



LEIGHTON - LINSLADE CROQUET CLUB

Founded 2000

Contact - 01525 373 860

R. Keyzley.

NEWSLETTER VOLUME TWO - No. 3

THE SEASON OPENS Although I was not there, except in spirit, I'm told that all went off very well with at least eleven new people 'having a go'. The Mayor kindly attended and was pictured in the local press. No doubt the refreshments reached their usual high quality under Margaret Dilley's care. Thanks to all who helped in any way. Editor

CAR BOOT SALE to raise funds for the Club will now be held, weather permitting, on SUNDAY JUNE 3rd at the BILLINGTON RD. SITE from about 9a.m. until lunchtime. Articles for sale - unwanted presents, white elephants, etc - all welcomed by Tony Brown who is organising things. Leave them at the club room [labelled] or hand to Margaret or deliver to no.40, Miles Ave. Thank-you.

MEMBERSHIP This year so far we have twenty-seven paid-up members and are pleased to welcome new friends Erica and John Fogg and Hilda and Len Jones. Six more people are 'trying and tasting' before [we hope] joining.

REMINDER — Several who were members last year have not yet rejoined. Several others who played trial sessions at the end of the season have not yet contacted us. If this applies to you, could you please contact the Sec. (373860) to let us know whether you intend to join or not? (Cheques for £35 should be made out to L.L. Croquet Club)

KEYS Shutter keys have been issued to more of our members. Joan Slow and Jean Floyd live near the park and can help if you have arrived without a key.

MEMBERS GUESTS are welcome to take part in a playing session. Please enter their name in the visitors book and follow the instructions re fees, etc.. Thank you! B.W. - Treasurer

TOURNAMENTS Some of us have boldly decided to enter the National Trust/C.Ass. matches at Anglesey Abbey (Cambs.) in July and Ickworth Hall (Suffolk) in Sept. Please let Audrey (372083) or Margaret D. (376504) know if you would like to join us - or put your name on the list in the clubroom. They are lovely places so you might just like to fill the cars as spectators/supporters.

LAWN BOOKINGS - JUNE We expect the June bookings to follow the established pattern, but check on the notice board for possible changes.

OUR CLUBROOM We all appreciate the work put into the improvements made in cleaning, clearing, painting and equipping the room. Thanks to all who helped, notably Bob for painting and Martin for the mallet-rack.

WASN'T IT A LOVELY DAY THE DAY WE WENT TO HURLINGHAM

Wednesday 28th of February dawned fair and bright as Peter, Irene, Jean and chauffeur Bob set out down the M1 for the Association Headquarters at Hurlingham. Heavy rain set in as we approached Hammersmith. As we arrived at the Hurlingham grounds a Grand Uniformed Guard asked us if we had an appointment? "No" said Bob "We are here to pay our annual subs." We were immediately given directions to the office. We then got ourselves lost among the many croquet lawns, tennis courts and bowling greens. People were actually playing croquet in the pouring rain.

As we approached the white clubhouse with its graceful semi-circular steps leading to a grand door, reminiscent of the Raj at least one of the group felt this was the Leighton Linlade Club's spiritual home! Alas the place was occupied by builders. A small notice directed us to the C. A. temporary home - two Portacabins. This was more like Pages Park!! We were given a warm welcome by the Association Secretary and while Bob paid our annual sub. Peter and Irene went into the shop to negotiate a discount for mallets. We got £3 each off the new basic price of £65.

On behalf of the Club we bought a set of alternative coloured balls and ordered one set of cast hoops. We intend to duplicate this later on if the membership income allows!! We bought a book on handicapping and were given a number of Handicap Cards. We also purchased copies of the rules for Golf and Association to provide some light reading as an alternative to drinking tea and coffee when sitting out this coming season.

MAY FAYRE Members of the Club approached Parson's Close on May 7th with some trepidation, not knowing what was expected of them - or what to expect.

We found a 'lawn' comparable in size to our own had been correctly marked. We installed the hoops and pegs and soon had a small gathering of interested bystanders of all ages. It did not take long for some of these to join in and instruction was given as play progressed. Our nine members who attended for varying lengths of time to fit in with their families all agreed it had been enjoyable and worthwhile.

An information desk was manned all day by anyone not involved in a game. A pleasing number of adults and juveniles showed interest in the Club. We are hopeful that some new members may join us.

Jean Walmsley

From Joan Slow (Chairperson)

A vote of thanks to those who helped at our May Fayre croquet 'lawn' (?) at Parson's Close. Despite hazards, not met at Hurlingham, such as pushchairs, bicycles and shopping-trolleys crossing the line of play, and the toddler who thought she would pick up the pretty balls!!!, it was well worth advertising ourselves in this way. Several people played including some interested and polite young schoolboys.

Especial thanks to Jean and Bob who transported the gear, set up the lawn and made it all possible.

TRAINING COURSES

1) Coaching Stage One. Congratulations to Jean and Bob who successfully completed their course in April.

2) Refereeing Golf-croquet. George Lawson bravely signed-up for the very difficult referee training-day at High-Wycombe. He writes:- With seven others from various clubs we met at the home of Alan Oldham who, in conjunction with Bill Arliss, was responsible for the yellow book "The Laws of Golf Croquet" and "The Regulations for Golf Croquet Tournaments".

The course began at 10am with a 2hr. lecture by Bill followed by a 1hr. practical demo. of faults on the croquet lawn. Then lunch at the pub opposite Alan's home.

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On our return we were split into 2 groups. One then had a 1hr.exam. which consisted of 40 questions re. the laws,policy and practices of golf croquet. The others each had 15mins.on the lawn, alone with Bill Arliss and Alan. Bill played strokes and one had to say immediately if each was genuine or a fault. Alan was marking and judging if one was in the correct position to see if it was a fault or not! Whilst they marked our papers we were allowed to have a game.

When we returned to the house we were informed that only one person had scored the 80% needed to pass, and it was not me.I was informed, however, that I had not disgraced myself, considering the short time I had been playing, and that I was not bottom of the course. It was suggested that I try again though I think 13th June at Budleigh Salterton will be too soon.There may be courses during the Autumn which I could attend.Perhaps someone else would like to try also?

It was a very enjoyable day with a friendly group of people and the weather was very good - I certainly feel I learnt something.

P.S. Eynsham and High Wycombe clubs would like to arrange fixtures with us

3)Golf Croquet Coaching Day.Please contact Irene Davis(210260) if you would like to attend this day at Wrest Park on June 10th.

Useful Addresses to record J.Slow, Sandhills,Stanbridge Rd. Terrace
J.Floyd,80,Richmond Rd.
M.Brown, 40,Miles Ave.

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STOP PRESS

Great News - Hunstanton Fire - The new clubhouse opening is planned for Friday 24th August 2001. They are most grateful for tremendous help they have received from other clubs.

Finally -CONTRIBUTIONS for the next newsletter welcomed by the editor (373860).

Reactions from new players, cartoon drawings,poeems, ideas/suggestions for change or improvements perhaps ?

Margaret Brown