



# newsletter



The Wide Water. Gerry Eccles, undeterred by the hazards, plays on during the All England Final.

## All England Final - 26/27 September

John Wheeler's Sunday Telegraph revealed that the wettest place in Britain on Sunday 27 September was Luton, which received 3.1 inches of rain during the day. A deal of it fell during the night, but there was plenty left for the players. The effect on the lawns can be seen from the photograph, and the effect on the manager can be imagined, but we eventually extracted a winner from the 15 contestants. John Gibbons (Cassiobury, h'cap 9) and Stephen Stuart-Matthews (Aldermaston, 16), both undefeated, managed to resume their interrupted game on lawn 2 in the afternoon and John finally got there +1 on time. Many thanks to Tom and Judy and Peter and Dorothy for the catering. The full report will be in the Gazette in due course.



John Gibbons receiving the cup from Alan Oldham

## Mary Rose lost with all hands

Mary Rose Final vs Nottingham (at Cheltenham)  
13 September **Lost 3-4**

Wrest Park	H'cap	Nottingham	H'cap	WP score
Eric Audsley	1	Gordon Hopewell	1½	-22
Rod Ashwell	2	Mark Roberts	1½	
George Collin	3	Beatrice McGlen	3	-23
John Bevington	3½	Philip Pawson	4	-1(T)
Eric Audsley	1	Mark Roberts	1½	+9
Rod Ashwell	2	Gordon Hopewell	1½	+18
George Collin	3	Philip Pawson	4	+10
John Bevington	3½	Beatrice McGlen	3	-11

The weather was dry and cool with some welcome sunshine. Manager Don Gaunt was celebrating his tenth and final year of organising the three national club competitions. In the morning doubles Rod and Eric went down in relatively quick time to a double peel by Gordon and George was on the receiving end of some solid breaks from Beatrice. John and Philip had a scrappy game which Philip eventually won by pegging out his forward ball when the scores were level after time. After a welcome hot lunch John was quickly round to 4-back against Beatrice and had a second break under control but became hampered after hoop 6 and failed to make the most of the few remaining opportunities. Philip, with his backward ball for hoop 1, pegged George out and further assisted in his own demise by putting George through penultimate. Eric and Rod both turned round their form of the morning, but it was not enough and we lost 3-4. Many thanks to our loyal band of supporters for coming down to cheer us on.

## Handicap Tournament - 18-20

### Sept

As Eric (and the CA!) are still waiting for a copy of the results I am unable to enlighten you further. Further details in due course.

### Other match results

#### Beds/Herts League vs Colworth (home)

13 September

Lost 2-4

Wrest Park	H'cap	Letchworth	H'cap	WP score
George Collin	2½	Norman Davren	2½	+5(T)
Peter Newman	18D17	Lawrence Aspinall	11	
Peter Berry	10	Steve Jones	9	-1(T)
Peter Smith	12	Trevor Wilkins	9	
George Collin	2½	Norman Davren	2½	-8
Peter Berry	10	Steve Jones	9	-6
Peter Smith	12	Trevor Wilkins	9	+19
Peter Newman	18	Lawrence Aspinall	11	-11(T)

#### Beds/Herts League vs Letchworth (away)

26 September

Lost 2-4

Wrest Park	H'cap	Letchworth	H'cap	WP score
George Collin	3	David Harley	3½	-13
Peter Newman	18D17	Robert Staddon	12	
Peter Berry	10	David Tutt	4½	+2
Peter Smith	12	George Woolhouse	18D17	
George Collin	3	David Harley	3½	-1(T)
Peter Berry	10	David Tutt	4½	-11(T)
Peter Smith	12	Robert Staddon	12	+2(T)
Peter Newman	18	George Woolhouse	18	-4(T)

The league was won by St Albans, who go through to a play-off with the other league winners from the East Anglian Federation to determine our Federation representative in the Secretary's Shield next year.

	P	W	D	L	Pts
St Albans	6	3	3	0	9
Colworth	6	2	4	0	8
Watford	6	3	1	2	7
Letchworth	6	2	2	2	6
Meldreth	6	1	4	1	6
Wrest Park	6	2	1	3	5
Enfield	6	0	1	5	1

### Club competitions

The only final still outstanding was that of the Steel Bowl, which was played on Sunday 11 October in beautiful weather and in front of a small but appreciative crowd. Howard hit the tice and laid up near the fourth corner. Jon took the short shot, hit and went to 4-back. Howard missed the lift and Jon then embarked on a triple but went a little sideways at 2-back with one peel done. Howard hit but underhit the rush to hoop 2. He made the hoop but only crept through, and his only opportunity to continue was a long shot at partner which missed. Jon went to the peg and finished when Howard missed the last shot. Jon has now won the cup on 50% of the occasions it has been held, but he should know that to reach 75% he will have to continue winning it for the next 14 years. Now there's a

challenge! All trophies will be presented at this year's annual dinner (see below).

#### Steel Bowl (Advanced)

Winner: Jon Watson

Runner-up: Howard Bottomley

#### Archer Cup (Handicap)

Winner: Tim Brewer

Runners-up: Paul Sharrock and Howard Bottomley

#### Ashwell Cup (All England h'cap)

Winner: Terry Mahoney

Runner-up: Rod Ashwell

#### De Grey Plate (14 point h'cap)

Winner: Peter Berry

Runner-up: Gordon Sampson

### 1998 Annual Dinner

The annual dinner will be at the Leaside Hotel, Villa Road, Luton on Friday November 27th, 7.30 for 8pm. To get to the hotel, drive down Villa Road (see map) and continue down the private road which leads to the hotel car park. Please ring Rod Ashwell (01582 504536) if you wish to attend the dinner, and it would be appreciated if you could let him know your preferences for starter and main course from the attached menu. Don't leave it too late.

### Christmas Cracker

This seasonal fun tournament is scheduled for Sunday 13 December. Four one-hour games starting at 9.30 sharp, with a break for mince pies and liquid refreshment, followed by a traditional Christmas dinner in the Star & Garter at about 2pm. The final format will depend on the number of entries, so if you are interested please contact the manager, Rod Ashwell (01582 504536) before the middle of November.

### Autumn lawn maintenance programme

This began in earnest on Saturday 10 October with a scarification of lawns 1-4. Groundsman George Collin has proposed a three year lawn improvement plan which starts with hollow tining and top dressing with sand, followed by a fallow year and concluded in the third year with spring vertidrainage and autumn top dressing with sand and the composted cores from the previous hollow tining. This proposal needs to be discussed and approved before the first stage can be implemented.

### Newsletter circulation list

The newsletter gets sent to all members and a number of others who are or have been associated with the club in one way or another. If you currently receive the newsletter but don't really have any continuing interest and could happily live without it, let me know (01908 614493) and I will amend the list accordingly.

John Bevington

15 October 1998