



# LEIGHTON-LINSLADE CROQUET CLUB

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Founded 2000

## NEWSLETTER - October 2008 Volume 9 Issue 4

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### "An Enjoyable and Variable Season"

Welcome to the fourth newsletter of 2008. It's been an interesting and busy season, despite the poor Summer weatherwise - although we have been relatively lucky with our match days, managing to find reasonable weather - but we did have to postpone the Fun Day before finding some sun. So, without more ado, we will start off with a round-up of the remaining season match reports since our July newsletter.



#### Match Reports

**Club Handicap Singles** - This competition on Saturday 12th July, attracted fifteen keen members - one less than 2007 - who were drawn into three blocks, each competitor playing four games. The top one from each block plus the best runner-up from any of the three blocks, went into semi-finals, and after some very hard fought games, Irene Davis won Block 1; George Lawson Block 2; Tom Miller Block 3; and the best runner-up was Tony Stammers. In the semis, George Lawson beat Irene Davis (7-3) and Tony Stammers beat Tom Miller (7-3). The Final resulted in a fine win for Tony Stammers, beating George (7-4). Congratulations to Tony - a new name amongst the winners.



**EACF League - Letchworth** - Our third League match was against Letchworth away on 25th July. This was one of those almost forgotten very warm days in July, and the four team members, Eve Buckingham, John Cundell, George Lawson and Diana Phelps, enjoyed wonderful hospitality from Letchworth and were very impressed by the superb hard and flat lawns. But they were so fast! We took a long time getting used to the speed and were disadvantaged by the super removal accuracy of the Letchworth players.



Perhaps the hospitality was too overwhelming as our play was not so wonderful! The overall result was Letchworth winning by (12-6). George and Diana had a reasonable day, but John and Eve had an off day!

**Fun Day** - This was originally scheduled for 6th July, and five hardy souls turned up in appalling conditions, however it was decided to reconvene at 2.00pm on Sunday 27th July. The weather was kind and 18 members turned



The first major Club Championship was Handicap Singles and all the participants and some of the helpers are shown above. Semi-finalists were Tony Stammers and Tom Miller; Irene Davis and George Lawson - the Final being then between George and Tony - the latter enjoying his first major win. Well done Tony.





And a 'Fun Day' it certainly was! Left, most of the participants waiting for the off. Above, Diana Phelps returns balls after Judith's attempt to dislodge ping-pong balls from egg-cups in her 'play-off' against John Guest. Below, 1 to r, David Ball attempts balloon bursting - plus three different approaches to 'blind' croquet.



Above left, just don't ask or comment! Middle, Jean Ball and Sheila Guest were runners up in the onion/lemon/lime croquet match. Above right, Judith Cundell won the ping-pong contest. Left, Sally Clay and John Guest won the fruit & veg croquet - seen in serious action at right. Well done Tony for a great day.



up for what became a very enjoyable and fun-filled afternoon. Our organiser, Tony Stammers turned up with balloons, lemons, onions, table-tennis balls, egg-cups, blindfolds - and even some prizes for the lucky winners. If you want to know how the above items could be used in croquet - then some imagination is called for. You would think that trying to run a croquet ball through a hoop blocked by a balloon 'Sellotaped' to the hoop was easy. You

would be wrong! And trying to knock a table-tennis ball from the top of an egg-cup also requires some skill - and as for playing croquet whilst blindfolded - and then finishing off with a game using onions and lemons - well, the mind boggles. Eventual winners were Judith Cundell with the table-tennis ball game, and John Guest and Sally Clay with the fruit and veg.

Well done Tony - even more chaos next year please!





Left, Una Pengelly on her way to beating top seed from Northampton, Charlie Askew with a 2 handicap. Above, lunch in the Pavilion due to inclement weather - from l to r; Irene Davis, Irene Stevens, Charlie Askew (Northampton), Peter Stevens, Una Pengelly, Jean and David Ball, Les & Jill Carrick (N), Sheila Beal, Tim Bunn (N), Tony Stammers and Bryan Ferris. Margaret Brown is tea-making in the kitchen..

**EACF League - Northampton** - This match was at home and we were hopeful that home advantage would come into play. Our team this time was Jean Ball, Irene Davis, Bryan Ferris and Una Pengelly. Our team's handicaps were 10, 9, 7, and 8 respectively - therefore it was with some surprise that Northampton's Team Captain, Charlie Askew, announced that he was a 2 Handicap - so he had to give our players a fair number of bisesques! Despite this he still managed to win three of his four games, and it was only our Una who got the better of him. It was one of those frustrating days when almost all the games went to a deciding hoop - and we kept losing out. The eventual result was Northampton winning by (13-5) - an unflattering scoreline which could quite easily have been reversed. C'est la vie!

**Stony Stratford Friendly Home** - It's always a pleasure to welcome old friends from Stony Stratford to Pages Park. We have been playing Friendlies with SS for at least five years now so the match on 15th August was eagerly awaited. It was the usual format of four doubles games for each pair, and we started off by halving the first round, winning one game in the second and three in the third. So after an excellent lunch break, it was all to play for. Must be something about LL players after they have partaken of refreshment - they lose - and by all four games in the last round. So the overall result was a win by Stony Stratford (10-6). Food and drink for LL players is to be banned in 2009!

The LL gourmets were John Cundell/Eve Buckingham; Tony Wells/Sally Clay; Diana Phelps/Tony Stammers; David Ball/Bryan Ferris.

**EACF League - Stony Stratford** - Just a short week later four team members - Eve Buckingham, Irene Davis, Richard Keighley and Una Pengelly travelled to Stony Stratford for our last League match. John Cundell went along as first reserve and ended up running the event - with some help from David Ball who came along in the afternoon just to support the team.

The format is well known now, but for any new members, a brief resume. Each team member has to play a timed and best of 13 hoops singles game against all four opponents. Handicaps are applied. After the singles two doubles are played. Once again we didn't have the best of days and despite some close finishes, SS always seemed to

manage that final hoop, and ultimately won (14-4). So well done to Stony.

**EACF League Results** - This was a close fought contest with almost every area ending up with three teams in contention. The Northern Area had four teams entered and winners Hunstanton A; Central Area had three teams, winners Colchester; Eastern Area five teams and winners Purleigh whilst our Eastern Area had the toughest entry with six teams - with three teams ending up with four wins, so the Semi-Finalist was determined by number of games won which was Letchworth with 56 against Northampton with 54 and Stony Stratford with 49. Semi-Finalist winners were Hunstanton 'A' who beat Purleigh (11-7), and Letchworth who beat Colchester (11-7). The Final was won by Letchworth with 11 games to 7.

Although we didn't get to the Finals this year, some 14 LLCC members took part - some of these for the first time - and the experience gained will no doubt be very helpful for the future.

**Watford Friendly Away** - 29th August was the date and eight members, Sally Clay and Tony Wells, Bryan Ferris and Diana Phelps, David and Jean Ball, and Irene and Peter Davis, travelled to Watford where they were greeted by the usual tea and biscuits. David Ball reports that by lunchtime the scores were all square, but once again the lunch interval proved to be LL's demise as the team went downhill during the afternoon session and we came away with the Silver medal! However, David reports it was still an enjoyable day against friendly opponents. The score was 9-7 to Watford.

**Stony Stratford Friendly Away** - With our home Friendly and our League Match against Stony Stratford in August, it only seemed like a few days before we were entertained at SS on 12th September. Once again we were fairly lucky with the weather. In this dreadful summer we managed to pick a dull but almost dry day, and were made very welcome by SS. The usual doubles format applied - players were Tony Wells and Sally Clay, John Guest and David Ball, Sheila Guest and Erica Fogg, and Tony Stammers and John Cundell. TW/SC halved their matches, as did JC/TS. At least three other matches went to the 13th hoop and SS were victorious on all of these, so the overall result was a win for SS by 12 games to 4. After the 'official' part of the day, as it was still early afternoon,





Richard Keighley briefs the players prior to our recent home friendly with Stony Stratford. Above, the scoring system has gone down as a great success with visitors to the club this season - Martin Field and Jean Ball keep a close eye on the games. Below, Richard Keighley and Bryan Ferris in determined mood.

four matches were arranged with pairs made up from one LL player and one SS player. Unfortunately the heavens decided to dump a very large quantity of water on to the lawns in a very short time, so after a friendly sojourn in the clubhouse, it was decided to call it a day. We will get our revenge next year.

**Letchworth Friendly Home** - Earlier in the season it was planned that this Friendly was to have been played at Letchworth, and a number of members were looking forward to seeing and playing on their new lawns. For a



Left and below: Letchworth Friendly - superb weather and a superb win. Pictured are Yvonne Banks and John Guest, Tony Wells removing the worm casts by our new 'swisher' donated by the Council, Peter Davis in action with scorers Judith Cundell, Peter Davis, and the two Irenes - plus Letchworth and LL at lunch!







Our four team members in action at the EACF League match at Stony Stratford. Irene Davis watches Stony's Rex Hale perform a successful jump shot. Above right, Una Pengelly about to score. Right, Richard Keighley's shot studied by Stony's Neville Crook, and far right, Eve Buckingham in action. Note the variation of grips.

number of reasons it was not possible for us to go to Letchworth, so we hosted the match at Pages Park.

We were blessed by an absolutely glorious warm day and an equally glorious convincing win of 11-5 - even better in that as reported earlier, Letchworth had won the EACF League for our area and then went on to win the League Final, so it was great to beat them.

David and Jean Ball and Yvonne Banks and John Guest halved their four matches each; Tony Wells and Sally Clay won three of their four; and Bryan Ferris and Peter Stevens scored a brilliant clean sweep, winning all four matches. Helpers included Margaret Brown (tea, etc.) Irene Stevens, Irene and Peter Davis, Judith Cundell and Martin Field scoring; Val Jeffers and Jean Ball supplying the cakes; with John Cundell as referee and manager. Thanks to all concerned.

**Club Doubles and Singles** - Our club tournaments traditionally bring our playing year to an end and the first event, the Doubles, took place in lovely Autumn conditions once the fog and mist had cleared - with dry and shirt-sleeve warm weather in the afternoon.

This year we had the luxury of a whole weekend set aside for the Singles and the Doubles to cater for larger entries and inclement weather.

For the Doubles this was not needed as the entry was the same as last year, 12 pairs, and as mentioned above the weather was perfect.

The draws for both competitions had been made some days previously by non-playing members and friends. In

Stony Stratford away Friendly in September was as pleasant as always - below Sheila Guest prepares to remove Neville Crook's (leaning on his mallet) ball, watched by Erica Fogg and Stony's John Burridge. Below right, David Ball drives forcefully, watched by his partner John Guest.



the Doubles there were two blocks of six pairs, and after some very hard fought matches the overall results prior to the Semis and Final were as follows:

#### Block 1

		Wins	Diff.
1st	Elaine Newman/Val Jeffers	3	+5
2nd	Roger and Caroline Stroud	3	+3
3rd	Sally Clay/Irene Davis	3	+2
4th	Eve and Len Buckingham	3	+1
5th	Judith Cundell/Erica Fogg	3	-2
6th	John Thorp/Dierdrea Ellins	0	-9

#### Block 2

1st	Una and Judith Pengelly	4	+10
2nd	John Cundell and David Ball	4	+9
3rd	Joan and Bryan Ferris	2	-3
4th	Margaret and George Lawson	2	-4
5th	Jean Ball/Peter Davis	2	-5
6th	Yvonne Banks/Diana Phelps	1	-7

Semi-finalists were John Cundell and David Ball who beat Elaine Newman and Val Jeffers by 7-3; and Roger and Caroline Stroud who beat Una and Judith Pengelly by







Club Doubles. All players at top. So that's why David Ball played with John Cundell rather than wife Jean! Edna Hickman took the top pic with help from Diana. Finalists at left. John Cundell makes the winning shot - excellent action photo by Judith Cundell.

7-6. The Final was a hard fought battle with Roger and Caroline going into an early 2 hoop lead, John and David then overtook them to lead 6-2; then a strong fight back by Roger and Caroline brought them back to 6-5 - but John Cundell and David Ball were successful on hoop 12 to win 7-5. Congratulations to both - especially to David in his first competitive season.

**So to the next Saturday and the Singles** - well, the

weather was promised to deteriorate in the week preceding and improve by the weekend - it did the opposite! As Saturday approached the forecast worsened and the day dawned cloudy, calm, cold and dry - with the promise of wind and rain in mid afternoon. This proved correct and by 12.00 noon we had to take down the gazebo as it was close to departing Pages Park as a low flying tent! Twenty two members arrived very promptly before





Club Singles. Top left - first players away with the huddle in the gazebo! Above, some of the players in action. Above right, Judith takes a few moments away from her organizing duties with the other Judith! Below: the final 12th hoop of the Final - Una's blue and black balls are either side of the hoop - can David remove them or perhaps run the hoop with his red to take the Final to the 13th? After one of those shots where all three balls were struck, they came down with the black bang in front of the hoop and it was all over! Below right, the Semi-Finalists.



the 9.00am start time - the lawns had been prepared beforehand by David Ball, John Cundell and Tony Wells. JC then explained that there were 50 7-hoop games to be played and that if all players cooperated, it would be just about possible to get the four blocks played by mid-afternoon. The enthusiasm was excellent and with the help of Judith Cundell as 'match organiser and motivator' we completed the block play by 2.00pm, so there was time for the Semis and Finals before the rain came.

#### Block 1

		Wins	Diff.
1st	David Ball	4	+3
2nd	Len Buckingham	3	+7
3rd	Eve Buckingham	2	0
4th	Bryan Ferris	2	-1
5th	Erica Fogg	2	-2
6th	Florrie Jeater	2	-7

#### Block 2

1st	Una Pengelly	3	+8
2nd	Sheila Beal	3	+4
3rd	Caroline Stroud	3	+2
4th	Roger Stroud	1	-3
5th	Roy Kemp	0	-11

#### Block 3

1st	Judith Pengelly	4	+12
2nd	Tony Wells	4	+4
3rd	Margaret Lawson	4	+3
	*John Thorp	1	-12
	*George Lawson	0	-8
	*Tony Stammers	1	-2

\*Not given a position as the last game between GL and TS was not played as it would not affect the winner.

#### Block 4

1st	John Cundell	3	+8
2nd	Jean Ball	3	+4
3rd	Sally Clay	3	+3
4th	Elaine Newman	1	-3
5th	Yvonne Banks	0	-8

Semi-Finalists were Una Pengelly who beat John Cundell by 7-4; and David Ball who beat Judith Pengelly by 7-6. The Final was a hard fought battle in very difficult windy conditions, and was watched by an enthusiastic if cold audience who nevertheless gave cheers to both players. The match ended on the 12th hoop where Una Pengelly was successful, winning by 7 hoops to 5. Many congratulations to Una on a fine win, and also to David, rounding off a very successful first year.

### Garden Party

The Garden Party was held on 16th August at the home of Diana Phelps. It was a great success with some 40 plus members and friends enjoying a warm afternoon in summer sunshine - even more surprising after the dreadful forecasts all week which even led to suggestions that it should be postponed!

There were a number of games in full use from 3.00pm until after 6.00pm, lots of socialising - plus a fine spread of tea, cakes, etc. Thanks are due to Diana for her wonderful and kind hospitality, and to all those who worked hard to make the event a success - organising and providing food, the raffle, moving all the chairs and gazebo and urn from Pages Park, and providing the games. I hope that the photo page gives some idea as to the enjoyable time.

### 'Give it a Go!'

This summer, our Club has taken part in a joint initiative by Team Beds and Luton and the Leighton Buzzard Observer to persuade local people to try out a new sporting activity. Every Wednesday afternoon in August, Richard Keighley was on hand to offer coaching in golf croquet at Pages Park and he was ably assisted by Margaret Brown, Caroline Stroud and Bryan and Joan Ferris.

Numbers varied for each session between 4 and 9, but the most regular participants were a group of three young women and their project worker from Bedfordshire & Luton Mind, the mental health charity. Mind encourages those they are helping to recover from mental illness to

take up a sport as a fun activity and as an escape from the stresses and strains of everyday life. The group found golf croquet to their liking and it was rewarding to note how they gained in confidence and enjoyed competitive games. At the final session, they even brought two young men along and delighted in beating them!

Two grandsons of members also took part and it was a pleasure to welcome new member John Thorp at every session.

### Indoor at Soham

There will once again be Indoor Croquet at Soham, near Cambridge during the winter months. Tony Wells informs us that the first weekend will be 15/16th November and the second will be 14/15th March 2009. Further details will be available shortly from Tony on 01525 379107 or email [anthony.wells11@btinternet.com](mailto:anthony.wells11@btinternet.com).

### Press Communicator

For the last four years Richard Keighley, John Cundell and John Fogg submitted reports about club activities to the local press. In recent newsletters we asked if any member would be prepared to take on this duty and we are now pleased to report that we have a new volunteer who has already had some material published by the LB Observer. David Ball is the man so keep him informed if you have any news worthy of the press.

### Scoring Stands & Scoring Manager

As reported in previous newsletters the club now owns eight superb scoring stands. They have been used in our League Home matches and some of the Friendlies this season - mainly under the overall management of Irene Davis. Our visitors were much impressed and they added a really professional touch and were of tremendous help to players, organisers, and spectators. Our grateful thanks to Irene and the club members and friends who turned up to man the stands under varying weather conditions.

If you would like to help next year then simply pop your name in the appropriate column on the entry forms for the various events as they appear in the clubroom.

### Thanks From:

Both George Lawson and Len Buckingham have asked me to pass on their grateful thanks for the cards and good wishes sent to them during their recent stays in Luton & Dunstable hospital. They both expressed the importance of knowing that people were thinking of them during trying times.

Similarly Roger Stroud has also asked me to thank all members for the cards and good wishes he has and is still receiving.

Una Pengelly has written with the following message: "A big thank-you to the organizers and caterers for the successful end-of-season tournaments - and a special mention to Judith C for her super efficient running of the singles event ensuring players had the minimum time off-lawn. Thank-you, also, to the committee members for your sterling work throughout the year - it is much appreciated." Thanks - Una (Ed).

We would take this opportunity of extending the good wishes from the club to any members not in good health





A very successful garden party at the home of Diana Phelps, pictured above right - and weren't we lucky with the weather following an absolutely dire forecast! Our pictures reflect the genuine enjoyment and fun obviously enjoyed by all present - from the impromptu auction and fashion show to the games supplied by Peter and Irene Davis and Richard Keighley.





## Attendance Breakdown - 2008

Our Membership Secretary Judith Cundell has extracted the following information from Len Buckingham's attendance sheets for 2008. There were 27 weeks of play. (Figures do not include League, Friendlies or Championships).

Sessions	Sunday (AM)	Sunday (PM)	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Saturday
Play was possible	21	22	20	22	24	22
No play due to weather	3	2	4	2	0	2
Average players where play was possible	3	12	11	16	12	16
Average over all sessions	3	11	9	15	12	16
Highest session attendance	8	20	19	26	22	28

and express best wishes for a return to normality.

New members might like to note that we have a club Welfare Officer so if you are aware of any member who may benefit from a card and some kind thoughts, please contact Judith Cundell on 01525 374620.

## Club Membership

At the close of the season we have 58 members - the highest in the club's history. Furthermore there are three more golf croquet players who have expressed a definite intention to join us in 2009 - so let's hope that the third lawn is playable early next season otherwise we are going to have some rather busy sessions.

## 'Instant' newsletter

If you included your email address when you completed this year's membership form, you will normally have received this newsletter via email - although it was necessary to post this one because of the extra paperwork for the AGM, Constitution and Club Dinner. If you have an email address that we do not know about or have changed recently then please email [john.cundell@btinternet.com](mailto:john.cundell@btinternet.com).

## Club Badges

There are still some Club Badges available. If you want one 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. A number are always available at the Clubroom or contact me on 01525 400512 or email [john.cundell@btinternet.com](mailto:john.cundell@btinternet.com).

## Other Odds & Ends

**Biscuits!** Our Quartermaster has asked me to suggest to members that biscuit consumption could do with a trifle curtailment! Towards the end of the season it became apparent that even after taking into account the increasing cost of food, our 'biscuit bill' was going through the roof - or perhaps one should say 'down the tubes'! The idea is tea and a biscuit - not late breakfast, dinner or tea. As the club does not wish to be responsible for health problems caused by excess fat and calorie intake, we would ask some members to undertake a more dietary attitude for 2009 - otherwise the quality will have to deteriorate to plain rather than chocolate digestives!

**Clothes Shop!** The extra hangers in the clubroom were intended to give a bit more space, mainly for visitors as well as for club members - not as an extra wardrobe outside the house! When we have visiting clubs it is now almost impossible to find one empty hanger. Many of the items appear to have taken up long term residence and appear to never be used.

## Numbers and Pegs Systems

There still seems to be a little confusion over the systems for deciding who plays with whom on busy days. By definition a busy day is when we get more players than the lawns can handle in one go - i.e., 16 on a normal doubles session and 8 on a handicap session. The suggestion from our June committee meeting last year was to use the card system initially, however if fewer than the 16 or 8 have turned up then go over to the pegs and/or decide amicably between members as to subsequent order of play. It was felt that the card system is much fairer initially as it removes the situation that can arise with the pegs whereby a late arrival can end up playing whilst those who arrived on time don't get chosen.

The card system was a trial for 2008 and for next year there will be more cards so they don't have to be recycled which does cause some confusion - and they will also be laminated to make them a bit more robust.

The arrival of the third lawn will of course help enormously as it will allow 24 players to get on immediately.

## Constitution

All members should have a copy of the Club's Constitution. Unfortunately this has not happened in recent years so enclosed with this newsletter you will find a copy for your records and information.

## Leighton-Linslade Social Club

So we come to the end of another season, but not the end of our social gatherings! The Wednesday morning social club met again on 8th October in the Pages Park pavilion at 10.00am. Organiser Len Buckingham comments that we really do need all those who can spare the time and enjoy meeting others to attend. The fee is £2, and for that you get refreshments and the opportunity to play many board games, darts, table tennis, dominoes and crib. The activities generally finish about noon, and the hall is usually already warm on arrival, so please support this venture if you possibly can. Friends of members are welcome for the same attendance fee, refreshments included. So Len looks forward to seeing you all on the first Wednesday after you receive this newsletter, but he hopes that most of you will have attended on the 8th.

## From the Treasurer

Our finances at the end of this season are healthy, a satisfying result in the present financial climate. As usual I will be presenting the final accounts together with a breakdown of the expenses and income sources at the AGM.

We will however have a much greater expenditure in the



coming season. Six new sets of balls, possible re-coating of the hoops, and most likely some expense in order to get the third lawn ready for the new season. Also the lawn rent will be increased, and we are hoping to negotiate an annual fee for the use of the lawns all day every day. Sundry other expenses will need to be absorbed, and in the light of this I shall be recommending to the AGM that the annual fee be increased to £55.00. The membership fee has been fixed at £50.00 since the 05/06 season, and was £45 in 2000.

We have donated £50 to the Mayor's Charity Fund, from the garden party raffle and ticket sales.

I have agreed to continue standing as Treasurer providing the membership wish me to continue.

### From the Chair

The Club's ninth playing season is now closed whilst the indoor activities of the Social Club at the Pavilion are in full swing. The AGM and now 'traditional' party follow shortly and after Christmas we will have the Annual Dinner to anticipate.

Although we cannot put the world to rights, we can contribute in our own little bit of it to making life more congenial for at least some people. This, I know, our Club has succeeded in doing this year.

Our AIM (see Constitution) is to enable more (and different) people to benefit from what we value so much. It is my hope that members will bear this in mind as the Club continues to flourish and that a tendency to insularity will be reversed.

With love, Margaret.

### 10th Anniversary

We have a tentative programme of events to celebrate our 10th Anniversary (one is below) however members are invited to put forward any further ideas. Please contact any committee member.

### Coaches Training Course - March 2009

As part of our 10th Anniversary celebrations the Club has invited the Croquet Association to run a training course for golf croquet coaches on Saturday and Sunday, 28/29th March 2009. The main coach will be Jennett Blake, assisted by John Munroe and David Tutt. All our usual opponent clubs have been invited to submit the names of candidates but the invitation will eventually be open to all Association Clubs via the Gazette. Numbers will be limited to about 16 and to date we already have two names from Stony Stratford and three from Watford.

If you would like to take this weekend course, leading to the award of a Club Coach Badge, please contact Margaret Brown on 01525 373860 as soon as possible in order that details can be sent to you.

### Annual Club Dinner

After the very successful event held in February at Tilsworth Golf Centre, we are pleased to be able to report that the 2009 Club Dinner will be at the same venue on Friday 6th February 2009 7.30-8.00pm.

The price is as per 2008, £19.95 for the 3-Course menu or £15.95 for the 2-Course. Enclosed with the newsletter you will find the menu and a booking form. The latter should be completed and returned to David Ball (who has kindly volunteered to be the 2009 organiser) at Florindell, The Dell, off Reach Lane, Heath & Reach, Leighton Buzzard, Beds. LU7 0AL. Please make sure you fill in your requirements by putting the appropriate letter choice (A, B, C, or D) against each course category - and don't forget to enclose a cheque made payable to Leighton-Linslade Croquet Club. Early booking is advisable as places may be limited.

### The 13th Hoop!

If you've got this far, you have come to the end of the largest newsletter to date! Hope you enjoyed it.



### Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held at Northall Village Hall at 7.30pm on Friday 14th November 2008, followed by the traditional jolly party at around 8.15pm.

Every member is entitled to bring a guest to join in the fun, but the meeting itself is an opportunity to raise any matter of interest or concern. It is also an opportunity for a member to volunteer his or her services to the Club. Any offers would be much appreciated.

Please come along to the meeting and party. You are all very welcome!



On 25th September, during a Thursday morning session, Diana Phelps was presented with a Birthday cake on the occasion of her 75th. Right, a fine setting during the Doubles which emphasised how fortunate we were for most of our matches this year in terms of the weather.

