



newsletter

A tale of two cities*

Chairman Tim Brewer is back at home having had his other hip done, and is recuperating with the aid of ballet exercises using the front room windowsill as a makeshift barre. We wish him well and hope to see him again later in the season.

* The joint is apparently known as a "Birmingham".

Events diary

May 16-18	Handicap tournament
May 20	Hertford U3A coaching (first of five Tuesday morning sessions)
June 7	Friendly vs Oxford (away)
June 8	EACF Chairman's Day (Norwich)
June 10	Dunstable U3A group (evening, all lawns booked)
July 4-6	Advanced tournament
July 8	Dunstable U3A group (evening, all lawns booked)
July 10	Surrey University group (afternoon, all lawns booked)
July 20	EACF Club Champions Tournament (Colchester)
July 25-27	Eastern Championship
Aug 9-10	Advanced tournament
Aug 23-25	Wrest Park Crafts Festival
Sept 27	EACF League playoff at Wrest Park
Sept 13-14	Handicap tournament

Details of any other events taking place in the park can be had by ringing the English Heritage office at Wrest Park on 01525 860152.

St George's Day Festival

This took place on Easter Sunday and Monday. 20/21 April. On the Sunday myself and George Woolhouse turned up to keep an eye on things and let visitors have a go. Quite a few did, and we raised £32.50.

Club competitions

The draws are up in the pavilion. If you want to arrange a match in advance of seeing the draw please ring Rod Ashwell who will tell you your first round opponent/s.

CA Skills Register - help wanted

The CA conferences identified the need for action plans to assist clubs in various ways. To help with this they want to establish a Skills Register of players who are willing to assist local clubs with marketing, groundsmanship, coaching, finance, general management etc. If you would like your name put forward please let me know as soon as possible. For more details please call Hamish Hall on 0117 974 1683.

Coaching course

Report by course tutor Peter Newman

This course of four sessions, each of two hours on a Tuesday morning, has now run for three weeks. The nine Golf Croquet players who had expressed an interest in playing the Association game have attended all the sessions to date, and this week we even had an extra member, Irene Davis. It has therefore been very helpful to have Elaine available to help with organisation.

The content has focused on the differences between the two games, and the technique of croquet strokes in particular. By the third session, members were playing a short game of doubles, and on the final day we intend to address the tactics of play. The members hope to continue playing, as a group and with other club members, after the sessions end.



Left to right: Len Buckingham, Valerie Jeffers, Eve Buckingham, Martin Field, Elaine Newman, Diana Phelps, and seated: Yvonne Banks, Una Pengelly, Margaret Brown, Sally Clay

All have participated with enthusiasm and commitment, and have enjoyed finding out more about the game. One member commented: "With absolutely no absenteeism, along with fantastic weather and very well pitched and paced instruction, the class has been a big success".

Assistant referees course

During February and March we held a course on the Laws for prospective assistant referees, organised by George Collin. Law books were annotated, brows were furrowed and arguments were lengthy. Howard Bottomley, Rod Ashwell and George Woolhouse all passed the theory paper and have only to go through some practical work on the lawns to qualify. Even those of us who didn't make it found it worthwhile - knowledge of the laws is always useful - and our thanks to George and also to Tom Anderson and John Wheeler for their comments and opinions.

Match result

B&H League vs Watford (home)

Wrest Park	Watford	WP score
John Wheeler (1½)	Arthur Reed (4)	-1T
Geoff Strutt (3)	Bill Gillott (8)	
John Bevington (2½)	Simon Hathrell (7)	+1T
George Collin (2)	Mark Homan (9)	
John Wheeler (1½)	Simon Hathrell (7)	-13T
George Collin (2)	Arthur Reed (4)	+4
John Bevington (2½)	Bill Gillott (8)	-12T
Geoff Strutt (3)	Mark Homan (9)	-20

The morning games saw the innings changing hands frequently, mainly due to the use of Barlow balls, which, being bigger than Jaques, meant that the hoop clearance was down to a thirty-second of an inch at best. Breezy conditions made the warmth of the hut welcome at lunchtime, and Mark's fortifying glass of wine inspired him to a good win against Geoff. George then beat Arthur, but the two Johns both came off second best.

Norman Davren



Photograph by Andrew Hope

Norman Davren, who died recently, was a member of Colworth. He was in Wrest Park's winning Longman Cup team in 1971, along with Anto Davies, Colin Cumming and Trevor Wilkins. Two years later he won the May and September Wrest Park tournaments, the latter off a handicap of 3. The CA selected him for the Chairman's Salver in 1976, when he was also a member of the Bedfordshire team who won the Inter County Championship, and he played again in the Chairman's the following year. He was an accurate player and a good tactician.

The photograph shows Norman in play at Compton during the 1976 Chairman's Salver. Seeing the long trousers brings to mind that his shorts twice fell foul of the Hurlingham dress code - the first pair being too baggy and the second too tight. Norman graduated with a science degree and worked as a translator at the Unilever Research Centre at Colworth House, Sharnbrook, commuting from Bedford by bicycle. Fond

of Wagner and cricket, he also played a lot of croquet in his native Scotland. Our sympathies go to his sister.

Easter Egg tournament

This took place on Sunday 27 April and was won by Tom Anderson. Thanks to Howard for the lunchtime chili and Rod Ashwell for organising the event.

Golf croquet referees course

This one-day course will be run at Wrest Park by Bill Arliss on a Monday or Tuesday in August. If you would like to attend call Margaret Brown on 01525 373860.

Cryptic column

Thirty clues for you to try. All the answers have a croquet connection and will appear in the next issue. The usual crossword conventions apply, and I accept the blame for any hair loss. Stuck? Call the helpline on 01908 614493.

1. Ultima Thule (5, 8)
2. Buster and trainee poser seen together (7, 8)
3. On reflection, no light necessary to complete these (7, 7)
4. Backward bear is one of six (4)
5. Prelude to Prokoviev suite is a winner (6, 4)
6. Sweaty one for smith (6, 4)
7. Iona coast is ragged - it's the real thing (11)
8. Have another go in the soup (6)
9. The prim Anaconda nut can last for days (8, 10)
10. Whitewash by numbers (6-3)
11. Percentage loses article in the middle (6, 3)
12. Usual time off after break (8, 5)
13. Puddings (including Queen) with drink could be tempting (6, 4)
14. Right finished? Not just yet (5)
15. Greatly moved by this dumb impression (5, 4-3)
16. President Wilson's proposal for a quicker game (8, 6)
17. A stretch in here is torture for the lads (4, 4)
18. Show respect to the boss up North (6)
19. Top group swap dangerous drugs (1, 5)
20. Rotten oak bowls needed by judge (4, 4)
21. Flatten oarsman - it's your fault (5, 6)
22. The mightiest sword (11)
23. Poker player scoops the pool here (6, 4)
24. William and Sam come round - heavy hitters (7)
25. Open for men only (4)
26. Flats in Geneva for management (5, 5)
27. Throwing meat down by the river (10)
28. R- (or vice versa) (5, 5)
29. A dozen on the table (4, 3, 5)
30. Ed, plan a CV in 24 hours - rise guaranteed (8, 4)
- 31.

John Bevington

16 May 2003