



# LEIGHTON-LINSLADE CROQUET CLUB

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## NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2017 Volume 18 Issue 3

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### “2017 Season Round-up”



Welcome to the third newsletter of 2017. This final publication for 2017 covers the whole season. Those of you who have internet access - currently 41 of our 46 members, will no doubt have seen most of the following on the website - so apologies for repetition.

The Opening Ceremony this year was performed by Councillor Steve Cotter on April 1st - pictures above.

We have enjoyed another busy season with events taking place - ranging from national competitions, area tournaments, friendlies, etc. We owe a great debt to those who helped arrange the dates for the fixtures, organised and managed the events and teams, the caterers, those who maintained and set up the lawns, our scorers, launderers, also to our officers and committee members.

### Friendly - Leighton-Linslade v Watford - Away at Cassiobury Park - 13th April - reported by Roger Stroud

Leighton-Linslade fielded a team of eight who travelled in two cars, Malcolm Kirby taking Tony Wells, Sally Clay and John Thorp; with Roger Stroud taking Jean Ball, Helen Wilkinson and Mary Kemp. Roger arrived at the lawns at about 9:30am, only having taken 30 mins going via the M1 and Watford town centre; Malcolm arrived about 10am.

Anne Dennis was organising the day for Watford. Our first friendly of 2017 was away to Watford. A very sociable day as can be seen in Roger's photographs.

pairings were John T and Helen, Jean and Roger, Malcolm and Mary, and Tony with Sally. Watford pairings were Nick Archer and John Suckling, Simon Hathrell and Ron Drew, Maureen Croft and Veronica Fitzgerald, and Andre Machell with Anne Dennis.

It was good weather although going chilly when the sun went away. We were using all three lawns with double banking only on Lawn 1 and play got under way about 10.30 - to warm up really.

After round one, the score was level at two games each, with Malcolm and Mary beating Maureen and Veronica 7-2; Tony and Sally beating Andre and Anne 7-3; John and Helen lost 7-5 to Nick and John, whilst Jean and Roger lost 7-5 to Simon and Ron.

Round two saw Leighton start to take a lead, with Tony and Sally, Jean and Roger and John and Helen all winning; so, at lunchtime Leighton were winning 5-3.

Round 3 saw honours even with Tony and Sally plus Jean and Roger both winning, taking the score to 7-5 to Leighton-Linslade. Round 4 again saw honours even with





Some of the players in the 4 Club Charity Series - clockwise from left: our John Thorp, our David Ball, Wingrave's Richard Keighley, Northampton's Les Heard, Watford's Nick Archer, and our Roger Stroud. Above: Ross Bagni reads out the results and highest scorer Les Heard accepts a bottle of wine.

John and Helen plus Jean and Roger both winning, taking the final score to 9-7 to Leighton-Linslade.

Refreshments were laid on with tea, coffee and a good selection of cakes. Malcolm thanked Watford for making all the arrangements, saying we all enjoyed what turned out to be a very close match.

#### **4 Club GC Charity Series - 24th April - Leighton-Linslade**

This new competition was introduced in our previous newsletter – details have since been formulated and the rules for the initial rounds of 2017 were set out recently by the four clubs – Leighton-Linslade, Watford, Northampton and Wrest Park. The original idea was suggested by John Thorp and David Ball, and the rules were formulated by John Thorp and Ross Bagni, Roger Nicholls from Watford, Richard Keighley from Wrest Park and Les Heard from Northampton. Ross Bagni offered to manage the first round to be played at Leighton-Linslade on 24th April.

The basic rules are:

All players must have a handicap within the range of -6 to 5. Three from each club.

Each club is entitled to nominate its three players for each leg to the organiser of that leg, say 14 days before the event, together with a reserve, if available. If a club declares that it cannot provide three players, the organiser may firstly call on the reserve from his own host club. If he has no reserve, he has discretion to call up a reserve from one of the two remaining participating clubs. It remains a requirement that each participating player has a handicap

of five or less.

Each player to pay £6 in cash on the day. The host club will retain £5 of this amount and the balance of £1 is to be placed in the charity pot. The charity pot of £12 collected on the day of the leg plus any accumulated amount is to be passed to the organiser of the next leg, culminating in a sum of £48 being awarded to the winning club at the end of the final leg at Northampton for donation to a charity of its choice.

The method of play is Level play - 13 point games - two blocks of six, all to play all in each block. Winners of each block play for first and second places overall; second places in each block for third and fourth, etc., down to twelfth.

Points are allocated to each club based on the finishing order of each leg – i.e. 12 points for first place, 11 points for second place, down to one point for twelfth place. The Club with the highest number of points overall after the four legs have been completed will be declared the winner. Trust you have taken all that in!

After a month waiting for rain to irrigate our lawns, the 24th April dawned cold and with the promise of wintry showers. Our players and visitors were not put off and all arrived before 9.00am after earlier risers Ross Bagni, David Ball, John Cundell, John Thorp and Roger Stroud had set up the lawns, gazebos etc.

The teams were David Ball, John Thorp and Roger Stroud from LLCC; Les Heard, Mike Hills and Peter Stansfield from Northampton; Nick Archer, Anne Dennis and Steve Dennis from Watford; and Richard Keighley, Richard Skidmore and Rob Chatwin from Wrest Park.



General view from lawn 3 during the 4 Clubs Charity match.

The twelve players were split into two blocks and played five games each. By mid-afternoon the blocks were complete, and after a short break while Ross sorted out the results, which were very close, the opposite numbers from each block played to sort out the overall final positions as below.

Name	Club	Position	Points
Les Heard	Northampton	1	12
Nick Archer	Watford	2	11
Mike Hills	Northampton	3	10
Peter Stansfield	Northampton	4	9
David Ball	LLCC	5	8
John Thorp	LLCC	6	7
Richard Keighley	Wrest Park	7	6
Steve Dennis	Watford	8	5
Richard Skidmore	Wrest Park	9	4
Anne Dennis	Watford	10	3
Roger Stroud	LLCC	11	2
Rob Chatwin	Wrest Park	12	1

This gave the final club positions as:

Northampton	31
Watford	19
Leighton-Linslade	17
Wrest Park	11

An excellent result for Northampton, however there are three more rounds to come at Watford, Wrest Park and Northampton – so all still to play for. The overall winner, Les Heard, was presented with a fine bottle of red wine.

Three of our newer members took part in the Dunstable Friendly on a pretty cold day - left to right, Dave Gwillim, Gill Gwillim and John Boon with one of our founder members - Sally Clay.



Les and others all agreed this was an innovative and inspiring competition and congratulated Ross for managing an excellent day, and thanked LLCC members for their enthusiasm and help on the day – including Jean Ball and Val Jeffers for the fine cakes.

### Dunstable Friendly - Home - 8th May - reported by Roger Stroud

On a very cold morning, although no rain, Dunstable Croquet Club visited our club for a friendly match. Credit goes to our eight players who all turned up early to help set up before our visitors arrived, led by their captain John Wright.

Roger Stroud carried out the organisation for the day, starting play about 10:00am especially as all players needed to move around to warm up.

The teams were:

Leighton Linslade: Sally Clay and John Boon, John Thorp and Dave Gwillim, Val Jeffers and Gill Gwillim, Una Pengelly and Lin Boon.

Dunstable: John Wright and Wendy Smith, Peter Wade-Wright and Liz Alder, Ray Kirby and Eve Eason, Sally Layton and Eileen Southern.

Leighton won 3-1 in both rounds one and two, making the score 6-2 halfway through the rounds. Rounds 3 and 4 were level at two games each giving a final score of Leighton 10 to Dunstable 6.

After play there was an excellent selection of cakes supplied by Jean Ball and Val Jeffers.

There was confident play from our newer members who I am sure enjoyed the match.

## Mix 'n Match Doubles Handicap - 20th May

Not such a healthy entry this year with just 14 members participating giving seven teams. This meant that a large block of seven rounds would need to be played giving six games per team. An early start was necessary and all players had arrived by 8.45am to witness the draw for teams based on their handicaps, with a high handicapper playing with a low handicapper.

There were some interesting combinations and the pairs were ready for the start of the first round at 9.00am. As the weather forecast was threatening a rainy day, and with one of the largest single blocks we had ever tried to accommodate in a single day, Manager John Cundell applied a time limit of 50 minutes. However, with no games being double banked and with all players always being ready to start their matches as soon as required, only one of the 21 games ran over the time limit – and that by only five minutes. There was even time to have a short lunch break.

Immediately after lunch we 'enjoyed' a pretty hefty shower for about 20 minutes through which our hardy souls carried on playing. The rest of the afternoon was nippy and a bit breezy, but play continued smartly until just before 16.00 hours and the block was complete. The pairings and results were as follows:

John Thorp and Ronnie Richardson	5 wins
Sheila Beal and Roy Kemp	5 wins
Tom Miller and Una Pengelly	3 wins
Sally Clay and Val Jeffers	2 wins
Ross Bagni and Rose Gillett	2 wins
Malcolm Kirby and Helen Wilkinson	2 wins
Judith Pengelly and Diana Phelps	2 wins

It had been decided by the Manager that should two teams finish with an equal number of wins then a final decider would be played. This took place on Lawn Two, watched by all the other competitors, between the John Thorp/Ronnie Richardson pair and that of Sheila Beal/Roy Kemp. The closely fought game continued until hoop 12



where John Thorp and Ronnie Richardson won by 7-5.

The other places were as the block results above, after taking into account hoop differences.

After congratulating the winners, an efficient clear up by all concerned just managed to get all participants away before the heavens opened again.

## Ladies Doubles Mix 'n Match - 27th May

The forecast promised a very warm day with possible heavy showers. What we received initially was a warm day with the lightest possible early shower, followed by intermittent sunny periods – however by late morning we had a very strong wind which made play difficult and dropped the temperature to bring out fleeces and warmer clothing! So much for the promised 24 degrees centigrade!

The entry was disappointing - when you consider we have 29 female members. Initially eight members entered that gave four pairings. Another member, Sheila Guest then showed interest, giving us nine entrants that obviously makes pairings impossible. However, after some gentle persuasion one of our newest members, Gill Gwillim, agreed to take part and make up the tenth entrant. Well done to Gill, entering her first club championship competition. The draw for pairs took place at 10.00am which resulted in the following: Sheila Beal/Helen Wilkinson; Sheila Guest/Val Jeffers; Diana Phelps/Rose Gillett; Una Pengelly/Sally Clay and Gill Gwillim/Judith Pengelly.

The odd number of blocks meant that one pair had to sit out one of the five rounds of play – and that only two games could be played per round. These took place on Lawns two and three and left the third lawn free for any social players.

Three rounds were played before lunch and two after.

Mix 'n Match Doubles finalists at right: Roy Kemp, Sheila Beal, John Thorp and Ronnie Richardson. Left: Judith Pengelly, Rose Gillett, Diana Phelps and Ross Bagni. Below: Val Jeffers, Sally Clay Tom Miller and Una Pengelly - watched by Rose and Ross.





Ladies Doubles Mix 'n Match. Above left: Rose Gillett, Sheila Beal, Helen Wilkinson and Diana Phelps. Above right: Judith Pengelly was paired with newcomer Gill Gwillim. Below, the final between Sheila Guest (left) playing with Val Jeffers (right) who beat Sheila Beal and Helen Wilkinson.



There were some excellent hard fought rounds and by early afternoon with one round left to play, there were two pairs with three wins – Sheila Beal with Helen Wilkinson and Sheila Guest with Val Jeffers. Of the remaining pairs there was one with two wins – Una and Sally, and two pairs with one win - Gill and Judith, and Diana and Rose. Therefore the match between the pairs with three wins would obviously decide the winners.

This was an excellent game to watch and initially Sheila Guest and Val Jeffers got off to an excellent lead of 4-0. Sheila Beal and Helen started a comeback and got the score back to 4-4. Sheila Guest and Val held their nerve and gained the upper hand at the eleventh hoop – winning by 7-4.

Congratulations to Sheila Guest and Val Jeffers. The other positions were second for Sheila Beal/Helen Wilkinson; third for Una Pengelly/Sally Clay; fourth for Judith Pengelly and newcomer Gill Gwillim, and fifth for Rose Gillett and Diana Phelps. Gill said she enjoyed the

day and looked forward to taking part in further competitions

An excellent competition with some good croquet from all concerned and an enjoyable day's play for the competitors. Why not give it a try next year?

### **Club Singles Handicap - 10th June**

All three lawns looked good as John C, John T, Roger Stroud, Tony Wells and Malcolm Kirby arrived around 8.30am to set out the gazebos and hoops for this year's competition. Despite an earlier poor forecast the weather was warm and dry for the day, although a very stiff breeze made life interesting for keeping the paperwork in situ – and in swinging the mallet!

The entry was small, 10 members, similar to 2016. There were two blocks, both with five players. Play continued into the late afternoon and by 4.00pm we had two block winners. The results were as follows:



Lovely day for the Club Singles Handicap event - with cricket in the background.



Club Singles Handicap. left to right. John Thorp and Una Pengelly were block winners and in the final Una played an excellent game to beat John. Middle: Helen Wilkinson watches Malcolm Kirby attempt a hoop. Right: Rose Gillett watches Tony preparing to take a shot.

**Block 1**

- 1st Una Pengelly
- 2nd Rose Gillett
- 3rd Roger Stroud
- 4th Sheila Beal
- 5th Tony Wells

**Block 2**

- 1st John Thorp
- 2nd Tom Miller
- 3rd Helen Wilkinson
- 4th Malcolm Kirby
- 5th Roy Kemp

All the players assembled at Lawn three to watch the final between Una and John. Una had been in tremendous form during the block play and she got off to a fine start – making good use of the nine extra shots she had over John Thorp. Despite John’s efforts to force Una to use up her extra shots, whenever Una got in front of the hoop she didn’t miss running it, and moved on to an impressive win by 7-0! Well done to Una and her day’s play brought her handicap down.

**National GC B-Level Tournament - 17th June**

Our 4th B-Level tournament featuring twelve players attracted eight from outside clubs and four of our players.

The following took part – in order of handicap:

- Roger Stroud (Leighton-Linslade) (4)
- Marian Manning (Colchester) (4)
- Peter Dennis (Kenilworth) (4)
- Michael Bilton (Richmond Park) (4)
- Jean Ball (Leighton-Linslade) (4)
- Judith Pengelly (Leighton-Linslade) (4)
- Richard Skidmore (Wingrave) (5)
- Robert Chatwin (Wingrave) (5)
- Michael Manning (Colchester) (5)
- Malcolm Kirby (Leighton-Linslade) (6)
- Patrick Knight (Camerton & Peasdown) (6)
- Pauline Dennis (Kenilworth) (6)

The twelve competitors were drawn into two blocks of six, keeping clubs separated and husband/wives similarly as far as was possible – and to maintain an equitable level of handicaps. All competitors had arrived by 9.15am – some having stayed locally overnight. After a warm

welcome on what was a fine and latterly a very hot and humid day, Tournament Manager John Cundell briefed the players on the day’s programme. After 10 minutes practise to introduce the players to the vagaries of our lawns, play commenced. These were singles games with no time limit, doubled up on all three lawns. The visitors were extremely impressed with our scoring system that was staffed all day by Sheila Beal, Sally Clay, Judith Cundell, Una Pengelly and John Thorp.

The 30 games proceeded throughout the day, with competitors taking a short lunch break after three rounds.

At the end of the block play, block one had a clear winner, Richard Skidmore from Wingrave with four wins. Second was our Judith Pengelly with three wins. The other four players all scored two wins apiece, and after taking hoop difference into consideration their places were, in descending order, Marian Manning, Roger Stroud, Patrick Knight and Peter Dennis.

In the second block, Michael Bilton from Richmond Park won all his five games – with our Jean Ball winning four. The remaining positions went to Robert Chatwin (three wins), Michael Manning (two wins), Malcolm Kirby (one win), and Pauline Dennis (nil wins).

As well as the two games required to find the first four places of the day between the block winners and runners-up – all remaining players were offered the opportunity to play off for the minor places. However after taking into account the extremely hot and humid conditions, they decided to enjoy some tea and cakes and to watch the play offs.

The final between Michael Bilton and Richard Skidmore was a hard and close fought battle up to hoop 12 – with Michael winning out by 7-5. The battle for third and fourth places was also a closely fought game that went to the ‘golden hoop’. Judith’s two balls were better positioned than Jean’s, and Judith Pengelly beat Jean Ball 7-6.

Michael Bilton came forward to receive a crystal glass engraved with the LLCC logo and the words ‘WINNER – B-LEVEL 2017, from our Chairman, Malcolm Kirby.

Tournament Manager John Cundell would like to thank the scorers mentioned above, and also John Thorp, Roger Stroud and Ross Bagni who were on site from 7.15am to prepare the lawns, erect gazebos, scoring tents, check the loos, etc., and Val Jeffers for the cakes.



Thanks to our scorers: Judith Cundell and Una Pengelly, Sheila Beal and John Thorp, and Sally Clay (right) with helpers Anne Rowe and Peggy Kenny. Below left to right; Jean Ball and Judith Pengelly, Malcolm Kirby lining up, and Roger Stroud in full strike action.



Below left; finalists Richard Skidmore from Wingrave and Michael Bilton from Richmond Park, near Nottingham, seen in action and shaking hands - and our Chairman Malcolm Kirby presenting Michael with his award as winner of this year's B-Level.



### **EACF Handicap League Watford - Away - 22nd June - no detailed report available**

Our team was captained by Tony Wells and included Judith and Una Pengelly and Sally Clay. Tony and Sally lost their doubles match – Judith and Una won theirs. In the singles games, Tony, Sally and Judith won two of their four games – however our star player was Una who won three of her games. The overall result was a win for Leighton-Linslade by 10 games to 8.

### **EACF Handicap League - Wrest Park - Home - 3rd July**

The second Handicap League fixture was against Wrest Park.

Our team was captained by Judith Pengelly (4) and included Roger Stroud (4), Sally Clay (9) and Val Jeffers (10). The Wrest Park team was George Savage (6), Tony Meredith (8), Terry Collis (10) and Susan Savage (10). It was also nice to have our friend and former member Richard Keighley, acting as Wrest Park's manager.

The first round was the doubles matches and resulted in wins for both our doubles pairs, Judith with Val and Roger with Sally. The singles then commenced and round one saw wins by all our four players – followed by a similar excellent performance in round two. Lunch was taken and the slightly cool morning warmed up as the sun appeared.

The break didn't upset Leighton-Linslade's excellent play and round three of the singles was another clean sweep for our team. So to round four – Judith and Roger gained clear wins of 7-5 and 7-2. Both Sally and Val's games started out with leads by Wrest Park's Tony Meredith and George Savage, however good fight backs from Sally and Val ended up with both games going to the 13th hoop. After good battles where the result could have gone to LL or WP, the latter club's players managed to run the hoop.

The overall result was sixteen wins to Leighton-Linslade and two to Wrest Park.

All games were played in a very sporting and friendly atmosphere. Congratulations to LLCC on a fine result.

### **EACF Level League - Chelmsford - Home - 7th July**

Our first Level League match was against Chelmsford on a beautiful calm and sunny day.

Our team was David Ball (2), John Thorp (2), Ross Bagni (3) and Judith Pengelly (4). The Chelmsford team comprised two old friends who have visited us for some years, John Skuse (4) and Judith Hand (4), accompanied by two new visitors to our lawns, Tony Frewin (4) and Karen Jones (5). They arrived on time at 10.00am despite their long journey around a busy Friday's M25 traffic.

The first round were the doubles matches and resulted in wins for both our doubles pairs, Judith with David and John with Ross – at 7-5 and 7-6. The singles then commenced and rounds one and two saw wins shared between the eight matches, our winners being David, Ross and Judith. There were a couple of long matches with one of them taking 90 minutes! The third and fourth rounds had a similar result of sharing the eight games, this time with our winners being John, Ross and Judith. Ross had enjoyed an excellent day, winning all four of his singles.

The overall result was ten wins to Leighton-Linslade and eight to Chelmsford.

Congratulations to our team for an excellent result.

Many thanks to our cake makers, Val and Jean, and to our scorers and helpers – Jean Ball, Sheila Beal, Judith Cundell and Una Pengelly.

### **Leighton-Linslade (C-Level) Singles Play Tournament for High Handicap Players - 14th July**

This competition is a singles level play event aimed specifically at those players whose handicap falls between 8-14, designed to give the less-experienced players a chance to play in open competition, and hopefully to tempt them into entering more senior Croquet Association events. Our first such competition was held in 2015 – this year's event initially attracted six competitors from outside the club and six of our members. Unfortunately one of the outside competitors had to withdraw a week before the competition with medical problems, and Rose Gillett stepped in to make up the twelve entries.

The others were one from Letchworth – Tracy Martin, plus four from Northampton – David Higgins, Vivienne Heard, Ann Udall and Diana Dunkley. Seven LLCC members made up the 12 players with handicaps ranging from 8 to 12 that were split into two blocks of six. Our members were Una Pengelly, Sally Clay, Valerie Jeffers, Helen Wilkinson, John Boon, Mary Kemp and Rose Gillett. Two of these entrants had never played in a Singles Level tournament which was one of the main ideas for holding the event.

An early morning start at 7.45am was necessary for John Cundell, John Thorp and Ross Bagni to set up all the usual equipment, including two gazebos and scoring tents and equipment. The early morning weather looked threatening, however after a fresh, chilly and overcast morning, a little sun appeared as the day progressed and at least it stayed dry.

All entrants arrived around 9.00am and after the usual welcoming coffee and tea, they were given 10 minutes practise. Promptly at 9.30am, the untimed games of round one commenced and early winners were Rose Gillett, Sally Clay, Val Jeffers, Una Pengelly, Helen Wilkinson – all from LLCC – with Vivienne Heard from Northampton.

Two more rounds were played before lunch – in the lead were Sally Clay in block one and Helen Wilkinson in block two with three wins each. The final two rounds of the block play followed after lunch, resulting in the following:

#### Block 1

- 1st Rose Gillett
- 2nd Val Jeffers
- 3rd Sally Clay
- 4th Ann Udall
- 5th Diana Dunkley
- 6th John Boon

#### Block 2

- 1st Tracy Martin
- 2nd Helen Wilkinson
- 3rd Una Pengelly
- 4th Vivienne Heard
- 5th Mary Kemp
- 6th David Higgins



Above left; Tracy Martin and Rose Gillett at the start of the Final. Above right; David Higgins from Northampton plays his shot watched by John Boon. Below left; Helen Wilkinson, Mary Kemp and Val Jeffers. Below middle; Tracy Martin and Rose Gillett after their Final.



Above right; Tracy's winning shot. Right; John Cundell presents Tracy with the winner's trophy.



There were many close games with 13 of the 30 games played going to the 12th or 13th hoops. In order to find a complete first to last listing of players, the first of block one would play the first of block two, the second of block one would play the second of block two, etc. Tracy Martin and late entrant Rose Gillett, played off for the first and second places. This was a long and hard fought battle which ended up with a similar tussle on the 13th hoop – eventually taken by Tracy.

The results were:

- 1st Tracy Martin
- 2nd Rose Gillett
- 3rd Helen Wilkinson
- 4th Val Jeffers
- 5th Una Pengelly
- 6th Sally Clay
- 7th Ann Udall
- 8th Vivienne Heard
- 9th Diana Dunkley
- 10th Mary Kemp
- 11th John Boon
- 12th David Higgins

A brief ceremony took place in front of all competitors and Tracy Martin from Northampton was presented with a glass memorial trophy and a cash prize of £20. David

Higgins from Northampton expressed thanks on his and other competitors behalf for a superb competition, organisation and great hospitality.

Thanks to all those members who helped in many ways – the scorers, tea and coffee makers, equipment and lawn setup, clearing up at the end of the day, etc.

### **Ross Bagni wins the Nottingham GC B-Level Tournament - 12th July**

Four members, Ross Bagni, Jean Ball, John Cundell and Roger Stroud attended this tournament. Ross was returning the winner's trophy from 2016. We arrived at Nottingham just around 8.30am after an uneventful journey via the M1 – and after coffee and practise, were briefed by the Tournament Manager Richard Bilton whose report on the day's proceedings follows.

#### **Nottingham GC B Level, 12 July 2017 – by Nottingham's Richard Bilton.**

A very strong and large field of 24 players, 14 of which on handicap 3 or 4, came to Nottingham to compete in our 11th GC B Level Tournament. Four blocks of six and the top two from each progressing to a knockout meant a total of eight games for the winner.



Very well done to Jean and Ross for their excellent result at Nottingham. Left: Richard Bilton presents Ross with the trophy.

Play commenced at 9:30am, with three rounds finishing at 12:30 for lunch, meticulously prepared by NDO Dave Gunn. At which stage, two blocks had a player on three wins and two on two, and the other two blocks had three or four players each on two wins.

After all of the block games, Pauline Donner of Hunstanton was top of her block as she won all five games; Ross Bagni and Robert Cook (Cheam) also won their block outright with four wins; first and second place in the other block both won four games.

Two of the Quarter Finals went to the 13th hoop, Ross Bagni and Paul Durkin (Long Eaton) beat Jane Tewson (Long Eaton) and Pauline Donner, respectively, while Jean Ball walked past Mary Ashworth (Nottingham) 7-0.

Ross went one step closer to his defence of the title in winning his Semi Final against Paul Durkin 7-5. The other Semi Final was a very closely fought match, it eventually taking a full hour and being one of the longest games of the day and not even going to hoop 13, Jean Ball beat Robert Cook 7-4.

The Final began at 6.20pm. Bagni took an early 2-0 lead, but Jean refused to be beaten easily and pegged him back to 1-2 and 2-3. A superb jump from Ross at hoop six gave him a 4-2 advantage, yet Jean once again closed the gap to 3-4, and when Ross eventually managed to get three hoops ahead at 6-3. Jean didn't give up and fought back to 5-6 before Ross ultimately clinched victory at hoop 12.

Ross Bagni is the first player in 10 years to win the tournament twice, and the first to defend the title.

#### **Editorial Note:**

**I'm sure all members will join in congratulating Ross and Jean on this excellent result and also both qualifying for the National Golf Croquet B-Level Final on October 7/8th at Southport. We wish them success.**

#### **Friendly Wingrave - Home - 17th July**

This was a home match against Wingrave on a very warm and humid day. Our team was John Thorp/Mary Kemp, Una Pengelly/Sally Clay, Roger Stroud/Diana Phelps and Val Jeffers with either Eve or Len Buckingham.

Wingrave arrived around 10.00am and the first round showed wins for JT/MK, UP/SC and RS/DP. Round Two was shared with wins by UP/SC and JT/MK. After lunch we enjoyed three wins out of the four by UP/SC, JT/MK

and RS/DP. This brought the overall score to 8-4 in favour of LLCC. Wingrave therefore needed to win all four of the last round to draw the match. Wingrave made a great start by winning the first three games to finish, leaving just the team of Roger Stroud and Diana Phelps playing Wingrave's Robert Wright and Karen Gray to complete. Roger and Diana won 7-5, therefore the overall result was a close win for LLCC by nine games to seven.

Our visitors said that despite our win they had enjoyed an excellent day with fine hospitality and good sportsmanship and sociable company.

Thanks were expressed to those who helped organise the day and to Val Jeffers for providing an excellent selection of cakes.

#### **Friendly Watford - Home - 31st July**

This home match against Watford was graced by a dry day within the recent wet days that had been a feature of July - however it was still pretty breezy. Our team was John Thorp/Mary Kemp, Una Pengelly/Val Jeffers, Roger Stroud/Diana Phelps and John Boon with Sally Clay.

Watford arrived before 10.00am and it was nice to greet many old and friendly faces from a club we have enjoyed friendlies with for many years now. The Watford team was Nick Archer with Phyllida Johnson, Geoff Johnson with Maureen Croft, Steve Dennis with Linda Williams and Anne Dennis with Robert Archer. The total handicaps of our players added up to 63 and that for Watford was 47 - therefore it looked like we were in for a tough day.

The first round bore this out with three wins for Watford and one for us by John Thorp and Mary Kemp. Round Two saw a similar result for Watford with our winning team being John Boon and Sally Clay. Lunch was taken around 12.30.

Round three ended up once again with one team winning three of the four games - however this time it was Leighton-Linslade winning the three - success for John Boon/Sally Clay, John Thorp/Mary Kemp and Una Pengelly with Val Jeffers. This brought the score of 7-5 in favour of Watford. We therefore needed to win all four games in the last round. Unfortunately this was not to be as only Una and Val were successful. The overall result was a win for Watford by 10 games to 6. Looking at the details of the matches, the result was slightly disappointing as out of the 16 games played 9 of these went to 7-5 or 7-6.

Our visitors said that they had once again enjoyed an excellent day with fine hospitality and good sportsmanship and sociable company.

Thanks were expressed to those who helped organise the day and to Val Jeffers for providing an excellent selection of cakes.

### **Friendly High Wycombe - Away - 1st August**

No report available – however the result was a good win for Leighton-Linslade by 9.5 games to 6.5 games. Our team was John Thorp/Ross Bagni (3 wins), David Ball/Val Jeffers (1.5 wins), Mary Kemp/Sally Clay (2 wins) and Diana Phelps/Malcolm Kirby (3 wins).

Well done team.

### **EACF Handicap League - Northampton Mallets - Home - 11th August**

Our third Handicap League fixture was against Northampton Mallets.

Our team was captained by Jean Ball (4) and included Val Jeffers (9), Sally Clay (9) and Una Pengelly (10). The Northampton Mallets team was Marilyn Robinson (6), Ann Udal (9), Vivienne Heard (12) and Judy Brown (14). After a horrendously wet week that meant our excellent groundstaff couldn't get on the lawns to mow them until the morning of the match, we were very grateful that they managed to finish mowing all three lawns by 9.15am – just as the Northampton team arrived.

Northampton's early arrival allowed us to quickly get through the preliminaries and play started with the first round at 10.15am. This was the doubles matches and resulted in a win for each club. The singles then commenced and round one saw wins by three of our four players – followed by an even better performance in round two with four wins by LLCC.

Lunch was taken and the break didn't help Northampton much as LL took three wins. At this point the overall result was eleven wins to LLCC and three for Northampton. So to round four – a bit of a comeback by the visitors who won three games – however this was not enough to affect the final result which was a good win to Leighton-Linslade by twelve games to six.

This put us equally in the lead in the Western Division of the EACF Handicap League with Stony Stratford with two games left to play – against Stony Stratford and Northampton Hoops.

Congratulations to our team for an excellent result.

### **Friendly High Wycombe - Home - 14th August**

This home match against High Wycombe was just two weeks after our Friendly Away match with HW. Like our visit to HW their visit to us was also graced by a dry and fairly warm day. Our team was Jean Ball/Val Jeffers, Roger Stroud/Mary Kemp, Una Pengelly/Diana Phelps and David Ball with Eve or Len Buckingham.

High Wycombe arrived before 10.00am. Their team was Mike Vickery/Jane Gloster, Ralph Baker/Christine Smith, Kay Vickery/Brian Maple and Geoff Youd with Gerry Hall.

The first round was a good result for LLCC with wins by JB/VJ, RS/MK and DB/EB. The second round was a clean

sweep for LLCC. After lunch the round was shared with wins by RS/MK and DB/EB. Round Four was also shared, this time with wins by RS/MK and DB/LB. An excellent day with four wins out of four by David Ball with Eve/Len Buckingham, and Roger Stroud with Mary Kemp.

The overall result was a win for Leighton-Linslade by 11 games to 5. Well done team.

Our visitors said that despite our win they had once again enjoyed an excellent day with fine hospitality and good sportsmanship and sociable company. Thanks were expressed to those who helped organise the day and to Val Jeffers and Jean Ball for providing an excellent selection of cakes.

### **EACF Handicap League - Northampton Hoops - Away - 16th August**

Our fourth Handicap League fixture was against Northampton Hoops Away.

Our team was Ross Bagni, Roger Stroud, Malcolm Kirby and Una Pengelly. No detailed report is available. The result was a narrow win for Northampton Hoops by 10 games to 8.

### **EACF Level League - Watford Home - 18th August**

After a couple of fine, dry days the weather forecast threatened that the tail end of storm Hurricane Gerda could arrive around lunchtime! However the morning dawned dry, a little chilly and windy at PP as the two Johns and Roger set up the lawns. We took the decision to fix the gazebos to the pavilion which was to turn out a wise move.

Our team was John Cundell (3), John Thorp (3), David Ball (3) and Roger Stroud (4). Watford arrived nice and early and their team was comprised of Nick Archer (-2), Simon Hathrell (1), Steve Dennis (1) and John Walker (2), therefore it looked like we were in for a tough match.

The Doubles were shared by the two Johns winning their game against Nick and Simon at the 13th hoop. The first round of singles commenced and was a clean sweep for Watford. Round two was a slight improvement with a win by David Ball. Lunch was taken and round three commenced around 12.30pm. The weather forecast had promised a thunderstorm at 13.00 hours. It was a little late at 13.20 but was a cracker with gusty winds, some lightning and a short hailstorm which stopped play for about ten minutes – followed by calmer winds and sunshine! Play continued and this time our one winner was John Thorp. The pattern continued with the final round of the day where John Cundell gained a good win – all rounds completed by 15.15!

The overall result was a good win for Watford by 14 games to 4. Cakes and tea were taken and all present agreed that it had been an exciting and enjoyable day with some excellent sporting play.

Thanks were expressed for the scorers, Sheila Beal, Jean Ball, Judith Cundell, Una Pengelly – and a visit from Irene Davis. Also thanks for the cake makers Jean and Val Jeffers – and a special thanks for Watford's Robert Archer who kindly stepped in to manage the paperwork for the day. We were on our way home by 16.00! Not bad for five rounds in inclement conditions.

## **EACF Handicap League Stony Stratford - Away - 21st August - no detailed report available**

Our team was captained by Ross Bagni (3) and included Jean Ball (4), Roger Stroud (4) and Una Pengelly (10). Stony Stratford played three players at (8) handicap and one at (10). There were many close games at 7-5 and 7-6, but in the end the large number of extra shots held by Stony Stratford helped them gain a win by 15 games to 3.

## **Friendly Letchworth - Away - 28th August - no detailed report**

This away Friendly at Letchworth enjoyed a lovely late summer day. Our team was David Ball, Jean Ball, Roger Stroud, Mary Kemp, John Thorp, Una Pengelly, Judith Pengelly and Diana Phelps. Our team enjoyed a 10-6 win.

## **Ross Bagni won the GC B-Level Series at Hurlingham - 27/28th July - report by Hurlingham's Tom Wills-Sandford**

This level play tournament was open to all GC players with handicaps between 3 and 8. There were 16 entrants from 10 clubs. This year's entrants included four from Leighton-Linslade and the same number from Hurlingham.

On the first day there were two blocks of eight. The top two in each block, Andrea Huxley, Andrew Carpenter, Ross Bagni and Tony Elliott went through to the semi-finals and final which were best of three games. Ross and Tony met in the final and we saw an up and down struggle. Tony won the first game 7-2, to his surprise - according to his prediction before the match! Ross bounced back and won the next two games 7-3 and 7-2.

Results:

- 1, Ross Bagni
- 2, Tony Elliott

## **Garden Party - 9th September**

Although we had tried to hold the Garden Party on 2nd September, this had to be changed to the 9th as the cricketers had booked the earlier date. The 2nd was an absolutely glorious warm, sunny, wind free day - and guess what - there was no cricket! The 9th was forecast cold, wet and windy!

A number of members arrived early to set up the clubroom, lawns, gazebo and a couple of garden games, whilst others were in the pavilion setting up the room and kitchens for our lunch, and meeting the owners of the Play Group Cafe which was due to open to the public on Monday 11th September.

At the official start time of 10.00am it was pleasing to see a dozen or so members and guests arriving and playing croquet on all three lawns. The remainder - there were 35 tickets sold - of which some nine were to friends and family of members, arrived by late morning.

The buffet was ready for serving just after 12.30. It was superbly prepared by Jean Ball and Val Jeffers, who were assisted in the kitchen by Sally Clay, Judith Cundell and Mary Kemp. The lunch was excellent and was much enjoyed and favourably commented upon by all.

Fortunately the weather was not as bad as forecast and despite a couple of heavy but short showers, croquet

continued after lunch until 16.00 hours.

Many thanks to those members who helped set out equipment, looked after our visitors, and generally kept things moving along smoothly - and helped clear away at the end of a successful day.

## **4 Club GC Charity Series - End of season results**

Further to the information concerning this new competition detailed earlier in this issue, the remaining three matches against Watford, Wrest Park and Northampton duly took place during the season. After the final match at Northampton the results were as follows:

Running Totals:

Event	LLCS	Wat.	Wrest P	Northampton
LLCS	17	19	11	31
Watford	12	29	12	25
Wrest Park	16	20	18	24
Northampton	5	0	22	33
Total	50	68	63	113

As you can see an excellent result by Northampton. Ross Bagni adds the following note:

After the last of the four tournaments was held at Northampton the total monies raised for charity amounted to £40, there having been some withdrawals due to illness and holidays. Having totalled all the results it became clear (although I think it always had been from the start!) that Northampton had won the right to select the charity which would receive the money. They chose Breast Friends Northampton, who support those with Breast Cancer. We along with the other clubs have all received an acknowledgement from the charity.

The event has been a big success and is hoped that it will continue next year.

## **EACF Level League - Enfield - Away - 18th September**

Our fifth and last Level League fixture was against Enfield Away.

Our team was John Thorp (3), David Ball (3), Judith Pengelly (4) and Jean Ball (4). They were playing a strong Enfield team of David Frost (0), Ken Pickett (1), Brian Dawes (3) and Peter Brock (4). No

Leighton-Linslade lost both doubles at 5-7. In the Singles, John won three games, Jean won two and Judith won one. The result was a win by Enfield of 12 games to six.

## **Club Singles Championships - 23rd September**

An overcast damp and drizzly morning welcomed John C, John T, Ross Bagni, Malcolm Kirby and a good number of the competitors to prepare the lawns, etc. - ready for the 18 players in this year's last Club Singles Championship. The entry included an encouraging entry of two newer members, David Thompson and Linda Tyas, trying their skills and luck in competition. We understand they enjoyed their day and will be keen to participate in future club tournaments.

The eighteen competitors were drawn into four blocks earlier in the week. Play commenced at 9.30am and continued until shortly after 1.00pm. The conditions were



The start of the final - Judith Pengelly and Roger Stroud spent almost 30 minutes on hoop one - watched by most of the competitors.



Above left and next - our newest two members who have only been with us for a month or so, Lin Tyas and David Thompson.

Above right, semi-finalists Judith Pengelly and Rose Gillett and Roger Stroud and John Cundell.



Right, Judith Pengelly unfortunately missed this important black at hoop twelve in the final.

Left, Finalists Roger Stroud (winner) and Judith Pengelly.



very warm for the time of year, despite an ever increasing strong breeze which made those players who rely on swinging the mallet somewhat difficult. The results of the block play were:

Block 1	Block 2
1st Judith Pengelly	1st Rose Gillett
2nd Jean Ball	2nd John Thorp
3rd Ross Bagni	3rd Val Jeffers
4th Diana Phelps	4th Sheila Beal
5th David Thompson	5th Sally Clay

Block 3	Block 4
1st John Cundell	1st Roger Stroud
2nd David Ball	2nd Ann Rowe
3rd Malcolm Kirby	3rd Una Pengelly
4th Roy Kemp	4th Lin Tyas

Semi-final one was played on lawn three between Judith Pengelly and Rose Gillett and was a long and hard fought match which went to the 13th hoop and was won by Judith. At the same time semi-final two was played on lawn two between John Cundell and Roger Stroud. This was a much shorter game which switched between the two players up to the tenth hoop at 5-5, after Roger struck at the next two hoops to win 7-5.

As we approached 3.00pm the final started on lawn three in front of all the competitors between Judith and Roger. The first hoop took almost 30 minutes. After this Judith slowly gained the upper hand and was 6-3 up at hoop nine. Roger staged a hard fought comeback on hoops ten, eleven and twelve after Judith missed a couple of shots at hoop twelve. Judith then played a magnificent blue to the 13th hoop which rolled just in front of the hoop with only a small part of the ball in Roger's view. An outstanding shot from Roger cleared the blue - this was followed by a few more shots from both players before Roger won the hoop.

Congratulations to Roger for winning the 2017 Club Singles Championship.

## Club Doubles Championships - 30th September

After the previous week's excellent warm and calm weather following the Singles Championship, we were all a little concerned that the forecast was for a showery, cooler day. It was certainly overcast as many of the 20 entrants for the Doubles Championship arrived bright and early at PP to help prepare the lawns and facilities. The lawns were very damp with a heavy dew and the worms had been busy during the night. However, shortly after play started, the sun popped out, the wet weather gear came off and this lasted the day until after the final. Also, like last week's Singles, it was excellent to see four of our newest members taking part – Dave Thompson and Lin Tyas, and Dave and Gill Gwillim. A great learning experience for them which we understand they all enjoyed.

However, back to the details – our ten doubles pairs had been sorted into two blocks of five each by the draw earlier in the week. Play started at 9.15am and continued through to 12.00 noon when players took their lunch as convenient. Shortly before 14.00 hours the block results were as follows:

Block 1	
1st John Cundell and Judith Pengelly	3 wins +11
2nd Ross Bagni and Roger Stroud	3 wins +10
3rd Rose Gillett and Ann Rowe	2 wins -3
4th David Ball and Jean Ball	1 win -4
5th Sheila Beal and Sally Clay	1 win -14

Block 2	
1st John Thorp and Helen Wilkinson	4 wins
2nd Malcolm Kirby and Una Pengelly	3 wins
3rd Sheila Guest and Val Jeffers	2 wins
4th Dave Thompson and Lin Tyas	1 win
5th Dave Gwillim and Gill Gwillim	0 win

The second block was a clear win for John Thorp and Helen Wilkinson. Block one was a much closer affair with Roger Stroud and Ross Bagni winning three games, as did John Cundell and Judith Pengelly. Under Croquet



At the Doubles Championships. Right, it was nice to see a number of this year's newest players taking part - Dave and Gill Gwillim. Below, Ann Rowe and Rose Gillett, watching the last of one of the block matches, played well in their block, winning two of their games against strong opposition.





Watching the final.

Association rules that apply this season and hereafter, the decision as to the block winner is decided initially by hoop difference, and if the latter is the same, then who beat whom is taken into account. In this instance Roger and Ross' hoop difference was +10 and John and Judiths' was +11! It couldn't have been any closer.

The final was played between John Thorp and Helen Wilkinson against John Cundell and Judith Pengelly on

Lawn 3 in front of all the players. The game was very close throughout with first one pair, then the other leading up to the tenth hoop at 5-5. Hoop 11 was hard fought until Judith ran the hoop. John had managed a good positional shot to hoop 12. This was not cleared by the opposition, allowing John to cleanly run the hoop, winning the Doubles Championship Trophy for the Cundell/Pengelly pairing for the second year running.



Left, the finalists - John Cundell and Judith Pengelly against Helen Wilkinson and John Thorp. Above, Malcolm Kirby, Ross Bagni and John Thorp putting the world to rights! Below, action from the final - Helen plays a shot. Bottom, John plays the winning shot at Hoop 12.



Thanks to all competitors who helped clear away. A few minutes after we left the lawns, the rain arrived!

## **EACF Leagues - Handicap and Level**

### **The Handicap League**

There are four areas. The North & Mid Area was won by Ipswich. The Eastern Area was won by Enfield (E). The Central Area was won by Enfield (S). Our region, the Western Area, was again won by Stony Stratford with eight points. Second was Northampton Hoops with seven points and we were a very close third with six points - an excellent result. Watford were fourth, Wrest Park fifth and Northampton Mallets were sixth.

Stony Stratford won the first semi-final against Ipswich. The second semi-final was won by Enfield (E) over Enfield (S). The final was at Newport on 1st October.

Thanks to our joint captains Jean Ball and Ross Bagni who effectively managed a small and enthusiastic team this season that was unlucky in a couple of very tight matches and who could well have won our area.

### **The Level Play League**

This has only two areas - the winner was Colchester in the North & Central Area whilst Watford won our East & West Area. Our Level team won against Chelmsford but lost against the remaining teams of Letchworth, Northants, Watford and Enfield. The final between Watford and Colchester will be at Ipswich on 14th October.

There are now some very low handicap players taking part in this League and the standard of play has improved considerably from previous years. We will continue to support this League and strive to improve.

## **Lawn Maintenance**

Now that the season has officially closed we are about to start maintenance work on Lawns 1 and 2, in particular the approximately 40 square metres of damage caused by our inadvertent use of a bag of fertiliser/weed killer at the start of the season. It was originally considered by Chief Groundsman Doug Bolton that these areas should be dug out to a depth of 50mm and filled in with topsoil before reseeding and top dressing. This would require a considerable amount of material. Following the heavy rain in recent months there are clear signs that the soil is clear of the weed killer and is indeed showing strong signs of regrowth. Accordingly we feel that scarifying the area with our club scarifier to remove the dead grass, followed by applying top dressing and re-seeding and covering the areas initially with polythene sheeting to aid initial growth - will solve the problem. This work is scheduled for Tuesday 10th October.

To achieve this and to treat the other areas of the lawns we have ordered via the Town Council 40 bags of sand/loam top dressing, six bags of CleanPro Fertiliser-Weedkiller, and a 20kg bag of seed.

Play may continue on all lawns until the remedial work is carried out on 10th October. After that play may be available on Lawn 3 only until the grass is too long. There will be no further mowing from 1st October which is the official end of our season..

There will be further lawn improvement work during the winter by ourselves and the Town Council ground staff.

## **Club Website**

With the club website now well into its third year, most members with computers will be aware of the site address: [www.leightonlinladedcroquet.org.uk](http://www.leightonlinladedcroquet.org.uk). Roger Stroud is to be thanked for setting up and maintaining the website. If you have forgotten the member's password it can be obtained by emailing Roger at [rogerstroud302@hotmail.com](mailto:rogerstroud302@hotmail.com).

## **Winter Social Club at Page's Park**

The Wednesday morning social club will meet for the first time this winter on Wednesday 18th October in Page's Park pavilion at 9.30am until 11.30am. The fee is £2.50 per session, and for that you get refreshments and the opportunity to play many board games, darts, snooker, dominoes and card games. The earlier starting and finishing times are to take into account that the new Play Cafe opens for business at 12.00 noon on Wednesdays. Please support the Social Club if you possibly can. Friends of members are very welcome for the same attendance fee, refreshments included. So why not give it a try?

## **Expenses**

If any member has any claims for expenses please note these must be with Mary Kemp by 10th October at the latest.

## **Annual General Meeting**

You will find an announcement concerning the AGM at the end of this newsletter. Guests are welcome to accompany members but please make them aware that they may not participate in the business part of the AGM, and also to keep information they hear during the AGM as confidential.

Roger Stroud will shortly be sending out the Information Pack for the meeting on Friday 10th November at 7:30 pm in Northall Village Hall. The meeting should last an hour, followed by a party with a buffet. Members are reminded that it has been tradition for the after-meeting party to take along some buffet finger food of your choice. If you need any guidance then a call to Val Jeffers on 01296 688543 might help.

Within the Information Pack is a 'Nomination Form' where you can nominate a member to be one of our Club Officer's or to be on our committee. Do please use this form but please ask the person you are nominating if they would like to do the job.



Many thanks to all members who participated in the design, purchase, erection, painting, etc., of our three new shelters which will keep our scorers dry during competitions, and provide a haven when the weather is inclement.



# PETER DAVIS - 27th April 1936 to 11th June 2017

## A Tribute from Malcolm Kirby

We sadly lost Peter Davis back in June. Many members attended his funeral at Trinity Methodist Church, Leighton Buzzard on 28th July. Irene has asked me to express her thanks to all those who attended and particularly to the many who helped Peter and Irene during his illness.

### **Peter Davis...Well where do I begin?**

I first met Peter when I joined the Leighton-Linslade Croquet Club in 2008 and in that time Peter and Irene have become close friends.

In the 1990's Peter and Irene began and ran a croquet club at their home in Waterways, where Peter cared for the lawns and Irene organised the groups, drew up rotas and taught many people the rudiments of golf croquet. With a lot of help and determination from Peter and Irene, Margaret Brown co-founded the LLCC in 2000. This club still thrives in Page's Park, with a membership of over 40 players. During the "off season" the club holds weekly social groups where members play dominoes, crib and a range of board games. Peter and I often played against and with each other and he was a canny opponent and a valuable partner.

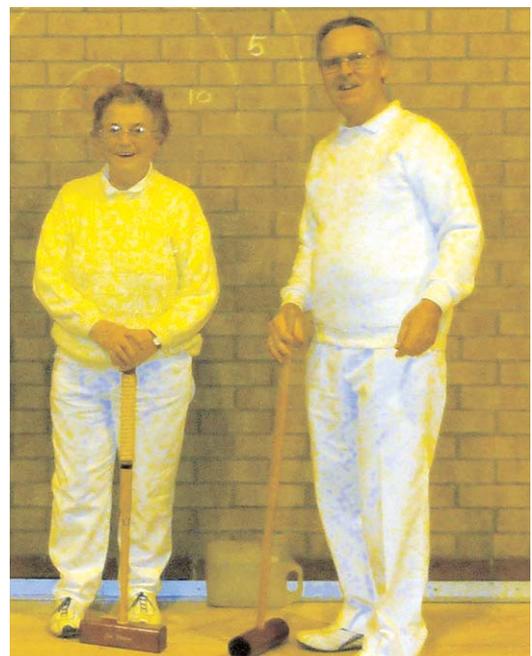
Over the past six months Peter tried to overcome a stroke which he had earlier in the year and I know that during this time he managed to charm his way into the hearts and minds of all the nurses and carers who supported him and Irene over this very trying time.

During his "residences" in a number of hospitals in Oxford and Milton Keynes and his stay in Orchard Lodge care home in Tilsforth, he retained his sense of humour and personality and regaled the nurses and carers with his life on and under the sea. In fact when I first visited Peter at Orchard Lodge, the person who greeted me said, "Oh, you're looking for Peter the sailor."

During the nine years that I knew Peter I learnt a lot about his life as a submariner aboard a navy submarine, as well as his life in various far flung countries together with Irene. I learnt that a submarine is referred to as a boat and all other navy vessels are referred to as ships. I also learnt enough to know that I would not have coped very well aboard a submarine. For instance, Peter's bunk was located between two torpedo tubes, and the toilet facilities left a lot to be desired; and unless you consider a shower every couple of months, whether you needed it or not, to be acceptable!

Peter always spoke very lovingly and proudly about family life.

When Peter was in MK hospital he became very bored so I took him a set of dominoes and we used to play most weeks. He managed to win every single time! When he moved to Orchard Lodge he took the dominoes with him and during his short stay he graciously let me win twice! It was a real shock to hear that Peter had fallen at the care home and had been rushed to Luton and Dunstable Hospital in the middle of the night. After only a few days in hospital he passed away peacefully in his sleep on the 11th of June, surrounded by his family. REST IN PEACE — PETER DAVIS





## Roll of Honour 2017



### Leighton-Linslade Croquet Club Tournament Winners

Mix 'n Match Doubles Handicap	Ronnie Richardson and John Thorp
Ladies Doubles Mix 'n Match	Sheila Guest and Val Jeffers
Club Singles Handicap	Una Pengelly
B-Level Nottingham	Ross Bagni
B-Level Hurlingham	Ross Bagni
Club Championship Doubles	John Cundell and Judith Pengelly
Club Championship Singles	Roger Stroud

### Attendance Breakdown - 2017 - by Membership Secretary

Our Membership Secretary Judith Cundell has extracted the following information from the attendance sheets for 2017. There were 27 weeks of play. Figures include all matches - players, helpers and spectators.

Sessions	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Average attendance	15	14	2	7	10	10	2
Highest attendance at one session	20	26	10	13	17	19	16

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There was one week with 91 attendees and one with 90.

#### Most attendances by members:

John Cundell	116	These include work days.
John Thorp	115	These include work days.
Sally Clay	80	These include work days.

#### Most attendances in one week:

John Cundell	7 x 3
John Thorpl	7 x 1

All figures very approximate as we know that not everyone marks the register - please try to remember to do it. If you bring a visitor, please come at a quiet time. Although we try to be welcoming to all, it is not fair to paying members to be sitting out while beginners are being taken over the court. Also, please mark all visitors on the register as 'friend of .....', and log them into the Visitors Book - this is mandatory to cover us for Health & Safety. We currently are 46 members.

### Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held at Northall Village Hall at 7.15 for 7.30pm on Friday 10th November 2017, followed by the traditional jolly party. 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. All members should have received Agenda, AGM Details, reports, etc., by now. Please come along to the meeting and party. You are all very welcome!

**YOU MAY FIND IT HELPFUL AND INTERESTING TO READ THE OFFICER'S REPORTS SENT TO YOU PRIOR TO THE MEETING.**

### And Definitely Finally...

Perhaps not the first - but have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Croquet Year!

(All photos this issue by John Cundell, John Thorp, Ross Bagni, Roger Stroud - unless stated otherwise)