



Wrest Park Silsoe Bedfordshire

July 2010

newsletter

Match results

Beds & Herts League v Watford (home)

27 June

Won 4-2

Bryan Harral (1) and Elaine Newman (14) lost to Simon Hathrell (-1/2) and Geoff Johnson (18) -2T

David Marsh (12) and Ray Percy (12) beat John Bee (5) and John Smallbone (4 1/2) +15

Bryan Harral (1) beat Simon Hathrell (-1/2) +20

David Marsh (12) beat John Smallbone (4 1/2) +7T

Ray Percy (12) beat John Bee (5) +3T

Elaine Newman (14) lost to Geoff Johnson (18) -14

Report by Bryan Harral

The battle for supremacy in the Beds and Herts league was fought on the hottest day of the year so far. Fortunately, very fast lawns meant that hardly any effort was required to reach from corner to corner. In the doubles David and Ray, with seven bisques, overwhelmed their opponents without too much trouble, but Bryan and Elaine struggled against very accurate shooting. At lunch honours were evenly shared.

In the afternoon Bryan beat Simon whose accuracy had deserted him, so the score was now 2 -1 to Wrest Park. We needed two more wins from three games to win the match. Elaine, giving away four bisques, played well but finally lost to Geoff Johnson. David got ahead using his bisques and hung on to win +7 on time. Ray, who had to be continuously topped-up with water to stop him melting, also played well to stay ahead and win +3 on time. At the final whistle it's 4 - 2 to Wrest Park.

Beds & Herts League v Enfield (home)

20 July

Lost

Bryan Harral (1) and Elaine Newman (14) lost to Ken Pickett (3 1/2) and Alan Foott (18) -5T

David Marsh (10) and Ray Percy (12) lost to John Street (16) and Wendy Spencer-Smith (18) -16

Bryan Harral (1) beat Ken Pickett (3 1/2) +15

David Marsh (10) lost to John Street (16) -3T

Ray Percy (12) beat Wendy Spencer-Smith (18) +3T

Elaine Newman (14) lost to Alan Foott (18) -6T

Report by Bryan Harral

It had to happen sooner or later – our first loss. In the doubles Bryan and Elaine struggled against very accurate shooting and David and Ray lost their usually reliable form, so at lunch we trailed 0 – 2.

In the afternoon Bryan beat Ken without too much trouble, which gave him plenty of time to prepare the tea. Unfortunately, things were not going to plan on the other three lawns. All the games went to time but Ray

was the only one to hang on to a slim lead and seal victory. It's Wrest Park 2 and Enfield 4, our first match loss. By now we all have the measure of the very fast lawns so we cannot use that as an excuse – maybe it was too hot! Congratulations to Enfield on their first win.

Advanced tournament 2-4 July

The influence of the World Cup came into play at the conclusion of the tournament, which was decided by croquet's equivalent of a penalty shoot-out. Four players had finished with only two losses, these being Nigel Polhill (8/10), Cliff Jones (7/9), Nick Mounfield (6/8) and George Collin (5/7). Nigel had beaten George but lost to Cliff and Nick, Cliff had beaten Nigel and Nick but lost to George, Nick had beaten Nigel and George but lost to Cliff and George had beaten Cliff and lost to Nigel and Nick. All of them had four shots at the peg and Cliff was the only one to register a hit, so he took the trophy with Nick (3) receiving the prize for the best performance in the group of eight players with handicaps of two or more. As in May, the weather was hot and sunny, and the lack of rain in the preceding week left the lawns fast and tricky.

The entry was low - only 16, but this did mean double-banking was at a minimum. Five Wrest Park players were augmented by the usual delegation from Letchworth (Nick, Ian Mantle, John Hall, Philip Windred and George Woolhouse, plus Jeremy Scott who stood in for John on Sunday) and Ian Parkinson, Kevin Carter, James Skelton and Gordon Weir. There was only one triple peel completed, by Nigel Polhill in his first game against Geoff Strutt - the score was +25, repeated in Nigel's next two games.



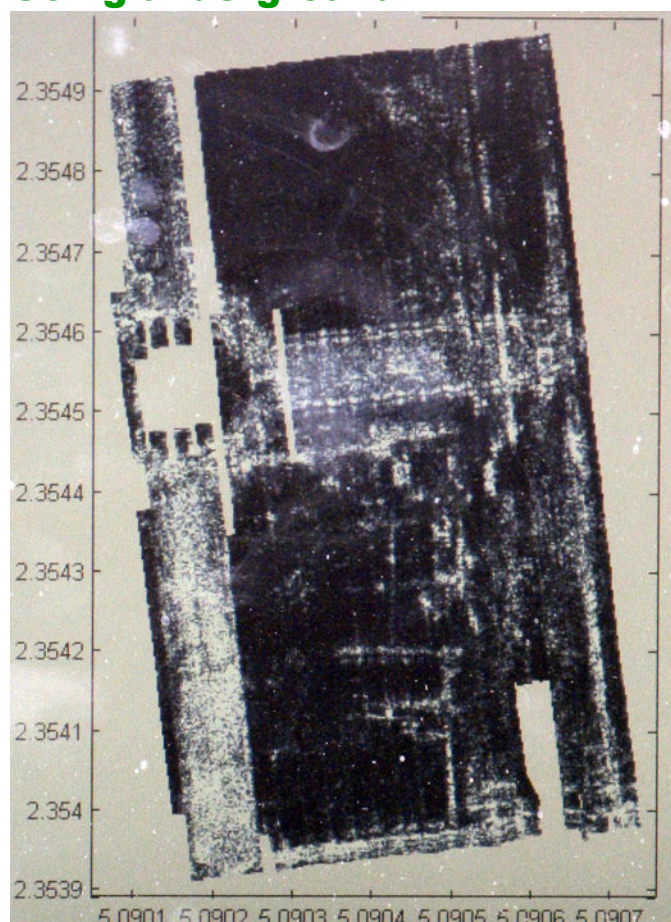
Be prepared

Wednesday 21 July saw a visit from the Oxford and Cambridge branches of the Trefoil Guild, an organisation for those connected with the Scouts and Guides. The golf croquet match was organised as part of the 100th anniversary of the Girl Guides, and the teams played four rounds of doubles, won convincingly

by Oxford (in the pink shirts), before sitting down to tea and quantities of cake. Having arranged the group for the photo I then found myself taking the same picture with about ten different cameras.



Going underground



During the week commencing 19 July a strange device could be seen being towed slowly up and down the park. It was doing a ground radar survey to find evidence of old foundations and other features below the surface.

The screen image above shows part of the area between the lawns and the fountain: It may be that when the report is published we will discover the reason for the valley running down the side of lawns 1, 3 and 5.



The radar scanner with its towing vehicle.

Club golf croquet tournaments

Judi Priestley won the trophy at the golf croquet singles day on 20 June, beating Peggy Kenny 7-6 in the final. There were only six entrants, the others being Jackie and Peter Coles, Ronnie Richardson and Elaine Newman.

For the doubles tournament on 18 July there were seven pairs, each pair playing every other pair in a series of 35 minute games. The winners were the pair who had won most games, if that was equal the hoops run was taken into account. The winners were Peggy Kenny and Margaret Marshall (won 4 games, 29 hoops) followed by Elaine Newman and John Thorp (won 3 games, 35 hoops) and Tony and Sue Meredith (won 3 games, 31 hoops).



And the cup for the whitest whites goes to....Margaret Marshall and Peggy Kenny

Local boy makes good

David Marsh entered the Norwich handicap tournament held in early July and emerged the winner, gaining another handicap reduction. For a report see the news section on the EACF website.

Dates for 2010

August

- 7-8 Advanced tournament
- 9 Dunstable U3A 10-4 (6)
- 10 Ampthill 41 club 6.30- (6)
- 11 Geoff Strutt's ATC group (am)
- 17 Harpenden Probus group 5-8.30 (?4-6)

28-30 Wrest Park Craft Fair (see below)

September

8 Hertford U3A-David Morris 10-4 (4)
11-12 Handicap tournament
25 EACF Leagues playoff

- 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 cleared with EH. Please provide approximate start/finish times and the number of lawns required.
- There is no lawn booking system, so please do not write individual bookings on the calendar in the pavilion.

Craft Fair

The club will be supporting the Craft Fair as usual over the August Bank Holiday weekend, giving over the lawns for visitors to try their hand from 2-5pm each day. We need two or three volunteers per day to run this (the crowds tend to build up over the weekend) so if you can help please write your name on the sheet in the pavilion.

Morning flight



A camera-shy heron taking off across the Long Water on the Sunday of the May tournament.