

newsletter

Events diary

July 2	David Hills' group (evening, 6 lawns)
July 5	Silsoe Jazz Festival
July 4-6	Advanced tournament
July 8	Dunstable U3A (evening, 6 lawns)
July 10	Surrey Univ group (afternoon, 6 lawns)
July 11-13	Silsoe Drama Club's open air production of Twelfth Night (01525 862122)
July 20	EACF Club Champions Tournament (Colchester)
July 25-27	Eastern Championship
Aug 9-10	Advanced tournament
Aug 23-25	Wrest Park Crafts Festival
Sept 27	EACF League playoff at Wrest Park
Sept 13-14	Handicap tournament

Details of any other events taking place in the park can be had by ringing the English Heritage office at Wrest Park on 01525 860152.

Handicap tournament 16-18 May

Report by Geoff Strutt

Your reporter returns to croquet after 6 years in the wilderness. Still a member here but, having been out of the country for over 2 years and more than 3 years commuting to Southampton, not an active one. What a joy to be back and retired!

The players were divided into 2 blocks, one of 10 players and one of 11, leaving some flexibility for the manager as not all games in the blocks need to be played to guarantee 8 matches for everyone.

Friday turned out sunny and warm (I wish). No, on the contrary, after some lovely weather earlier in the month this weekend proved to be the worst of the month. Friday served up light rain and drizzle interspersed occasionally with heavy rain and accompanying wind. Saturday was a little better with some dry spells in between the rain while wind was much more the problem. More rain on Sunday morning but it cleared up to allow a drier afternoon, but the wind remained.

The hot mug of soup was a much-needed starter for lunch on each day; but excitement started before lunch with coffee from the trolley which included a Penguin. It was overheard from one player that the main reason for attending Wrest Park Tournaments was because of the provision of Penguins. We love them. Coffee, lunch and tea are all provided here for an extremely reasonable daily rate. On behalf of all the players who partook, many thanks are due to Irene Davis for organising the catering rota and to those who actually did for us – Helen and Irene on Friday; Linda and Vera on Saturday and finally Sheila and John on Sunday.

What about the manager's style? Eric is certainly upright but on one occasion he took a horizontal slide which dented his demeanour somewhat. While watching a ball

in the line of play, he suddenly launched himself at the unintended new line the culprit ball was taking now some yards from where he was 'on guard'. The launch became headlong as he proceeded to glide gracefully between several balls which nevertheless remained untouched. Despite striking his head on the soggy ground there appears to be no apparent damage to his person nor, more importantly, to the lawn surface!

Gordon Weir twice managed to make hoops from 10 yards off the boundary (penultimate from north observed by your reporter) in two separate games, one of which he subsequently won.

At the end of Friday, 3 players from each block had 3 wins: George Woolhouse, John Hall, David Kitson (A block); Eric Audsley, Mark Holman and Robert Staddon (B block). Next day Eric was the only unbeaten player. Then on Sunday the A block was won by John Hall because he had beaten David Kitson, both with 6 wins. As Eric failed to win another game, the B block was not decided until early evening by the damp final game on lawn 1, and Robert Staddon was the victor due to his previous win over David Gillett; both with 7 wins.

Inter Counties 24-27 May

Bedfordshire, invigorated by new blood in the shape of Ben Ashwell, just missed out on promotion by finishing fourth in Division 2. Things were looking good after the first two days with five wins and a narrow loss to the eventual winners Sussex, but Monday saw defeats by Yorkshire and Lancashire, and in our one match at Compton the next day we went down 2-1 against Kent, where the top pair, Jon Watson and Ben Ashwell, lost to a triple peel by Dave Mundy.



L-R: Tom Anderson, George Collin, Howard Bottomley, Ben Ashwell, Jon Watson, (seated) Arthur Weightman, John Wheeler, John Bevington

The match against Yorkshire (five of the team were coincidentally staying in the same hotel as ourselves)

saw father and son on opposite sides at top pair. Early in the game Jon and Ben, with one ball already started and the other for hoop 1, laid up with a rush up the lawn towards blue (Rod Ashwell) near hoop 3. Blue could not shoot safely at any ball, and so Rod was planning a safety shot into corner 1 or thereabouts. At this point blue was moved by a ball from the other game. A lengthy discussion followed as to the exact position of blue, involving all the players at various times (see below). Having reached agreement Rod went to play the shot, but when he looked at the position he was still unconvinced that it was the right one. He eventually played the shot, and blue travelled unerringly towards hoop 1 where, inevitably, it stuck fast in the jaws.



Ben, Jon and Rod consider the position

Division 1			Division 2		
	Matches	Games		Matches	Games
Gloucs	8	21	Sussex	9	21
Notts	7	17	Lancs	8	21
Avon	6	18	Dorset	7	22
Surrey	6	18	Beds	6	21
Essex	5	15	Kent	6	18
Herts	5	15	Warwicks	6	17
Cheshire	5	15	Yorks	4	12
Middx	5	14	CA Select	3	8
N'umberlnd	4	15	Devon	2	9
Glamorgan	3	11	Berks	2	8
Suffolk	1	6	Channel I	2	8



"I wouldn't have done that" - supporters Enid Bottomley and Judy Anderson look on with a critical eye.



Bedfordshire power trio George, Jon and Ben in play

Match results

Inter Club vs Guildford (home)

1 June

Won 6-1

Wrest Park	Guildford	WP score
Jon Watson (-1)	Jeff Dawson (-2)	+11
Howard Bottomley (-½)	Tony Mrozinski (-1)	
Ben Ashwell (1½)	Bob Stephens (2)	+16
George Collin (2)	Graham Gale (-1)	+19
Jon Watson (-1)	Jeff Dawson (-2)	-16
Howard Bottomley (-½)	Tony Mrozinski (-1)	+17
Ben Ashwell (1½)	Graham Gale (-1)	+16
George Collin (2)	Bob Stephens (2)	+24

Watson got things off to a good start by bringing bacon, rolls and a frying pan, and the team nearly completed a clean sweep with both Ben and George playing well. Graham Gale was a bit off form, having only recently returned from a long lay-off due to injury.

B&H League vs Enfield (home)

7 June

Drew 3-3

Wrest Park	Enfield	WP score
Rod Ashwell (0)	Basil Lawrence (10)	+2T
Peter Newman (12)	Alan Foott (14)	
George Collin (2)	Ken Pickett (6)	-15
Elaine Newman (20)	Alan Witts (18)	
Rod Ashwell (0)	Ken Pickett (6)	-23
George Collin (2)	Basil Lawrence (10)	-20
Peter Newman (12)	Alan Foott (14)	+3T
Elaine Newman (22)	Alan Witts (18)	+5

Congratulations to Elaine on a fine pegged -out win.

Friendly vs Oxford University (away)

7 June

Won 3-2

Wrest Park	Oxford	WP score
Howard Bottomley (-½)	David Follows (12)	+6T
Ben Marchant (18)	Aly Kassan (20)	
Ben Ashwell (1)	Guy Towlson (3½)	+13
John Bevington (2½)	John Aldis (20)	
Ben Ashwell (1)	Mark Snow (8)	+9
John Bevington (2½)	Andrew Cottrell (12)	-8
Ben Marchant (18)	David Follows (12)	-13

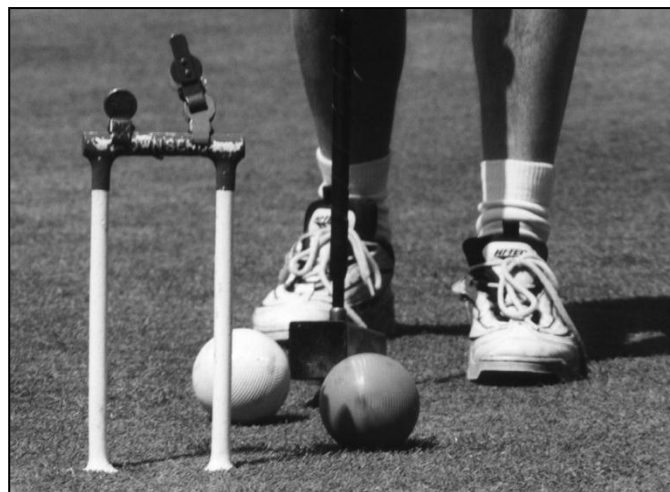
Cryptic column answers

Well, I didn't say it was going to be easy. 2, 7, 9, 11, 20, 24 and 30 are anagrams, some with a twist, and anyone who got 28 deserves to be chauffeured for life in the real thing. Rest assured that I won't attempt this again for some considerable time.

1. Ultima Thule (5, 8) NORTH BOUNDARY
2. Buster and trainee (L) poser seen together (7, 8) DOUBLES PARTNERS
3. On reflection, no light (Black) necessary to complete these (7, 7) PRIMARY COLOURS
4. Backward bear is one of six (4) HOOP
5. Prelude to Prokofiev suite (The Love for Three Oranges) is a winner (6, 4) TRIPLE PEEL
6. Sweaty one for smith (6,4) (HAMMER S)HOT
7. Iona coast is ragged - it's the real thing (11) ASSOCIATION
8. Have another go in the soup (6) BISQUE
9. The prim Anaconda nut can last for days (8, 10) HANDICAP TOURNAMENT
10. Whitewash by numbers (6-3) TWENTY-SIX
11. Percentage loses article (A) in the middle (6, 3) CENTRE PEG
12. Usual time off after break (8, 5) STANDARD LEAVE
13. Puddings (including Queen) with drink could be tempting (6, 4) DUFF(ER + T)ICE
14. Right finished? Not just yet (5) R-OVER
15. Greatly moved by this dumb impression (5, 4-3) THICK TAKE-OFF
16. President Wilson's proposal (after WW1) for a quicker game (8, 6) FOURTEEN POINTS
17. A stretch in here is torture for the lads (4, 4) BALL RACK
18. Show respect to the boss up North (6) BOW-DON
19. Top group swap dangerous drugs (1, 5) A CLASS
20. Rotten oak bowls needed by judge (4, 4) LAWS BOOK
21. Flatten oarsman - it's your fault (5, 6) CRUSH STROKE
22. The mightiest sword (11) PEN-ULTIMATE
23. Poker player scoops the pool here (6, 4) (CORNER S)POT
24. William (TELL) and Sam come round - heavy hitters (7) MALLETS
25. Open for men only (4) GOLF
26. Flats in Geneva for management (5, 5) SWISS BLOCK
27. Throwing meat down by the river (10) HURLING-HAM
28. R- (or vice versa) (5, 5) SPLIT ROLLS (R-R)

29. A dozen on the (snooker) table (4, 3, 5) BLUE AND BLACK

30. Ed, plan a CV in 24 hours (a day) - rise guaranteed (8, 4) ADVANCED PLAY



Name that trainer - Howard about to run 2-back at Southwick

Please shut (and lock) the gate

The number required to open the padlock on the blue mesh gate has been changed to 2585. This change became necessary as a result of the gate being found unlocked. Please make sure you lock it each time, even if you think that others may be close behind you. The low-level mounting makes it easier (even though one wishes those responsible would finish the job off properly and apply a coat of paint).

John Bevington

17 June 2003