

# newsletter



*Late English rococo – a detail of the balustrade on the south front steps, resplendent in fresh green and gold livery.*

## English Heritage news

You should by now have received the new instructions for signing in and out and the car parking map. These are for individual play – there are separate arrangements for tournaments, matches and occasional group visits, which may be possible on weekdays apart from Tuesday and Thursday.

Follow the instructions as best you can, let us have any comments and tell us if there are any problems. There will be a review meeting with EH in July.

## CA Golf Croquet coaching course – 12 April

This event was ably organised by Richard Keighley and appeared to be monopolised by Wrest Park members, so there will be no excuses for the league team this season. This is a good moment to tell those who may not already know that the CA has revised the scale for golf croquet handicaps. New cards and an instruction sheet are in the pavilion – see also the CA website.

## Social Day - 26 April

Timing is all. In contrast to the miserable weather the week before, when those attending the St George's Day event must have been hoping the dragon might breathe a little fire in their direction, we were blessed with warm sunshine. Among the 18 present were Eileen Palmer, Ray and Gill Percy, Martin and Diane Field, George and Susan Savage, Doug Smith, John Wheeler, Vic Rees, and Tom Anderson. Howard and Heather Bottomley put in an early appearance.

Tim and Gill Brewer brought a substantial lunch, and we did it full justice. Geoff Strutt kindly organised some informal games – there was golf croquet and also some novel Association variants, starting with rover and peg only with one ball, then with two balls, moving on to penult to peg with two balls and finally 4-back to peg, with lifts. George Collin mastered the tactics better than anyone else and was awarded a small prize. The lawns had been scarified and mown the day before and played very nicely.

A successful day. We must do it again some time.



Highlight of the Social Day – the luncheon interval.

## Diary of events

May 8	Golf league v Stony Stratford 10-3 (4 lawns)
May 11	Mary Rose v Bowdon 10-6 (4)
May 13	Vega plc 12-6 (6)
May 16-18	Handicap tournament (6)
May 17	Get Back into Sport (at Redborne School)
May 24-26	Wrest Park Garden Show
June 4	Irene Davis's group 6pm onwards (6)
June 20	Kempston Rotary (John Martin) pm
June 22	Golf croquet singles tournament (6)
July 4-6	Advanced tournament
July 16	Dunstable CC (Ronnie Richardson) 10-4 (6)
July 20	Golf croquet doubles tournament (6)
July 23	Irene Davis's group 6pm onwards (6)
Aug 2-3	Advanced tournament (6)
Aug 11	Dunstable U3A (Ronnie Richardson) 10-4 (6)
Aug 18	Golf league v Letchworth 10-3 (4)
Aug 23-25	Wrest Park Craft Fair
Sept 3	Hertford U3A (David Morris) 10-5 (4)
Sept 13-14	Handicap tournament (6)
Sept 21	EACF Champions Day (6)
Oct 4-5	CA Club Finals weekend (6)

- Anyone organising home matches (B&H league, golf croquet league, Longman Cup etc.), group visits or any other events must first let me know the proposed dates. I will then get clearance from EH (if the date is a Monday, Wednesday or Friday), check that it doesn't clash with anything else, confirm the date and put it on the calendar in the pavilion.
- For group visits it would be helpful to know approximate start/finish times and the number of lawns required (shown in brackets above). This will allow individual members to see if it possible for them to play on the same day if they wish.

## Croquet set for sale

Some weeks ago I was contacted by Nick Dawson-Taylor (01234 354208) who said he had a croquet set for sale. The set includes four mallets, hoops, balls and two pegs. It was made by FH Ayres, a renowned manufacturer of croquet equipment who closed down after the last war. If you are interested give Nick a call.

## Early season coaching

Geoff Strutt is running an Association croquet coaching course for beginners and higher handicappers starting on Thursday 1 May at 5.15pm for six weeks.

## Match result

**Beds & Herts league v Enfield (home)**  
**22 April**

**Won 5-1**

Wrest Park	Enfield	WP score
Bryan Harral (1)	Ken Pickett (2)	+15
Cliff Hayes (20)	Wendy Spencer-Smith (18)	
Geoff Strutt (8)	Denis Graham (2½)	+11
David Morris (20)	Alan Foott (16)	
Bryan Harral (1)	Ken Pickett (2)	-15
Geoff Strutt (8)	Denis Graham (2½)	+24
Cliff Hayes (20)	Alan Foott (16)	+16
David Morris (20)	Wendy Spencer-Smith (18)	+7

A winning start to the season, with Cliff and David distinguishing themselves in the singles, both pegging out before time. Maybe this will be our year.

## Bark in the Park



Tree A can be found in the rough grass to the south-east of the clubhouse...



...and tree B is next to the path you take on the way in or out. The clue to both is "Old China".

John Bevington

3 May 2008

(A) Dawn Redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*)

(B) Maidenhair Tree (*Ginkgo biloba*)