

newsletter

Open for business!

Those of you who have already paid your subs will know that we were allowed back into the park the week before Easter, which gave us the opportunity to mow the lawns and mark our territory before the public were allowed in. Since then we have scarified all the lawns to rake out the dead moss and applied the spring fertiliser - on the afternoon of Saturday April 21 the scarifier, new leaf sweeper, the old Atco mower and the fertiliser spreader were all in action simultaneously.

EH and other events in 2001

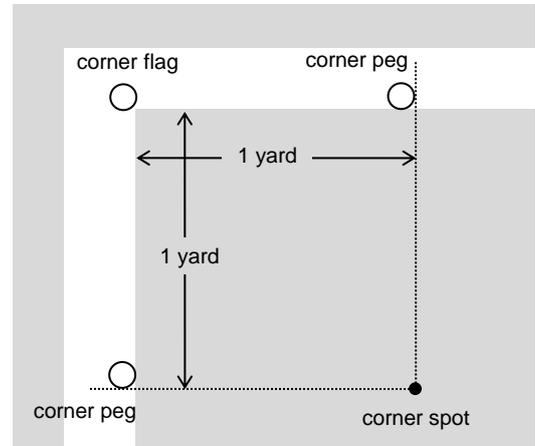
Below is a list of events taking place in the park. Wrest Park is not a featured English Heritage concert venue this year; the Bootleg Beatles concert is being organised by someone else and has already been advertised (£22 on the night!) in a Luton paper.

May 26-28	Garden Show
June 9/10	Mediaeval Tournament
June 30	Bootleg Beatles Concert
July 7	Silsoe Jazz Festival
July 28/29	Theatre Festival
Aug 4/5	Fantastical Fairytales
Aug 25-27	Craft Fair
Sept 8/9	Garden Show

A causerie on corner pegs, or where did the ball go off?

Wrest Park members who don't play in tournaments or matches could be forgiven for thinking that the corner pegs are the long pegs with coloured tops which mark the four corners of the lawn. Not so! These should, according to the Laws, be corner flags (see Law 3(f) and (g), pages 8 and 9). In the early days of the club the corner 'flags' were pegs with painted aluminium triangles fastened to them, but these proved impractical and we have since used pegs with painted tops. This year the old pegs, which were in a variety of shapes and sizes and a uniform state of delapidation, were replaced by the existing tournament set, and a new tournament set has been made by John Wheeler.

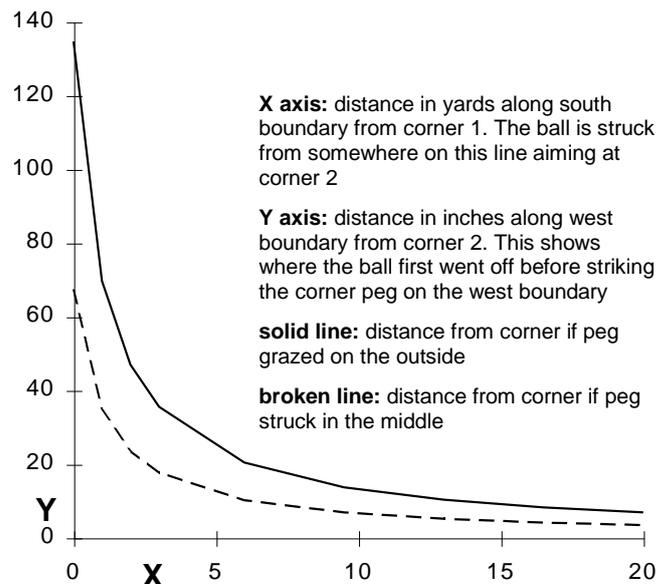
The true corner pegs are small white pegs, $\frac{3}{4}$ " in diameter, which are positioned on the boundary a yard out of the corner to indicate the position of the yard line. It can be helpful, if you want to shoot into a corner, to have the target defined in this way. The exact position of the pegs is shown in the diagram.



Let us say that the diagram represents corner 2. You are playing from corner 1, shooting down the west yard line at a ball on the corner 2 spot. You miss on the left and your ball hits the outside edge of the west boundary corner peg.

Looking at the diagram, if the right-hand side of the ball hits the left-hand side of the corner peg, then the left-hand edge of the ball must have crossed the boundary line (and therefore gone off) some distance before it hit the corner peg. Where did the ball first cross the line?

This subject was addressed by D.M.C. Prichard in the September 1972 issue of the Gazette. He examined the issue in detail, with formulae, approximations, calculations and a complex diagram. Use of the formula provides the data points for the graph:



The case described earlier is represented by a shot played from 0 on the X axis. If your ball just grazed the outside of the peg it would have touched the boundary just over 11 feet away from the corner, as shown by the solid line. If the ball struck the corner peg centrally it would have gone off about five and a half feet from the corner (the broken line). For a similar shot along the

north or south yard line the distances would be about 9 and 4½ feet respectively.

For the balls to finish in contact the ball aimed at the ball in the corner must go off at a distance from the yard line equal to or less than the ball's diameter, i.e. just over 3½ inches. If you shoot from corner 4 to corner 2 and just graze the outside edge of the west boundary peg, then according to the calculations the ball would have gone off just under 5½ inches away, so there would still be a gap. On the other hand if you hit the peg in the middle the ball would have gone off 2¾ inches away, so the two balls would then be in contact.

The furthest point along the south boundary from which you could hit the west boundary peg in the middle and still end up with a gap between the balls would be halfway along. In this case the ball will have gone off just over 5 inches from the corner.

Surprised? If you are in the habit of assuming that any ball hitting the corner peg is a corner ball then you should be. After all, it is the difference between two balls in contact and a rush or double target for you or your opponent. If you are faced with a shot such as has been described, and have lost faith in your accuracy, you might be wise to call an umpire who can observe where the ball first crosses the line.

The original article concludes:

Naturally these calculations assume that:

1. *The ball follows a straight course.*
2. *The corner peg is:*
 - (a) *Of the standard ¾" diameter.*
 - (b) *Correctly placed with its inside edge touching the inside edge of the boundary line.*
 - (c) *Upright.*
3. *The boundary line is straight.*

Committee Meeting - 26 April

The main points are summarised below:

- **Toilets:** The EH staff clean the loos in the wall near the Orangery morning and evening, and apparently during a recent tournament they were used after the evening cleaning and left in a state "not up to the required standard". Having once met the Custodian engaged on cleaning duties while fetching water one morning I can vouch for their opinions on the task, and it is not one we should be adding to unnecessarily. Tournament managers will bring this to the players' attention.
- **40th anniversary event:** The general feeling was to use the Institute facilities and base the event round a buffet lunch. The subcommittee should meet as soon as possible - it is suggested that John Wheeler convenes the meeting once he has assembled the list of potential invitees.
- **Groundsmanship:** Scarifying and fertiliser application has been completed. John Wheeler to check quantity of white liner and order as required.
- **Club Constitution:** George Collin to obtain an example constitution. A revised constitution will be drafted and presented at a future meeting.

- **Festival of Flowers and Crafts:** Gill Brewer to be asked if she would like to prepare a display.

- **Coaching:** The coaching day on June 10 was intended as being for Association croquet. but there has been a request for coaching in golf croquet as well. We will endeavour to cater for this. The Dunstable U3A are hoping to arrange a golf croquet coaching course this summer, and anyone wishing to attend should contact the U3A organiser, Mrs Richardson, on 01525 220600.

It was also suggested that high bisquers would benefit from watching and being coached by more experienced players, as there was a limit to what they could learn by playing each other in the club competitions. John Wheeler has offered coaching on Thursday evenings to anyone who is interested - please contact him to make arrangements. All seasoned players, if they are available, should offer help to those less experienced.

I would like to add a personal observation here, having frequently suggested (see Newsletters *passim*) that players wanting some coaching contact a more experienced player directly to arrange it. The problem with turning up on spec on Thursday is that most players will have arranged to play club games so you cannot guarantee that a coach will be free. So don't be shy, just pick up the phone or approach a prospective coach on a Thursday evening and arrange a mutually convenient time. I for one will be waiting to hear from you. And while we're on the subject, please fill in the coaching day form in the pavilion.

Club competitions for 2001

The draws and rules are attached. **Please make every effort to get ALL your first round matches played by June 14.** This will give us a sporting chance of holding the finals day as intended.

2311 opens the gate

This is the number for the new combination lock.

News from the CA

The Automatic Handicapping System now applies to 14 point games played on full size courts, with 5 points interchanged in handicap games. There is also more advice on setting golf croquet handicaps. See the noticeboard for details. The CA have also produced new leaflets on association and golf croquet, and a quantity is on order.

John Bevington

8 May 2001