



newsletter

WREST PARK WIN B&H LEAGUE

Into playoff for next year's Secretary's Shield

Wrest Park won both their final matches to clinch the title, remaining undefeated through the season. The club now go through to the EACF League playoff at Hunstanton on 25 September. The winners of the playoff represent the EACF in next year's Secretary's Shield competition. All who took part are to be congratulated, with special mention to Peter Newman, Wrest Park's answer to Arsène Wenger, who has obviously perfected the squad rotation system, and Bryan Harral, who played in four of the five matches and won six of his eight games.

B&H League v Colworth (away) 7 August

Won 4-0

Wrest Park	Colworth	WP score
Bryan Harral (3)	Arthur Weightman (2½)	+7T
Bill Tapper (6)	Steve Jones (9)	
Tim Brewer (9)	Trevor Wilkins (10)	+22
Bryan Harral (3)	Arthur Weightman (2½)	+1T
Tim Brewer (9)	Trevor Wilkins (10)	
Bill Tapper (6)	Steve Jones (9)	+5T

B&H League v Letchworth (home) 4 September

Won 4-2

Wrest Park	Letchworth	WP score
Howard Bottomley (-½)	Ian Mantle (4)	+5
David Parsons (10)	John Hall (9)	
Bryan Harral (3)	George Woolhouse (3½)	-3
Bill Tapper (6)	Jeremy Scott (4)	
Howard Bottomley (-½)	George Woolhouse (3½)	+15
Bryan Harral (3)	Jeremy Scott (4)	+22
Bill Tapper (6)	Ian Mantle (4)	-15
David Parsons (10)	John Hall (9)	+14

Report by Howard Bottomley

Bryan had everything set up when the teams arrived. Howard walked down with a chap called Bill. Assuming he played for Letchworth he asked him who was playing in his team. He replied "You are". Howard met Bill Tapper for the first time.

In the doubles after a very slow start with Howard all over the place David calmed him down and got him round to the stick and a win was achieved. Bryan and Bill had set off very quickly and at stick and four-back were unfortunate to make one mistake and then not hit another ball. Bryan and Howard won their singles quickly and David won his as the tea was brewed. Ian Mantle eventually beating Bill.

Player statistics:

	Doubles			Singles		
	P	W	L	P	W	L
Bryan Harral	4	2	2	4	4	0
Bill Tapper	3	2	1	3	2	1
Tim Brewer	2	1	1	2	2	0
John Bevington	2	2	0	2	1	1
Peter Newman	2	2	0	2	1	1
Howard Bottomley	1	1	0	1	1	0
David Parsons	1	1	0	1	1	0
Ben Marchant	1	1	0	1	1	0
Elaine Newman	1	1	0	1	0	1
Geoff Strutt	1	1	0	1	0	1

The final league table will follow.

Mary Rose vs Bristol (home)

21 August

Won 5-2

Wrest Park	Bristol	WP score
John Wheeler (1½)	Edward Huxley (2)	-5
George Collin (2½)	Rosemary Gugan (3)	
Tom Anderson (2½)	Margaret Peña (4)	+1T
Tim Brewer (9)	Frances Ransom (4)	+17T
John Wheeler (1½)	Edward Huxley (2)	+9
George Collin (2½)	Rosemary Gugan (3)	-5
Tom Anderson (2½)	Frances Ransom (4)	+18T
Tim Brewer (9)	Margaret Peña (4)	+16T

Report by John Wheeler

The day started with Bristol asking for time limited because they wished to leave by 6pm. JW mentioned that Wrest Park should not be pressurised after waiting seven weeks for the fixture. We agreed to review the situation after at least two hours play and impose time limits if necessary. The singles were then given until 13.45 to finish and the afternoon games were timed to finish by 17.50.

In the doubles George went to four back early in the game. John ran two hoops early on and did not make contact again (and go to the stick), until the opposition were on stick and stick. Ed hit the lift and the game was over. Tim was the star of the morning singles with a convincing win. Tom used his expertise to win +1T by running one-back in the extension period; no lifts were conceded in this game.

John had a tough game with Ed after lunch and was pegged out when on three-back with Ed's other ball on six. He thought the game was lost when after managing to jaw his ball in four-back he discovered he had inadvertently cross-wired Ed with a ball in baulk. The game was rescued with some long range hitting-in.

George had a narrow loss. Your reporter was aware of a groan when George went off the lawn in baulk, near

an opponent's ball when both her balls were for the stick.

Tim and Tom dominated in their games which were won on time and the match was won; 5-2 to Wrest Park.

Golf croquet doubles: July 25

Entry was restricted to 12 pairs, as we had been advised that attempting to double bank doubles for golf croquet was bound to lead to trouble. A more practical consideration (which, in retrospect, we might have realised earlier) is that you cannot accommodate any more for tea in the pavilion unless players were to sit on their partner's laps.

The players were split into three blocks for the preliminary rounds, and Audrey Cross and Edna Hickman came in for Val Jeffers and Audrey Bunn. One block was a pair short due to a late cancellation, so byes came into play. The top two pairs from each block went into the top block for the afternoon's play; the winners of this block would receive the trophies.

Preliminary block play

	P	W	D	L	For	Against	Diff
John Cundell & Una Pengelly	3	3	0	0	21	7	+14
Irene Davi & Helen Wilkinson	3	1	0	2	16	18	-2
Dorothy Craggs & Joan Miller	3	1	0	2	17	20	-3
Audrey Cross & Edna Hickman	3	1	0	2	11	20	-9
Linda Potton & Vera Pearson	3	2	0	1	19	15	+4
Eve Buckingham & Len Buckingham	3	2	0	1	17	15	+2
Richard Keighley & Sally Clay	3	2	0	1	16	17	-1
Peggy Kenny & Margaret Marshall	3	0	0	3	13	18	-5
Keith Palmer & Eileen Palmer	2	1	1	0	13	10	+3
Ronnie Richardson & Maureen Watts	2	1	0	1	11	8	+3
Diana Phelps & Yvonne Banks	2	0	1	1	7	13	-6

The manager was indebted to Richard Keighley's eagle eye when he spotted that Eve and Len Buckingham had been credited with one win too few. This meant that they had in fact come second in the block and therefore went into the top block for the next round at Richard and Sally Clay's expense. To add insult to injury, Richard and Sally then had to sit out as they had the bye in the first round of the afternoon. The break obviously did them no harm as they then won all their games to win the second block. The afternoon games were cut down from 45 to 40 minutes to bring the tournament back on schedule.

The outcome of the top block was in doubt until the last minute. After four rounds Linda Potton and Vera Pearson were level on three wins with Eve and Len Buckingham, but with a superior points difference. In the last round Eve and Len beat Ronnie Richardson and Maureen Watts, but Linda and Vera were held to a draw by John Cundell and Una Pengelly, so Eve and Len took the trophies. The weather was sufficiently cool and breezy to discourage tea outside, so while the last round was in progress Diana Phelps and Yvonne Banks (who had the misfortune to be handed a second bye) laid out

the cakes and everyone then crammed into the pavilion for a well-earned cup of tea. Thanks to those who did the washing-up, and congratulations to Eve and Len.

Final block play

	P	W	D	L	For	Against	Diff
Eve Buckingham & Len Buckingham	5	4	0	1	30	23	+7
Linda Potton & Vera Pearson	5	3	1	1	32	21	+11
Keith Palmer & Eileen Palmer	5	3	0	2	25	23	+2
Irene Davis & Helen Wilkinson	5	2	1	2	28	25	+3
John Cundell & Una Pengelly	5	1	1	3	24	28	-4
Ronnie Richardson & Maureen Watts	5	0	1	4	25	23	+2
Richard Keighley & Sally Clay	4	4	0	0	27	10	+17
Diana Phelps & Yvonne Banks	4	3	0	1	22	16	+6
Peggy Kenny & Margaret Marshall	4	2	0	2	19	23	-4
Dorothy Craggs & Joan Miller	4	1	0	3	21	20	+1
Audrey Cross & Edna Hickman	4	0	0	4	8	28	-20

All England Handicap Area Final Newport Croquet Club: 4/5 Sept

The area final was won outright by John Smallbone (Watford), who won all his five games. Second was Martin Beacon (Nottingham) with four wins, followed by Arthur Reed (Watford), David Kitson (St Albans), Tim Brewer (Wrest Park) and Mick Haytack (Ashby) with three wins. Marin and David are unable to participate in the final, so John, Arthur, Tim and Mick will be the four representatives at Nailsea on 18/19 September. Apart from Arthur, all those with three wins or more earned handicap reductions.

The players

John Bevington (Wrest Park) 1½
 David Haslam (Colchester) 4
 Arthur Reed (Watford) 5
 David Kitson (St Albans) 7
 Tim Brewer (Wrest Park) 8
 Robert Staddon (Letchworth) 9
 Martin Beacon (Nottingham) 10
 John Smallbone (Watford) 10
 Ron Atkinson (Newport) 11
 Janet Booker (Nottingham) 16
 Mick Haytack (Ashby) 18
 Monica Tanti (Colchester) 18

The results

John Smallbone (5 wins) beat John Bevington +10, Martin Beacon +6, Mick Haytack +9, Arthur Reed +4T, Tim Brewer +15T

Martin Beacon (4 wins) beat Tim Brewer +9, Janet Booker +15, Ron Atkinson +12, Arthur Reed +22

Arthur Reed (3 wins) beat Monica Tanti +15, Mick Haytack +5, David Kitson +8

David Kitson (3 wins) beat Robert Staddon +13, Janet Booker +4, Ron Atkinson +3T

Tim Brewer (3 wins) beat John Bevington +25, Monica Tanti +17, David Haslam +25

Mick Haytack (3 wins) beat Ron Atkinson +7, David Kitson +12, Janet Booker +16

Ron Atkinson (2 wins) beat Monica Tanti +10, Robert Staddon +8

Janet Booker (2 wins) beat David Haslam +16, Robert Staddon +7

Monica Tanti (2 wins) beat John Bevington +2T, David Haslam +3

John Bevington (1 win) beat Robert Staddon +1T

David Haslam (1 win) beat John Bevington +11

Robert Staddon (1 win) beat David Haslam +7

The twelve disciples gathered at Newport on Saturday morning knowing that they were in for a hot weekend in more senses than one – the sun beat down on both days and the competition was fierce. John Bevington, as the lowest handicapper, had volunteered to manage the event in Jim Potter's absence, and got round his total lack of managerial experience by first arranging to borrow Wrest Park treasurer Eric Audsley's laptop and Swiss management program and then having Tim Brewer collect it and thus be the only trained operator.

Conditions were tricky; the lawns had had a growth spurt (it has not been an easy summer for groundsmen) and the hoops were generous, but the odd rabbit run meant that they still had to be treated with respect and many players found themselves with hampered shots after just struggling through what appeared at first sight to be an easy hoop. After Saturday's three rounds the Watford pair of John Smallbone and the old campaigner Arthur Reed were undefeated, with Ron Atkinson, David Kitson (a former All England winner), Martin Beacon and Tim Brewer hard on their heels with two wins each. Martin is one to watch; a sportsman from his youth he only took up croquet two years ago and plays with the easy style of a pro. Tim was also showing good form – having had to give up for a while due to a series of operations he is now playing better than ever.

Monica Tanti deserves a special mention. Never having played in such an event and without a win she was worried about the prospect of having to play a third game in such unaccustomed heat, but stuck to it and was persuaded of the importance of her participating the next day. Her just reward came with two wins on Sunday, the last against her club mate and chauffeur David Haslam, who ungallantly pegged her out and paid the penalty. In the fourth round the game between the Watford pair resulted in a win for John, Martin kept up his challenge with a win against Ron Atkinson and Tim demolished David +25 with controlled 3-ball breaks.

And so to the final round. John completed a clean sweep by beating Tim, Martin had a solid win against Arthur, and Mick completed a late surge by beating Janet for his second win of the day. David Kitson just edged out Ron, and John Bevington finally broke his duck against Robert Staddon in the last game to finish. Taking the backward ball round in a turn during which time was called, he did the rover peel (which left all the clips on the peg) and, having run into partner, attempted a cannon peg-out of the partner ball which failed but left

his balls north of the peg fortuitously wired from Robert's ball south of rover. Robert narrowly missed the shot at his other ball which allowed John to peg out for a +1T win.

Our thanks to the Newport club for hosting the event, and to Ron Atkinson, who looked after us as well as deputising as a player. And I would also like to thank Mrs Kitson, who ferried David to Newport and spent two days quietly reading in what shade there was. The best of luck to the four finalists, and let's hope one of them can collar the cup.

Advanced tournament: Aug 14/15

Report to follow.

Club competitions – hurry up!

It may look as though I am trying to shut the stable door after the horse has disappeared over the horizon, but could all those still involved in the club competitions please get their outstanding games played as soon as possible? The nights are drawing in fast and playing in the evening (which is all some members can manage) will soon be difficult to impossible.

Don't be completely put off by the tournament next weekend – there should be lawns free by 4pm on Sunday if you want to play then.

Forthcoming events

Sept 12	EACF club champions tournament
Sept 17-19	Handicap tournament
Sept 25	Mary Rose v Southport (away)
Sept 25	EACF League playoff (Hunstanton)

For details of English Heritage events at Wrest Park ring 01525 860152, or visit www.english-heritage.org.uk.

Groundwork

We plan to scarify the lawns in two directions and then either hollow or solid tine and top dress the lawns when weather conditions are suitable. We also plan to do some refurbishment of the pavilion (as a minimum, clear out the furniture and then sand and revarnish the floor).

All these operations require a certain amount of manual labour, and we will be calling for volunteers when the time comes. Please come along if you can.

New Head Custodian

Gill Hendley has left for a new job at Willen Hospice, and the new Head Custodian at Wrest Park is Glenis Thorne, who I'm sure many of you will recognise as she has been working for English Heritage at Wrest Park for some years. I would like to take this opportunity to pass on our thanks to Gill and best wishes to Glenis.

Christmas cards available

English Heritage have come up with some very attractive cards showing the Long Water and Archer pavilion with snow on the ground, which can be purchased from the house at £3.99 for 10 and are highly recommended. If you can't get down in person you could probably order some – they are produced for EH by the Medici Society. Try English Heritage, Isambard House, Swindon SN2 2GZ or Medici, Grafton House,

Hyde Estate Road, London NW9 6JZ. There is a reference number JX-G5409-SG on the card which may or may not be relevant.

SECURITY ALERT

Membership cards...

When you come down to play, make sure you have your membership card, as Institute staff can ask to see it. The Institute have a membership list but it can never be completely up to date and if you have only joined recently your name may not be on it, so always take your card with you.

...signing in...

As you know (or should do by now) you must register at the desk in the main building if you are going down to play during working hours (9-5) on weekdays. This is so that the Institute know who is on the premises. It does not take long to park by the entrance and get signed in before going down the drive, so please do not forget to do this. There is some leeway – I would not expect to sign in if I arrived at 4.50 for an evening game. Use your judgement but err on the side of caution.

If you finish during aforesaid hours you should of course return your badge to the desk before you depart. If you are going to stay late please leave it on the table in the pavilion.

...and locking the gate.

There have recently been occasions where the gate has been left unlocked, something which is naturally frowned on. It may or may not have been done by one of our members.

The rule is that every time you open the gate you must scramble the lock when you close it. Don't assume that because you know X and Y are following 100 yards behind you are doing them a favour by leaving the lock unscrambled or the gate open. X and Y may decide to climb over the lower gate...then what? Always lock it, every time. The only possible exception is when another group is in vision as you open it and you can establish a transfer of responsibility. Or you could wait and hold it open for them, which might be nicer.

As the newsletter only goes to full members, group reps and group members on e-mail, I would be grateful if those who do receive it pass the messages on to those who don't.

Annual Dinner

We are sorting out the date and venue for this – it will be late November as usual – and will let you know once the details have been confirmed.