



March 2002

newsletter

Annual General Meeting 2002

The AGM will be at 7.30pm on **Thursday 21 March** in the upstairs room at the Star & Garter in Silsoe. Please come along if you possibly can as it is your opportunity to have a say about the running of the club. The provisional agenda is as follows:

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of 2001 AGM and matters arising
3. Reports:
 - Chairman**
 - Secretary (to include Publicity)**
- Treasurer**
- CA Tournament Secretary**
- Club Tournament Secretary**
- Club Captain**
- Groundsman (to include Equipment)**
- Catering**
4. Election of officers
5. Club events for 2002
6. Tournament catering for 2002
7. EACF events for 2002 and information from AGM
8. Coaching and development
9. Revised constitution
10. Any other business

The minutes of the 2001 AGM were included with the March 2001 edition of the newsletter. I will have a copy available at the AGM. If you cannot attend the meeting but want a topic discussed, let me know and I can raise it under AOB.

Read this..Read this..Read this

- The membership form has changed. If you intend to become a member this year please complete the top section as far as possible - we need to make sure our records are up-to-date, and the Croquet Association need to update details of coaches, referees etc. within the club. The car numbers are needed by the Silsoe Research institute for security purposes. If you have two cars just include the most likely one. Similarly, if you have two e-mail addresses give the one you would prefer to be used.

If you are not a member but still on our mailing list and wish to continue receiving the newsletter, please return the form with just your current address (and a phone number if you wish). No form, no newsletter.

- Every year at this time we send out a membership list. This is, in effect, the list of members from last year and is compiled by Eric Audsley. I have now put all the available information onto a crude but effective database which will be updated when we get your completed application forms. The database allows me to generate and update all manner of lists quite easily. There is, however, a problem in generating the list which is distributed to you. It is impossible to fit all the data fields from Eric's list across a single page. The question, therefore, is what information do you want on

your individual membership list? I can offer lists in two formats:

8 point landscape with address - Name, handicap, address, home phone, work phone, email. Landscape format (across the page) and in smaller 8 point type like this.

10 point portrait, no address - Name, handicap, home phone, work phone, email. Portrait format (down the page) and in 10 point type like this.

In other words, do you need each other's addresses? Please indicate which format you prefer on your application form - majority vote decides.

- **WE NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH TOURNAMENT CATERING** - if you can help please say so on the form. It doesn't matter if you can't specify particular dates. If you want to know what's involved, please call Judy Anderson (number on membership list).
- Full membership allows individuals to play when they like - they all have their own keys to the equipment shed. Group membership covers those who come down with the Leighton Buzzard and Silsoe groups and play as a group on particular evenings, one of the group having a key. If you are subscribing as a group member, fill in the form and send in your cheque individually. Don't forget to enter the club's Golf Croquet tournament!
- Information on Golf Croquet handicaps is enclosed. There will be a session for handicap setting on April 22 from 5pm onwards. If you cannot attend, need a Grading Score and are happy about the procedure you can do the exercise yourself in your own time. We hope to have supply of handicap cards available.

Committee Meeting - 31 Jan

- It was proposed that for 2002 the membership fee be £44.50 (including £6.00 CA levy) for full members and £13 for group members.
- The green fee for visitors is to be increased to £3.50 per session. Please record these sessions in the Visitor's Book in the pavilion.

Spring cleaning

We hope to do some work on the lawns over the weekend of 22/23 March, namely a light scarification to rake out the moss (which was sprayed with ferrous sulphate in February) and application of the spring fertiliser. It is also an opportunity to tidy up the huts and get things ready for the coming season. If you can spare a few hours on either day please ring George Collin.

Lawn 4 is available for anyone wishing to get in some early practice.

Dates for your diary

April 7	Easter Egg 2002
April 22	Golf Croquet handicap setting
April 20-21	EH St George's Day event
April 27 or 28	Friendly vs Oxford University
May 17-19	Handicap tournament
May 25-26	Gold Coaching Course
May 27	Croquet evening for Hitchin Rotary
June 11	Irene Davis' Golf croquet group
July 5-7	Advanced tournament
July 30	Irene Davis' Golf croquet group
Aug 17-18	Advanced tournament
Aug 31-Sep 1	CA All England area final
Sep 6-8	CA Selector's Weekend
Sept 13-15	Handicap tournament

Anyone wishing to enter the Easter Egg competition should contact Rod Ashwell by the end of March - it is a light-hearted tournament whose format depends on the number and standard of the entries.

Details of other English Heritage events taking place at Wrest Park will be available from mid-March and can be had by ringing 0870 333 1181 or from the EH website: www.english-heritage.org.uk. The EH office number at Wrest Park is 01525 860152.

Secretary and Publicity

Officer's report

Nothing to report, apart from my annual request for contributions to the newsletter. We don't have a Letters Page or a gossip column, but we could.

Putting on a publicity hat, I am coming round to the minimalist view that in terms of publicising the club (a) most people have heard of croquet, (b) we have a continuing presence on obvious websites and (c) anyone who is sufficiently interested will discover the existence of the club through their own efforts. The rest follows.

We could, as a club, try and build a relationship with the local press, but this takes "persistent and sustained effort" (Liz Williams' phrase). I wonder whether it is worth it. The media aren't really interested - you only have to look at what happened at last year's Croquet World Championship. No coverage at all, as far as I could see.

So I'm not planning to do anything this year - in fact, I would suggest that the role of Publicity Officer be laid to rest. If the committee want to spend some money publicising an event or an Open Day, well and good, but this can be done by a group on an ad-hoc basis. The maintenance of existing links (as opposed to launching new initiatives) is part of the Secretary's normal duties and doesn't need yet another officer.

EACF/NT tournaments 2002

The East Anglian Croquet Federation, in conjunction with the National Trust, are staging their annual short croquet and golf croquet competitions at various NT properties over the summer. Entries are invited from CA clubs or other groups. The venues are

Melford Hall, Long Melford, near Sudbury, Suffolk
Anglesey Abbey, Lode, near Cambridge

Felbrigg Hall, Felbrigg, near Cromer, Norfolk

Ickworth House, Horringer, near Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk

Short Croquet - 2 small lawns at each venue. 4 teams of 2 players at each venue. Singles and doubles. 14 point handicap play. Play from 10.30-5.

30 June	Melford Hall
14 July	Anglesey Abbey
30 July	Anglesey Abbey
11 August	Felbrigg Hall
1 Sept	Ickworth (Final)

Golf croquet - 2 small lawns at each venue. Doubles - up to 16 teams. Singles - as many as possible. 30 minute time limits. Play from 10.6.30.

13 July	Anglesey Abbey	Doubles
1 Sept	Ickworth	Singles

The entry forms will be available at the AGM. We have not shown much support for these events in the past, and it may have been because players felt that "someone in the club" would organise it. This won't happen, so if you want to enter as an individual or as a doubles pair either come to the AGM or let myself or Judy Anderson know you are interested and one of us will send you the details. It is a fun day out and a chance to meet players from other clubs in the Federation, and you get plenty of time to go round the houses and gardens.

Revised club constitution

Members of the committee will find enclosed copies of the original constitution with George Collin's handwritten amendments. This is due for discussion at the AGM, when we hope to have a copy of the SRI Sports and Social Club's constitution for comparison purposes.

John Bevington

7 March 2002