



Wrest Park Silsoe Bedfordshire

newsletter

Match results

Beds & Herts League v Colworth (away)

13 June Drew 2-2

Wrest Park	Colworth	WP score
Bryan Harral (1½)	Arthur Weightman (2½)	+8T
Ray Percy (16)	Trevor Wilkins (10)	
David Morris (18)	Steve Jones (10)	-1T
Bryan Harral (1½)	Arthur Weightman (2½)	+22
David Morris (18)	Tom Anderson (2½)	
Ray Percy (16)	Trevor Wilkins (10)	-3T

Report by Bryan Harral

In the morning Bryan and Ray won a dour tussle against Arthur and Trevor, blaming the lawns, the sloping boundaries and the noise from Santa Pod raceway for appallingly bad play. David and Steve were tied at the end of their game but David lost to sudden death. One-all at lunch. Bryan and David then got into their stride and duffed up Arthur and Tom. David completed a very clean peg-out of both balls. Ray unfortunately thought he was level with Trevor when time was called and assumed he would have another turn, but he was actually three behind so was denied a final flourish.

Beds & Herts League v St Albans (away)

21 June Drew 2-2

Wrest Park	St Albans	WP score
Elaine Newman (14)	David Kitson (7)	-5T
David Morris (18)	Chris Frost (7)	
Tim Brewer (6)	John Palin (9)	+6T
Tim Brewer (6)	David Kitson (7)	+2T
Elaine Newman (14)	John Palin (9)	
David Morris (18)	Chris Frost (7)	-1T

Report by Tim Brewer

A closely fought match, played in a steady drizzle during the morning which dried up for the afternoon. Nothing special about individual games to report, however the afternoon was rounded off with fresh cream chocolate éclairs from Simmons bakery, together with a home-made Victoria sponge with jam and butter cream filling.

EACF Golf League v Northampton (home)

26 June Lost 8-10

Wrest Park	Northampton	WP score
Linda Potton (10)	Mike Hills (7)	L 6-7
Vera Pearson (11)	Richard Cain (10)	
Don Barrett (10)	Les Carrick (8)	W 6-5
June Black (11)	Jill Carrick (9)	
Linda Potton (10)	Mike Hills (7)	W 7-5
	Les Carrick (8)	W 7-4
	Jill Carrick (9)	W 7-6
	Richard Cain (10)	L 6-7

Don Barrett (10)	Mike Hills (7)	W 6-5
	Les Carrick (8)	W 7-3
	Jill Carrick (9)	W 7-5
	Richard Cain (10)	L 2-4
Vera Pearson (11)	Mike Hills (7)	W 7-6
	Les Carrick (8)	L 6-7
	Jill Carrick (9)	L 6-7
	Richard Cain (10)	L 4-5
June Black (11)	Mike Hills (7)	L 1-7
	Les Carrick (8)	L 2-7
	Jill Carrick (9)	L 3-6
	Richard Cain (10)	L 1-7

Report and photo by Judi Priestley

On a sunny, breezy day we played our second home match against Northampton and it proved to be a challenging but enjoyable event. Many of the games were very close and following lunch, when the last of the singles games had been completed, Northampton were in the lead by nine games to seven. There were two doubles games to play - could we catch up? June and Don won their game and the others were drawing 6-6. The last hoop, even after a really concentrated effort from Linda and Vera was won by the Northampton pair of Mike and Richard.



Standing left to right: Jill Carrick, Mike Hills, Ronnie Richardson, Richard Cain, Ann Buchanan, Vera Pearson. Seated: June Black, Linda Potton, Don Barrett, Len Carrick

Well done to the whole team in what was a closely fought match. Many thanks go to Margaret Marshall for once again baking us some yummy cakes which were devoured at teatime, Ann Buchanan for serving them up and providing us with tea and coffee all day and washing up after us, and Ronnie Richardson for trying her very best to initiate me into the ways of filling in eight handicap cards and a score sheet more or less at the same time.

In view of the cholesterol count of the last two reports, perhaps it is time to bring back cucumber sandwiches as the healthy option - Ed.

Inter Club v Sussex County (away) 20 July

Lost 2-5

Wrest Park	Sussex County	WP score
Ben Ashwell (-1)	Rutger Beijderwellen (-2)	-10
Rod Ashwell (-1/2)	Paul Castell (-1)	
Howard Bottomley (-1/2)	Alan Cottle (0)	+12
John Bevington (1)	Jack Davies (-1/2)	-13
Ben Ashwell (-1)	Rutger Beijderwellen (-2)	+10
Rod Ashwell (-1/2)	Paul Castell (-1)	-17
Howard Bottomley (-1/2)	Jack Davies (-1/2)	-24
John Bevington (1)	Alan Cottle (0)	-25

Report by John Bevington

The team assembled at Tiffany's for breakfast on a sunny morning and got to the lawns in good time to find the opposition practising hard. Howard got the better of Alan and John was in contention until sticking in a rattly 3-back. The doubles was paused when Rod just failed to run 2-back to allow us all to have a good lunch.

The doubles finished shortly afterwards. In the meantime Howard had stuck in hoop 1. Jack hit in from 20 yards and never looked back. John looked on as Alan ran a succession of long hoops and then missed an easy rush when he had the chance to get going. With the match already won Paul beat Rod by the classic score of +17, so it was left to Ben to salvage some honour for the team in his game against Rutger.

Ben went to 4-back on the sixth turn and then misapproached hoop 6 after Rutger missed the lift. Rutger then went to 1-back intending a sextuple leave but ran into his partner ball when fashioning the cross-wire at hoop 1 and had to separate the balls. Ben hit in and embarked on a straight triple, but ran into the peelee when running rover. He sent the peelee to the peg with the intention of trying a promotion cannon, but this didn't work out and he pegged out his own ball. Rutger then dodged round with the backward ball and had got as far as 4-back when he stuck in the hoop with Ben's ball deep. Ben hit, peeled Rutger through en route to the other ball, and pegged out to win +10. And so to tea and the long drive home.

Beds & Herts League v Northampton (home) 22 July

Drew 3-3

Wrest Park	Northampton	WP score
Bryan Harral (1 1/2)	Charles Askew (1/2)	+12
Cliff Hayes (20)	Rex Hale (14)	
Geoff Strutt (6)	Derek Humphrey (1 1/2)	+20
Ray Percy (16)	Mike Hills (8)	
Bryan Harral (1 1/2)	Charles Askew (1/2)	-22
Geoff Strutt (6)	Derek Humphrey (1 1/2)	-6
Ray Percy (16)	Mike Hills (8)	-2
Cliff Hayes (20)	Rex Hale (14)	+6T

Report by Bryan Harral

A close match played in beautiful sunshine with a buzzard watching from overhead and deer running from one side of the park to the other. Northampton played well in the afternoon – perhaps by then they had got used to the level lawns. We will be looking for some sloping lawns to practise on before the return match next year.

Advanced tournament 4-6 July

There were 26 players with a wide range of handicaps, so manager Eric Audsley allocated them into three blocks. Players doing well might find themselves promoted and those doing less well could be relegated. The managerial laptop was working overtime.



Roger Tribe accepts his prize and some well-deserved applause.

The winners were decided on net index points, and the prize for the top block went to Roger Tribe, who won all his eight games. He only allowed his opponent a single point in four of these, two of which were finished with TPs. Andrew Winn (6/8) and Cliff Jones (5/8) led the chase. Nick Parish was the only other player to record a TP in his game against Charles Askew. He also renewed an old acquaintance, playing George Woolhouse for the first time in nine years (in which time, they recalled, they had lost nearly 30 bisques between them). It was virtually error-free: three of the four lift shots were hit with Nick missing the last one to lose -5.

The second block went to George Collin, who earned a handicap reduction with 6 wins from 7 games, his only loss being a narrow -2 against Cliff. His game against George Woolhouse featured a spectacular finish: with both balls for the peg George pegged one out from near corner 3 with George W laid up near corner 1 and on his next turn repeated the feat from the reversed position to win +22. Behind George came Peter McDermott (5/6) and George W (5/8). The third block was won by Gordon Weir (5/7) from Mark Homan (6/8).



Phil Cordingley gets his markers back from referee Tom Anderson.

A 1pm finish time was imposed on the first round and 3/4 hour limits applied thereafter. 19 of the 98 games

went to time (Ian Parkinson and Tom Anderson being responsible for half of these) and few games lasted less than three hours, which added to the difficulties of the manager. Sylvia Steer's game against John Lonsdale started after lunch on Friday and lasted until 8pm when John won +1 shortly after Sylvia rushed her ball onto the peg from the third corner. They had either not noticed or forgotten the time limit, and by the time Eric realised what had happened it was too late to put on another game so they were allowed to continue to the bitter end – the last game of the day to finish, in fact.

The length of many of the games leads to the question of how tightly the hoops should be set for an advanced rules event open to a wide range of handicaps. Absolute measurements taken four days after the tournament showed an overall mean clearance (assuming a standard 3 5/8" ball) of 1.12 sixteenths with a range of 0.86 to 1.41, so on the day they were probably a bit on the tight side. One theory is that if players try to play breaks and then give the innings away because they fail hoops they try to retrieve the situation by using more defensive tactics, resulting in more drawn-out games.



*"You put your left leg out..."
Judith Roberts and the Sunday catering team relax after lunch.*

The weather started brightly on Friday but deteriorated over the weekend, with Sunday morning's games played in continuous light rain and a fresh breeze which thankfully cleared up during the afternoon. Our thanks as always go to all those who got the lawns ready and those who prepared and served the lunches and teas.

Advanced tournament 2-3 August

There aren't many sports where average club players find themselves facing the current world champion, and Tom Anderson had the honour to be Chris Clarke's first opponent, duly losing by 26TP in what must be the quickest game he's ever played. Next was manager Rod Ashwell, who reached peg and rover before Chris hit the last lift and went on to win +3. It was unfortunate that this and the other games had to pause to let the lawns dry out – the rain had been falling continuously since 9.30 and they had become virtually unplayable, but the interruption was mercifully short. Chris's six other games all featured TPs, but one was by Phil Cordingley, who was unbeaten with seven wins and thus won the trophy for the top block. Five more TPs came courtesy of Jack Wicks (three including a TPO) and Nigel Polhill (two, one of which was against Jack), making a dozen in all, surely a record for a Wrest Park tournament. Nigel had

five wins from six games, just ahead of Jack (4/6) and Andrew Gregory (4/6).



In the mist – John Hall strikes a pose as the sun burns off some excess moisture from lawn 6 on Saturday afternoon.

With 20 players and a handicap range of -2½ to 8 Rod had made a loose arrangement of two blocks with some movement between them. The second block was harder to adjudicate, as Arthur Reed, Tom Anderson and Terry Mahoney had all won three games out of five, but as Arthur had beaten Tom he was judged the winner.



If you can't beat them, take their photograph. Chris Clarke en route to hoop 5 in the first break of his game against your reporter.

A catering crisis had been anticipated but John Wheeler kindly offered to help out and found a willing partner in Gill Wicks, who had come as chauffeur and then found herself chopping tomatoes, serving soup and washing up. The two of them did it again the following day, for which we were all extremely grateful.



Waiting for the prizegiving. L-R: Gill and Jack Wicks, Phil Cordingley, Charles Askew, Nigel Polhill, Dennis Graham and George Woolhouse

Golf croquet singles and doubles tournaments 22 June & 20 July

Reports by Helen Wilkinson, photos by Ronnie Richardson



Singles - 22 June

As we had not sorted a manager out beforehand we drew up a two-block system. Luckily for us George Collin arrived and we were able to pick his brains enabling us to mix up the two blocks for further play after lunch. The top four players then drew names out of a hat. Linda beat Helen and Doug beat Vera. The sun came out and we all watched a good final with Doug being the worthy winner. Tea and cakes polished off a successful day.

Doug's photo was taken at the doubles a month later – Ed.

	P	W
Doug Smith	6	6
Linda Potton	6	4
Helen Wilkinson	5	4
Vera Pearson	6	4
Diana Phelps	6	3
Judi Priestley	6	3
Eve Buckingham	5	2
Irene Davis	5	2
Peggy Kenny	5	1
Ronnie Richardson	5	1
Margaret Marshall	5	0

Doubles - 20 July

A much more organised day! Armed with the magic formula that George had shown me, a block was prepared earlier and worked like a dream. Numbers were drawn out to sort order of play and lawns were also decided by draw. All the byes fell in helpful order so that various tasks could be carried out and scores could be tallied whilst the final games were being played.

The day went very well. Everybody played eight games, the sun shone (although the wind blew) and Wrest Park was magical. Peggy and Don were presented with their cups, and tea and cakes were enjoyed by us all.

	P	W
Peggy Kenny and Don Barrett	8	7
Geoff Strutt and Doug Smith	8	6
Elaine Newman and Helen Wilkinson	8	5
Vera Pearson and Linda Potton	8	4
Diana Phelps and Yvonne Banks	8	4
Judi Priestley and Margaret Marshall	8	4
Eve Buckingham and Sally Clay	8	4
Maureen Watts and Eileen Harrington	8	2
Ronnie Richardson and Tessa Carroll	8	0



L-R (I think): Geoff, Elaine, Eileen, Margaret, Maureen, Doug, Penny, Judi, Don, Linda, Vera, Eve, Sally, Diana, Helen and Yvonne.

Gordon Sampson

Gordon, a member since the late 90s, died suddenly in early June after a fall. He took up croquet as a less strenuous alternative to tennis and divided his time between both games. Gordon was runner-up in the De Grey plate in 2001, a year which also saw him playing in the Beds & Herts league team, and the following year he was active in the High Bisquers club competition organised by Peter Newman. In recent years he played less often because of ill health, but reappeared last year, cheerful and enthusiastic as ever, to renew his old rivalry with Peter Cox in a serious friendly. Our sympathies go to his wife Gina and their daughters.

Diary of events

Aug 18	Golf league v Letchworth 10-3 (4)
Aug 19	Winslow CC visit (Richard Keighley) 10-5 (2)
Aug 21	B&H League v Meldreth 10-6 (4)
Aug 23-25	Wrest Park Craft Fair
Sep 2	Tim Brewer's group (evening)
Sep 3	Hertford U3A (David Morris) 10-5 (4)
Sep 13-14	Handicap tournament (6)
Sep 21	EACF Champions Day (6)
Oct 4-5	CA Club Finals weekend (6)

- Anyone organising home matches, group visits or other events should let me know the proposed dates. I will then get clearance from EH, 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).

John Bevington

13 August 2008