



newsletter

Match results

Mary Rose final v Woking (at Surbiton)

1 October

Lost 3-4

Wrest Park	Woking	WP score
Bryan Harral (1)	Malcolm Bigg (0)	-25
George Collin (1½)	Alan Edwards (½)	
John Bevington (1)	Collin Southern (3)	+15
Terry Mahoney (1½)	Annabel McDiarmid (2)	-1
Bryan Harral	Malcolm Bigg	+14
George Collin	Alan Edwards	-9
John Bevington	Annabel McDiarmid	+6
Terry Mahoney	Collin Southern	-2

Last year's final weekend at Surbiton was windy and very wet, and one Wrest Park supporter who had arrived on Sunday morning for the Longman Cup final began the day by pushing the squeegee to remove standing water on lawns 3 and 4. The contrast with this year could not have been greater, with record October temperatures and unbroken sunshine. The lawns were officially "soft and easy", according to George Noble, and were in excellent condition.



George, Terry, John and Bryan after the match.

In the doubles on lawn 1 Woking were in form from the word go. Wrest Park were not, and it was not until Woking reached 4-back and peg that Wrest Park took croquet. Woking's accuracy and touch deserted them briefly but Wrest Park were only able to score one hoop before their fate was sealed. Wrest Park's participation in the doubles was best summed up by a supporter who said "We didn't see you on the lawn very much".

The morning singles were double-banked on lawn 2. John Bevington got the first break to 4-back as Collin Southern struggled to find his rhythm, but then set up a wired rush to hoop 6 on the East boundary only to be

told that the pioneer for 1-back was also cross-wired by the peg. He later made up for this oversight by hitting in from near corner 4 when Collin's balls, for 4-back and 3, were positioned just in front of and behind the hoop ready to make hoop 3 and complete the peel, and went on to win +15.

Terry Mahoney consistently hit-in against Annabel McDiarmid and had both balls on rover when he attempted a rover peel from what in racing parlance would be described as a distance, with an opposition ball dangerously close by. Neither ball got through, but Annabel missed and Terry later needed a 5 foot peg-out to win. He played it gently, the forward ball missed and he pegged out his other ball. He had two more shots at the peg, both of which were close, but Annabel held her nerve to win +1 and put Woking 2-1 up.



Supporters David Marsh, Ray Pearcy, John Wheeler and Tom Anderson join the team for lunch.

After an excellent lunch the afternoon singles got under way. Alan Edwards and George Collin had a cautious game with more than a few mistakes – Alan picked up his ball after a croquet stroke, and when George grovelled through 2-back but couldn't hit anything he decided to stick his ball in baulk despite a lift coming! George battled hard but Alan's greater accuracy won out in the end and he won +9. Collin Southern had recovered his form in the afternoon and his game against Terry had a dramatic finish. Collin had both balls on the peg, but Terry caught up and reached the same position. Terry then put Collin's ball off the lawn and was unable to join up, but Collin hit the 25 yard shot at partner and left a rush to the peg. Terry missed but the rush went awry and Collin left both balls near the peg. Terry missed narrowly and Collin pegged out to win +2, which gave Woking their fourth win and the match.

Bryan and Malcolm's game saw frequent innings changes and wide joins, which made for slow progress at first. Malcolm was for 4-back and 4 when Bryan found his form and two turns later was for 4-back and peg.

Malcolm missed the lift, whereupon Bryan was able to finish +14. John and Annabel were the last to start, and, with the match still in the balance, the initial play was circumspect. John was the first to make progress as Annabel failed hoop 1 more than once, but he then wasted a golden opportunity when, wanting 1-back with Annabel's balls both at hoop 1, he completely missed an easy rush to 3-back from the third corner. Once Collin and Terry's game finished there was only honour to play for, and John eventually won a close game +6.



Terry in play at hoop 3 during his game against Collin.



Woking receive the trophy from CA President Quiller Barrett.

Congratulations to Woking on winning the 2011 Mary Rose trophy, presented by CA President, Quiller Barrett who also thanked Surbiton on behalf of the visitors for providing, in order of importance, fine beer, fine catering and fine lawns. We should perhaps add that their management of the weather is unlikely to be surpassed.

Pavilioned in splendour?



Views of the left and right-hand side of the pavilion, showing on the left the ladies loo, boiler room and sink area.



When the club moves to its new site at the top of the drive in 2013 we expect to be sharing the use of the pavilion with Silsoe Park Rangers football club, its current tenants. The pavilion, originally used by the NIAE Social and Sports Club, has running water, electricity and gas available and will be a great improvement on our current facilities. The fact that cars can be parked just outside is another advantage.

The two changing rooms, one of which is shown on the left, are at the back of the pavilion and are entered via doors on the outside. Note the gents loo, showers and basins.

Parts of the pavilion could do with refurbishment, and we will be taking this up with EH and the football club.

Tractor boys at work



The contractors have been taking advantage of the dry weather to continue with the preparation of the site at the top of the drive for the new lawns – this photo was taken on Friday 14th October.

Club competition winners

Steel Cup (Advanced)	John Bevington Runner-up: Eric Audsley
Archer Cup (Handicap)	David Marsh Runner-up: Tim Brewer
Ashwell Cup (All England h'cap)	David Marsh Runners-up: Eric Audsley and Tim Brewer
Thomas Philip Earl de Grey Cup (B level)	<i>unfinished</i>
14 point advanced	<i>unfinished</i>
De Grey Plate (14 pt h'cap)	David Morris Runner-up: Cliff Hayes
Golf croquet	<i>unfinished</i>

Annual Dinner

As announced previously, this will be at the South Beds Golf Club on Friday 25 November at 7 for 7.30pm.

There are still places available, so if you would like to come do send the form off if you haven't done so already. Playing or non-playing partners are of course welcome.

Corporate croquet

Some of you will have seen the article by Martin French in the latest issue of the Croquet Gazette, in which he describes the fund-raising opportunities of corporate evenings. Wrest Park have for many years held events for local groups such as the Amptill 41 Club and various local branches of the Round Table, and for a time groups from an aerospace company in Welwyn Garden City were also regular visitors.

This season saw something new – an invitation from Brocket Hall, who had seen our website, to provide an afternoon's croquet for some conference delegates. They agreed to mark out and mow an area next to the main building (which also serves as the helipad) and the date was set for Friday 7th October.

The lawn only measured about 15 x 12 yards, and although it was far from flat the hoops were generous.

Tournament hoops, balls and mallets were borrowed from the club. Brocket Hall did have a new set, but as it was a Jaques "garden" set, i.e. very lightweight, it was felt that the players would do better with something heavier.



Although 20 players were expected, the fact that it was Friday afternoon and the conference (on "Compliance" – I did not probe further) had finished meant that only eight took part, and the numbers dwindled as more taxis arrived. Still, the weather held and they had a good time.

Perhaps we should consider trying to attract more business like this in the future.

John Bevington

17 October 2011