



# newsletter



The view from lawn 10 at Southwick during the evening session of the first day of the Inter County Championship. Bedfordshire were playing Hampshire and lost 1-2. Jon Watson can be seen in play just to the left of the hut on the right.

## Inter Counties 2013 – 25-28 May

Bedfordshire aka Wrest Park had a wretched start, losing their first four matches, but then staged a remarkable recovery to win the remaining six. This left us level with the Channel Islands and Gloucestershire who also had six wins but had both only played nine matches due to the last round at Southwick being abandoned because of flooding. Suffolk, having won eight of their nine matches, were the clear winners of Division 2, but the question of which teams are promoted and relegated is going to have to wait until the management committee have decided what to do. We suspect that they may take the view that 6/9 is a higher winning percentage than 6/10 and we will therefore escape promotion. The final tables:

Division 1			Division 2				
P	W	Games	P	W	Games		
Notts	9	8	22	Suffolk	9	8	20
Somerset	9	8	20	<b>Beds</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>17</b>
Surrey	9	8	19	Channel I	9	6	16
Yorkshire	9	6	15	Gloucs	9	6	15
Lancashire	10	4	14	Kent	10	5	17
Glamorgan	9	4	14	Hampshire	9	5	16
Herts	9	4	12	CA Select	10	5	15
Cheshire	9	3	10	Shropshire	10	5	14
Middlesex	9	2	9	Sussex	10	5	13
Essex	9	2	8	Warwicks	10	2	12
Berks/Oxon	9	1	7	Norfolk	10	0	4

	P	W	L
<b>1<sup>st</sup> pair</b> Jon Watson (-1) & David Marsh (1½)	10	9	1
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> pair</b> Bryan Harral (1) & John Bevington (1)	10	4	6
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> pair</b> Howard Bottomley (1) & Tom Anderson (3)	10	4	6

Needless to say a fair number of games went to time: 16 out of the 30 games played (1<sup>st</sup> pair 2, 2<sup>nd</sup> pair 4, 3<sup>rd</sup> pair 10). Of these five were won or lost by a single point and one by two, and the matches where they counted were against Sussex (2<sup>nd</sup> pair lost -2T, lost 1-2), the Channel Islands (3<sup>rd</sup> pair won +1T, won 2-1) and Warwickshire (2<sup>nd</sup> pair won +1T, 3<sup>rd</sup> pair lost -1T, won 2-1).

Jon and David settled into a winning partnership from the start and did outstandingly well to win nine of their ten games. Bryan and John lost their first six games but recovered to win the remaining four. In the two games at Compton on the last day they only conceded six points. Howard and Tom also won four games, including the match winner against the Channel Islands. This game reached its allotted time with the scores level. After a further half-hour or more Tom and Kevin Garrad both wanted 1-back. Tom finally approached the hoop off Kevin's ball and failed it. We assumed it was all over, but Kevin then did the same and Tom finally ran the hoop to win the game and the match and offer further proof of Parkinson's law as applied to croquet, i.e. games expand to fill the time available.

Many thanks are due to George Collin, who although unable to play was elected team captain and performed an invaluable service in collecting team sheets and recording the scores, a full copy of which is on the board in the pavilion. We are also indebted to Tom, who had to play throughout as a result of George's forced absence and came good when it mattered.

## Match results

### Beds & Herts League v Enfield (away) 26 April Lost 1-5

Bryan Harral (1) and Peter Aspinall (20) lost to Ken Pickett (2.5) and Wendy Spencer-Smith (18) -1T

David Woolley (7) and David Morris (18) lost to Brian Havill (9) and John Street (14) -18

Bryan Harral beat Ken Pickett +13

David Woolley lost to Brian Havill -24

David Morris lost to John Street -7

Peter Aspinall lost to Wendy Spencer-Smith -1T

*Report by Bryan Harral*

Losing 1-5 is not a good start to our campaign, but as always we have a good excuse, we were rusty and they were the 2012 League Champions. Having said that, and looking for a silver lining, two games were narrowly lost by 1T so maybe things are not as bad as they first appear. Onward and upward!

### Beds & Herts League v Letchworth (away) 4 May Lost 1-5

Bryan Harral (1) and Peter Aspinall (20) lost to George Woolhouse (1.5) and Jeremy Scott (3) -7

Tim Brewer (3.5) and David Morris (18) beat Keith Rhodes (7) and John Hall (7) +1T

Bryan Harral lost to George Woolhouse -7

Tim Brewer lost to Jeremy Scott -3

David Morris lost to Keith Rhodes -5

Peter Aspinall lost to John Hall -10

*Report by Bryan Harral*

“Ooh what lovely lawns you have” said Mr Wrest Park to Mr Letchworth – “all the better to beat you with” replied Mr Letchworth! Another 1-5 loss, but you have to admit we are consistent. We had a bit of luck in Tim and David’s doubles game when Keith inadvertently pegged out his own ball when pegging out David’s. This left a one-ball game between Tim and John Hall which was level when time was called. Fortunately, Tim made the golden hoop and saved us from a whitewash.

## Dates for 2013

### June

- 13 Harpenden Tangent (eve)
- 15 Silsoe Lower School event\*
- 16 Club GC singles tournament
- 22 CA GC B level tournament
- 26 Kempston Rotary (eve) – John Martin

### July

- 5-7 CA AC Advanced tournament
- 21 Club GC doubles tournament

### August

- 3-4 CA AC Advanced tournament
- 25-26 Lawns closed for play (EH event access)

### September

- 13-15 CA AC Handicap tournament

\*All I know about this is that there will be loads of children and adults present

- 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 included in the calendar in the pavilion and on the website. Please provide approximate start/finish times and the number of lawns required. The fact that there will be fewer lawns available means there may be occasions when they are fully booked. Although we will always try and keep a lawn free for casual play this cannot be guaranteed, particularly when a CA tournament is scheduled.

**John Bevington**

**7 June 2013**



*The scene at Compton on the final afternoon of the Inter County Championship. Jon Watson and David Marsh are in conference on the left and Tom Anderson is in play. Howard Bottomley is walking across between them.*