

LEIGHTON - LINSLADE CROQUET CLUB

Founded 2000

Contact - 01525 373 860

NEWSLETTER Vol 2 No 5

Sept 2001

Editorial

It was good to see the lawns crowded with players at our final session on Sunday 23rd. Four games were being played simultaneously by wind-and-weatherproof-clad members whilst others set out the delicious refreshments provided once again by Margaret Dilley. 'Twas a colourful scene - not a sign of the usual 'whites', as we all enjoyed our last opportunity to show how much our play had improved this season!

We look forward to meeting up again at the AGM and party in November (see below) and, of course, to next April when it should all begin again.

Thanks to everyone who has played, supported and helped to make 2001 such an enjoyable season. M.J.B.

- Events
- 1) Barbecue at the Buckinghams! We all had a lovely time; good food, good company and civilised comfort in their pretty garden. Thanks to all who helped. Profits have boosted club funds.
 - 2) Grass Roots tournament at Northampton. This was for less experienced players. Audrey Bunn and Martin Field tied for 5th place well done!
 - 3) Ickworth Hall (National Trust) This is organised by the East Anglian Federation. Only two places were available for our club. Joan Slow and Margaret Brown were rather surprised to find themselves representing L.L.C.C. We didn't win even though we used our "extra" handicap advantages.
 - 4) Car Boot Sale(s) Our 2nd attempt was rained off after we had made £9 profit. Third attempt on Sunday 23rd Sept. weather permitting. It did, and we raised a further £8. T. + M. Brown.

Fixtures We apologise that the friendly match against the Dunstable U3A group had to be postponed due to a clash with the Wrest Park Club's 40th Anniversary celebration that affected several members of both teams.

This will now be played next year along with a match against Luton and possibly other clubs in our area. It has been proposed that next year about one session a month could be designated for such matches.

M.Dilley

Membership We end the season with 32 members, including five who joined recently. Welcome to them. As previously agreed, folk joining from August on paid £15.

Croquet in Austria ! The Croquet Association has planned a holiday in Carinthia, Nr. Salzburg from 25th May - 1st June 2002. Good accommodation/facilities/food for £49 per day. Non-playing families and friends welcome. Details from Margaret on 373860.

Lawn Etiquette Your committee recommends that, to keep everyone happy, players should attempt to change lawns and partners as often as practicable.

Handicapping The system organised by Irene and Peter Stevens has proved very successful and they are pleased that all active members, except those joining since August, are now 'handicapped'. Congratulations!!

Playing Sessions Analysis of the 2001 season shows that Wednesday a.m. was the most popular and Monday ppm the least. . Figures until the end of August were as follows :- Monday 24 (discontinued in August)

Wednesday a.m. 283

Wednesday p.m. 58 (rising slowly and including several Association enthusiasts)

Thursday a.m. 149

Saturday p.m. 205

Sunday p.m. 104 (from end of April) With visitors, special events etc., there were about 875 attendances this season!

Finance and Equipment

It is looking likely that we shall finish the season with a surplus of approximately £300 compared to £400 last year.

Includes a grant of £100 (as last year) which has to be spent on equipment. Last year we bought the cast iron hoops and alternative coloured balls at a cost of £275. The difference in the hoops is enormous. Even after a full season they are still as firm in the ground as when first fitted. (If you don't believe us try pulling one out!) The "wire" ones however move the first time they are hit. I have no hesitation in recommending that we purchase another set at approximately £200 as soon as the final accounts confirm our financial position.

We also need two more sets of balls as we have two sets of undersize and underweight garden balls. These cost between £50 and £85 per set, so we cannot prudently purchase these until we start collecting next season's income.

Costs will rise next season. Insurance and Croquet Association membership are two certainties. Our biggest cost is lawn rental. At the moment we do not know what will happen to this. Also we do not know what will happen at the RAF site. Although some activities there will probably start next season, I cannot see that lawns to an adequate standard could be prepared in time, especially if we have a winter like the last one. Also we have no idea how much it will cost! I hope to learn more about progress at a Sports Council meeting on Monday 24th. Don't be surprised to see a proposal to increase next years membership fees at the coming AGM.

Bob Walmsley - Treasurer

Insignia - in other words - a badge! We are investigating the cost of badges sewn/stuck onto clothing. Most East Anglian clubs seem to sport them at tournaments.

Annual General Meeting November 21st at Northall Village Hall. Formal notice of this meeting with nomination forms etc., should reach you before the end of October. You will be invited to put forward resolutions for discussion and to nominate members for the committee. Please be thinking about this!

Items already suggested for discussion include :-

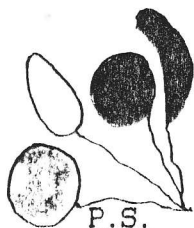
- 1) Attracting younger members, fees for junior members and insurance aspects of unaccompanied juveniles.
- 2) The membership fee for 2002.
- 3) Days / times of sessions to reflect the wider aims of the club, not only existing members' wishes.
- 4) Possible 'Golden Jubilee' event.

End of Season Party

On November 21st the club will be holding its second AGM at Northall Village Hall.

After the AGM we shall have a party, as we did last year. Everyone who intends being there is asked to bring a plate of food and I would like to know whether you will be bringing sweet or savoury. please phone me on 01525 372083.

Audrey Bunn.



P.S.

Ideas of 'pastimes' and willingness to organise one; articles for the raffle and any other offers of help to Margaret (373860) please.

Bedfordshire Sports Facility Strategy

This document has been issued for consultation. "It is essential that priorities are established and an overall strategy is in place to guide facility provision".

Bob Walmsley has made some comments and he and I are to attend the meeting of L.L. Sports Council on Monday 24th Sept. when we hope to contribute to a discussion on the document.

The South Beds. summary of present plans includes several references to the L.L. area e.g. Tiddenfoot refurbishment; development of community sports facilities at RAF Stanbridge site; new club-house and storage for Canoe Club; indoor training facilities for Rugby Club; Cricket pitch, bowls green and tennis courts at Heath & Reach; indoor tennis centre at Cedars site and the development of watersports facilities at Heath & Reach sandpit site.

Our interest is at present centred around the Stanbridge site and encouraging the spread of interest in croquet to a wider range of players, this could include use of indoor facilities.
Watch this space!

Margaret Brown.

TEN COMMANDMENTS OF HUMAN RELATIONS

1. Speak to people — there is nothing as nice as a word of greeting.
2. Smile at people — it takes 72 muscles to frown and only 14 to smile.
3. Call people by name — the 'sweetest music to anyone's ears is the sound of his own name.
4. Be friendly and helpful — there's nothing like a friendly face and a helping hand.
5. Be cordial — speak and act as if everything you do were a real pleasure.
6. Be genuinely interested in people — you can like everyone if you try.
7. Be generous with praise — cautious with criticism.
8. Be considerate of the feelings of others — it will be appreciated.
9. Be thoughtful of the opinion of others — there are three sides to every controversy: your's, the other fellow's and the right one.
10. Be alert to give service — what counts most in life is what we do for others.