



newsletter



The players at the club's annual GC singles day on June 17th. Winner John Cundell is seventh from left in the back row, holding the cup, and manager Richard Keighley on the extreme right.

Inter Counties June 2-5 2012

Bedfordshire finished in a comfortable mid-table position in Division 2 with five wins in ten matches. Had things gone our way on the first day we might have had two more wins and been in the mix for the promotion places.

Division 1

	P	W	Games
Notts	10	9	21
Somerset	10	8	21
Glamorgan	10	6	18
Essex	10	6	16
Herts	10	6	15
Surrey	10	5	15
Lancashire	10	5	15
Cheshire	10	4	16
Channel I (R)	10	3	11
Gloucs (R)	10	2	10
Suffolk (R)	10	1	7

Division 2

	P	W	Games
Berks/Oxon (P)	10	10	24
Yorkshire (P)	10	7	20
Middlesex (P)	10	7	20
Dorset	10	7	17
Beds	10	5	12
CA Select	10	4	16
Hampshire	10	4	13
Shropshire +	10	4	12
Kent	10	3	13
Sussex	10	2	11
Warwicks	10	2	7

1st pair

Pair	P	W	L
Jon Watson (-1) & George Collin (2)	2	0	2
Jon Watson (-1) & Ben Ashwell (-1)	6	3	3
Jon Watson (-1) & David Marsh (2½)	2	1	1

2nd pair

Pair	P	W	L
Bryan Harral (1) & John Bevington (1)	4	1	3
Howard Bottomley (½) & John Bevington (1)	3	2	1
Howard Bottomley (½) & Bryan Harral (1)	3	0	3

3rd pair

Pair	P	W	L
Howard Bottomley (½) & Terry Mahoney (2)	2	0	2
George Collin (2) & Terry Mahoney (2)	3	2	1
George Collin (2) & David Marsh (2½)	3	2	1
Howard Bottomley (½) & George Collin (2)	2	1	1



Jon and Ben, with Graham Gale on the left.

For the first time in very many years the team were without the presence of John Wheeler and Tom and Judy Anderson, and their support was much missed. Howard juggled the pairings as some of the team were only available on certain days and others took grateful advantage of the offer of a day off. David Marsh made his first appearance and acquitted himself splendidly. The event was put back by a week to coincide with the Jubilee weekend, but the gloomy weather (dull and breezy with rain on Tuesday afternoon) had many wishing it could have been held in the glorious sunshine of the previous weekend.



Howard and Bryan consider their next move.

We started with a bye and got under way after lunch at Compton playing CA Select on fast lawns and losing 0-3, the second and third pairs losing -2 and -1, both on time. It was a similar story against Berks & Oxon, where John and George lost to a triple by Robin Brown, John and Bryan lost -1 on time and Howard and Terry by the same score after Joe King played a memorable last turn with a peel on his partner.



George and David holding each other's mallets.

To Southwick on Sunday, and a third loss to Shropshire Plus. George and Terry had a win at third pair, but the top two, with Ben joining Jon at first pair, went down by large margins to a combination of Robbie Dodds and the Hallam family – Brian and his two sons. Our fortunes then changed with 2-1 wins against Sussex and Dorset.

David replaced John on Monday, and he and George at third pair contributed to a 2-1 win against Hampshire. The winning run came to an abrupt halt against a strong Middlesex team. The evening match against Kent went to and fro but resulted in a 2-1 win, all the games being decided by single figures. No games went to time on Sunday or Monday, which was unexpected.

And so to the final day, beginning with a 3-0 win against Warwickshire in which Bryan and John needlessly gave away a contact and nearly regretted it, and the final loss to Yorkshire when everyone got very wet. The full results are on the board in the pavilion.



Breakfast at Tiffany's – the eponymous café was our start to the day and the scene of regular phone calls from Tom Anderson.

Match results

Inter Club v Nottingham A (home)

16 June

Won 4-3

Rod Ashwell (0) and Howard Bottomley (½) lost to James Death (-2) and Richard White (-1) -21

John Bevington (1) beat Martin Beacon (2) +19

George Collin (2) beat Paul Swaffield (-1) +1

Rod Ashwell lost to James Death -20

Howard Bottomley beat Richard White +22

John Bevington lost to Paul Swaffield -15

George Collin beat Martin Beacon +3

The match got under way at about 11am in gusty conditions. In the doubles Richard went to 4-back and there was the odd error and a few hoops for Wrest Park before James finished with a double peel and all four clips in his pocket. John had a steady win against Martin, but George's game had the spectators reaching for drinks before he finally pegged out.

Play resumed after lunch at about 3.30, whereupon James did all the peels of a sextuple but failed the pegout, winning shortly afterwards. However Howard found his form, quickly had one ball round and got the first peel of a triple in before beating Richard. John then lost to Paul which left the match poised at 3-3.



Howard, James and Paul look on from a safe distance as the deciding game reaches its climax.

The outcome depended on George's game against Martin, which swung to and fro before George won the race to peg out the opponent's rover ball and finally finished after setting up a wired rush to the peg with Martin having no shot.

This has to go down as one of the club's best wins of recent years, and our reward is a trip to Southwick to play Sussex County in the next round.

Beds & Herts League v Letchworth (away) **9 June Drawn 3-3**

Bryan Harral (1) and Peter Aspinall (20) beat Jeremy Scott (4) and Peter Elworth (9) +5T

Tim Brewer (3½) and David Morris (18) beat John Hall (4) and Martin King (12) +17

Bryan Harral lost to Jeremy Scott -9

Tim Brewer lost to John Hall -3

David Morris beat Peter Elworth +5

Peter Aspinall lost to Martin King -9

Report by Bryan Harral

Letchworth has only two lawns but they are a pleasure to play on, flat, level, fast and very easy to go off on – if you see what I mean! In the morning's doubles Bryan and Peter held on to win by 5 on time. Tim and David also won but were mistakenly given eight bisques by John Hall rather than the 2½ they should have had. Unfortunately the error was not noticed until after the game so at lunch the score was 2-0 to Wrest Park. After scrupulous handicap checking and bisque calculations the afternoon's singles commenced. In the game between Bryan and Jeremy, part way through Jeremy's break he noticed to his embarrassment that the clip on his shoe was the opposite colour to the ball he was playing! Whether he had picked up the wrong clip or swapped balls during the break we could not decide so we assumed the former, and he then went on to win. John Hall recovered from the morning's bisque debacle to beat Tim, Peter, after a long battle lost to Martin, but David's win made it 3-3 at tea. Not only are Letchworth's lawns good but their teas are very good too.

Mary Rose v Cheltenham (home) **24 June Lost 2-5**

Bryan Harral (1) and John Bevington (1) lost to Andrew Hope (0) and Paul Watson (½) -23TP (H)

George Collin (2) beat Graham Roberts (2) +7T

Terry Mahoney (2) lost to Alwen Bowker (2) -2

Bryan Harral lost to Andrew Hope -3

John Bevington lost to Paul Watson -7

George Collin beat Alwen Bowker +10

Terry Mahoney lost to Graham Roberts -10

Report by John Bevington

¾ hour time limits were agreed as the Cheltenham team wanted to avoid a potential late finish. This proved totally unnecessary in the doubles, as after Paul went to 4-back Andrew started with a perfect stop shot approach to hoop 1 and completed a triple peel to win the game in less than one and a half hours. Anyone thinking this unusual for a Mary Rose match should be reminded that

thirty years ago Andrew, with whom there was an interview in a recent issue of the Croquet Gazette, was a member of the winning GB MacRobertson Shield team. Due to the early finish we started the singles, while on the other lawn Terry lost narrowly but George won on time to redress the balance.

Sharman Harral provided an excellent lunch with chili, rice and freshly made apple pie before we continued. Bryan was looking good and had got to peg and penult when he missed a shot at Andrew's balls on the boundary. Andrew went round, pegged him out and carried on to win. John then missed a short shot when set to go to the peg and never hit in again. The other two games divided to leave Cheltenham winners by five games to two.

Temporary members fly in



This swarm was seen in the larch next to the pavilion on June 19th, and may be the same one that arrived nearly a week earlier. Club member and beekeeper Gill Brewer comments:

“Unmanaged colonies will split roughly in half sending out a prime swarm (with the mated queen), then a few days later the remainder of the colony will halve again sending out a cast (swarm with a virgin queen), and so on, with smaller and smaller casts every few days. Maybe they think they are taking over the world, but many of these casts are too small to build up into strong enough colonies for the winter.

Bees have an amazing sense of smell, so if this is a different swarm the spot the previous swarm had hung in probably smelt nice and homely to them. Bees have many pheromones including footprint odour and the queen has extremely strong pheromones.

There seem to be swarms in Wrest Park every year, so I suspect there are unmanaged bees nearby. I was called to the house across the fields a few years ago where there were bees in a wall, and gamekeeper told me there were bees in the chimney of Wrest Park itself.”

Harpenden Tangent visit 14 June



As far as I understand it, just as the Ladies Circle is to the Round Table, so Tangent is to the 41 Club. The Harpenden group arranged a visit for the 14th of June and arrived by coach at about 7.15pm, but as they were booked in at the Star & Garter for a meal at 9pm there wasn't a lot of time to spare, and of course by the time they arrived it had started raining.....

Nevertheless John Bevington, David Marsh and Geoff Strutt kept them entertained and it all went as well as could be expected, apart from two of the party being stranded in the park on the way out leading to trouble with the gate and the gentlemen later having to make an undignified exit by crawling through the hedge. Were the cameras rolling, I wonder...

Golf croquet singles day 17 June

Report and photo by manager Richard Keighley

The appeal for entries from other clubs resulted in a full house of 24 with nine from Wrest Park, 13 from Leighton-Linslade and two from Wingrave.



Keith Palmer, Peggy Kenny and winner John Cundell

The players were split into four blocks of six, all play all, and the block winners were Keith Palmer (4 wins), John Cundell (4 wins), Judith Pengelly (5 wins) and Roger Stroud (5 wins). In the semi-finals Keith beat Judith 7-4 and John beat Roger 7-5, and in a keenly contested

final which went to the golden hoop John pipped Keith 7-6. Peggy Kenny, last year's winner, presented the trophy.

The play attracted a lot of attention from visitors, including two keen photographers. One was snapping away to find a picture good enough to be entered in a "Britain at Play" competition at the forthcoming East of England Show, and the other obliged by taking a group photograph of the players.

Dates for 2012

July

- 6-8 CA Advanced tournament
- 11 Geoff Strutt's ATC group
- 15 Golf croquet doubles tournament
- 27-29 CA Eastern Championship

August

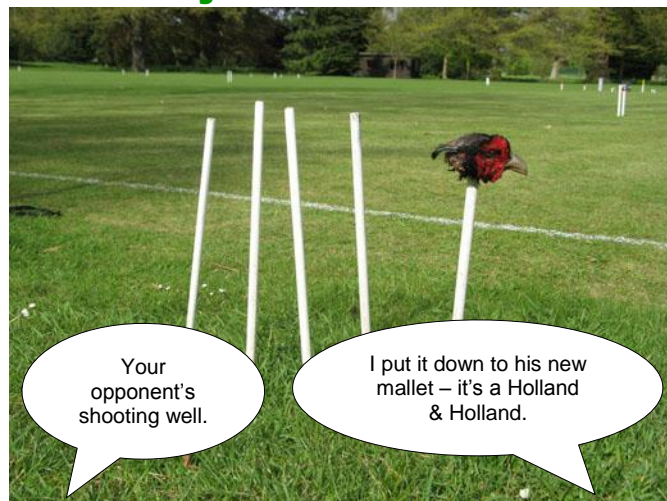
- 11-12 CA Advanced tournament
- 23 Dunstable U3A 10-4 (6 lawns)

September

- 1-2 CA All England area final
- 14-16 CA Handicap tournament
- 22 EACF AC 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 notified to EH. Please provide approximate start/finish times and the number of lawns required.
- Note that all six lawns are likely to be busy when a CA/EACF tournament is scheduled. There may be a lawn free depending on the number of entries but this cannot be guaranteed, so if you turn up hoping to play you will have to take pot luck.

And finally....



John Bevington

2 July 2012