



newsletter

1998 Annual General Meeting

This was held at 7.30pm on 5 March 1998 at the Star and Garter, Silsoe, and was attended by the following: George Collin, Howard Bottomley, Peter Smith, John Bevington, Eric Audsley, Tom Anderson, Rod Ashwell, Judy Anderson, John Wheeler, Tim Brewer, Mary Russell, Joyce Lett, Pamela Godwin, Hilda Allen, Dorothy Craggs, Joan Mills and Susan Savage.

1. Apologies for absence

Received from Terry Mahoney, David Woolley, Irene Davis, Margaret Montgomery and Betty Shaw.

2. Minutes of 1997 AGM and matters arising

The minutes were proposed and adopted. There were no matters arising.

3. Reports

Chairman:

- 7 out of 10 for year's performance
- congratulations to Longman Cup team for reaching the final

Secretary:

- report attached to notice of AGM

Treasurer:

- report attached to notice of AGM
- new annual subscription £42.90 (£37.50 + £5.40 CA levy) agreed

Tournament secretary:

- report attached to notice of AGM
- low club entry for last year's September tournament
- correspondence re last year's All England area final discussed

Team captain:

- report attached to notice of AGM
- new team for B&H League anticipated

Groundsman:

- report attached to notice of AGM
- beneficial effects of vertidrainage on lawns 5 and 6

Publicity:

- proposal to make posters available to stimulate local interest

Development:

- report circulated at meeting giving details of recruitment campaign, Open Days attendance, coaching course and Pro-Am events
- 6 new members gained as result

Equipment:

- report attached to notice of AGM
- new water supply (including hot) now available
- new convenience bicycle

- supply of Jaques balls adequate for coming season

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

- Wrest Park will be hosting the All England Final on 26-27 September

6. Catering

- assistance required for tournaments

7. Any other business

- George Collin: friendly vs Oxford planned for 3 May
- Judy Anderson: need to arrange practical at Wrest Park for budding coach

The meeting closed at 9.05pm

Membership news

- The warmest of welcomes to Stephen Malcolm Watson, born to Jon and Sue on Thursday 26 February. We look forward to meeting him soon.
- Rodney is back - Rodney Ward has rejoined for 1998. His address is The Garden Cottage, Southfields, Blakesley, Towcester, Northants NN12 8EA. Tel. 01327 860811

English Heritage news

Siân Brown has sent a list of EH events for 1998 (more details on the noticeboard in the pavilion) and extended the loan of the display board. She has asked me to remind members and other players to use Fisherman's Gate for events with a 9.30 start, and to have membership cards available in case they are spotted by a custodian before the grounds are officially opened at 10am. Opening times and charges for the park for 1998 are as follows: 10am-6pm (last entry 5pm), adults £2.95, concessions £2.50, children (5-15) £1.50

25-26 April	St George's Festival
23-25 May	Garden Fayre
31 May	1998 Guardian Insurance RAC Classic
20-21 June	Alice in Wonderland

11 July	Classical Favourites
12 July	Music for the Royal Fireworks
19 July	Redbornstoke Morris Dancers
1-2 August	Falconry and Gundogs
22 August	Pop go the Beatles
23 August	Last Night of the Wrest Park Proms
29-31 August	Craft Festival

Forthcoming events

- Don't forget the annual Easter Egg tournament on 19 April - details from Rod Ashwell on 01582 504536.
- The draw for the internal club competitions will take place at the Star & Garter on 30 April (not 23 April as previously advertised). **Don't forget the Plate for beginners/new members or any member with a handicap of 18 or over** - if you want to enter this please ring Eric Audsley on 01462 768300
- We have been approached by a local Tangent group with a request for a croquet evening. I have provisionally suggested Thursday 4 June, from 6pm. There are likely to be 15-20 women who will be going on to the Star & Garter for supper afterwards. Our contact is Gail Edwards (01462 421124). Arrangements to be confirmed at next committee meeting.

CA News

- We put in a bid for the Selector's Weekend for 1999, but have since heard that this was unsuccessful. The event is to be held at Nottingham. Most of the 1999 events have been allocated to expected venues. The 1999 All England final is to be at Pendle, and the Junior Championships (which we had considered applying for) will be at Northampton.
- I have received a quantity of material from the CA which will be put in the CA section in the box file in the pavilion. The material includes:
 - club handbook - details of the CA, grants, etc.
 - a copy of Bill Lamb's Principles of Handicapping
 - some CA logo stickers for use on correspondence
 - some handicap cards
 - the club copy of the March issue of the Gazette
 - 1998 Tournament Documentation (return, levy and result forms, guidance to tournament secretaries, merit award certificates, handicap report and rapid improver forms)
- You may or may not be aware that the CA send out the May issue of the Gazette to affiliates (i.e. members of the club who are not members of the CA). This is always an administrative nightmare and I have never been entirely sure what purpose it is designed to serve. Any member of the club who is a member of the CA receives a copy of the Gazette automatically, and we also receive a copy for the club, which is kept in the pavilion for anyone to read. On the assumption that all club members visit the pavilion often enough to read the club copy of the Gazette if they wish to do so, I have informed the CA that we do not need any extra copies for affiliates. I hope this meets with your approval - if there are any affiliates who feel hard done by as a result please let me know.

National club competitions for 1998

We have received the draws for the national club competitions for 1998, which will be put up in the pavilion. Our first round opponents are as follows:

Inter Club: There are 12 entries. Wrest Park are not involved until round 2, to be played by 13 July. We play the winners of Northampton vs Sussex, if successful we are immediately through to the semi-final against either Surbiton, Ipswich or Nottingham.

Mary Rose: 13 entries. Our opponents in round 1, to be played by 1 June, are Northampton. If successful we then play either Surbiton or Letchworth.

Longman Cup: 35 entries. Our first opponents in round 2, to be played by 6 July, are Ipswich, to be followed by either Colworth or Norwich.

Publicity for 1998

We are listed on the BEDSERVE database run by the Bedford library service, who recently sent me a note asking for an update to our club entry. I discovered that they can distribute posters to libraries in Bedfordshire, so I have sent about 30 copies of a poster advertising the club (similar format to the ones used for last year's Open Days). I will try and find out if something similar can be done with leisure/sports centres; meanwhile if anyone has any contacts or knowledge in this area can they please let me know.

Membership list

The attached list is not so much a membership list as a newsletter mailing list. It is as up to date as I can make it and includes bona fide paid-up members, old members we keep in touch with and others whose status is less clear. Please let me know (a) missing postcodes and any details (e.g. phone numbers) needing correction, (b) if you no longer want to receive the newsletter or (c) if you know of someone to whom the newsletter might usefully be sent.

Can we start playing yet?

By all means, but please avoid lawns 3 and 4 for the moment as positions of the hoops haven't been fixed.

John Bevington

7 April 1998