



newsletter



Joel Taylor has his hampered shot refereed by Eric Audsley.

Advanced tournament 5/6 July

This tournament might well come to be seen as the new site's graduation weekend, with all four lawns in use, fifteen players and three triple peels. At the finish Bryan Harral, Nick Steiner and John Bevington all had four wins out of five.



Head down, eye on the ball, full backswing - Nick Steiner shows how.

The playoff was decided by the corner four method: one ball on the fourth corner spot with one other placed anywhere at the player's discretion, the objective being to make as many hoops as possible starting with hoop 4. John made two and then took a divot trying a hampered roll up to hoop 6. Bryan made three and Nick only one, so Bryan took the prize. Had Nick beaten John in his last game he would have won outright, but he did have the consolation of two triples, against Bryan and Gary Bennett. The other triple was by Joel Taylor in his game against David Marsh. Thanks to Tim Brewer,

David Woolley and Cliff and Jan Hayes for keeping everyone fed and watered.

4/5 Bryan Harral, John Bevington, Nick Steiner

3/4 Rod Ashwell, Eric Audsley

3/5 George Collin, Joel Taylor

3/6 Gary Bennett

2/5 Nick Evans, David Marsh, George Woolhouse

1/4 Peter Moore

1/5 John Hall, Ian Parkinson

1/6 Philip Windred



"Speak softly and carry a big stick". Eric Audsley considers adopting Teddy Roosevelt's foreign policy as a management tool.

Match results

Inter Club v Colchester (home)

7 June

Lost 1-8

AM

Robert Fulford (-2.5) and Mark Avery (-2) beat Bryan Harral (1) and George Collin (1) +23

Michael Heap (-1) beat Tim Brewer (3) +11 (pegged down at lunch and completed later)

Martin French (-1.5) beat John Bevington (1) +10

Fulford beat Collin +18

Avery beat Harral +26TP

PM

Fulford beat Harral +25TP

Avery beat Collin +26TP

Heap lost to Bevington -25

French beat Brewer +16TP

There was a bottle of champagne on offer for the first TP on the new Wrest Park lawns (as the odds were short enough we had said that TPOs wouldn't count). Bryan, our captain and a generous host, agreed to go the full three rounds, and following the doubles he was on the receiving end when Mark Avery claimed it. Vic Rees, spectating with John Wheeler, said that the first TP on the old Wrest Park lawns was done by Keith Wylie. In the other top singles Robert had laid for a sextuple against George, who hit the long shot and made a few hoops before the end. John was first to 4-back against Martin but twice failed to take advantage of good positions, and Tim and Martin's game was pegged down. Four-nil down already. It was very wet.

After a very welcome hot lunch - our thanks to Sharman Harral (and Dan) - the sun shone and layers were shed. Mark cruised round to another +26TP (5/6 turn - I forget. Neither of them took more than 40 minutes). Robert followed it up with another against Bryan, but John saved the whitewash with a win against Michael, having being given an easy start when Michael stuck in hoop 2. Martin then got in on the act with a TP against Tim, which left Tim and Michael to resume their morning game, Michael eventually winning +11. Eight-one. Oh dear. But all in all a most enjoyable day - it really is the taking part.

Western Area GC League v Leighton-Linslade (home)

11 June

Lost 4-14

George and Susan Savage, Anne Speake and Pamela Lovell made up the team for this match, with George gaining two singles wins and Susan and Pamela one each. In spite of two defeats Wrest Park are not bottom of the league - this position is held by Northampton Hoops, who we play at home on 16th July. For the table see http://www.angliacroquet.co.uk/2014/gc_west_league.php

Beds & Herts League v St Albans (away)

26 June

Won 3-1

Bryan Harral (1) and Cliff Hayes (18) beat Terry Mahoney (1) and Heather Bennet (11) +5T

David Woolley (9) beat Chris Frost (5) +6T

Bryan Harral and David Woolley lost to Terry Mahoney and Chris Frost -5T

Cliff Hayes beat Heather Bennet +5T

Report by Bryan Harral

Hold the front page - Wrest Park have won a match! But it's a shock to discover this is our first win since 2011 - we've had many draws but no wins. Everyone found the single lawn at St Albans difficult to master, tight hoops, and hills and hollows where you least expected them, so all games were extremely interactive and all went to time. In the morning Bryan and Cliff (doubles) and David (singles) won, not by devastating skill but by making slightly fewer mistakes than their opponents, so 2-0 at lunch.

In the afternoon's doubles Bryan completely lost it and had to be helped around by David, while Chris Frost (St Albans) found it and St Albans won. Cliff, on the other hand, continued his morning's form to beat Heather in the singles by +5T. St Albans are top of the table so this was a particularly gratifying result.

Beds & Herts League v Northampton (away)

8 July

Won 4-2

Bryan Harral (1) and Richard Keighley (20) beat Peter Stansfield (3) and Jane Evans (16) +8T

David Woolley (9) and Cliff Hayes (18) beat Norman Hicks (3.5) and Richard Cain (10) +1T

Bryan Harral lost to Peter Stansfield -2T

David Woolley beat Norman Hicks +22

Cliff Hayes lost to Richard Cain -6T

Richard Keighley beat Jane Evans +12T

Report by Bryan Harral

Our second win this season, and on the sloping lawns at Northampton. This was Richard's first time in the team and despite some early calamities in the doubles with Bryan he was soon making three hoops in a break. David and Cliff had a very close and interactive game, both sides blaming the slopes. Fortunately, time was called when David and Cliff were one point ahead and so Wrest Park were two games ahead at lunch.

After lunch, David made short work of Norman Hicks, so we were then three up. Bryan was in danger of being savagely beaten by Peter Stansfield who was for rover and rover while he was on 1 and 2 with twenty-five minutes to go. A couple of mistakes by Peter and Bryan managed to turn a humiliation into a narrow defeat. Score 3-1. Cliff went down to Richard Cain after a titanic struggle, so the score was now 3-2. Richard, our new discovery, armed only with a fist full of bisques and his trusty mallet, calmly took on Jane Evans and won! Wrest Park is now half way up the League table!

Mary Rose v Colchester (away)

12 July

Won 6-1

Bryan Harral (1) and John Bevington (½) beat Nick Steiner (0) and Martin Leach (1½) +3

George Collin (1) lost to Peter Kenward (3½) -12

Tim Brewer (3) beat Rick Waterman (5) +15

John Bevington beat Nick Steiner +15

Bryan Harral beat Martin Leach +17

George Collin beat Rick Waterman +24

Tim Brewer beat Peter Kenward +7

Wrest Park got their revenge for the heavy defeat in the Inter Club a month earlier. The doubles was pretty much error-free, with John following Martin to 4-back, Nick going to peg, Bryan following and pegging Nick out and John finishing. Peter's solid play saw off George, but Tim won at what can best be described as the second attempt. A discreet veil should be drawn over the details, but suffice to say that it was a real Specsavers moment.



Nick, Rick and Martin look on as Tim and Peter battle it out in the last game of the day.

After an excellent lunch George got his act together with a quick win. John handed Nick an easy break after he turned down a rush on partner to hoop 1 from corner 4 with the opponent balls loitering in the middle of the lawn and attempted to split one to hoop 2 and get a rush on the other to hoop 1. When this failed he put the opponent ball to hoop 1 and retired to partner, but the hoop 1 ball was in a runnable position and Nick ran it cleanly to the ball thoughtfully provided for him at hoop 2 and went to 4-back. John recovered to make the match secure, and after Bryan's win we sat in the shade of the pavilion to watch Tim finally get the better of Peter.

Our thanks go to Colchester for their hospitality and the opportunity to play on such good lawns. We trust that Martin got home in reasonable time, as he managed to disprove Volkswagen's claim that locking your keys in the car was impossible.

GC singles day 14 June

These singles and doubles events started in 2004, when there were 20 players in the singles and 12 pairs for the doubles. This year there were 12 in the singles, played on an overcast and showery day.

The players were divided into three groups playing 40 minute games; this produced four semi-finalists: George Savage, Peter Lovell, Linda Potton and Vera Pearson.



Spectators (and their dogs) follow the game with interest.

The final was between George and Peter. Peter won 7-3 and was presented with the cup by Linda, last year's winner. Many thanks to all those who provided the tea and cakes, which were much appreciated by everyone.



Peter Lovell and George Savage do the grip 'n grin.

From netball to croquet



Lisa, Ann, Julie and Deb of the Shillington Netball Club, after an evening's croquet on Wednesday 18 June.

1997 – 2014 = 100

This is the hundredth newsletter since I became Secretary, but there were newsletters being published before that. Tom Anderson recently handed over two folders of copies of various documents which contain newsletters from 1985 onwards. The first few were produced by the Secretary, Adrian Williams, using a dot matrix printer. A committee meeting in July 1987 records that I somehow ended up agreeing to produce the newsletter (something I had completely forgotten), and 22 followed through to 1993. These were all produced at work using a Xerox 6085, a development of the Xerox Star. The Star was revolutionary, introducing the mouse, the GUI and the Ethernet. For more see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xerox_Star.

Paul Sharrock then produced the newsletters between 1993 and 1995 before Tom and Judy Anderson took over. It may be that pre-1985 editions are out there somewhere – if so, I would be happy to receive them.

Dates for 2014

August

2-3 CA AC Advanced tournament
24-25 Lawns closed (EH event access)

September

13-14 CA AC Handicap tournament
20 EACF AC 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 included in the calendar in the pavilion and on the website. Please provide approximate start/finish times and the number of lawns required. Although we will always try and keep a lawn free for casual play this cannot be guaranteed, particularly when a CA tournament is scheduled.

John Bevington

21 July 2014