



February 2011

newsletter

WREST PARK CROQUET CLUB, SILSOE, BEDFORDSHIRE

with thanks

Received the sum of £7 10s as payment for 1 set of
Croquet Mallets, Balls and Hoppers.

Signature..... *J. Wake*
Date *22-3-'61*

Our 50th anniversary - this note is probably the first occasion the name of the club appeared in print.

Daytime play restrictions

English Heritage will be starting extensive work in the gardens at the end of February which is likely to continue until August. Until further notice (a) members will only be able to play after 6pm on **any** weekday, (b) it will not be possible to stage any daytime weekday matches or group events and (c) any weekday group visits cannot start before 6pm.

We appreciate what this means for those of you who only play during the mornings and afternoons and for those who had planned to book the lawns for daytime events. Depending on progress it may be that weekday daytime play can be resumed before August.

Parking and access is unchanged, and weekend play will continue as usual. If demand is higher on weekends as a result, players must arrange things so that at least two lawns are always available for golf croquet if required.

We shall just have to make the best of it. In order to compensate we are reducing the subscription to £15 and hope that you will continue to support the club.

Annual General Meeting

The 2011 AGM will be on **Thursday 10 March at 7.30pm** at the Star & Garter in Silsoe.

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of 2010 AGM and matters arising
3. Reports: **Chairman**
Secretary
Treasurer

CA Tournament Secretary Club Tournament Secretary Groundsman

4. Election of officers
5. EH news
6. Dates for 2011
7. Groundsmanship
8. Facilities and equipment
9. Coaching
10. Catering
11. CA and EACF news
12. Any other business

- If you can't get to the AGM but have a subject you would like us to discuss, please let me know.
- Please check the details on your membership form, make any corrections and return it with your subscription before 1 April. You will then be sent your membership card which shows the relevant numbers for the padlocks on the gates and the groundsman's hut. Cards must be carried at all times and shown to EH reception when you sign in.
- Please indicate your availability to help with tournament catering by circling dates on the form.
- **Please return the form even if you don't want to renew your membership, or if you joined as a full member last year and therefore don't have to pay.** In the former case it helps us maintain an accurate membership list, in the latter we need to receive the form before you can be sent your membership card.

Subscriptions for 2011

The subscription rates for 2011 are as follows:

| | |
|------------------------------|-------|
| Full membership | £15 |
| CA levy | £7.30 |
| Junior membership (under 16) | £10 |
| 16-18 or full time student | £20 |

- The CA levy is payable by all full members unless they are also members of another CA **member** club and have nominated that club as their main club. Any member who is also a member of a CA **affiliated** club has to pay the levy.
- There is a family membership option. If two adults in a family both take out full membership then any children under 16 from that family get free junior membership.
- If you want to pay your subscription using internet banking please confirm your intention to do so with Eric beforehand, and use sort code 20-05-74, account 80983861 (Wrest Park Croquet Club). Please make sure your name is referenced in the payment.
- The green fee for members' individual guests and any groups for which individual members are responsible remains at £3.60 per person per session. Please record these payments in the Visitor's Book in the pavilion. Members can bring three guests free of charge during the season.
- The green fee for independent visiting groups requiring a member to supervise them is now £5 per person and the member who is looking after the group can claim £20 expenses.

Dates for 2011

April

- 17 EACF Champions Day
- 23-25 St George's Day Festival

May

- 7 Social day
- 21-22 CA Handicap tournament
- 28-30 Wrest Park Garden Show

June

- 3 Kempston Rotary (from 6pm)
- 19 Golf croquet singles tournament
- 25 CA golf croquet tournament

July

- 2-3 CA Advanced tournament
- 24 Golf croquet doubles tournament

August

- 6-7 CA Advanced tournament
- 10 Dunstable U3A 10-4 (6)
- 27-29 Wrest Park Craft Fair

September

- 3-4 CA National golf croquet doubles tournament
- 10-11 CA Handicap tournament

- 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.
- Please do not write bookings on the calendar in the pavilion without letting me know first. There should be no need to book a lawn for casual play.

Social on 7 May from 11am

This will be an open day with opportunities for play and the chance to do a bit of spring cleaning. Food and drink will be provided. If you know anyone who is interested in joining the club, this would be an ideal opportunity to introduce them.

Early season coaching

Because of the 6pm watershed it is unlikely that we will be running any formal coaching course this year. Last season we arranged one-to-one coaching for the Longman Cup team which was well received, and if anyone would like individual coaching this season we would be happy to do more.

The CA have a number of coaching DVDs available, and if there is sufficient interest we could buy some and make them available on loan. If you think this worth pursuing please let me know.

Golf croquet club tournaments

These events do not have to be restricted to Wrest Park members, so please ask players from local groups or clubs if they would like to take part.

Each tournament will need a manager who will be responsible for deciding the format and running the event. If anyone is willing to manage either tournament could he or she let me know as soon as possible.

We will be holding a CA GC tournament on 25th June which is being organised by Richard Keighley. This initiative deserves our full support, so if any members are free to assist on the day please let Richard know.

EACF tournaments

The short croquet events that used to take place at National Trust properties appear to have ceased due to lack of volunteers. However there will be an EACF golf croquet level play tournament at Ipswich on 24 July, and I can provide an entry form for anyone who is interested.

Golf croquet referee's course

There will be a course for intending golf croquet referees at Colchester on 25/26 May, which will cost £15 for members of the CA or £25 for non-members. Numbers are limited to 15. If you are interested please contact Terrey Sparks at tds3elm@aol.com.

Golf croquet - Murphy Shield

This is an inter-club competition intended for players with mid-range handicaps (see the Fixtures Book p63). If anyone is interested in entering a team let me know asap (closing date for entries is 11th March).

Club shirts and shirt patches

We have been asked about shirts and patches with the club logo and have contacted a couple of firms. The logo would be printed rather than embroidered and the patches would be sew-on. If there is sufficient interest we will place orders, so please tick the appropriate boxes on your membership form. Please give the shirt size as a measurement, as M, L XL etc. can vary in interpretation.