



Wrest Park Silsoe Bedfordshire

November 2006

newsletter

Croquet Ta-dah for



Babydaddy plays it cool, Ana Matronic gets her leg over the pink and Jake Shears demonstrates his jump shot. Del Marquis and Paddy Boy call for a referee, and who can blame them? Photo by David Ellis.

The Scissor Sisters, doing it for themselves. Croquet is the new rock 'n roll. This photo was taken in the gardens of the Four Seasons hotel in Dogmersfield, Hampshire. Fans of Alice in Wonderland will have spotted the white rabbit looking on from the corner of the arch, and Ana just has to be the Red Queen. Off with their heads!

Wrestlife – the video

Wrest Park will be featuring in a future Westlife video. A crew were filming in the mansion and the Orangery on Thursday October 5th. The video is likely to be part of the promotion for the new CD entitled The Love Album, which is released on November 6th - more pennies for the guys, even though it will be a day late.

Flyboys airborne in the USA

Last year a film crew took over the park to shoot scenes for the movie Flyboys, now released in the USA. Go to the film's website, www.mgm.com/flyboys, and look at the trailer in the Video section – there are shots of Wrest Park and a totally mad moment where one of the pilots runs along the top of a flaming Zeppelin.

Lawnmower Man 3

This documentary on man's efforts to subdue nature is an obvious homage to Warhol's *Empire*. The single shot shows an endlessly repeated movement of man and machine and gradually reveals an alternating pattern symbolising the eternal opposition of the forces of light and darkness. Can be seen during the summer months (the full-length Director's Cut is shown on alternate weeks). Duration 4 hrs plus. PG (can induce a state of hypnosis). Edited for language.

Annual Dinner

This will be held on Friday December 15th at 7.30pm at the Bell, Woburn. The restaurant is halfway down the High Street running through the village, is white with a pub sign hanging outside and has a large car park. Contact Howard Bottomley, preferably by email at h.bottomley@talktalk.net or by phone at 01525 374697, and give him your choice of starter and main course from the menu below. Howard has reserved 25 places at the moment. I would be grateful if those on email could pass this information on to those who are not. The Bell hotel, opposite the restaurant and fronted by bollards, is running a special accommodation offer of £50 per room, bed & breakfast. If you are interested please contact the hotel on 01525 290280. There is also a website with full details at www.bellinn-woburn.com. The cost for the three courses is £19.95 per person.

Menu

Ardennes pâté with cranberry sauce

A coarse pâté served with fresh home-baked bread, butter and a dressed salad garnish

Prawn cocktail

Succulent coldwater prawns topped with a cocktail sauce and served on a bed of salad with home-baked bread and butter

Wild mushroom soup with a cheese crouton

Served with home-baked bread and butter

Handcarved traditional roast turkey

Garnished with stuffing and all the trimmings

Sirloin steak (eight ounces) with a malt whisky and peppercorn sauce

Garnished with mushrooms and roast cherry tomatoes

Roast corn-fed chicken

Stuffed with goat's cheese and bacon

Mushroom, cranberry and Brie Wellington

Brie, cranberries, mushrooms, garlic, spinach and nuts, encased in a crisp pastry parcel

All main courses served with fresh seasonal vegetables and potatoes of the day

Luxury Christmas pudding

Served with lashings of warm brandy sauce

Raspberry and white chocolate snowflake

White chocolate mousse topped with raspberries, garnished with shavings of white chocolate and served on a sponge base

Apple and cinnamon tartlet

Served warm with custard

Club competition winners

Steel Cup (Advanced)	Winner: Runner-up:
Archer Cup (Handicap)	Winner: Tim Brewer Runner-up: David Parsons
Ashwell Cup (All England h'cap)	Winner: Tim Brewer Runner-up: Eric Audsley
Thomas Philip Earl de Grey Cup (B level)	Winner: Terry Mahoney Runners-up: Peter Newman and Geoff Strutt
14 point advanced	Winner: Tom Anderson Runner-up: Eric Audsley
De Grey Plate (14 pt h'cap)	Winner: Cliff Hayes Runner-up: Elaine Newman
Golf croquet	Winner: Eric Audsley Runners-up: Geoff Strutt and Ronnie Richardson

Congratulations to all the winners. Those who won the Advanced, Handicap and B level competitions (or, if unavailable, the runners-up) are invited to play in next year's EACF Champions Day tournament at Wrest Park on September 23rd. Please make yourselves available for this if you possibly can.

Last year's winners are requested to make sure the trophies are available for presentation at the Annual Dinner on 15th December.

Subscriptions for 2007

The proposed subscription rates for 2007 are as follows:

Full members	£41
Existing group members	£25
CA levy	£6.70
Under 16	£10
16-18 or full time student	£20

- From now on there will be no new group members. The fee for existing group members represents the first of two annual increases to bring the fee for existing group members up to the full member fee, so that in 2008 everyone will be paying the full rate.
- The CA levy is payable by all members (apart from junior members) unless they are already members of another CA registered club and pay the levy there. Note that if you are already a member of a CA affiliated club and then join a CA registered club you must pay the levy at the CA registered club
- The argument for a reduced fee for members who are already members of other clubs (either registered or affiliated) was discussed at the last committee meeting without any firm conclusions being drawn. It was felt that as the increase for 2007 is only the first stage the issue could be postponed.
- Future subscription rates may be affected by any changes to the club's plans for lawn maintenance and also by our licence arrangement with English Heritage, which is still being negotiated.

Any comments on the rates for next year should be passed to the Treasurer, Eric Audsley

EACF golf croquet league

Report by league organiser Richard Keighley

Wrest Park's League team entertained Leighton-Linslade on 4th July hoping to repeat their win against Letchworth. It was not to be as the match was lost 7-11 but it was closer than the score suggests with several of the timed matches being settled as the bell was sounded. Lunch was taken with the score at 7-9 and it was noticeable that the opposition was being encouraged to "eat up" in the knowledge that they had to win at least one of the doubles to clinch victory. Peter and Irene Davis managed the match in style on a lovely warm summer's day.



The local derby against Leighton-Linslade. L-R: Maureen Watts, Judi Priestley, Don Barrett, Eileen Harrington, Ronnie Richardson, Tony Wells, Sally Clay, John Cundell, Irene Davis, Richard Keighley, Peggy Kenny

It transpired that each of the four teams in Wrest Park's section of the League had an identical playing record with one round of matches to be completed. To qualify for the final stages, Wrest Park had to beat Watford at Cassiobury Park and rely on Letchworth beating Leighton-Linslade. Letchworth duly won but Wrest Park did not travel well and lost 6-12.

Letchworth won an extraordinary semi-final against Downham Market. 4-8 down at the break, they won all the remaining matches to win 10-8. In the final, Chelmsford were always in front and won 10-8.

The Editor adds: Apart from organising the EACF golf croquet league, Richard also took part in the Centre Stage golf croquet competition and won the final, held at Northampton on 10th September, which was reported in the latest issue of the CA Gazette. Our congratulations.

John Bevington

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