



Wrest Park Silsoe Bedfordshire

# newsletter

## Match results

### Beds & Herts league v St Albans (home)

21 July

Drew 3-3

Wrest Park	St Albans	WP score
Bryan Harral (1)	Terry Mahoney (2½)	-2T
Cliff Hayes (20)	Jon Palin (14)	
Geoff Strutt (7)	David Kitson (6)	+6T
Elaine Newman (18)	Dick Barnard (18)	
Bryan Harral (1)	Terry Mahoney (2½)	-10
Geoff Strutt (7)	David Kitson (6)	+2
Elaine Newman (18)	Jon Palin (14)	-3
Cliff Hayes (20)	Dick Barnard (18)	+17

### Beds & Herts League v Watford (away)

1 Sept

Lost 2-4

Wrest Park	Watford	WP score
Bryan Harral (1)	Simon Hathrell (1½)	-9T
Eric Audsley (3½)	John Moore (14)	
George Collin (2)	Quiller Barrett (8)	+6T
Cliff Hayes (20)	Adam Huby (12)	
Bryan Harral (1)	Simon Hathrell (1½)	-8T
George Collin (2)	Quiller Barrett (8)	-12
Eric Audsley (3½)	Adam Huby (12)	+12
Cliff Hayes (20)	John Moore (14)	-16

The last match of the season was a critical one in that if we won we would also win the League, but problems raising a team meant that we ended up fielding a side that for the most part would have been more suitable for a Mary Rose match, so it was bound to be hard work. Watford's win meant that they won the League, being level on points with Letchworth but having won one game more. The full results for the B&H and the gold croquet leagues can be seen on the EACF website. Individual player stats will appear in the next issue.



Me and my shadow: George Woolhouse squeezes between hoops 4 and 5 on the Saturday evening of the August tournament.

### EACF golf league v Stony Stratford (away)

23 August

Lost 2-16

Wrest Park		WP score
Ronnie Richardson (5)	Rex Gower (2)	W7-3
Eileen Harrington (6)	John Burrige (3)	
Linda Potton (5)	Neville Crook (3)	L1-5
Vera Pearson (5)	Rex Hale (3)	
Ronnie Richardson (5)	Rex Gower (2)	L1-7
	John Burrige (3)	L5-7
	Neville Crook (3)	L6-7
	Rex Hale (3)	L4-7
Linda Potton (5)	Rex Gower (2)	L5-6
	John Burrige (3)	L3-7
	Neville Crook (3)	L3-7
	Rex Hale (3)	L4-5
Vera Pearson (5)	Rex Gower (2)	W4-3
	John Burrige (3)	L4-6
	Neville Crook (3)	L5-7
	Rex Hale (3)	L4-7
Eileen Harrington (6)	Rex Gower (2)	L3-5
	John Burrige (3)	L4-6
	Neville Crook (3)	L5-7
	Rex Hale (3)	L5-7

### EACF golf league v Watford (away)

30 August

Lost 7-11

Wrest Park		WP score
Linda Potton (5)	Janet Lewis (1)	L4-7
Vera Pearson (5)	Norah Wesley (5)	
Helen Wilkinson (5)	Linda Spurr (5)	W5-3
Peggy Kenny (6)	Helen Walker (6)	
Linda Potton (5)	Janet Lewis (1)	L4-5
	Norah Wesley (5)	W7-3
	Linda Spurr (5)	L6-7
	Helen Walker (6)	L4-7
Vera Pearson (5)	Janet Lewis (1)	L6-7
	Norah Wesley (5)	L3-7
	Linda Spurr (5)	L4-5
	Helen Walker (6)	L5-7
Helen Wilkinson (5)	Janet Lewis (1)	L6-7
	Norah Wesley (5)	W7-0
	Linda Spurr (5)	W7-5
	Helen Walker (6)	W6-5
Peggy Kenny (6)	Janet Lewis (1)	L6-7
	Norah Wesley (5)	W7-3
	Linda Spurr (5)	W7-6
	Helen Walker (6)	L3-6

Report by Ronnie Richardson

Stony Stratford joined our region late in the season, so this was the first time we had played this all-male team. As there were only two lawns we had to play primary colours with secondary colours starting five minutes later. They only had 3 players so had to hurriedly find another, also they had no time-keepers. Luckily we had two supporters who took over this job – our thanks to

Peggy Kenny and Maureen Watts for their help. Although we lost we had a good day and managed a couple of friendly games after the competition. We were pleased to see Judi Priestley and Irene Davis in the afternoon to give us support.

For the Watford match we arrived in good time only to find that two members of their team had not arrived. One substitute was summoned and the other team member arrived nearly an hour later after many phone calls. We managed to persuade Watford to play to the proper rules as they usually like to run hoops out of sequence if the one they are aiming at is being contested, but we found last year that only confused us, so we stuck to our guns this year. As you can see by the results many of the games were very close and an extra hoop had to be played. We had a better result than last year against them. For Linda, Vera and Helen it was their first season in this competition, so they did very well as did everyone who took part in the matches we have played.

## Golf croquet doubles 22 July

No detailed results to hand, but the tournament was won by Linda Potton and Vera Pearson

## Advanced tournament

### 4-5 August

Report by Jack Wicks

This year's August weekend tournament at Wrest Park was won by club member Ben Ashwell. His first visit of this season to his home club proved a successful one, dropping only one game over the weekend.

Day one ended with three players unbeaten and two others hot on their heels after only one loss. Rod and Ben Ashwell had both won three out of three, as had Terrey Sparks, who with a handicap of 2.5 played brilliantly to defeat players of much lower handicap. The next two were Nick Butler and Jack Wicks, who were both on three out of four, Wicks having lost to Rod Ashwell after Rod 'just did enough' by hitting the wrong ball when taking his lift and finishing in three turns, after three misses from Wicks – who needs sextuples, or even triples!



Ben thanks the players, caterers, groundstaff and the manager.

There were two games pegged down overnight. One started at around 4pm, and was pegged down at 8.30pm. It was resumed at 9am on Sunday morning, and at 11am the manager imposed a 1 hour time limit. The game finished at noon with a score of 24-22. I bet

no one can guess which local member was involved in this feast?

On Sunday morning father took on son, the top game in the first round of the day. Son (Ben) prevailed after a long struggle, to leave him as the only unbeaten player. Wicks beat Richard Smith, while Butler saw off Sparks.



Oh, calamity! Tom Anderson misses a short roquet during his game with Gina Lewis. Nick Butler is the player in the background.

In the next round Wicks beat Butler, Rod lost to Jerry Guest and Ben lost to Phil Cordingley, meaning no-one remained unbeaten. These results confirmed that in round seven Wicks would play Ben Ashwell in the final.

Ben won the toss and chose Red and Yellow.

*(At this point I should point out that what follows is a typical turn by turn report of an advanced rules game. As it uses a certain amount of jargon and shorthand I have taken the liberty of adding a few notes of explanation – Ed.)*

Wicks: Supershot about two yards north of hoop 5. *(A supershot is a standard first-ball opening by top players.)*

Ashwell: Tickled the supershot and took off well to hoop 1. Ended up running hoop 3 to hampered position and missed to the middle of the West boundary with the other close by.

W; Miss from B baulk to IV. (I, II, III and IV refer to corners 1, 2 3 and 4.)

A: Misses ball in IV

W: Fails to approach hoop 1, joins up in middle of West boundary.

A; Hits in with hoop 4 ball and goes to 4-back with spread. *(A spread (short for diagonal spread) is one of the leaves which can be made at the end of the first break, which normally stops after making 3-back to avoid giving away a contact instead of a lift. The opponent balls are left SW of hoop 2 and tight against the peg, just to the SE of it and cross-pegged from the other ball, with the player's own balls on the E boundary with a rush pointing towards the ball at the peg. All four balls should be in a line, forming a diagonal across the lawn. The opponent then lifts one of his balls and plays it from A or B baulk.)*

W; Lifts ball at 2, takes short shot and misses. *(The short shot is the lift shot played from the end of A baulk at the balls on the E boundary.)*

A; Fails hoop 1.

W: Misses 6 yarder at the ball which failed 1, missing to near I.

A: Joins up by hoop 4 on West boundary

W: Misses from hoop 2 at oppo's balls.

A: Croquets partner to hoop 1 going to ball by I. Tries stop shot approach (sending croqueted ball to hoop 2) and runs hoop 1!!! Misses hampered shot at partner.

W: Hits, has TPO with balls in I & IV. (TPO = triple peel on the opponent, i.e. peeling the opponent ball through the last three hoops and pegging it out while going round yourself. In this case Jack went round all 12 hoops while doing the peels, which meant that as it was a break with his first ball, and as he went through both 1-back and 4-back before his other ball had gone through 1-back, he was giving away a contact at the end of the turn. This meant that Ben could start his next turn by placing his ball in contact with either of Jack's balls and playing a croquet stroke. Jack left his own balls in corners I and IV so that they were both far apart and the maximum distance from Ben's next hoop.)

A: Takes contact from ball in IV, croquets it to behind hoop 2 going to ball in I. Rolls ball in I to 5 yards soth of 3, gaining 5 yard straight position at 2. Runs the hoop and finishes. (Score +14OTP.)

Ashwell pegged out to achieve his first ever OTP victory, but more importantly to win the tournament. Thanks went to Rod Ashwell the manager, the lawn management team and those club members who generously gave of their time to provide the catering.

(OTP =opponent triple peel, i.e. where the loser has done a triple peel on the winner. If Jack had won his score would have been recorded as +xTPO.) There is a useful guide to acronyms and other jargon on the CA website – go to the Technical & Articles page, then to the Jargon Dictionary link on the left of that page.

I appreciate that some of this stuff can be a bit baffling, but if you are reasonably familiar with the basic manoeuvres and can picture the lawn in your head you can follow a game of croquet on paper in the same way as a game of chess.

### Handicap changes

Terrey Sparks 2½ down to 2

Colin Mckenzie 6 up to 7

Nick Evans -½ up to 0

John Male 1½ down to 1

## Vega's visit on 8 August



Vega is a consultancy majoring in aerospace and based in Welwyn Garden City. Their second visit was great success, with an afternoon's programme of golf and Association croquet organised by Alex lever (bottom right). Frequent refuelling with Pimms and fruit juice and a tea-time sandwich delivery helped things along, and there is talk of another visit later in the year. We shall soon have to appoint a corporate hospitality manager.

## This month's mystery object



Bryan Harral, Judy and Tom Anderson and Ben Ashwell at Luton Airport prior to their trip to Jersey. Photo by Rod Ashwell.

What does the bubble-wrapped package contain? Is it:

- (a) a scale model of a V2 missile
- (b) the prototype MegaMaglite torch
- (c) a priapic sculpture by a Young British Artist

The correct answer is of course none of these – the package is the sitar case used to hold the Inter Club team's weapons of mass destruction.

## New parking arrangements

Please note that from now on cars are to be parked on the grass opposite the house between the trees. This has been requested by English Heritage. It may be that it results in a shorter walk, but do please remember to look both ways before crossing the drive!

The parking area was originally marked out and signposted, but all indications as to its use as a car park have now been removed. However this in itself does not mean that you should not use it, and we can certainly expect other players to use it as the instructions have been posted on the CA and EACF websites (albeit in the former case rather later than I had hoped).

If there are any further changes I will let you know.

## Craft Fair 25-27 August

The warm sunshine brought out the crowds and the club provided its own supporting cast – on Bank Holiday Monday no fewer than eleven members were present to assist the visitors. Tim and Richard Brewer especially appreciated the rare opportunity to reverse roles and provide instruction for adults. We raised £155 over the three days, which followed the usual pattern of starting slowly and building up (Sat £30, Sun £45, Mon £80). Many thanks to all those who turned out to help.

## Diary

September 22 EACF Leagues playoff  
September 23 EACF Champions Day  
October 6-7 CA Club Finals weekend

John Bevington

5 September 2007