



newsletter

Minutes of the 1997 Wrest Park Croquet Club AGM held on Thursday 6th March 1997 at the Star & Garter, Silsoe

1. Apologies for absence

Joan Miller, Mary Coleman, Vera Blunt, Susan S?, Betty Shaw

2. Minutes of 1996 AGM and matters arising

Minutes agreed and accepted.

3. Reports

Chairman:

- 6 out of 10 for year's performance
- congratulations to John Bevington, 3rd in All England final
- membership low but high hopes for planned membership drive

Secretary:

No report

Treasurer:

- report attached to notice of AGM
- new annual subscription £36.50 agreed
- in accounts, grant/loan means grant and loan
- in 1997 budget, lawn care includes machinery hire

Tournament secretary:

- requested to avoid putting people from same club against each other
- asked to put people's full names on results sheets
- agreed to have a finals day for club tournaments
- there will be no additional charge for juniors in their first tournament

Groundsman:

- report provided at AGM
- lawns to be verti-drained next week, 1" wide x 12" deep (last tining/spiking work done 2.5 yrs ago)
- slab laying to be done at back of changing room hut

Team captain:

- report attached to notice of AGM
- All England full report in CA Croquet Gazette
- agreed to enter EACF local league in spite of our small membership

Golf croquet:

- now playing Mondays and Wednesdays
- number playing varies but stays about 9

Publicity+development:

- 5 newsletters produced

- about £150 made at Spring and Autumn events at Wrest Park
- it was suggested that we have a regular Sunday afternoon competition
- recruitment campaign planned for Spring 1997

Equipment:

- Allett mower arranged to be serviced by Rogers
- new balls will be ordered after inspection next weekend. Our aim is to maintain the existing standard, to increase it would be very expensive
- equipment hut to be cleaned out and hoops repainted next weekend
- excellent new centre pegs made by Rod's brother (many thanks!)
- investigate if white rubber mallet can be obtained

4. Election of Officers

The result of the elections was:

| | |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| Chairman | John Wheeler |
| Chairman of meetings | Peter Smith |
| Secretary | John Bevington |
| Treasurer | Eric Audsley |
| Tournament secretary | Eric Audsley |
| Groundsman | George Collin |
| Team captain | George Collin |
| WI representative | Dorothy Craggs |
| Publicity officer | John Bevington |
| Development officer | Tom Anderson |
| Equipment officer | John Wheeler |
| High bisquers representative | Tim Brewer |
| EACF representative | George Collin |

5. Club Activities for 1997

- competitions: same as 1996 plus Sunday afternoon?
- recruitment campaign to be held in early June

6. Any other business

- need to ensure beer is not out of date
- consider entry fees to the park for recruitment day

The following dates were agreed:

| | |
|------------------|------------------------------------|
| 15th-16th March: | work weekend |
| 5th-6th April: | reserve work weekend |
| 10th April: | lawns open for season |
| 20th April: | Easter Egg tournament |
| 24th April: | draw for club competitions at S&G. |

The meeting closed at 9.45pm

English Heritage news

I have a provisional list of EH goings-on at Wrest Park this year, which is as follows:

| | |
|-------------|----------------------|
| 12/13 April | One man and his dog |
| 5 May | Falconry and gundogs |

21/22 June Queen Victoria Diamond Jubilee
Centenary Celebrations

5/6 July 18thC Redcoats (Hi-de-hi camp?)

24/25 August Soprano in Pink

27/28 Sept One man and his dog

I have also written to EH with dates of all our tournaments and other events. The EH supervisor who is on duty at the weekends is Siân Brown and she can be contacted during the week on 01604 730358. Siân has asked that we impress on any tournament entrants or visiting teams for matches that if they arrive before the official opening time of 10am they should enter the park via the eastern approaches and not through the house. Even though the flag may be flying and the house appear open rather earlier than this EH are in fact busy setting up and would prefer not to be disturbed. I have a feeling this problem stems from the days when the house opened at 9.30, and visitors with long memories think this is still the case. I have also asked Siân about arrangements for free or reduced entry for the recruitment day, and also about the possibility of our using an A frame or similar display board for promotional purposes.

The opening hours for the park are 10am-6pm from 22 March to 31 October. Prices are adults £2.75, concessions £2.10, children (5-15) £1.40. The telephone number at the house is 01525 860152

Subscriptions

Please make sure that you send your subscription and requests for inclusion in internal and any other tournaments to Eric as soon as possible, in any event before the draw for the internal competitions takes place on 24 April. Full details are on the sheets sent out prior to the AGM.

Membership news

- Steve Jones' home number is now 01234 405878
- Colin McKenzie has moved to Ealing and is currently working in Japan
- Michael Holford (father of Andrew, who was a member recently) has joined the club. His address is Icknield House, West Mill Lane, Ickleford, Hitchin, Herts SG5 3RN. Tel. 01462 432794

Barlow balls

Jon Watson has kindly loaned the club a set of Barlow balls, which have their own rack. Please use them and pass on any comments to John Wheeler. It is worth trying them out as they are used at other clubs and at some tournaments.

Forthcoming events

- Home match vs Oxford on 4 May. George Collin is organising a team for this - please let him know if you would like to play.
- Regional CA Centenary 1 day tournament on 28 June. Details and an entry form are in the pavilion. It will be 14 point handicap games with an 80 minute time limit and Wrest Park have 3 places - first come, first served. The organiser is Don Cornelius (01279 429316)

- Coaching for beginners and new coaches at Newport on 19/20 April. For details contact Nigel Gray (01462 436430)

National Competitions

Our first opponents in the national club competitions are as follows:

| | | |
|-------------|-------------|------------|
| Inter Club | Northampton | by 13 July |
| Mary Rose | Colchester | by 6 July |
| Longman Cup | Edgbaston | by 1 June |

Beds and Herts League

The usual suspects are playing this year, together with a new entry - Enfield. Please let George Collin have any dates when you will **not** be available. No handicap restrictions apply!

EACF/National Trust events

There are two golf croquet tournaments: Doubles at Anglseey Abbey (12 July) and singles at Ickworth (7 Sept). There is also a short croquet doubles tournament with rounds at Long Melford (29 June), Anglesey Abbey (13 and 27 July), Oxburgh (3 August) with a final at Ickworth (7 Sept). Details on the board or from Judy Anderson. We should enter a team for the short croquet event, so if anyone is interested please contact George Collin. It is not known at which venue the Wrest Park team will be expected to play, but Judy may be able to help

Contributions

The only rules I intend to observe regarding the newsletter are that it should appear reasonably frequently and not normally exceed two sides. All contributions on any topic and in any form will be gratefully accepted. I would ask that all match reports give the full results - there are forms for this in the plastic box file in the pavilion.

John Bevington

7 April 1997