fast" ambulatory aids & have so far always managed to escape. PC Sloth commented, "They will slip up sooner or later, we already have very good plaster casts of their walking stick impressions. Detection should be no problem as long as they don't change their stick rubbers. (best not print that)" he said.

by Martin Field