



LEIGHTON-LINSLADE CROQUET CLUB

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NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2018 Volume 19 Issue 2

The newsletter Editor is John Cundell. Items for the newsletter can be sent to 18 Saxons Close, Leighton Buzzard, Beds LU7 3LT; or emailed to john.cundell@btinternet.com. Tel: 01525 374620

Welcome to the second newsletter of 2018. Fairly short and sweet as we have no great announcements to make as per previous years, therefore let's get straight on to preparing for the rapidly approaching new season.

Season Opens

The lawns should be ready for play on Saturday 24th March - weather permitting. There is a possibility this might be delayed a week - due to the recent cold snowy week and wet weather which has up to now prevented our Groundsman Doug and his men from getting on to the lawns. We are hopeful this can be achieved within the next couple of weeks. If there is to be a later starting date, you will be informed by email or telephone.

Clubroom Cleaning and Lawn Preparation

We are planning to position the hoops on Tuesday 20th March depending on the lawn conditions. Also the clubroom requires cleaning, tidying, etc., at the same time. If you can help in any way, you will be very welcome. We intend to start on the lawns at 9.30am. Clubroom cleaning etc., can be slightly later. Please let me know if you can make it.

Playing Sessions

Below are the 'official' playing sessions for 2018.

10-12	Tuesday (Singles Handicap)
2-4	Tuesday (Singles Handicap)
10-onwards	Wednesday
10-onwards	Thursday
10-12	Saturday
2-5	Saturday
10-12	Sunday (Singles Handicap)
2-5	Sunday

Our Lawn Rent arrangements allow for playing sessions to be flexible to work around the weather - either good or bad - e.g., if morning is wet we can regroup pm or even on another day; if good then stay on as required. Also, members are able to go along for practice sessions at will.

In recent years the Tuesday sessions, which were designed for those wishing to play singles rather than doubles games, have slipped into mainly doubles sessions. In 2017 singles sessions took precedence so please try and keep to this for 2018. These sessions for singles play are especially important for those members who play in or who would like to play in League or other matches to have some essential singles practise.

The only provisos are that a) if the Council Groundstaff or our own members are working on the lawns, then they will have priority and players will have to wait until they are finished; and b) certain Mondays and Fridays when League and

Friendly matches are scheduled when no club play will be possible. On occasions there may be events on other regular session play days which will be highlighted on the club noticeboards - for instance our CA B-Level tournament on 16th June is a Saturday.

2018 Dates for your Diary

Our Fixtures Secretary John Thorp, Ross Bagni and your Editor have already been busy working on this year's calendar and it looks like we will have another busy season. All fixture dates so far arranged are included below.

Remaining EACF League dates, Friendlies, etc., will be posted in the Clubroom as and when these become available. Also, for members on the internet, you will be able to access the diary through the club website. More information on this shortly from our Secretary. Members without internet access will receive a printed copy.

March

23 Annual Lunch - Leighton Buzzard Golf Club - 12.30 for 13.00 hours

24 LAWNS OPEN - weather permitting

April

7 Official Opening by Town Mayor Councillor Syed Rahman - 13.30 for 14.00 hours.

May

11 4 Club Charity Trophy - Leighton-Linslade

19/20 Club 'Mix 'n' Match' Handicap Doubles

26/27 Club Ladies Doubles 'Mix 'n' Match'

June

2 EACF Wheeler Shield Counties Tournament at Hunstanton

9/10 Club Handicap Singles

13 Committee Meeting

16 CA B-Level Tournament (3+) - Leighton-Linslade

21 4 Club Charity Trophy - Northampton

July

6 Dunstable Fun Day (U3A)

10 High Wycombe Friendly - Away - 11.00am start

13 C-Level Tournament (8 to 12) - Leighton-Linslade

14 EACF Champion of Champions Tournament - Colchester

20 Wingrave v Phyllis Court - Southern League

23 4 Club Charity Trophy - Wrest Park

August

8 Committee Meeting

September

1 Club Garden Party and Fun Day at Page's Park (10.00am - 4.00pm)

5 Committee Meeting

22/23 Club Doubles
20 4 Club Charity Trophy - Watford - TO BE
CONFIRMED
29/30 Club Singles
November
9 AGM & Party

Official Opening by Leighton-Linslade Town Mayor

All members are warmly invited to attend the official opening of the season by Town Mayor Councillor Syed Rahman at 2.00pm on Saturday 7th April. Please be in attendance by 1.30pm. Please wear whites.

Social Club finishes 21st March

The Social Club attendance at Page's Park on Wednesday mornings has been a little depleted this winter. Those that did attend enjoyed the improved conditions in the pavilion due to the Play Group Cafe, with which we have enjoyed an excellent relationship. Please make an effort to support these Social mornings next winter - a convivial chat over card games, dominoes, Rummikub, etc. The small attendance fee mounts up during the winter and after deducting the cost of refreshments, contributed over £300 to club funds - almost enough to buy a new set of croquet balls!

Annual Club Luncheon

The luncheon on 23rd March at the Leighton Buzzard Golf Club will be attended by 32 people - members, wives and guests. Those attending need to be at the Golf Club by 12.30pm for 13.00 hours. Thanks are due to Malcolm and Diane Kirby for organising the occasion.

EACF Club Champions Tournament

Each year all clubs in the East Anglian Croquet Federation are invited to send both their level play and handicap club champions from the previous year. This year the tournament is at Colchester and we will be represented by Roger Stroud in the Level Singles and John Thorp in the Handicap Singles.

EACF Leagues

The League has been running for many years and has not really changed all that much, apart from the introduction of the Level League some years ago in addition to the Handicap League. Over the last couple of seasons, there have been some problems regarding last minute date changes; and the Level League has developed to the stage where a number of clubs with a good compliment of low level handicap players (2 and under) has meant that some clubs are really just making the numbers up!

The League organisers circulated various ideas amongst team captains for changes to the GC Leagues in 2018 reflecting - and attempting to respond to - the many solicited views and unsolicited comments that the Managers receive each year. Nineteen clubs responded to the consultation note, many were deeply considered responses that reflect the high level of interest within our region. Some ideas were almost universally welcomed - such as the introduction of a new 3-plus level play league - others less so. As a result of this consultation the plans for

2018 were revised and were subsequently circulated together with application forms for the leagues. The results and how they affect us for 2018 are as follows:

1. We will not be entering the Level Play League.
2. We have entered the new 3-Plus Level Play League.
3. We have entered the existing Handicap League.

The Handicap League matches are very much as previous years.

The 3-Plus Level Play League is similar in format to the Inter-Club tournament held by the Croquet Association where there are four players per team - A & B of both sides play doubles; and C plays D and D plays C.(in the morning). In the afternoon, A plays A, B plays B, C plays C, and D plays D. Players must have a handicap of 3 or higher - there is no minimum handicap aggregate limit. However if a club wishes to they are allowed to play one player with a 2 handicap - but then there is a minimum handicap aggregate limit of 20. All will be explained in due course!!

A notice asking for members interested in playing in this year's leagues will be posted in the clubroom as soon as the season commences.

Scorers

Sheila Beal will again be acting as Scoring Manager for 2018. Our scoring system has been much admired by visiting clubs and once again we will be using it for League, Murphy Shield, and our B-Level and C-Level events. As soon as we have dates available there will be a list in the clubroom for volunteer scorers to enter names.

Setting Up Help

As per last season we would ask that members taking part in any particular competition should be prepared to turn up at least 45 minutes earlier than the advertised start time to assist in setting up the necessary equipment - rather than just leave it to the same few. This worked well during the latter part of 2017.

New Knockout Trophy Club Event - The Peter Davis Memorial Trophy

As mentioned at the Annual General Meeting we will be running a Knockout Singles competition during the 2018 season. This will start in mid May and run through until September. All club members will initially be entered, (unless you wish to opt out), and will be drawn to play one knockout game against another member - at a time of their own choosing. The winner will then move on to the next round until by the end of the season we will have an overall season winner to be determined at a social croquet day, and hopefully get folk to attend along with Irene Davis who will be there to present a new trophy - **The Peter Davis Memorial Trophy**.

Ross Bagni is organising and hosting the event. He has drawn up the rules for the competition as follows:

Peter Davis Memorial Trophy

This year it has been decided that we should play a knockout trophy in memory of Peter. Irene has kindly donated a trophy in his memory and we hope that everybody will participate in making this a very special event.

The rules are quite simple. When we have the final numbers,

which I trust will be everybody!, there will be a draw for the first round to be played by mid May.

All matches will be a 19 point game. Directions will be given to those not used to the extra 6 hoops. Basically you play the 13th hoop as in a normal game and then proceed round the outside as in hoops 4, then 1, 2, then down centre as in hoop 11, ending at hoop 12 (which is now hoop 18) and then to the (13th) 19th hoop if all square. First to 10 hoops wins. It is not that confusing when you do it!!!

When the draw has been made THE FIRST NAMED should contact their opponent at once to arrange a date, this can be at a normal social playing time or at any time that suits you both. It is the responsibility of the first named to ensure contact is made (but the second player can do this if no contact has been made).

It is both players responsibility to play by the dates of each round. If you are having difficulty arranging a date then please contact me.

The winner of each match should put the result on the list in the club house AND inform me please, either by email ross.bagni@btinternet.com or phone 07974 715222.

The final will be played on a specific date to be arranged nearer the time so others may watch it. This will be the best of 3, 13 point games. Any queries please contact Ross.

Please have a go at this, whatever your experience. It should be great fun and is an idea that Peter would no doubt have very much enjoyed being involved in.

Membership Form and Newsletter

In case you haven't yet paid this year's subscription - it's Membership Renewal time!! Please include your email address when you complete this year's membership form. The newsletter will normally be distributed by email. As per 2017 please mark on your membership form if you are happy to print out your own copies of any other forms which may be required. Postage costs are now very expensive and we would rather spend it on the club than the Post Office.

Our Treasurer advises she is happy to accept Payment by BACS as well as by cheque. Please note the requirements on the Membership Form concerning this. YOU STILL NEED TO SEND THE COMPLETED FORM TO THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY.

Also please add your mobile telephone number. This is very handy for chasing up those who forget they have entered a competition! - and also for members to arrange visits to the lawns outside of the regular playing sessions.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - 2018 SEASON

I/we wish to join / rejoin the club.

Name(s):

Address:

.....

..... Postcode:

Tel No: Mobile No:

Date: Email:

I am happy to receive all communication by email, including 'return forms': YES NO

A subscription for the full season is £75 per person. Potential new members may also pay a £5 fee for two trial sessions. This fee will be deducted if full membership is subsequently taken out.

I / we enclose a cheque for £..... payable to 'Leighton Linslade Croquet Club'.

If you wish to pay by BACS you still need to send the form to the Membership Secretary.

The details are: Leighton Linslade Croquet Club
09-01-54
54393482

Please return this form and cheque to: Judith Cundell (Membership Secretary), 18 Saxons Close, Leighton Buzzard, Beds. LU7 3LT. Tel: 01525 374620. Email: judith.cundell@btinternet.com