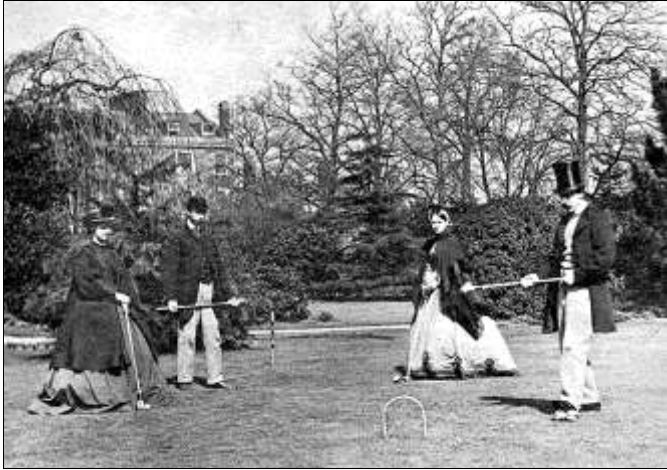


newsletter

What the Victorians did for us



This photograph comes from an old family album and dates from the 1860s. The individuals are only recorded by their initials, and the woman on the right is probably Marianne Foster (my great-great-grandfather's sister's daughter). The man on the left is identified as GB and could either be Gerald Barrett, who she married in 1867, or (more likely) my great-grandfather's brother Geoffrey Bevington, who would also have been responsible for the photo and died at the age of 34 in 1872.

The setting is the garden of Geoffrey's parents' house in Wandsworth. Note the shape of the hoops, the peg (one of two in those days), the pepper-pot mallets, striped balls and the use of the foot.

Annual General Meeting 2004

The AGM will be at **7.30pm on Thursday 11 March** in the upstairs room at the Star & Garter in Silsoe

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of 2003 AGM and matters arising
3. Reports: **Chairman**
Secretary
Treasurer
CA Tournament Secretary
Club Tournament Secretary
Club Captain
Groundsman
Catering
4. Election of officers
5. Diary of events
6. Facilities and equipment
7. Catering
8. Coaching for new members
9. EACF news
10. SRI and EH news
11. Any other business

- The minutes of the 2003 AGM will be available at the AGM. If you can't attend the meeting but want a topic discussed, let me know and I can raise it under AOB.

- You should have received your own membership form. **Please check the details**, make any corrections and return the form with your subscription before 1 April.
- The distinction between the membership categories is that all full members have keys to the equipment shed, whereas group members come as a group with a nominated keyholder. As a general rule Monday evenings are for golf croquet and Thursdays for Association. Other than that you can all play what you like whenever you like, but check the events diary in case the lawns have been booked, and always sign in at the mansion during working hours on weekdays.

Subscriptions

- It is proposed that for 2004 the membership fee be held at **£45.60 (including £6.10 CA levy) for full members and raised to £13.50 for group members.**
- The green fee for visitors remains at £3.50 per person per session, and is payable by guests of members and by visiting groups. Please record these payments in the Visitor's Book in the pavilion. Full members can bring three guests free of charge during the season.

2004 diary

April 18	Easter Egg
May 21-23	Handicap tournament
June 8	Dunstable U3A group booking (pm)
June 15	Waterways group booking (pm)
June 19-20	Home Internationals (CA event)
June 27	Group members golf croquet singles
July 6	Dunstable U3A group booking (pm)
July 9-11	Advanced tournament
July 21	Waterways group booking (pm)
July 25	Group members golf croquet doubles
August 14-15	Advanced tournament
August 21-22	Golf croquet Selector's weekend (CA event)
September 12	EACF club champions tournament
September 17-19	Handicap tournament

Anyone wishing to enter the Easter Egg competition should contact Rod Ashwell by the end of March - it is a light-hearted tournament whose format depends on the number and standard of the entries.

For details of English Heritage events at Wrest Park ring 01525 860152, or visit www.english-heritage.org.uk.

Golf croquet tournaments 2004

Following consultation with the various golf croquet groups we will be running two one-day competitions for singles and doubles, for group members only. Please enter by ticking the appropriate box on the subscriptions and tournament entry form. The exact formats will be decided nearer the time, but it will probably be American blocks with a knock-out.

If places are still available once the entry forms have been returned we will invite entries from golf croquet

players from local groups who are not already group members at Wrest Park. There will be a limit of 24 for the singles and 48 for the doubles, so please enter the events yourselves and tell your friends about them.

Annual Dinner 2003



Clockwise round the table: George Collin, Charmian and Bryan Harral, Elaine and Peter Newman, Judy and Tom Anderson



Tim and Gill Brewer, Howard and Enid Bottomley, John Wheeler, Rod and Ben Ashwell. Also present: John Martin, Hugh and Marie Williams

Eighteen of us settled down to some solid browsing and sluicing at the Leaside Hotel in Luton on 21 November, and many thanks to Rod for arranging it. If you haven't been before, why not come next year?

Club Tournaments 2003

De Grey Plate **Winner: Elaine Newman**
(14 pt h'cap) **Runner-up: John Martin**

This result appeared too late for the last issue. Elaine was through in one half of the draw and lost to John in the other semi-final, but came through to win the final.

Early season coaching course

Peter Newman is planning to run an Association croquet coaching course for beginners and anyone with a handicap of 18 or over. This will be on Tuesday evenings at 6 pm starting on 4 May and will run for six weeks. Each session will last two hours. The course will include coaching on technique, explanations of the basic rules, practice exercises and short games (possibly alternate stroke doubles) to put what has been learnt into context. Any experienced players who would like to come and assist would be very welcome.

Please get in touch with Peter if you would like to take part. I would recommend it to all new members – croquet can be frustrating to start with, and a little coaching can make a big difference to your enjoyment of the game.

EACF/NT tournaments 2004

The East Anglian Croquet Federation/National Trust tournaments are at the following properties:

Melford Hall, Long Melford, near Sudbury, Suffolk
Anglesey Abbey, Lode, near Cambridge
Felbrigg Hall, Felbrigg, near Cromer, Norfolk
Ickworth House, Horringer, near Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk

Short Croquet

June 27 Melford Hall
July 11 Anglesey Abbey
July 25 Anglesey Abbey
August 8 Felbrigg Hall
Sept 5 Ickworth (Final)

Golf croquet

July 10 Anglesey Abbey (Doubles)
Sept 5 Ickworth (Singles)

I have entry forms for anyone who is interested.

EACF Golf Croquet League

The EACF are planning a golf croquet league this year, and I can forward details to anyone who wants to organise a team. Entries need to be in by **29 February** or shortly thereafter, so be quick.

Catering support

We will need two persons per day to provide catering support on May 21-23, June 19-20, July 9-11, August 14-15, August 21-22 and September 17-19. If you can help please say so on your subscription form and/or call Irene Davis, who will be drawing up the rota.

Newsletters via email

Those of you capable of receiving it will have had this newsletter (a Word document) via email as well as hard copy. Please compare the two versions to see if everything has come out as it should. If you print it on an inkjet it may complain that the margins aren't big enough, but let the printer have a go anyway.

If I don't hear to the contrary I will assume that you are happy to just receive the newsletter electronically from now on – it does save time and postage.

Club Tournaments 2004

Make sure you entries are in by 1 April. The draws will take place on 8 April and will be up on the board the week after. If you want to know who you're playing ring me, otherwise get down and look on the board. Please play by the due dates or you may be scratched.

Can't wait to play?

Please use lawns 3 and 4. They are ready for you.