



newsletter

Club Competitions

Rather than send individual copies of each draw I am listing all the first round games which will be enough to get started - both players are responsible for arranging when to play. The conditions are on the noticeboard - note no time limits unless agreed.

Steel Cup

Bryan Harral	v	John Wheeler
Tom Anderson	v	Rod Ashwell
Howard Bottomley	v	John Bevington
Eric Audsley	v	George Collin
Bryan Harral	v	Howard Bottomley
Tom Anderson	v	Eric Audsley
John Wheeler	v	John Bevington
Rod Ashwell	v	George Collin

B level Trophy

Ben Ashwell	v	Rodney Ward
p1	v	Bryan Harral
bye	v	p2
Steve Jones	v	Tom Anderson
Ben Ashwell	v	bye
p1	v	Steve Jones
Rodney Ward	v	p2
Bryan Harral	v	Tom Anderson

14 point Trophy

Eric Audsley	v	Rod Ashwell
Ben Ashwell	v	Howard Bottomley
Bryan Harral	v	John Bevington
Rodney Ward	v	Tom Anderson
Eric Audsley	v	Bryan Harral
Ben Ashwell	v	Rodney Ward
Rod Ashwell	v	John Bevington
Tom Anderson	v	Tom Anderson

Archer Cup

John Bevington	v	Ben Ashwell
p1	v	p2
Rod Ashwell	v	Rodney Ward
Eric Audsley	v	bye
Steve Jones	v	Bryan Harral
Howard Bottomley	v	George Collin
David Parsons	v	Tom Anderson
Peter Newman	v	David Woolley
John Bevington	v	Steve Jones
Rod Ashwell	v	David Parsons
p1	v	Howard Bottomley
Eric Audsley	v	Peter Newman
Ben Ashwell	v	Bryan Harral
Rodney Ward	v	Tom Anderson
p2	v	George Collin
bye	v	David Woolley

Ashwell Cup

Steve Jones	v	Ben Marchant
George Collin	v	p1
Eric Audsley	v	Ben Ashwell
Peter Newman	v	John Bevington
Steve Jones	v	Eric Audsley
George Collin	v	Peter Newman
Ben Marchant	v	Ben Ashwell
p1	v	John Bevington

De Grey Plate

Elaine Newman	v	Peter Cox
Mary Russell	v	Martin Foss
John Martin	v	Gordon Sampson
Ben Marchant	v	Michael Holford
Elaine Newman	v	John Martin
Mary Russell	v	Ben Marchant
Peter Cox	v	Gordon Sampson
Martin Foss	v	Michael Holford

The Golf croquet tournament will be handicap singles. It has its own conditions, and there are sheets on the board which explain handicaps and what you can do with your bisques. Entries are divided into blocks. You play everyone in your block (arrange games amongst yourselves) and the winners go through to a knock-out. There are spare places for late entrants - just add your name to one of the blocks.

Block 1

Rod Ashwell
David Parsons
Eileen Palmer
Sally Clay
Margaret Brown
Yvonne Banks
(spare)

Block 2

Eric Audsley
Ben Marchant
Keith Palmer
Veronica Richardson
Irene Stevens
(spare)
(spare)

Block 3

John Wheeler
Bob Barker
Irene Davis
Vera Pearson
Peter Stevens
(spare)
(spare)

Block 4

Ben Ashwell
Martin Foss
Sheila Beal
Linda Potton
Una Pengelly
(spare)
(spare)

Membership list

Also enclosed is the current membership list. With David Parsons' help we have managed to merge the information from the database in a way that preserves the original format - old tradition in alliance with new technology. Many thanks for taking the time to fill in all the information on the membership form, and please check your entry and let me know if I have made any transcription errors.

AGM and committee minutes

Not wishing to bore everyone to death with the mostly routine business of the AGM I have printed some copies

of the minutes and left them in the hut for people to help themselves.

Main points from the committee meeting on 25 April:

- Rod Ashwell to arrange purchase of six new mallets. Many thanks to Martin Field for repairing some of the old ones.
- As Judy Anderson is still recuperating we need to arrange catering support for the tournament on Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 May. If you put your name down as a volunteer and are free on either day, please ring Howard Bottomley.
- We could also do with some help with the visit from Hitchin Priory Rotary Club, as they threaten to bring a party of 30-40. Monday 27 May from 6-6.30- ring me if you can assist.
- Inspired by Peter Newman's high bisquer's initiative, with the novel feature of points for merely playing, John Wheeler is planning an alternate stroke pro-am type doubles event. See note below.
- It was suggested that group members be allowed to play on Wednesdays as well as Mondays because of the increasing numbers; there is no objection in principle but the real problem may be that there are not enough balls in the small hut. The lawns can accommodate 48 golf croquet players at a time using first and second colour balls; if there is a ball shortage please use the Jaques balls (not the Barlow GTs which have GT written on them) in the locker in the pavilion.

Pro-am doubles

We hope to stage our own pro-am alternate stroke doubles event on either 23 June or 4 August. How does it work? Each pair consists of a high and low bisquer, and once a player has made a roquet, the rest of the turn is played by both partners taking alternate strokes. Everyone is involved all the time, and we will try and lay on food and drink. Please put your names on the list if you are interested.

Diary

May 12	B&H League vs Meldreth (home)
May 14	Rod Ashwell's school group
May 17-19	Handicap tournament
May 25-26	CA Gold Coaching course
May 27	Croquet evening for Hitchin Rotary
June 1-4	Wrest Park Garden Show
June 11	Irene Davis' group (all lawns in use)
June 15-16	Wrest Park Theatre Festival
June 20	SRI Surrey University group
June 29	Wrest Park Concert: BBC Radio Big Band
June 30	Wrest Park Concert: The Pretenders
July 3 (or 10)	SRI Harpenden group
July 5-7	Advanced tournament
July 6	Jazz Piano in the Orangery
July 21	EACF Club Champion Tournament
July 30	Irene Davis' group (all lawns in use)
Aug 17-18	Advanced tournament
Aug 24-26	Wrest Park Craft Fair
Aug 31-Sep 1	CA All England area final
Sept 6-8	CA Selector's Weekend
Sept 13-15	Handicap tournament

Match results

Beds & Herts League vs Colworth (home)

20 April

Won 3-2

Wrest Park	Colworth	WP score
Bryan Harral (5)	Steve Jones (8)	-6
Peter Newman (12)	Laurie Aspinall (12)	
George Collin (1½)	Arthur Weightman (2½)	+16
John Bevington (1½)	Arthur Weightman (2½)	-26
Bryan Harral (5)	Steve Jones (8)	+22
Peter Newman (12)	Laurie Aspinall (12)	+4T

This match was brought forward in order to have a presence on the lawns for the St George's Day Festival, but the crowds took little interest in proceedings. George kept Arthur out by judicious three-ball breaks, but in the afternoon Arthur took his revenge in fine style, playing quickly and purposefully. The match was in the balance until the end, when, with time about to be called, Peter joined up when ahead. Luckily nothing came of it and we recorded our first league win for over a year.

Friendly vs Oxford University (home)

27 April

Drew 3-3

Wrest Park	Oxford University	WP score
Rod Ashwell (0)	Mark Gooding (7)	+2
John Wheeler (1½)		
George Collin (1½)	Stuart Romeril (8)	-26
John Bevington (1½)	Mark Snow (14)	+7
John Wheeler (1½)	Stuart Romeril (8)	-22
John Bevington (1½)		
George Collin (1½)	Mark Gooding (7)	-18
Tom Anderson (2½)	Mark Snow (14)	+5

The numbers were in doubt until the last minute, but the fact that Oxford could only manage a team of three proved providential. The caterer had allowed for a total of ten, but the lads who lunch (honorary member: Tom Anderson) demolished the lot, and made healthy inroads into the wine cellar as well. Playing solo doubles didn't worry them in the least, and there was time for several more games. Stuart repeated his doubles success with only 3 bisques, but George had two convincing wins playing level against the same opponents. Tom's one-ball ending against Mark was the highlight of the day.

Newsletter distribution

This one is going out to all members so you have the membership list and competition first round draws. Normally the newsletter goes to all full members and the group members' representatives, and there is a copy on the noticeboard in the pavilion.

John Bevington

8 May 2002