



LEIGHTON-LINSLADE CROQUET CLUB

Secretary:
Roger Stroud
Corks Cottage
180 Common Road
Kensworth
Dunstable
LU6 2PJ
Tel: 01582 873793
Email: rogerstroud302@hotmail.com

Founded 2000

NEWSLETTER - March 2008 Volume 9 Issue 2

Membership Secretary:
Judith Cundell
18 Saxons Close
Leighton Buzzard
LU7 3LT
Tel: 01525 374620
Email: judith.cundell@btinternet.com

The newsletter Editor is John Cundell. Items for the newsletter can be sent to 18 Saxons Close, Leighton Buzzard, Beds LU7 3LT; or emailed to john.cundell@btinternet.com. Tel: 01525 400512 or 374620

“Hooray! - Not Long to Go Now”



Our first newsletter showed the extended lawns and fencing in very wet conditions a few days after the fencing had been erected. This shot was taken on 18th March after Len and John had spent a cold morning marking out and placing the hoops. Our new notices asking folk not to play football etc., are scheduled to be fixed on Good Friday, plus a notice announcing who we are over the top of the roller shutter door at the Clubroom.

Welcome to the second newsletter of 2008. Our 9th season at Pages Park promises to be an exciting one for the club as we look forward to playing on our full-size lawns with no annoying overlap; the improved fencing; and a number of other new developments.

Playing Sessions

The Committee agreed that playing sessions for 2008 will be Tuesday afternoon (Singles Handicap) 2-4pm; Wednesday and Thursday mornings 10am-1pm; Saturday afternoon 2-5pm; Sunday morning (Singles Handicap) 10-12noon; Sunday afternoon 2-5pm. We will not be repeating the evening trial as that was not successful for a number of reasons.

Prospects for the season

Weather permitting, the lawns will be available for play by members from Saturday 29th March with the Official Opening by the Town Mayor planned for 5th April at 2.00pm. If you can't make the first weekend please try and come along for the official

opening.

'Dates for your Diary' follows shortly and as you can see already it looks like being a busy season. We still await some EACF League and 'Friendly' dates which will follow in due course, so keep an eye on the notice-boards in the Clubroom.

Last season, there was little take up of places for the National Trust tournaments at Ickworth. In the circumstances, the Committee only proposes to apply for places for 2008 if members indicate they would like to take part by 25th April latest. Entry Fee is £5 per pair and £3 per person for the singles. Please see calendar for dates.

It is proposed to invite players from other local clubs to join in a tournament organised on "Grass Roots" lines for beginners and high handicappers. No date yet fixed.

Various B Class tournaments (players of say 4-1 handicaps) are being organised for good Club players by the Croquet Association or local Federations. These are shown on the calendar. If you are interested, please notify John or Tony.

Last year's experiment with 1-Ball croquet was relatively



The pathway between the two lawns allows access for non players, albeit being a trifle narrow, but there was no alternative if we wished to keep full-size lawns on the space available. The first horizontal rail at each corner can be unlocked and removed for access to the lawns.



successful despite it being played on some wet evenings. The experiment, kindly led by Wrest Park's Howard Bottomley, will be repeated this year, but this time on Sunday mornings. There will be a couple of sessions in mid Summer, so please look out for details and dates on the Clubroom notice-boards. 1-Ball Croquet is great fun and will introduce you to some new striking techniques which will certainly improve your golf croquet.

Finally, the Committee hopes that some members may like to become coaches or referees. Courses will take place at various venues throughout the year. Further information available from Margaret Brown on 01525 373860.

2008 Dates for your Diary

March

- 29 EACF AGM - Bury St Edmunds
- 29 LAWNS OPEN AT PAGES PARK)

April

- 5 Official Opening of the Club season - 2.00pm
- 12 Coaching Course at Wrest Park (Contact Richard Keighley on 01296 681235 for details)
- 26 Coaching Course (1 day) at Blewbury (-1-2H)
- 30 Last day for entries to NT tournaments

May

- 10/11 East Anglian Open Championship at Colchester

June

- 6 Watford - Friendly - Home
- 4 Fun Evening Wrest Park
- 11 Committee Meeting
- 13 Wrest Park - League - Home
- 14 B-Level event Northampton
- 22 Wrest Park Singles
- 27 Watford - League - Away

July

- 6 Club Fun Day (Provisional)
- 5 NT Golf Doubles at Ickworth
- 12 Club Handicap Singles
- 20 Wrest Park Doubles
- 20 Level Singles Tournament at Ipswich (Entries by 31st May)
- 23 Fun Evening Wrest Park
- 25 Letchworth - League - Home
- 30 Committee Meeting

August

- 6 Taster sessions for local children - 2.00pm (See below)
- 13 Taster sessions for local children - 2.00pm
- 16 Club Garden Party
- 20 Taster sessions for local children - 2.00pm
- 27 Taster sessions for local children - 2.00pm
- 29 Watford - Friendly - Away

September

- 6 B-Level event at Colchester (0-4 Handicaps)
- 7 NT Singles at Ickworth
- 13/14 EACF League Finals at Newport
- 13/14 Centre Stage Finals at Northampton
- 17 Committee Meeting
- 20/21 All England Handicap (0-6H) Final at East Dorset
- 27/(28) Club Doubles

October

- 4/(5) Club Singles

November

- 14 Club AGM and Party

Anyone wishing to enter the NT events or the Level Singles Tournament at Ipswich should contact Tony Wells or John Cundell for further details before the closing dates above.

EACF Golf Croquet League

This season we have an extra club joining our area of the League - Northampton - in addition to Watford, Wrest Park, Letchworth, and Stony Stratford. The Committee proposes to adopt a policy of selecting the strongest available team, by reference to handicap and perhaps form, for each match. Members who wish to be considered for selection by John, Len & Tony will be invited to enroll at the beginning of the season. We have some dates which are listed in the calendar - namely Watford, Wrest Park, and Letchworth. Dates for Stony Stratford and Northampton have yet to be arranged.

Friendlies

This season's friendlies will be against old friends and enemies Watford and Stony Stratford - together with the addition of Letchworth. We have played them in the League and they are looking forward to coming to a friendly with us - and we look forward to visiting their new lawns for the return match. Watford's dates are in the calendar - we await those for Letchworth and Stony Stratford. Keep an eye on the notice-boards at the Clubroom for updates and entry forms.

Inter-Club Championship

This is a new competition for emerging competitive players to gain their first taste of the higher levels of the sport. The Championship is a knockout competition and each match will consist of four players from each club playing singles and doubles matches of three and seven legs respectively. The winning team is the one that wins more of the seven legs. The first round will be against a relatively local club, and if we were to get through that, then we could be playing future rounds anywhere in the country. The entries had to be made by 13th March, therefore the new Handicap List (see later) was used for initial team selection which will be displayed in due course at the Clubroom.

Childrens' Taster Sessions

Under the auspices of the Leighton-Linslade Sports Council, there will be taster sessions for children aged 12 and over on the Wednesday afternoons in August. We will need club members to assist in helping the children go round the course - please contact Margaret Brown if you can help.

New Golf Croquet Rules

Those members on our email list will already be aware of the new Golf Croquet Rules which have been adopted by The Croquet Association for use as from 15th March 2008, as I sent out details to those members. If you have access to the Internet the Rules can be seen at www.croquet.org.uk - click on the 'Golf Croquet' button at

the top of the page, then click on 'Laws and Rulings' on the left hand side of the page, and you will find 'The Laws of Golf Croquet 2008 (3rd Edition)'. If you would like a copy of the rules saved as a PDF file then please email me at john.cundell@btinternet.com. A printed set of the new Rules will also be available at Pages Park from the start of the season.

Members may well ask why have they been changed when we were just getting really used to the 2005 Rules. Well the main reason is to bring UK Rules into line with those of the World Croquet Association. Whilst initially the Rules look quite 'intimidating', on closer inspection there are not too many drastic changes, and those members 'in the know' will no doubt be passing on their findings and

Golf Croquet Handicaps - 2008		
<i>Name</i>	<i>Index</i>	<i>Handicap</i>
Field Martin	421	4
Keighley Richard	355	5
Buckingham Eve	319	6
Cundell John	276	7
Buckingham Len	270	7
Ferris Bryan	266	7
Pengelly Judith	253	7
Stroud Roger	244	8
Lawson George	217	8
Smith Vernon	215	8
Phelps Diana	214	8
Pengelly Una	206	8
Miller Tom	204	8
Jeffers Val	195	9
Bunn Audrey	194	9
Stevens Peter	166	9
Davis Irene	164	9
Cundell Judith	163	9
Clay Sally	155	9
Bown Joy	154	9
Beal Sheila	144	10
Brown Margaret	134	10
Fogg Erica	134	10
Hopton Chris	134	10
Cross Audrey	114	10
Guest Sheila	114	10
Lawson Margaret	113	10
Ferris Joan	104	10
Graves Richard	104	10
Banks Yvonne	94	11
Stroud Caroline	94	11
Smith Ann	84	11
Wells Tony	82	11
Bawden Lynda	57	11
Stammers Tony	16	11
Morris Norma	10	11
Leach Maureen	3	11
Hickman Edna	0	12

knowledge in due course. Two points we did pick up are:

1) If your ball goes off the court it is no longer mandatory to replace this before the next turn. However, a player may request that a ball off court should be placed on the boundary, or that position be marked, before any turn, if he/she wishes.

2) Playing a Wrong Ball. Most players became aware of this rule last season and its harsh penalty if the incorrect ball was played - that is the opponent's choice of either leaving the balls as is after the fault or having them put back to the position before the fault, and then the opponents could decide which of their two balls they would play next. The major change is that if, in a Singles game, the striker plays the partner ball, then the opponent should stop play before the next turn. No points are scored and any balls moved are replaced and the striker then plays the correct ball with no penalty. To avoid delay the opponent should stop play if the striker is about to play the partner ball. This change only applies in Singles, not Doubles.

Handicaps

At the AGM in November I displayed a list of the Handicaps for club members, and following requests had decided to include the list with this newsletter. However together with the new World Croquet Federation (WCF) Golf Croquet Rules mentioned above, the Croquet Association have also decided to change us over to the WCF Handicap range which is different from our existing range.

The range will change from minus 4 to plus 6, to the WCF range of 0 to 12. New cards will be necessary and these have been produced and are already displayed in the Clubroom. I have transferred your existing index points to the new handicap card using the recommended formula from the Croquet Association. There is a list of your new handicaps included here in the accompanying table. These are shown in 'index' order as well as the associated handicap. We will be using this list to aid selection for some of the more competitive matches such as the League and the Inter-Club.

A player's index is changed after each qualifying game by increasing it after a win and decreasing it after a loss. For handicap games the winner's index increases by 10 and the loser's index decreases by 10. For level play games there is a table on the new handicap card which should be used to determine the number of points that are exchanged.

The trigger points are similar to the earlier system except of course they now refer to handicaps of 0 to 12 rather than minus 4 to plus 6. The mathematically minded amongst you will realise that there are now 13 handicap levels rather than 11. This allows the index to now go below 100 to 0 - which is the trigger point for Handicap 12. This should prove better for newer players. A player's index cannot go below zero.

Club Dinner

On 8th February, a substantial contingent of club members and partners and friends turned up at Tilsworth Golf Club for the annual dinner. It was a very enjoyable evening and the food and service was excellent and good value. I'm sure



The chairs are now just inside the door on the left - these and the tables should be the first items to be moved outside. The handicap racks are to the left of the chairs. The noticeboards are now all on the left to give easier access, and the umbrellas are stored above. The clothing area has been doubled in size with more hooks, and above is a wide wooden shelf for bags, etc., with the lower table for the vertically challenged!

The table for the fridge and heater has been raised in order that the trolley can go beneath - and we have a cupboard for food and coffee/tea items donated by Bryan Ferris. Just look at that beautifully painted floor and the re-painted cupboards!



that all members who took part would join me in thanking Sally Clay for arranging the whole thing.

Press Communicator

For the last four years Richard Keighley, John Cundell and John Fogg submitted reports about club activities to the local press. It would be excellent if we could find a volunteer to take over this task for 2008. It is not a particularly onerous task, but John is already well committed with club duties and Roger is in his first year as Secretary. It simply involves compiling a brief report with a photo or two (we can help with the photography part) of club events and submitting this to the Observer and Citizen offices either by hand, post or preferably email within a day or so of the event. We even have a set of

guidelines from the Observer as to how they like the reports presented.

If any member is prepared to take this on please contact Roger or John.

Scoring Stands & Scoring Manager

As reported in the last newsletter the club now owns eight superb scoring stands. Following our request we are pleased to announce that a volunteer has come forward to take over as Scoring Manager/Organiser for the season. Take a bow Irene Davis. Irene is of course one of our more senior members, so it is hoped that a number of the younger folk in the club will come forward and assist Irene when she calls for volunteers at our home League and Friendlies. Irene is on 01525 210260. Many thanks Irene.

Lawn care

Now we have two full size lawns which are in excellent condition, can members please make sure that they only wear flat shoes when playing. It was noticed that a number turned up last year with high heels - and they were not all female!

10th Anniversary

As Margaret Brown mentioned in her report to the Annual General Meeting last November, 2009 will be our 10th Anniversary. It would be excellent if we could lay on something extra special in the way of celebrating this, so if you have any ideas, then please let Roger Stroud know. His number is 01582 873793.

Match Reports

Soham Indoor - March

The only competitive events during our close season are the indoor matches at Soham. Enthusiastic croquet players from clubs throughout East Anglia gather at the Ross Peers Sports Centre, and we reported on our first successful visit on 15th December for the first Indoor Golf Croquet Pairs Tournament when Richard Keighley and John Cundell were victorious.

A second event took place on 16th March and we were represented this time by two pairs - Irene Davis with Sally Clay, and Diana Phelps with Yvonne Banks, who made the relatively long journey through some atrocious weather.

As well as our two teams, there were two from Southchurch, two from Chelmsford, and one from Bury. Every team simply played against the others, six matches, and the result was decided on wins, then hoops for and against.

Although both our teams lost their first games, Diana and Yvonne recovered to win three games, whilst Sally and Irene promptly won four on the trot, then unfortunately they came across Chelmsford B who just couldn't go wrong. Diana and Yvonne finished the day at 3-3, however Sally and Irene's 4-2 overall gave them second place to Chelmsford A.

Well done to you all for upholding the club's record at these indoor events.

Mayor's Civic Service

The Town Mayor will be holding his Civic Service on Sunday 13th April at 3.30pm at All Saints' Parish Church, Leighton Buzzard. It is customary to invite local organisations to join him at this annual event as a gesture of his appreciation to all those who support Leighton-Linslade on both business and social levels.

Following the service, refreshments will be served in the North Transept of the Church. If any member would like to represent the club at this function, then please contact Margaret Brown before 31st March for further details.

'Instant' newsletter

If you included your email address when you completed this year's membership form, this will be the last newsletter you will receive by post! Not only will this mean that we can save money on postage and cut down your Editor's lengthy cycle route, but you will get your newsletter within a few minutes of its completion - and you will see it in colour! It will be attached to emails as a PDF file which can be seen and printed easily on any computer. If any member requires help then please contact me!

Clubroom refurbishment

Members will note from the earlier photographs that the Clubroom has been completely refurbished and re-designed to try and make it more 'roomy' and friendly. A considerable amount of time and effort went in to this and it would be nice if members were to treat this as they would their own home!

Club Badges

There are still some Club Badges available. If you want one for this season then get in quick as the supplies are running low. They are 3ins in diameter, cloth embroidered and can be ironed or sewn on to items of clothing. The cost per badge is £3.50. If you want one or more, just contact John Cundell on 01525 400512, or you can take what you need from the envelope by the notice-boards at the Club room - but please don't forget to leave your money!

Social/Welfare Officer

Members will have noticed from our first 2008 newsletter that Judith Cundell is continuing in this post for 2008, so if you are aware of any member who may benefit from a card and some kind thoughts, please contact Judith on 01525 374620.



Thanks!

Two members have written to the Editor as follows:

Letter 1 - from an anonymous member.

A big 'thank you' to Len Buckingham and John Cundell for their great effort in refurbishing the Clubroom, This was not a 5-minute job, as Len and John spent many hours (and drove many miles) deciding how best to utilise the limited space and then carrying out the work. And they followed that up with a cold four hours marking out and positioning the hoops!

Letter 2 - from Diana Phelps.

On behalf of all members, we would like to say a big thank you to Len and John for their hard work over the last few months, making the hut like a four-star hotel and positioning the hoops, etc.

I would like to wish everyone a good season and lots of wins in the League!

Membership Fee REMINDER!!!

It's that time of the year again - the membership fee is due. If you have not yet paid you will find an application form accompanying this newsletter.

Please complete this and send with the appropriate remittance to the Membership Secretary, Judith Cundell, whose contact details are on the form and on the masthead of this newsletter. If you have an email address please include this as we would like to send as many newsletters and other communications as possible by email to reduce postage and delivery costs.