



newsletter

Match results

Longman Cup v Watford (home)

13 June

Won 4-3

Wrest Park	Watford	WP score
Steve Jones (10)	John Bee (8)	+4T
David Morris (18)	David Drazin (12)	
Elaine Newman (14)	Peter Chadwick (16)	+2T
Ray Percy (16)	Robin Barry (18)	+9T
Steve Jones (10)	John Bee (8)	-3
Elaine Newman (14)	David Drazin (12)	-1T
Ray Percy (16)	Peter Chadwick (16)	+19
David Morris (18)	Robin Barry (18)	-1T

A warm and sunny day saw the team establish a solid lead by lunchtime, which turned out to be just as well as the afternoon singles brought three narrow defeats and it was left to Ray to play a captain's innings and seal the match with a comfortable win. Our reward is a trip to Northampton in the next round, where the playing field is definitely not level.

Beds & Herts League v Northampton (home)

27 June

Won 4-2

Wrest Park	Letchworth	WP score
Bryan Harral (1)	Mike Clifton (10)	+7T
Elaine Newman (14)	Jill Carrick (14)	
Tim Brewer (4½)	Les Carrick (8)	+9
Ray Percy (16)	Owen Bryce (11)	
Bryan Harral (1)	Les Carrick (8)	+6
Tim Brewer (4½)	Mike Clifton (10)	-10T
Elaine Newman (14)	Owen Bryce (11)	-4
Ray Percy (16)	Jill Carrick (14)	+24

Report by Bryan Harral

The Northampton team arrived bright and early and promptly got to work brushing the lawns, putting out pegs and exhausting themselves doing all the jobs normally done by the home team. Perhaps it was then no surprise we were 2-0 up at lunch-time. Owen Bryce, who is the sprightliest 88 year old I have ever met, then entertained us with stories from his fascinating life. By the afternoon's singles the visitors had got their second wind and fought back. In the blistering heat - Ray Percy nearly melted - fortunes surged back and forth but in the end Bryan and Ray got the two games we needed for an overall win.

Advanced tournament 3-5 July

The heatwave eased with overnight rain on Thursday which slowed the lawns up on Friday morning, but the tournament was played out in warm sunshine interrupted by a single brief shower. Lionel Tibble immediately served notice of his intentions when he completed a triple against Howard Bottomley in just over half an hour. Other games were more leisurely - no

names, no pack drill, and no rest for manager Eric Audsley with 28 players to organise, whose handicaps ranged from -1 to 9.



Heraldic poses: Homan dormant, Woolhouse sejant, Ashwell spancellor and Tibble triumphant.

Lionel lost his second game to a triple by Andrew Winn, but won his remaining seven games comfortably to take the top prize ahead of Andrew (6/8) and Ben Ashwell (4/6). The use of index points gained to determine winners led to George Woolhouse winning the second block ahead of Eric (5/6), Ken Pickett (5/8) and Ian Mantle (4/7), and the third block was won comfortably by John Hall, whose only loss in eight games was to Terry Mahoney, from Peter Spiller and Amanda Keward (both with 4/6).

Wrest Park's lack of boundary boards caused Ian Parkinson some confusion when he went to his red ball only to find it had disappeared, John Hall having

collected it at the end of his game on the adjoining lawn. There were the usual bizarre changes of fortune: James Skelton bounced back off hoop 3 with the break under control, and John Bevington shot with the ball at hoop 4 (which was for 4-back) at James's approach ball only to miss, run his hoop and roquet the ball behind it. Eric, after failing 2-back off the opponent when conceding a lift, went away only to be called back almost immediately to find that as a result of a "previous misplay", he had been peeled through the hoop and had the innings back with the balls more or less as they were before he left.

Wrest Park regulars will know that kestrels nest in an oak near the lawns. On Saturday one youngster took Independence Day literally but fell to earth. The Pet Rescue team put it in a bucket filled with grass which was winched back up the tree, and Kes (or Icarus) managed to hop out and regain the safety of the nest. We hope he or she is none the worse for the experience.



Kes, about to become the Wrest Park bucket shop airline's first passenger.

Eastern Championship 24-26 July

David Maugham won the Eastern Championship, beating Keith Aiton in the final by -26TP, +26TP, -12TPO, +26TP, +22TP. In the deciding game David peeled Keith's balls through the first two hoops.



David Maugham on his way to one of three TPs in the final, with Dave Smith, David Woolley and Vic Rees looking on.

David began on Friday with a sextuple in a 2-0 win against Martin Stephenson, and then beat young Robert

Wilkinson in four games, Robert having earlier put out Lionel Tibble. In the semi-final David lost the second game against Ian Burrige but won the next two.

Keith had a nervous start against Nigel Polhill, winning +4, +3, but then disposed of Peter Trimmer 3-0 including two TPOs, and then saw off Jonathan Hills with three TPs, the last completed in the fourth turn.

The plate was won by Martin French (7/12) from Jonathan Hills (9/14), each of them having two losses. Martin only received the box, as the previous winner of the plate (one S.N. Mulliner) had failed to return it.



Jonathan and Martin explaining the finer points of the game.



Martin French goes for a peel at penult, while Peter Trimmer assesses his chances of hitting with black, blue having been pegged out.

Golf croquet singles and doubles tournaments

Reports and photos by Ronnie Richardson

The singles event was held on 21 June, and the numbers swelled to 15 after last-minute appeals. Doug Smith, last year's winner, kindly volunteered to act as manager and spilt the players into two all-play-all blocks, with the top two from each block then playing each other for a place in the final. In the first block Yvonne Banks was a clear winner with 5/7, followed by Linda Potton and Margaret Marshall who each had four wins, but Linda got the nod having scored one point

more than Margaret. The other block was a clean sweep for David Ball from Leighton-Linslade, who won all his six games, ahead of Eve Buckingham with three wins.

The semis were won by Yvonne and David, and David won the final to remain unbeaten on the day.



Players in the singles, won by David Ball in shorts and shades

16 pairs entered the doubles event on 19 July, with Ronnie Richardson managing and Eileen Harrington timekeeping. The pairs were split into two groups of eight, each pair playing the others. In the first group the top two pairs were Elaine Newman/Eve Buckingham and Don Barrett/Roy Kemp, Elaine and Eve winning the match between them to contest the final. The top two pairs in the second group were Linda Potton/Vera Pearson and Peggy Kenny/Margaret Marshall. Peggy and Margaret got through after a play-off with Wendy Smith and Jackie Cole and then beat Linda and Vera to make the final.

The final was punctuated by the showers that had persisted all day, but after a tense game Elaine and Eve won by 7-5 to take the trophies.



The doubles players, with Eve and Elaine holding the trophies

Coming from behind



If you think we have problems at Wrest Park, spare a thought for this bush babe. Ronnie Richardson found the photo.

Under surveillance, and some notes on Flyboys

Nick Richardson, a member until recently and hopefully soon to return, sent in two links that may be of interest.

<http://archive.skyworks.co.uk/footage/wrest-park-people-playing-croquet.html> is a 16 second piece of aerial footage showing croquet being played at Wrest Park.

<http://www.airspacemag.com/history-of-flight/flyboys.html?c=y&page=1> is the first page of a multi-page report on various technical aspects of the making of the film, with specific reference to the replica aircraft and CGI effects.

How things have changed. When William Wellman made Wings in 1927 (filming in Texas) he waited thirty days for the right combination of sun and clouds to shoot the dogfight scene. When it came he shot all the material for the scene in three and a half minutes. The clouds then closed in for the next three weeks.

Diary

August

- 8-9 Advanced tournament
- 10 Dunstable U3A 10-4 (6)
- 20 Golf croquet league v Watford 10-3 (4)
- 29-31 Wrest Park Craft Fair

September

- 5-6 All England Area Final
- 12-13 Handicap tournament

- Anyone organising home matches, group visits or any other events must let me know the proposed dates as soon as possible so they can be cleared with EH. Please provide approximate start/finish times and the number of lawns required.
- Please do not write bookings for casual play on the calendar in the pavilion. Not only is it unnecessary, but it leaves no room to enter a booking for a group or other event.

John Bevington

31 July 2009