



newsletter

Special General Meeting

There will be a Special General Meeting in Silsoe Village Hall at 7.30pm on Thursday 16 June. The purpose of the meeting is to decide on one of the alternative sites described in the letter from English Heritage circulated earlier. The Hall is in the middle of the High Street, set back on the east side with the entrance opposite the Amphill Road T junction, and can be clearly seen by zooming in on the map on the club website using Hybrid view. There is ample parking.

An agenda for the meeting and a summary of EH's responses to our questions concerning the sites will be sent out next week. If you can't attend the meeting and have any questions please let us know.

EACF Champions Day 17 April

This event was the best yet in terms of numbers, with 18 players – see the report on the EACF website.



Landscape with figures.

John Bevington ran Nick Mounfield a close second in the Advanced competition; with two wins apiece they met in the final with Nick winning +4 on time.



All the winners. Handicap: Geoff Johnson (Watford), B level advanced: Nick Steiner (Colchester), Advanced: Nick Mounfield (Letchworth).

Match result

Beds & Herts League v Northampton (home)
30 April **Drawn 3-3**

Wrest Park	Northampton	WP score
Bryan Harral (1.5)	Les Carrick (9)	-15
David Marsh (7)	Rex Hale (14)	
Tim Brewer (4.5)	Owen Bryce (11)	-10T
Ray Percy (12)	Mel Christie (18)	
Bryan Harral (1.5)	Les Carrick (9)	+7
Tim Brewer (4.5)	Owen Bryce (11)	+15
David Marsh (7)	Rex Hale (14)	+10
Ray Percy (12)	Mel Christie (18)	-4T

Report by Bryan Harral

I would like to report that this draw was part of a carefully conceived plan to pace ourselves over the season and end with a flourish. Although Northampton had more than a few bisques I have to be honest and say we were outplayed in the morning doubles. David and I could not match Rex Hale's accurate shooting. Tim and Ray couldn't shoot straight either, so we were 2-0 down going to lunch. It was then our opponents confessed to practicing over the winter – definitely not cricket! Luckily most of us found our form in the afternoon singles and we managed to salvage a draw. The entertainment of the day had nothing to do with croquet. A swarm of bees took refuge in the pine tree nearest lawn one and players and public were kept away while Gill Brewer captured them.

Social Day 7 May



This annual event took place on a sunny humid day, and members took a break from playing to enjoy a good lunch and a chat. Many thanks to Tim and Gill Brewer for providing the food.

Dates for 2011

June

- 5 Inter Club v Cheltenham (away)
- 12 Longman Cup v Ashby from 10 (4 lawns))
- 10 Kempston Rotary from 6pm (4)
- 11 Beds & Herts League v Watford (away)
- 19 Golf croquet singles tournament
- 25 CA golf croquet tournament (6)

July

- 2-3 CA Advanced tournament (6)
- 24 Golf croquet doubles tournament

August

- 6-7 CA Advanced tournament (6)
- 9 Ampthill 41 Club from 6pm (6)
- 10 Dunstable U3A 10-4 (6)
- 16 Bedford Round Table from 6pm (6)
- 17 Harpenden Probus from 6pm (6)
- 23 ATC group from 10am (2)
- 24 Dunstable CC 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 so they can be cleared with EH. Please provide start/finish times and lawns required.

Parklife



Coots on the Long Water (7 May) and a hare in the meadow (12 May)

Membership drive

PLAY CROQUET
at Wrest Park

It's a sociable, tactical and competitive game for men and women of all ages.

Come and try it at Wrest Park Croquet Club - find out more at www.wrestparkcroquet.org.uk

In early April we were approached by Beds on Sunday regarding an A5 size publication they were putting together to promote activities for the over 50s, which is to have a print run of 10,000 and will be distributed at the end of May. As it seemed like a good marketing opportunity we took out a quarter-page advertisement, shown above, and await a flood of enquiries. Look out for it in your local supermarket.

Sew-on badges

We have ordered a small quantity of printed badges which feature the revised square logo which appears on this newsletter. The badges are 73mm square including a 4mm sewn white border and will soon be available in the pavilion at £2.50 each. If you want one, tick the list and put the money in the cashbox. One per person, please.

Wrest Park in 1904

You will be aware of the work currently taking place in the gardens: new plantings, paths and so forth. More information on this and the new visitor centre can be found on the Wrest Park page on the English Heritage website, which describes different aspects of the revitalisation project.

Some of these pages contain photos taken by Country Life when they published an article on Wrest Park in 1904. At that time it was still in private hands and the estate was considerably more extensive than it is today. We have obtained some copies of the article, which contains much of interest about the history of the owners as well as descriptions of the gardens, and these are available in the pavilion.

John Bevington

26 May 2011