



newsletter

Match results

Beds & Herts League v Colworth (home) 20 August Won 4-1

Wrest Park	Colworth	WP score
Peter Newman (9)	Trevor Wilkins (7)	+6T
Elaine Newman (20)	Steve Jones (10)	
Bryan Harral (3)	Arthur Weightman (2½)	+17
Bryan Harral (3)	Trevor Wilkins (7)	+5
Peter Newman (9)	Arthur Weightman (2½)	-3
Elaine Newman (20)	Steve Jones (10)	+5T

Beds & Herts League v St Albans (home) 8 September Won 5-2

Wrest Park	St Albans	WP score
Peter Newman (9)	Terry Mahoney (2)	+8T
Elaine Newman (20)	Dick Barnard (14)	
Bryan Harral (3)	David Kitson (6)	+20
Geoff Strutt (10)	Mike Gardner (7)	-2
Bryan Harral (3)	Terry Mahoney (2)	+21
Peter Newman (9)	Mike Gardner (7)	+21
Geoff Strutt (10)	David Kitson (6)	+24
Elaine Newman (20)	Dick Barnard (14)	-3T

As Meldreth were unable to complete their league programme we only played five matches instead of six. Bryan, who stepped in as team manager, led from the front and would have had a 100% record but for some over-optimistic advice from his partner in the first match at Watford. Elaine, Geoff and Peter played in the four remaining matches, which we won. Congratulations to them all. The final table will appear in due course.

Beds & Herts League player records

	Doubles			Singles		
	P	W	L	P	W	L
Bryan Harral	3	2	1	7	7	0
Elaine Newman	4	3	1	4	3	1
Geoff Strutt	2	2	0	4	3	1
Peter Newman	4	3	1	4	1	3
John Bevington	1	0	1	1	0	1
George Collin				2	0	2

Mary Rose v Nottingham (away) 25 September Lost 2-5

We arrived just after nine o'clock, so there was ample time for coffee and a practice on lawns still heavy after overnight rain. In the doubles Peter was first to 4-back after John missed a short one, but we stuck to our task and were in contention until the point when Rob decided to ease his muscle tension with a quantity of wine and water, which had a miraculous effect. Eric had his

chances but came off second best, however Bryan had a convincing win against Rick, so we were only 2-1 down at lunch, provided by our hosts.

After lunch (which coincided with a heavy shower) Peter again got the first break against John and had got to 4-back with the second ball when he missed a very short but slightly hampered shot, allowing John round to 4-back. Peter then hit in after John had just failed to get through hoop 6 when wanting a degree of control for a rush to 1-back, and made no further mistakes in what was a solid performance.

Eric's loss to Rick was not as bad as he had predicted after an unfortunate incident when Rick failed 2-back off his own ball. Eric missed the lift, and his ball ended up near hoop 2, which was Rick's hoop for his other ball! With the match lost, Bryan saved some pride by beating Richard and earning a well deserved reduction to 2.

In the last game to finish George had looked in control and Rob had looked in need of further refreshment, but a long roquet which fortuitously promoted a useful pioneer got him going, and after some to-ing and fro-ing he got round and pegged George out. He then stuck in penult. In a rather anti-climactic ending George took the lift from the end of B baulk, hit the ball in the hoop, set up a good rush to 4-back and then missed it altogether, allowing Rob to scramble home.

Wrest Park	Nottingham	WP score
John Bevington (1½)	Peter Death (1)	-8
George Collin (2)	Rob Edlin-White (3)	
Eric Audsley (2½)	Richard Huxley (3½)	-6
Bryan Harral (2½)	Rick Davis (4½)	+20
John Bevington (1½)	Peter Death (1)	-11
George Collin (2)	Rob Edlin-White (3)	-4
Eric Audsley (2½)	Rick Davis (4½)	-10
Bryan Harral (2½)	Richard Huxley (3½)	+12

Advanced Tournament 6-7 August

Report by Howard Bottomley

Blue skies and well groomed manager Rod Ashwell greeted the 21 players. An urgent delivery of clean towels from our treasurer had delayed the ROT George Collin, but there were no worries as the hoops had been set firm the night before. Rod rang the bell before taking the register.

Whilst there was a breeze, it was curious to note that it was three Wrest Parkers, namely Tom Anderson, John Bevington and George Collin, who all wore heavy coats for the morning. Perhaps this goes some way to explain why John thought George's contact leave was pretty good, only to find George had not realised he'd given away a contact!

Other events including Gina 'I love John and Geoff (The Sunday caterers)' Lewis attempting a split roll which caused a 'Flintoff' type injury reaction, and Chris Daniels winning a game with three shots, having been pegged out with the remaining clip on penultimate and his ball in baulk. We also enjoyed a grand wedding and TPs for Chris, Duncan Hector and James Tuttiett.



Nick Evans runs 2-back on lawn 2. Note the displaced clip.

Sunday found our manager fretting over some late results, Tom Anderson finishing first, but there was also news from the park. Bikes are only allowed with a medical certificate! John Wheeler (aptly named) had to certify himself to a female English Heritage representative before he was allowed to continue.

Chris Daniels was our overall winner with 4/5 after another TP against George Collin, and the runner-up was Peter Thompson with 4/6, having won against George Collin who also had the same number of wins. Of the rest Ian Parkinson, Nick Evans, Dick Knapp, Rod Ashwell, James Tuttiett, Terrey Sparks and John Bevington managed three wins. At the other end Neil Chalmers failed to break his duck and Tom Anderson, Paul Salisbury, Gina Lewis and Cathy Storey had one win each. *(Howard's modesty prevented his mentioning that he himself was undefeated with four wins, although only playing part-time – Ed)*



Rod and Chris do the Grip 'n Grin.

EACF Champions Day 11 Sept

Wrest Park were represented by Rod Ashwell, George Woolhouse and Peter Newman, playing in the advanced, B level advanced and handicap competitions respectively. Rod and George both won their events.



Ashwells 'R Us: Edward, Rod and Rory. Photo by George Collin.



George Woolhouse receives his trophy from manager Terrey Sparks. Photo by Peter Newman.

Handicap Tournament 16-18 Sept

The entries for this tournament seem to get fewer year by year, and on this occasion we numbered 14, which included five club members. There was a bonus – virtually no double banking. Handicaps ranged from 1½ to 18, and we were unencumbered by time limits. The lawns were on the slow side on Friday due to overnight rain but recovered somewhat, helped by a second cut on Saturday and more benign weather – Friday had brought showers and a strong north wind which had leaves scudding straight down the lawn. Hats flew off frequently, and one was only narrowly prevented from floating down the Long Water.

The flexible Egyptian format proved its worth in catering for players requiring leave, and Saturday saw the appearance of Mark Homan, the reappearance of George Woolhouse and the disappearance of Robert Staddon, so at lunch (ably dispensed by Tim Brewer and his family) we were 13 at table and it was warm enough to eat outside.

On Sunday morning Geoff Strutt was in imperious form as he won his game against Ian Mantle +26 in the time it

took Neil Chalmers and John Lonsdale to finish their pegged-down game from the day before. While this was happening George Woolhouse had responded to John Bevington's going round to penult by going round himself and double peeling John out. George failed 3-back with a pioneer at 4-back and John took position in front of hoop 1. George put his ball on the east boundary level with 4-back, whereupon John ran hoop 1 to north of hoop 2, hit the boundary ball and finished on a 3-ball break. George recovered well by taking on the undefeated Mark Homan and winning +1, and Mark then lost again to the solid play of Ken Pickett.

Susan Griffiths' stylish swing belied her 18 handicap, and she beat both the lowest handicaps by 20-point margins, gaining a third win in a long struggle with John Lonsdale. Manager Eric had a rotten time and only had one win against Mike Gardner, four of his losses being by 21 or more.

When it came to deciding the winners, the players were divided into two groups: below 6 (6) and 6 and above (7), and when all the individual cards had been completed and the necessary calculations made the winners were John Bevington (1½) with 5/8 and Geoff Strutt (10) with 7/9. Thanks as usual to everyone who helped with the catering, and especially to Tim and his family who found themselves hauling the dragmat across lawns 5 and 6 on Saturday morning to take off the dew before the mowers went to work.

Craft Fair 27-29 August

The takings amounted to £132 (Saturday £18, Sunday £33, Monday £81). Many thanks to all those who turned out to help, and if any of you have any suggestions as to how we could do things better please let me know.

Our man at the Worlds



Ben about to play the lift shot (his last, as it turned out) against Reg Bamford. Photo by Peter Newman.

Ben Ashwell played in the preliminary block held at Edgbaston, which contained the eventual World Champion Reg Bamford and two other quarter-finalists (Marcus Evans and Aaron Westerby). He had two wins from nine games and had several wins in the Plate competition for those who didn't get through to the knock-out stage.

Annual Dinner

Planned for 25 November - menu 'n venue to follow.



Pidcock & Hobbs, purveyors of croquet mallets, selling their wares at Cheltenham on quarter-finals day.

Hertford U3A Aug 31/Sept 7

They came in style (the coach causing a ripple at Reception). Jennifer Thomas brought 20 novice players to "experience the delight of playing on proper lawns. All were smitten and found it easier to play".

A week later 10 players took part in a 14 point tournament where "the ladies acquitted themselves better than the men, with our champion being Clio Bromley and our wooden spoon Dennis Elliston".

It is a pleasing coincidence that these two events fully reflect the object of the club as stated in the new constitution (more on this to follow), viz: "To foster and promote the sport of croquet at all levels, providing opportunities for recreation and competition".

And it is of course fortunate that we are blessed with six lawns on which to do it (only six clubs in the country have more). You will no doubt have guessed by now that it's time for.....

Autumn lawn maintenance

We hope to carry out a similar programme to last year, including scarifying, spreading fertiliser, and possibly hollow-tining and top dressing. This takes money, machinery and manpower. We may be looking to doing some work during the week as well as at weekends and will be sending out requests for volunteers once the schedule is established. Please answer the call when it comes.

Lest we forget.....

Although the Silsoe Research Institute does not close officially until next year it is an appropriate moment for the club to remember the support it has had from the Institute over the last forty years and more, and thank all the staff past and present who contributed towards the establishment of the club and have assisted in its development.

We are especially indebted to Chris Slatcher and the ground staff, who have provided trailers, moved huts and helped us out in innumerable ways on innumerable occasions, and we hope that our special relationship will continue in seasons to come.

John Bevington

3 October 2005