



Wrest Park Silsoe Bedfordshire

February 2010

newsletter



Georgeen Hemming operating the timers during the indoor Association tournament on February 13th., won by Jeff and Tim Race from Hunstanton.

It was almost inevitable that the opportunity to play out of season should coincide with the coldest winter for twenty years, but when you can play indoors that hardly matters. Wrest Park members took part in the tournaments at Soham for the first time in ages – Bryan Herral and David Marsh in January and John Bevington and David in February.

We didn't do very well. Bryan and David managed a win and a draw, and John and David a solitary win (+1 on time). There is little respite – between 10am and 6pm there was only one 50 minute session when we were neither playing nor timekeeping. Adapting technique and tactics to the indoor rules and conditions takes time, as the carpet is ultra fast and hoop approaches from anywhere other than dead in front can be somewhat unpredictable.

Results apart it was an enjoyable day, so if you want to keep your hand in without freezing to death book in for one of the tournaments next winter.

Annual General Meeting

The 2010 AGM will be on **Thursday 11 March at 7.30pm** at the Star & Garter in Silsoe.

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of 2009 AGM and matters arising

3. Reports: **Chairman**
Secretary
Treasurer
CA Tournament Secretary
Club Tournament Secretary
Groundsman

4. Election of officers
5. EH news
6. Diary of events
7. Groundsmanship
8. Facilities and equipment
9. Coaching
10. Catering
11. CA and EACF news
12. Any other business

- If you can't get to the AGM but have a subject you would like us to discuss, please let me know.
- Please check the details on your membership form, make any corrections and return it with your subscription before 1 April. You will then be sent your membership card which shows the relevant numbers for the padlocks on the gates and the groundsman's hut. Cards must be carried at all times and shown to EH reception when you sign in.
- Please indicate your availability to help with tournament catering by circling dates on the form.

- **Please return the form even if you don't want to renew your membership, or if you joined as a full member last year and therefore don't have to pay.** In the former case it helps us maintain an accurate membership list, in the latter we need to receive the form before you can be sent your membership card.

Subscriptions held for 2010

The subscription rates for 2010 are as follows:

Full membership	£45
CA levy	£7
Junior membership (under 16)	£10
16-18 or full time student	£20

- The CA levy is payable by all full members unless they are also members of another CA **registered** club and have nominated that club as their main club. Members of CA **affiliated** clubs have to pay the levy.
- There is a family membership option. If two adults in a family both take out full membership then any children under 16 from that family get free junior membership.
- If you want to pay your subscription using internet banking please confirm your intention to do so with Eric beforehand, and use sort code 20-05-74, account 80983861 (Wrest Park Croquet Club). Please make sure your name is referenced in the payment.
- The green fee for members' individual guests and any groups for which individual members are responsible remains at £3.60 per person per session. Please record these payments in the Visitor's Book in the pavilion. Members can bring three guests free of charge during the season.
- The green fee for independent visiting groups requiring a member to supervise them is now £5 per person and the member who is looking after the group can claim £20 expenses.

Dates for 2010

The lawns should be ready for April 1. Before you play, please disperse any wormcasts by using one of the switches which are kept in the small hut. This takes about 15 minutes and is a good way of warming up.

April

- 10 Club social day
- 17 EACF Champions Day

May

- 21-23 Handicap tournament
- 29-31 Wrest Park Garden Show

June

- 20 Golf croquet singles tournament

July

- 2-4 Advanced tournament
- 14 Dunstable CC 10-4 (6)
- 18 Golf croquet doubles tournament

August

- 7-8 Advanced tournament
- 9 Dunstable U3A 10-4 (6)
- 28-30 Wrest Park Craft Fair

September

- 11-12 Handicap tournament
- 25 EACF Leagues playoff

- 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 on the calendar in the pavilion without letting me know first. There should be no need to book a lawn for casual play.

Signing in, car parking etc.

Last year's arrangements will continue for the time being. If you need to be reminded of these let me know. We have an annual pre-season review meeting with EH and if there are any changes they will be circulated to all members before the start of the season.

Social on 10 April from 11am

This will be an open day with opportunities for play and the chance to do a bit of spring cleaning. Food and drink will be provided. If you know anyone who is interested in joining the club, this would be an ideal opportunity to introduce them.

Early season coaching

We hope to offer some early season coaching for Association croquet and will circulate the details later.

If you want to improve your game there are few substitutes for taking two or three sets of old balls out onto the lawn and practising certain strokes, e.g. hoop approaches or split croquet strokes. It may sound boring but it builds confidence.

Golf croquet club tournaments

These events do not have to be restricted to Wrest Park members, so please ask players from local groups or clubs if they would like to take part.

Each tournament will need a manager who will be responsible for deciding the format and running the event. If anyone is willing to manage either tournament could he or she let me know as soon as possible.

Several clubs now offer open golf croquet handicap tournaments which are advertised in the CA Fixtures book. If you are interested in taking this idea further please contact a member of the Committee.

EACF/NT tournaments in 2010

Details of the National Trust golf croquet event will be made available once a new venue has been found. The NT short croquet tournament will be held at Bury St Edmunds – details to follow.

There is a level play golf croquet tournament at Ipswich on July 25. Entry limited to 14. If you are interested I can send you an application form

John Bevington

15 February 2010