



9 August 1999

newsletter

Match results

Mary Rose vs Hurlingham (away)

11 July

Won 6-1

Wrest Park	H'cap	Hurlingham	H'cap	WP score
Rod Ashwell	2	Bob Stephens	1½	+5
John Wheeler	2½	Veronica Carlisle	?	
George Collin	2½	Walter Thornhill	6	+23
John Bevington	3	Derek Power	4½	+16
Rod Ashwell	2	Bob Stephens	1½	-16
John Wheeler	2½	Veronica Carlisle	?	?+19
George Collin	2½	Derek Power	4½	?+21
John Bevington	3	Walter Thornhill	6	+21

Somehow whenever we are drawn to play Hurlingham it always ends up being an away match. The weather was glorious and it was also the finals day of the Opens, so there was an opportunity to watch Reg Bamford and Robert Fulford trade +26TPs if you managed to finish early (Reg won in the deciding fifth game). The hoops, set for the Opens, were very tight, and the only one to get in before lunch was George, who with John B was double-banking on lawn 6 away from the crowds. John W and Rod were on lawn 1 next to the stars, and after surviving a moment when the supporters (Howard and Jack) felt the opponents might have pegged one of them out, returned after lunch to win.

John W then beat Veronica (whose side style is a model of its type) and dashed back to Wrest Park for the concert. George won comfortably, as did John B but not before making a meal of the ending, and they wandered back just in time to see the conclusion of Rod's game and have a drink before driving home (this time correctly following Howard's short cut). A wonderful day, a good win and a free lunch. What more could one ask for?

Beds/Herts League vs Watford (home)

11 July

Lost 2-4

Wrest Park	H'cap	Watford	H'cap	WP score
Paul Sharrock	8	John Gibbons	5	-1(T)
Peter Berry	10	Bill Gillott	7	
Peter Smith	11	Robert Bateson	12	+4(T)
John Martin	24D16	David Drazin	11	
Paul Sharrock	8	John Gibbons	5	-13
Peter Berry	10	Bill Gillott	7	+21
Peter Smith	11	David Drazin	11	-13
John Martin	24	Robert Bateson	12	-16

No report available, but from the scoresheet it looks as though the first doubles was a tight finish. Playing conditions must have been tricky, given the hot weather and the fact that the hoops would have been both firm and fairly tight, having been reset for the advanced tournament the week before. Congratulations to John Martin for taking part in his first competitive match, but I still don't follow the handicaps - aren't the singles and

doubles maxima 20 and 17 respectively, or is it different for the B&H?

Longman Cup vs Medway (home)

18 July

Lost 2-3

Wrest Park	H'cap	Medway	H'cap	WP score
Rodney Ward	7	Paul Miles	3½	-21
David Parsons	11	Dave Mundy	6	
Peter Berry	9	Rodney Parkins	4½	+8T
Peter Smith	11	David Tester	20D17	
Rodney Ward	7	Paul Miles	3½	?+14
Peter Berry	9	Rodney Parkins	4½	
David Parsons	11	Dave Mundy	6	-4
Peter Smith	11	David Tester	20	-22

A very hot day, and Medway, first-time visitors, got off to a good start when Dave Mundy went round to 2-back early on and Rodney and David were unable to make best use of their bisques. The other game in the morning was a stop and start affair which Peter and Peter won on time. The afternoon doubles was not looking good when Paul Miles got in with a laid break, but he unexpectedly came to grief at hoop 4. Rodney then played a good break and he and Peter got home in good time. I didn't stay to see the dénouement, but Peter obviously felt the force of nine bisques as well as the heat. Never mind, chaps. Now we can concentrate on the League. Speaking of which . . .

Beds/Herts League vs Meldreth (home)

8 August

Lost 1-5

Wrest Park	H'cap	Meldreth	H'cap	WP score
George Collin	2½	David Kendrick	12	-1(T)
John Martin	24D17	Alec Osborne	16	
Peter Berry	9	Angus Bell	14	+18(T)
Peter Newman	18	Andy Munday	14	
Peter Berry	9	David Kendrick	12	-3
David Parsons	11	Angus Bell	14	-18
Peter Newman	18	Andy Munday	14	-2
John Martin	24	Alec Osborne	16	-14

George got round in two turns and then engineered things so that John was always going for a hoop one behind the one required by the opponents. This tactic kept them in front until just before the end, when in leaving John a rush to 3-back George accidentally split an opponent ball in front of its hoop at 2-back. The opponent ran the hoop, shot at the balls at 3-back and hit, which led to a decisive lead. On the other lawn the Petermen blew the Meldreth safe and helped themselves to a good win. Playing conditions were not easy, as heavy rain made it difficult to judge the speed of the lawns. We suffered a whitewash in the singles, but spirits were raised when George produced a teatime treat - split fairy cakes with jam and whipped cream.

Advanced tournament 2-4 July

Report by Howard Bottomley

Was it that Wrest Park members can now play during the week or that Bedfordshire had been promoted in the Counties? Whatever, we were delighted to entertain one of the strongest fields in the 23 years of the event.

Day 1, Eric Audsley the manager is late! Jacques Fournier arrives with fleece, Will there be enough Coke the caterers soon ask. To deem or not to deem, this was the question which lasted most of the week-end. The outcome was a quadruple for Chris Clarke against David Openshaw. Block B was led by failed TP Gordon "how did it go off the lawn" Hopewell. Block C saw David Tutt with a good catch no doubt assisted by his enormous umbrella. Block A contested by Jacques and sneezing Phil Cordingley.

Day 2, Jacques arrives with personal photographer. Roger Ivill, level after time with Judy Anderson in the jaws, does the decent thing by hitting in and then roqueting her through. Peter Stansfield grinds his way to the top as Gordon collapses, David Harley now shares Block C, and Chris Clarke joins Phil at the top of Block A.

Day 3. Phil Cordingley sighs as Howard Bottomley fails at rover to let Chris Clarke win. Chris needed another break at the pub to recover! John Wheeler and Ian Mantle enjoyed a one ball game - well Ian did when John croquet peeled him through rover en-route to three back.

David Openshaw rose to the top of Block A, Gordon Hopewell had a snooze before making a come back to sneak Block B, and David Tutt held on for Block C. David O thanked the Wrest Parkers, but asked Eric for fewer games - there's a first. Other winners were Nick Evans for Lamb points, David Lilly for navigation, George Collin for mallet abuse, and David Openshaw for penguin jokes.... You had to be there.

Inter Counties Golf Croquet at Wrest Park on Sunday August 15

This was going to have been staged at Northampton, but the number of entries forced the organisers to look around for another venue, the upshot being that Wrest Park will be playing host for this one-day event on Sunday. There will be about 40 players and they will be playing to the new World Croquet Federation rules. I don't know if Bedfordshire are entering a team, but it should in any case be an entertaining event, so do come down and watch if you can (and possibly help with the tea and coffee).

Scheduled Monument Consent

You may well wonder what this means. It is the official name of the permission you need to obtain before you disturb the grounds in the park. We first became aware of it when we were discussing the possibility of laying on an electricity supply to the pavilion from the pumps that are located about halfway between the pavilion and the Chinese Bridge, which would have meant digging a trench about 100 yards long and about three feet deep. This project is still at the planning stage.

It came up again as a result of a request by Bill Arliss to erect a small tent for the Inter Counties Golf Croquet tournament (see opposite). I rang Siân Brown at English Heritage, thinking that obtaining permission would be a formality given the numbers of tents that appear for various events during the summer, only to be told that an SMC is required for anything that penetrates the ground to a depth of more than four inches. Obtaining an SMC takes months and was therefore out of the question for Bill's tent (unless it is self-supporting). EH apply for SMCs for the tents for other events months in advance.

The reason for SMCs is to establish exactly where and how the grounds have been disturbed so that future archaeological researchers have a record of what has been done should they start excavating for original building features. I jokingly pointed out that our hoops penetrate the ground considerably more than four inches, and, when pressed, had to admit that we occasionally move them during the course of the season. Siân wondered whether we might need to apply for an SMC for our hoops. As we were talking on the telephone I cannot tell to what extent her tongue was in her cheek, so I did not go further and mention the extent of our hollow and solid tining operations.

Just for the moment it might be that the best position to adopt is that of Brer Rabbit - lie low and say nothing.

Players wanted for August 22

There is another B&H League match on Sunday August 22, when we are away to Enfield. There are currently three places on the team, so if you are interested please ring George on 01582 458665, but not before Thursday evening as he will be away looking for the eclipse.

Craft Fair on August 28-30

We are looking for volunteers to help with demonstrations, coaching and administration at the August Bank Holiday Craft Fair held in the park. If you can spare an afternoon to help please ring Tom Anderson on 01234 781783.

John Bevington

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