



newsletter

Match results

Longman Cup vs Northampton (home) 17 June

Lost 3-4

Wrest Park	H'cap	Northampton	H'cap	WP score
Paul Sharrock	8	Les Carrick	9	+3T
Elaine Newman	20	Gill Carrick	16	
David Parsons	10	Charles Askew	9	-8T
Peter Newman	12	Owen Bryce	9	-1T
Paul Sharrock	8	Charles Askew	9	+4
David Parsons	10	Owen Bryce	9	-7
Peter Newman	12	Les Carrick	9	+13T
Elaine Newman	20	Gill Carrick	16	-8T

A close-run thing. The crucial game was Peter Newman's morning singles against Owen Bryce when Owen hit in at the death to make the vital point.

Beds & Herts League vs Colworth (away) 24 June

Lost 0-4

Wrest Park	H'cap	Colworth	H'cap	WP score
John Bevington	2	Judy Anderson	7	-5T
Ben Ashwell	12	Laurie Aspinall	12	
George Collin	2	Steve Jones	8	-11T
John Bevington	2	Judy Anderson	7	-7T
George Collin	2	Steve Jones	8	
Ben Ashwell	12	Laurie Aspinall	12	-9T

A first visit to Colworth for John and Ben, on a very hot day. The lawn, recently top dressed with sand, played well although some hoops were a bit loose. The balls (Barlow C) took a little getting used to, being rather squashy in the heat and having plenty of pull. All the games went to time - breaks were few and far between, the only one of any consequence being Steve's 8-pointer in the singles. Getting and keeping the innings was all important, and we didn't do either often enough to win.

Mary Rose vs Cheltenham (home) 14 July

Won 5-0

Wrest Park	H'cap	Cheltenham	H'cap	WP score
Rod Ashwell	1	Michael Rangely	1½	pegged down
John Wheeler	2	Peter Darby	2	
John Bevington	2	Paul Watson	2½	+8
George Collin	2	Denis Moorcraft	3	+25
Rod Ashwell	1	Michael Rangely	1½	+22
John Wheeler	2	Peter Darby	2	abandoned
John Bevington	2	Denis Moorcraft	3	+23
George Collin	2	Paul Watson	2½	+5

It wasn't long before the rain began to pour down, and the only person with a smile on his face was George, who won in short order with a double peel. We were 2-0 up at lunch, kindly provided by Howard, which included some full-bodied wine. The Grenache, at 15%, proved its worth

in the afternoon when Denis started off by picking up the wrong clip after running the first hoop. Easy wins for John and Rod and a further win for George sealed the victory and Peter Darby was left to reflect on a day that consisted of played two, drawn two. Next stop Woking.

Advanced Tournament 6-8 July

Report by Howard Bottomley

Three blocks, around thirty players, some with special leave and others who disappeared. A shower greeted us as Richard Smith (4) made three peels before asking Manager Eric Audsley for a silver award. It was his first all round break without bisques!

The matches competed with Wimbledon, cricket and mobile phones. The latter seen in use on one lawn and heard quite close to another. Time for some local rules, perhaps. Nick Harris was at his best, claiming to have played so slowly that Paul Swaffield's socks wore out and telling us of other tales from his youth during the long lunches under the groundsman's tree.

Richard White must be a magician as he not only won Block A with five in contention, but also put a spell on Eric for leaving him out of a morning session and denying him an evening game. Eric's carefully prepared egg mayonnaise salad fell gently to the pavilion floor.

Tom Anderson advanced well, although his victories reduced in overall points scored and the gap by which he won. Even a concession was not enough, as John Bevington quietly took Block B, through a game against Tom, without time limits, which John managed to win by four on time!

(I must explain this. As the order of play was known in advance Tom and I knew we were playing first thing on Sunday and proceeded to play with a three-hour time limit. When we went to report the result we were suprised to find that we should have been playing without a time limit - a note had been added to the order of play, but as we already knew we were playing each other we hadn't had cause to look at it before we started - Ed.)

Robert Alexander was concentrating on all three days. This chap meant business and his determination led him to overtake Roger Ivill and win Block C. Richard Smith had the consolation of the most points gained and a handicap reduction. Tom Weston completed the only TP. Duncan Hector observed that players were taking the game too seriously. He could be right, as mallets were flung, "Oh No" could be heard most days, and some audible obscenities were recognised. Duncan won our equivalent of the wooden spoon - a banana.

Brian Kennedy R.I.P.

The "Oh No!" referred to above was the trademark of Brian Kennedy, uttered loudly in a pronounced Geordie accent whenever a roquet was missed or some other

shot failed to come off as intended. Sadly, it will be heard no more. Brian, a regular visitor to Wrest Park, entered the July tournament but never made it home to Newcastle. He had a heart problem and went to Hemel Hempstead hospital immediately after the tournament. From there he was sent back to his son's house where he died. Our sympathy goes to his friends and family

Committee Meeting 21 June

- **Apologies:** Eric & Irene.
- **Forthcoming events:** participation in the Silsoe Flower Festival will not take place as we have been unable to contact the Festival representative for further information. Other events in hand, help with the School Fair would be appreciated (*see report elsewhere*).

The 'who's doing what' sheet for the July tournament will be put up in the pavilion. There are 28 entries so far, and we should book space at the Star & Garter for meals as soon as possible.

- **National and federation competitions:** see results on these pages. Other matches taking place at Wrest Park in the near future are Colworth's league match against Letchworth on 14 July and their Longman Cup match on July 30.
- **Coaching Day:** reported on in last newsletter. We are hoping to organise some doubles games (a pro-am alternate stroke format was suggested) on July 18 as a form of coaching for higher handicappers. (*A form was put up in the pavilion but only attracted two couples, so nothing took place*)
- **Groundsmanship:** Eric suggested the need for summer fertiliser, of which we have a supply of a soluble variety. The supply of clips is getting low and some old metal clips are to be repainted to fill the gap. (*More clips have been bought, and fertiliser was applied on 14 July*).
- **40th anniversary event:** The date for this is planned to be Saturday 22 September. A list of potential invitees should be ready by the end of July. We hope to use the facilities at the Institute and consult with them regarding catering. A figure of £5 per head was suggested, with a cash bar
- **Club constitution:** George and Eric have been looking at amendments to the original constitution which reflect the current status of the club and its relationship with the Institute. This will continue with the intention of presenting the new constitution at next year's AGM
- **Club competitions:** The first rounds have been completed more or less on schedule and players are to be thanked for getting on with it. Please let your next opponents know if you are going to be away on holiday.
- **Any other business:** Rod suggested that the informal tournaments at Christmas and Easter count for CA index points, but this did not find favour. He is planning a 14 point tournament for this season (see below).

Next meeting: Thursday 9 August

New 14 point tournament

Rod has made a draw for a 14 point advanced tournament, copies of which are attached for those in the draw. Play if you want to, scratch if you don't. Details are on the draw sheet. Let Rod know what you think of the format, as the 14 point game is being advocated as an alternative to the usual 26 point game and feedback would be welcome.

The World Championships

You probably know by now that the new World Champion is Reg Bamford, who beat Robert Fulford in the final with two sextuple peels (and a quadruple peel). The media coverage was predictably poor, but I can report that there was a short mention of it on a Transworld Sport programme which appeared on Channel 4 at about 8.45 am on Saturday 14 July, consisting of a view of the lawns at Hurlingham, a few shots and a picture of Reg holding the trophy. All over in about 30 seconds - pathetic, really.

Silsoe School Fair - 30 June

Once again we invited adults and children to have a go at some typical croquet shots at the school's annual event. Billed as the Silsoe Croquet Club (!) we arrived to find our original pitch had been changed, and we then changed it again to get some better ground. John Wheeler set to to mow the 100 square yards (two cuts required, with an interruption for showers), and John Bevington set up the events. Four attempts at a tournament hoop from a yard, followed by four attempts at a five yard roquet (with suitable allowances for children, who had to make do with full size mallets).

The uneven nature of the ground made it a sporting course, and balls could take off or make sudden deviations without warning. This was followed by four attempts at a short rush into a four foot diameter circle, and finally four split croquet strokes to get each ball into a circle. A pronounced hill made it necessary to aim for the left hand edge of the left hand circle in order to stand any chance at all.

John Martin also came to help, and we raised about £20. As for next year, well, we could do with some child-sized mallets. And I think the circles could be bigger - after innumerable attempts I only managed to get both balls in the circles once!

Diary

Aug 14 Amptill 41 club croquet evening.

John Bevington

27 July 2001