



Wrest Park Silsoe Bedfordshire

newsletter

Home Internationals 19/20 June



L-R Chris Williams (W), Sam Tudor (W), David Maugham (E).
Photo by Jon Watson.

Matches between the countries consisted of five singles played as best of three. England won all their matches, with Ireland, Scotland and Wales winning one each



The wearing of the green, as modeled by Ed Cunningham (I).
Photo by Jon Watson.



Jonathan Kirby (S) lining up a rover peel.
Photo by Peter Newman.

There were 25 triple peels in the 69 games played, which shows what the best players can do in what for many were unfamiliar surroundings. Weather was sunny

for the most part, with cool breezes and the occasional shower. England included Robert Fulford, David Maugham and Mark Avery, all of whom played for Great Britain in last year's MacRobertson Shield, so their win was no great surprise.



L-R Ian Burridge (W), John Evans (W, in short-sleeved sweater), Robert Fulford (E), Mark Avery (E), England captain David Maugham accepting the trophy from CA Tournament Committee member Bruce Rannie (S), manager Chris Williams (W).

Match results

Mary Rose vs Nottingham (home)

3 July

Won 5-1

Wrest Park	Nottingham	WP score
John Wheeler (1½)	Gordon Hopewell (1)	+11
George Collin (2½)	Dean Bennison (2½)	
John Bevington (2½)	Richard Huxley (4½)	unfinished
Bryan Harral (3)	Rick Davis (4½)	+18
John Wheeler (1½)	Gordon Hopewell (1)	+14
George Collin (2½)	Dean Bennison (2½)	+15
John Bevington (2½)	Rick Davis (4½)	+11
Bryan Harral (3)	Richard Huxley (4½)	-17

The doubles saw George round to 4-back early on, and the game then slowed to a crawl. John, not having played for a month, had trouble running hoops and Gordon was not playing particularly well. In the singles Bryan quickly disposed of Rick Davis, who couldn't hit, but Richard, who has only been playing for a couple of seasons, went to 4-back in no time at all, playing immaculately and utilising good defensive leaves. John managed to catch up somewhat and the game was pegged down once the doubles was finished. We then settled to a late lunch provided by Howard Bottomley.

Richard then hit everything to beat Bryan, but John Wheeler and George both came good. With the match decided, Rick took a suicide shot to give John Bevington the innings, and shortly afterwards John finished by two-balling round from 3-back.

B&H League v Watford (home)

18 July

Drew 3-3

Wrest Park	Watford	WP score
Geoff Strutt (8)	Mark Homan (7)	+20
Ben Marchant (18)	John Moore (16)	
Peter Newman (10)	Simon Hathrell (5)	+12T
Elaine Newman (20)	David Drazin (12)	
Geoff Strutt (8)	Simon Hathrell (5)	-1
Peter Newman (10)	Mark Homan (7)	-10
Ben Marchant (18)	David Drazin (12)	+4T
Elaine Newman (20)	John Moore (16)	-4T

The unbeaten record survives, but it was close. After being two up at lunch everyone's wheels fell off apart from Ben's, and the draw was celebrated by all with scones, jam and liberal doses of clotted cream.

Golf croquet singles 27 June

The group members' singles tournament attracted 18 players on a sunny day marred only by one heavy shower. Players were divided into five blocks of four and played three 35 minute rounds before lunch. The winners of each block plus the best second went into the top block of six, the others forming two more blocks.

The winner of the top block, and the trophy, was John Cundell, and the other blocks were won by Peggy Kenny and Yvonne Banks.



L-R Yvonne Banks, John Cundell and Peggy Kenny.



Everything – and everyone – stops for tea.

Preliminary block play

	P	W	D	L	For	Against	Diff
John Cundell	2	1	0	1	12	9	+3
Diana Phelps	2	1	0	1	12	11	+1
Margaret Marshall	2	1	0	1	8	12	-4
Audrey Bunn							
Helen Wilkinson	3	2	0	1	18	13	+5
Peggy Kenny	3	1	1	1	17	16	+1
Len Buckingham	3	1	1	1	14	16	-2
Yvonne Banks	3	0	0	3	14	18	-4
Linda Potton	3	3	0	0	21	7	+14
John Fogg	3	2	0	1	15	13	+2
Maureen Watts	3	1	0	2	14	16	-2
Eileen Harrington	3	0	0	3	7	21	-14
Irene Davis	2	2	0	0	14	3	+11
Edna Hickman	2	1	0	1	7	12	-5
Don Barrett	2	0	0	2	7	13	-6
Sheila Beal							
Eve Buckingham	3	3	0	0	20	8	+12
Ronnie Richardson	3	2	0	1	18	13	+5
Margaret Whitten	3	1	0	2	9	18	-9
Erica Fogg	3	0	0	3	11	19	-8

Final block play

	P	W	D	L	For	Against	Diff
John Cundell	5	4	0	1	30	16	+14
Ronnie Richardson	5	3	0	2	26	26	0
Helen Wilkinson	5	3	0	2	22	24	-2
Eve Buckingham	5	3	0	2	24	28	-4
Linda Potton	5	2	0	3	25	31	-6
Irene Davis	5	1	0	4	25	27	-2
Peggy Kenny	5	4	0	1	28	14	+14
Len Buckingham	5	3	0	2	26	23	+3
Diana Phelps	5	2	0	3	25	24	-1
John Fogg	5	2	0	3	24	30	-6
Margaret Marshall	5	1	1	3	24	27	-3
Maureen Watts	5	1	1	3	18	27	-9
Yvonne Banks	5	4	0	1	29	20	+9
Erica Fogg	5	3	1	1	31	25	+6
Margaret Whitten	5	3	0	2	29	24	+5
Eileen Harrington	5	2	0	3	26	29	-3
Edna Hickman	5	1	1	3	27	31	-4
Don Barrett	5	1	0	4	18	31	-13

Advanced tournament July 9-11

*"Tom moves in a mysterious way
His wonders to perform"*

*with apologies to William Cowper**

The tournament was won by Nick Parish, who won all his games except the last when he went down -2 to Ben Ashwell on Sunday afternoon. Ben had been dressed up as a chimney sweep for a fancy dress party the night before, and in the morning had brushed Nick Harris aside +26 TP. The only other triples were recorded by Lionel Tibble, who did two in succession on Saturday, each in about 45 minutes, against manager Eric Audsley and Peter Thompson, and by Jack Wicks against Richard Stevens. Other trophy winners were Peter Thompson for the highest number of index points gained and George Woolhouse for winning the block with handicaps over 3½.

Eric managed the tournament as a layered Swiss with the 24 players in three tiers based on handicap. Consistent success or failure was rewarded by an opponent from the next level. There was also the additional proviso of trying to keep club members apart

as much as possible – not easy when they comprised over a third of the entry. Three-hour time limits kept things flowing smoothly.



Winner Nick Parish takes his seat, with (L-R) George Woolhouse, Peter Thompson, Tom Weston, Mike Percival and Tom Anderson.
Photo by John Wheeler.

But to return to our text for the day, and Wrest Park's unique ingredient. Tom, the old trouper, always gives a reporter some good copy. Friday evening echoed to a heartfelt cry of "Five minutes" from George Collin (a mild-mannered member); this in response to an enquiry as to how much time was left. It was later revealed that this request followed an interval of eight minutes in which seven shots were played. On Saturday it was Nigel Polhill's turn to suffer (+22 – nearly but not quite on time). Of the 91 games played, 11 went to time and Tom was involved in five of them. To quote further:

*"Deep in unfathomable mines
Of never-failing skill
He treasures up his bright designs
And works his sovereign will"*

It should be remembered that Nick Parish's narrowest win was against Tom, by the classic score of +1T.

Then on Sunday morning Eric served up the dream pairing of the tortoise and the hare: Tom versus Jack Wicks. Jack, aged 16, turned up on Friday accompanied by his mother and proceeded to extend an unbeaten run to 20 games until he was stopped in his tracks by Rod Ashwell.

How would Jack fare against Tom? Read on:

*"Blind unbelief is sure to err,
And scan his work in vain;
Tom is his own interpreter,
And he will make it plain."*

Which he did, to the tune of +10T. Tom is God.

The weather was patchy with the mixture of sunshine and showers that has characterised the past few weeks. A potential catering crisis on Sunday was averted by John Wheeler and George Collin standing in as dinner lads – many thanks to them and our other helpers. And so to the results:

Block A

Nick Parish 7/8	Nick Evans 4/8
Andrew Davies 6/8	Nick Harris 4/8
Lionel Tibble 5/8	Tom Weston 3/8
Rod Ashwell 5/8	Jack Wicks 4/10
Ben Ashwell 4/7	

Block B

Peter Thompson 6/8	Eric Audsley 4/8
John Bevington 6/8	Terry Mahoney 4/8
Tom Anderson 5/8	Mike Percival 3/8
Richard Dickson 4/8	George Collin 2/7

Block C

George Woolhouse 4/8	Gina Lewis 2/7
Richard Stevens 4/8	Nigel Polhill 2/8
Colin McKenzie 3/8	Geoff Strutt 0/5

* Hymns A&M number 373. It is the first in the section headed "In Times of Trouble".

Forthcoming events

July 21	Waterways group (pm)
July 25	Group members golf croquet doubles
July 28	Bedford WI group (6 lawns, 6.30pm)
Aug 4	Bill Tapper's group (2 lawns, eve)
Aug 8	Bowdon v Medway (2 lawns all day)
Aug 14-15	Advanced tournament
Aug 21-22	Golf croquet Selector's w/e (CA)
Aug 24	Dunstable U3A (6 lawns, 6pm)
Aug 28-30	Craft Fair
Sept 12	EACF club champions tournament
Sept 17-19	Handicap tournament

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

Lawn bookings

We are getting an increasing number of group bookings, and we are also getting more members wanting to play. I would therefore appreciate anyone wanting to book the lawns for a group visit telling me (and writing down on the calendar) how many lawns they want and the hours for which they are wanted. This will maximise the use of the lawns by allowing groups and individuals to share when possible.

We keep Mondays free for golf croquet and Thursdays for Association. We were hoping to keep Tuesdays for the Association beginners group, but this was compromised by a sudden spate of Tuesday group bookings. As far as I know no-one was unduly inconvenienced, and we will try and avoid excessive double-banking of this sort next season.

John Bevington

20 July