



The gang's all here – a record attendance of thirty-four for the Annual Dinner at the Bell in Woburn on 30th November.

Club competition results

Steel Cup (Advanced)	Winner: Eric Audsley Runner-up: Bryan Harral
Archer Cup (Handicap)	Winner: George Collin Runner-up: David Woolley
Ashwell Cup (All England h'cap)	Winner: Eric Audsley Runners-up: Geoff Strutt and Terry Mahoney
Thomas Philip Earl de Grey Cup (B level)	Winner: Tim Brewer Runner-up: Geoff Strutt
14 point advanced	Winner: Rod Ashwell Runners-up: Eric Audsley and Bryan Harral
De Grey Plate (14 pt h'cap)	Winner: David Morris Runner-up: Richard Keighley
Golf croquet	Winner: Eric Audsley Runner-up: Richard Keighley

Congratulations to all the winners. Those who won the main Advanced, Handicap and B level competitions (or, if unavailable, the runners-up) are invited to play in next year's EACF Champions Day tournament at Wrest Park on September 21st. Please make yourselves available for this if you possibly can.

Subscriptions for 2008

The proposed subscription rates are as follows:

Full members	£35
CA levy	£6.70
Under 16	£10
16-18 or full time student	£20

The CA levy is payable by all full members unless they are already members of another CA registered club and pay the levy there. Note that if you are already a member of a CA affiliated club and then join a CA registered club you have to pay the levy at the registered club.

Any comments on the rates for next year should be passed to the Treasurer, Eric Audsley

Help out and get paid!

During the season we get occasional requests by various groups or other clubs to use the lawns, either in the evening or during the day. These events can only take place if club members are on hand to open up, look after the visitors and lock up afterwards. When the request comes in I can either accept it there and then, which creates a self-imposed obligation to do it myself if nobody else is available, or offer a provisional acceptance, cast around for volunteers and then confirm

the booking later on. It would be a great help if we had a pool of members who could be called on to help with such events. There is an incentive, as you would be paid £20 for your trouble. If the group pay in cash on the day then the £20 can be deducted at source, and if payment is made by cheque then you can submit a claim to the Treasurer. We will be raising the green fee for visiting groups to £5 a head to allow for this.

This arrangement only applies when looking after independent groups or clubs – if a member is bringing a group of friends or colleagues then that member would be responsible for the group and the normal green fee of £3.60 (or whatever is agreed for 2008) would apply.

If you are prepared to put your name forward for the pool please let me know, and we can arrange a quick training session so you know what needs to be done.

Golf croquet coaching course

There is a CA golf croquet coaching course at Wrest Park, planned for April 12 next year. More details will be available in due course, but if you want to make sure of a place please contact Richard Keighley.

Diary of events for 2008

April 12	Golf croquet coaching course
May 16-18	Handicap tournament
May 24-26	Wrest Park Garden Show
June 22	Golf croquet singles
July 4-6	Advanced tournament
July 20	Golf croquet doubles
August 2-3	Advanced tournament
August 23-25	Wrest Park Craft Fair
September 13-14	Handicap tournament
September 21	EACF Champions Day
October 4-5	CA Club Finals weekend

This is a provisional list based on what we already know. The golf croquet events have been pencilled in for the dates indicated, but they could be changed if another date might prove more acceptable – do let me know if this is likely to be the case. I would ask anyone planning to bring a group to let me have any proposed dates as soon as practical (and also to tell me if they may have already mentioned dates which are not listed here). First come, first served, as always

Brewer's Troop



Tim and Gill provide the escort as Richard hauls the lunch-laden limber to the field kitchen on the Saturday of the Club Finals weekend.

Working with schools

This is a new initiative which is very much at the planning stage. My original idea was that the club could run a one-day introduction to Association croquet during the summer half-term and follow this with a coaching course of some form during the summer holiday. The event would be advertised in local schools. This suggestion was circulated to the School Sports partnerships in Luton and Bedford.

In order for the club to be promoted in schools it has to achieve the Minimum Operating Standards Club Accreditation which requires, inter alia, the following:

- A member of the club (not necessarily the same one) to have attended the following workshops:
 - Good Practice and Child Protection
 - Equity in your Coaching
 - Appointed Persons First Aid in Sport
- Implementation of a Child Protection Policy
- Carrying out a risk assessment and establishing emergency procedures
- Having a designated Child Protection Officer
- Having codes of conduct for volunteers and rules for juniors
- Availability of a first aid kit and a telephone

This may sound a little daunting but most of it is reasonable and straightforward, and the forms for the various policies and codes are available. We were in any case considering getting a phone and replacing our ancient first aid kit. The major hurdle would be the courses, so I would be grateful for anyone who has already attended such a course to let me know, likewise if anyone would be prepared to attend one or more of the three. They are all being run locally in the next few months and you can find details on the Courses for Coaches, Volunteers and Teachers page at www.teambedsandluton.co.uk. The club would pay the course fees.

I have invited the Sports Officer from Team Beds and Luton to come over to Wrest Park to discuss the matter further; in the meantime I would be grateful for any comments or suggestions.

That request for photos.....

....met with a less than overwhelming response. However since I have had no reply from English Heritage to the minutes of our meeting I am not in a position to say whether photos will be required or not, so the subject is being passed to the pending tray. If there are any further developments I will let you know.

With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year

John Bevington

11 December 2007