



Wrest Park Silsoe Bedfordshire

# newsletter

## Match results

### Secretary's Shield v Tyneside (at Nottingham)

3 July

Lost 1-6

Wrest Park	Tyneside	WP score
John Bevington (2)	Derek Watts (3½)	+12
Bryan Harral (3)	Sheila Watts (8)	
George Collin (2)	David Turner (9)	-8
David Woolley (7)	Peter Wallace (11)	-12
John Bevington (2)	Derek Watts (3½)	-3
George Collin (2)	Peter Wallace (11)	-23
Bryan Harral (3)	Sheila Watts (8)	-15
David Woolley (7)	David Turner (9)	-23

Report by John Bevington

We were conceding an average of just over four and a half bisques per game, so it was bound to be a struggle. David Turner used one bisque to take a ball to rover and then used two more in failing to do a good leave. George hit in and went to the stick, peeling David's ball through rover and pegging him out. David then used the rest of his bisques to do a three ball break to 1-back. George got to 1-back and was laid up with one ball at 2-back and the other one foot in front of 1-back wired from David's ball three yards away on the other side of the hoop. David ran the hoop backwards, roqueting George's ball, and then played a perfect six hoop three-ball break without bisques to win. David Woolley came off second-best against Peter Wallace in what was for the most part a close game, and Bryan and I got home against Derek and Sheila Watts after Bryan had shown me the way round.

In the afternoon our hopes were quickly dashed. George and David both lost -23, so that was that. Bryan lost to Sheila -15, and I was set to make rover to finish and retrieve a little pride when Derek hit a suicide shot, made his last three hoops and pegged out +3. Apart from the result it had been a lovely day; the wind in the morning easing into a warm sunny afternoon

### Inter Club v Sussex County (home)

17 July

Lost 2-4

Wrest Park	Sussex County	WP score
Howard Bottomley (-½)	Rutger Beijderwellen (-1½)	-3
Ben Ashwell (-½)	Gerard Healy (-½)	
Rod Ashwell (½)	Bill Arliss (2)	+26
Bryan Harral (3)	Alan Cottle (3)	-20
Howard Bottomley (-½)	Rutger Beijderwellen (-1½)	-8
Ben Ashwell (-½)	Gerard Healy (-½)	-7TP
Rod Ashwell (½)	Alan Cottle (3)	+8
Bryan Harral (3)	Bill Arliss (2)	unfinished

Report by Howard Bottomley

The day started around 9 - John Wheeler had mown on Friday, the water was delivered and the opening began. Our visitors from Purley and Woodhall Spa (playing a Secretary's Shield match which WS won 4-3) arrived around 9:30 just as I had boiled the water. Ben picked up Rod so they were earlier than expected and checked the lawns ready for play at 10am. Bryan strolled down followed by BodgerWelly, Gerard, Alan Cottle and Big Bill via Dunstable. Rod wins easily as Bill took pleasure in avoiding the statues but is the first player I have known to roquet the club house. Bryan had a slow start with Alan hitting in well and I had one of my usual County experiences hacking around to penult after Ben had gone to 4-back and then to peg before being pegged out by Gerard. So, 2-1 down at lunch.

We were joined by Tom and Judy, with John B thankfully doing the washing up. The afternoon saw Rod win again and Bryan catching up after the wine-inspired Arliss began to hit balls in the first hour. Ben looked in control but two turns by Gerard produced a triple. Bodger tried a sextuple, made 4 peels before resting at the stick, I went round and had him off, and after some interesting play he hit the 35 yard shot to finish and win by 8. Bryan's game was abandoned but he would have won. Bryan and I tidied up - home by 7:30. Until next year ...

*Editor's P.S.* - I cycled over to spectate, and the hot weather, fast lawns and Bill and Rutger's power hitting meant I spent some time chasing after low-flying balls. A short post-lunch practice was enough to appreciate that completing a triple and four peels of a sextuple in such conditions was no mean feat by our opponents.

### Beds & Herts League v Enfield (home)

20 July

Won 4-2

Wrest Park	Enfield	WP score
Bryan Harral (3)	Ken Pickett (4)	+2T
Geoff Strutt (10)	Wendy Spencer-Smith (20)	
Peter Newman (9)	Alan Foott (18)	-5
Elaine Newman (20)	Peter Chadwick (20)	
Bryan Harral (3)	Ken Pickett (4)	+9
Peter Newman (9)	Alan Foott (18)	-5T
Geoff Strutt (10)	Peter Chadwick (20)	+10
Elaine Newman (20)	Wendy Spencer-Smith (20)	+1T

Report by Bryan Harral

Elaine plucked victory from the jaws of a draw by making a hoop after time was called and the scores were level. It was the last game to finish and the rest of us were watching with baited breath. She said afterwards she had played better with an audience - we suspect she was playing to the gallery!

## Mary Rose v Bowdon (away)

31 July

Won 4-2

Wrest Park	Bowdon	WP score
Eric Audsley (1½)	Philip Tidswell (2)	-3
John Bevington (2)	Richard Griffiths (2½)	
George Collin (2)	Lorna Frost (5)	+21
Tom Anderson (2½)	John Wastell (3½)	<i>unfinished</i>
Eric Audsley (1½)	Philip Tidswell (2)	-24
John Bevington (2)	Richard Griffiths (2½)	+19
George Collin (2)	John Wastell (3½)	+26
Tom Anderson (2½)	Lorna Frost (5)	+2T

There was a time when, with Tom's afternoon game in the balance (a time limit had been imposed), we were facing the nightmare scenario of his then having to complete the morning game which had been pegged down after four hours (Tom with both balls on 4-back and the innings, John (to play) on 2-back and penult). Thankfully we were spared having to ask Manchester Airport for the loan of their runway lights.

The score in the doubles would have been a great deal worse had Richard not stuck in rover with Philip on the stick. The hoop was tight, and, as hoop 5, we had failed to get past it. Eric hit the ball in the hoop from near corner 4 and got to 3-back, and John then went round and pegged Philip out. Wiring, deeming and dodging around followed until Richard, by now on the peg, was left a relatively short shot. George won in spite of playing the wrong ball when making a leave and also making a hoop and roquet without realising it. Don't ask.

After a good lunch (Bowdon have small, medium and large wine glasses) George won in four turns, John not taking croquet. Eric left Philip in front of hoop 1 which he ran to 2 and went to 2-back on a 3-ball break, following that by going to rover after Eric missed a ball on A-baulk. John beat Richard, who, to be fair, had only come back off holiday the day before and was a little rusty, and we then settled down to watch the last act of the other Scottish play, Waiting for Tom.

## Beds & Herts League v Letchworth (home)

31 July

Won 5-1

Wrest Park	Letchworth	WP score
Bryan Harral (3)	Jeremy Scott (4)	+3
Geoff Strutt (10)	George Woolhouse (4½)	
Peter Newman (9)	John Hall (5)	+14T
Elaine Newman (20)	Duncan Wang (14)	
Bryan Harral (3)	Jeremy Scott (4)	+11
Peter Newman (9)	George Woolhouse (4½)	-14
Geoff Strutt (10)	John Hall (5)	+16
Elaine Newman (20)	Duncan Wang (14)	+4T

## Advanced Tournament 8-10 July

The contrast with the May tournament could not have been greater. The weather stayed dry and warmed up nicely, Sunday being the first day of a mini-heatwave that went on for a week. Playing conditions were good to firm, and there were 28 players with handicaps ranging from -1 to 8, loosely arranged into three blocks which overlapped at the edges.

The top block (the six minus players) was won by Andrew Davies, an ex-Navy man who did his duty splendidly by winning nine of his ten games, including two TPs. Lionel had 6/8, David Foulser 5/8 and Richard Dickson 5/10 with two TPs. Tom Weston had 4/9.



One manager went to mow: Eric on Saturday evening.

In the second block manager Eric Audsley had decided that the winner would be the player with the greatest number of index points gained, so the somewhat fortuitous winner was John Bevington (5/8), whose handicap had recently gone up to 2. Close behind were Alan Pidcock (6/8), Ian Storey (5/8) and Paul Hands (5/9). It was good to see Paul back at Wrest Park after many years. Eric himself only managed two wins, but one of these will stay in the memory: his first triple peel in competitive play at the expense of Mike Percival. By Eric's own admission not a classic (he had to jump over a ball to make a vital roquet after the 4-back peel), but handsome is as handsome does, and his gold award is well-deserved. Rob Edlin-White (1/9) claimed the fruit.

The third block was won by John Hall, who won six of his seven games, his only loss being to Richard Smith by 4, which in itself was a creditable achievement given the difference in their handicaps (7 versus ½). Gordon Weir had 5/7, and George Woolhouse, Ian Parkinson, Michael Steer, Liz Wilson and Colin McKenzie all had four wins. Richard Stevens brought up the rear.

## Here's to the ladies who lunch...

... and their guest at the golf croquet singles day. A membership form is on the way, and there shouldn't be any problems with the dress code



Margaret Brown stashes the rest of her food, Judi Priestley and Barbara Collier affect nonchalance and Vera Pearson estimates the amount of stuffing. Photo by Ronnie Richardson.

## Group members golf croquet doubles – 24 July

### Block A

	P	W	D	L	+	-	Diff
Peggy Kenny & Margaret Marshall	5	4	1	0	31	20	+11
Diana Phelps & John Cundell	5	3	1	1	29	19	+10
Eileen Palmer & Keith Palmer	5	2	2	1	29	24	+5
Sally Clay & Richard Keighley	5	2	1	2	25	22	+3
Eve Buckingham & Len Buckingham	5	1	1	3	23	26	-3
Ann Speake & Cherry Ann Smith	5	0	0	5	9	35	-26

### Block B

	P	W	D	L	+	-	Diff
Helen Wilkinson & Irene Davis	5	4	0	1	31	15	+16
Judith Pengelly & Sheila Guess	4	3	0	1	24	17	+7
Linda Potton & Vera Pearson	5	3	0	2	28	25	+3
Val Greiggs & Judi Priestley	4	2	0	2	19	21	-2
Barbara Collier & Deirdrea Ellins	4	1	0	3	19	25	-6
Una Pengelly & Yvonne Banks	4	1	0	3	18	27	-9
Ronnie Richardson & Don Barrett	4	1	0	3	17	26	-9

### Knockout

Peggy & Margaret	} Linda & Vera 7-5	} Linda & Vera 7-3	
Linda & Vera			
Sally & Richard	} Judith & Sheila 7-4		} Linda & Vera 7-3
Judith & Sheila			
Diana & John	} Diana & John 7-3	} Linda & Vera 7-3	
Val & Judi			
Eileen & Keith	} Helen & Irene 7-3		} Helen & Irene 7-4
Helen & Irene			

This year saw a change to the format: blocks of six and eight pairs with five rounds of block play followed by a knockout. The eight then became seven, which introduced byes but eliminated the need for double banking. The top four in each block went into the knockout, the ranking being decided on (a) wins, (b) points difference and (c) points scored. In block B the byes problem was got round by having the form horses (if they will forgive the description) play all five rounds, which may not have been totally equitable but seemed the best idea at the time and was vindicated by their making it through to the final.

The rain set in early on and continued for most of the day. Lunch was taken after four rounds, and everyone dripped in to occupy the pavilion and the changing room, which looked like the inside of a third class railway carriage with players seated amongst the water

containers and bags. Once the last round was over players not involved in the knockout were given the options of further games or the chance to go home to a hot bath, and it was hardly surprising that the latter proved overwhelmingly popular.

The lawns were beginning to give up the unequal struggle against the rain, and puddles started appearing everywhere, but the players gamely battled on, and the sun finally reappeared in time for the final, played on lawn 3 (the driest available). Sally, Richard, John and Diana stayed to watch as Linda and Vera won against Irene and Helen, and we celebrated by polishing off a bottle of Burgundy. Congratulations to the winners, indeed, congratulations to everyone for taking part on what was a thoroughly miserable but somehow memorable day. And I learned something new: contrary to what you might expect an air shot in golf croquet is not a fault, unless *“the mallet causes damage to the court that is capable of affecting a subsequent stroke played over the damaged area.”* - see Laws 6(c) and 13(a)(14) on the CA website.

## Craft Fair 27-29 August

Tim Brewer has sent an email asking for volunteers to man our stall at the Craft Fair this year. We need three or four people for each day, and you can expect to be there from 1.30 to 5.30. If you can help please get in touch with Tim or myself – phone numbers are on the membership list. The event deserves our support as it is good exposure for the club and helps to raise funds.

## Catering support wanted for 16-18 Sept

We currently have nobody to serve lunches for the Friday and Saturday of the September tournament, and only one volunteer for Sunday. If you can assist please call me on 01908 614493 or add your name to the list in the pavilion. Please help - you get paid in chocolate.

## Two legs good, two wheels bad

English Heritage have asked us to stop using bicycles to visit the loos, because visitors who see us riding around are always asking why we are allowed to use bicycles when they are not. You'll have to walk (or, if desperate, run) from now on, and come to an agreement with your opponent to stop the clock if you are playing a timed game.

I am assuming that EH would have no objection to a member who, choosing to cycle to the park instead of driving, takes the bicycle to the pavilion to ensure its availability for the return journey.

## Events diary

Aug 23	Dunstable U3A 4-7pm
Aug 27-29	Wrest Park Craft Fair
Aug 31	Hertford U3A 2-5pm 4 lawns
Sept 7	Hertford U3A 10am-6pm 4 lawns
Sept 8	B&H League v St Albans (away)
Sept 11	EACF club champions tournament
Sept 16-18	Handicap tournament