



Watford (Cassiobury) Croquet Club

Newsletter April 2008

Welcome to the start of the new season. Let's hope it's a warmer one than last year and that last week's snow has disappeared!

Golf croquet begins on Tuesday
April 1st, Association on
Wednesday 2nd.

This is the first of what we hope will be a regular Newsletter for club members.

We want to keep everyone up-to-date with what's going on, what's coming up, how the competitions are going, how our teams are getting on and anything that concerns you and the game of croquet. If you have any comments or queries about anything in the Newsletter, please contact the author of a particular article or a member of the committee (their contributions are marked by their initials).

Your committee for 2008-9

Chairman	Arthur Reed
Hon Secretary	Janet Lewis
Hon Treasurer	John Bee
Committee members	
Social secretary	Janet Lewis
Membership	Ron Drew
A/C Team Manager	Simon Hathrell
G/C Team Manager	Roger Nicholls
Members	Mark Homan Ian Parkinson
Auditor	Keith Woolgar

Croquet season ends on a high _____

Extracts from the article by club chairman Arthur Reed that appeared in the Watford Observer:

“There is much for members to celebrate as we look back on our most successful year in spite of the appalling summer weather.

The coaching courses run in April and May attracted considerable interest and a number of those attending subsequently joined the club. This, combined with a greater awareness of croquet as a growing sport, has enabled the club to increase its membership to over 80. However, we have by no means reached capacity and new members are always welcome.

In September the club won the Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire Association League championship for the

third successive year. The game against Wrest Park in Bedfordshire proved to be the crucial encounter in deciding the destination of the title, Watford winning it 4-2. We then went on to win the East Anglian Croquet Federation (EACF) League Championship play-off by a margin of two games over Colchester.

In the Longman Cup, we beat Hurlingham 5-2 and Colchester 4-3 but lost in the quarter-finals to Norwich. In the

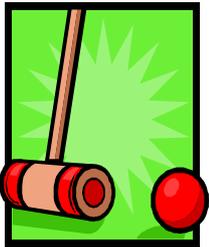
Secretary's Shield we lost 4-3 in the first round to a strong team from Nottingham.

Not to be outdone by the association players, the Golf players had an equally successful season, winning all their matches in the local league and going on to win the EACF play-off at Newport, beating Enfield 11-7.

Individual successes included Nick Archer winning the national finals of the

Grass Roots golf croquet competition, matching John Walker's achievement of 2005. Simon Hathrell showed a marked improvement during the season, reflected in his handicap, winning the club's internal advanced open and handicap events and, as last year's club champion, winning the 2007 EACF advanced tournament played at Wrest Park." AR

Top mallet maker visits Watford



John Hobbs, one of the country's leading mallet makers, will be visiting the club on **Saturday April 5th** from 1-3pm. He will bring various mallets for people to try and will discuss any technicalities. Mallets may be purchased on the day or ordered. If you want to talk to someone who has bought from him before, please have a word with Janet.

Club competitions deadline is April 12th

You should have received a form listing the club's internal competitions with your AGM papers. This needs to be returned to Janet by April 12th. The competitions being run this year are:

- Internal Association Croquet 26 point Level Advanced
- Internal Association Croquet Handicap
- Internal Association Croquet Ladies Handicap
- Internal Association Croquet Handicap for handicaps 16 and over
- Association Croquet All-England Handicap
- Internal Golf Croquet Handicap
- Internal Golf Croquet Level Play
- Golf Croquet All-England Handicap
- Grass Roots Golf Croquet on 10th June for handicap 6 and over or no handicap
- Centre Stage Golf Croquet for handicaps 1-5 on June 12th
- Golf Croquet Doubles Day on 26th May (individual entries)

Other dates for your diary:

- Golf Croquet Singles Day on 25th August and
- Golf Croquet Fun Day on Sunday 28th September

In the next edition club development plans

Following the dramatic increase in the number of members in recent years, your committee has been looking at possible ways of improving the facilities at Cassiobury Park for the benefit of all members. Discussions have been started with Watford Borough Council as to how this might be achieved and we will be featuring an article on this subject in the next newsletter. As well as keeping you informed about these plans, we shall also be looking for feedback from members so that any proposals have the full support of the membership.

AR

Handicaps

(1) Handicap cards

Members taking part in any competitions - internal or external - must have and keep up-to-date a Handicap Card. There are separate cards for Golf and Association Croquet. They are available in the Club hut.

All singles games in CA Calendar Fixtures, Federation Leagues, inter-club contests (including friendlies) and Internal Club competitions qualify for the system.

Specifically excluded are short croquet, doubles and friendly club games, walkovers and abandoned games.

The handicap system ensures that you are fairly treated in the club's own competitions and that the club's reputation for the fair handicapping of its team players is maintained.

If you are in doubt about your own handicap, please contact either Mark Homan or Ian Parkinson.

(2) New handicap rules for Golf

- Golf croquet handicaps are changing, from the existing range of minus 4 to plus 6, to the WCF range of 0 to 12. New green handicap cards will be available in the Club hut and should be used from the start of the 2008 season.
- Players with exiting handicap cards should transfer their index points to the new cards.
- All players with an index of 51 or more should add 4 to their current handicap; those with an index of 1-50 should adopt a handicap of 11; and those with a zero index will have a handicap of 12.
- Players who do not have an existing handicap will be allocated an initial handicap before they play in a

competitive game.

- A player's index is changed after each **qualifying game** by increasing it after a win and decreasing it after a loss. For handicap games, the winner's index increases by 10 and the loser's decreases by 10. For level games, the table on the handicap card should be used to determine the number of points that are exchanged.
- A player's index cannot go below zero.
- If a player reaches or passes through the **trigger point** for a particular handicap in either direction, that player adopts the handicap for that trigger point as set out in the table of Handicap Trigger Points on the card. Depending on the player's existing handicap, this may or may not involve a handicap change.
- **However**, handicaps do not become effective immediately. They only become effective at the end of the tournament, if the tournament is a CA Calendar Fixture or any other tournament lasting no more than 4 days. In all other cases, handicap changes become effective at the end of the day. In each case, the handicap change should be implemented as if the player's index had moved in only one direction during the tournament or day in question. For instance, a player's handicap remains unchanged if the player goes through a trigger point and returns back through the same trigger point during a tournament.
- **More information** can be found at <http://www.croquet.org.uk/?section=golf&page=handicapping.html>

Ian Parkinson

Official club sessions :

Golf Croquet

Sunday & Tuesday 2pm, Friday
10am

Association Croquet

Wednesday, Thursday &
Saturday 2pm

Club rules:

A copy of the club rules can be downloaded from the membership page of the website.

www.watfordcroquet.org.uk

Or a copy can be sent by mail from the secretary, if requested.

Looking after the equipment



We are very fortunate to have members who spend a great deal of time and effort maintaining the club's premises and equipment: the hut has been completely revamped and decorated, the hoops have been mended and painted, mallets have new grips, refreshments have been re-stocked – in fact, everything is ready for the new season. Please show consideration and common sense by always using the **block** and **rubber mallet** when setting the hoops to protect them from damage, chipped paint and stress. When removing the hoops at the end of the session always use the **hoop lifter** to prevent damage to the holes. Each set of hoops is designated for a particular lawn : this information is in the hut. Please report any damage – last season, broken hoops were hidden away!

JL

NEW! CLOTHING RANGE WITH CLUB LOGOS

An arrangement now exists with Whittakers Embroidery Ltd. which enables club members to obtain a wide range of clothing and other items with the club logo embroidered on them. Individuals can place their own orders directly online. Alternatively, to get the benefit of some further discounts and shared postal charges for bulk purchases, orders for popular items can also be placed with Simon Hathrell.



To see the range of clothing available you can visit <http://www.whittakersembroidery.co.uk>. The range includes polo shirts, sweaters, sweatshirts, fleeces, jackets, hats, bags and umbrellas among many others. Please bear in mind that the prices for items bearing the club logo will involve a surcharge of £1.50 + VAT in addition to the prices shown on the website. There is no minimum order size, and no setup cost. If you place your own order with Whittakers, then please make sure that you state "WATFORD CROQUET CLUB LOGO" in the "Special Request" box when placing your order. For example, a single white heavyweight polo shirt (part no. SS204) plus logo should cost £10.95 + £1.50 (logo surcharge) + £8.50 (shipping) + VAT = £24.62.

As a cheaper alternative, bulk orders (e.g. 12 or more) of any particular item in the range (regardless of size or colour) can benefit from a discount of about 20%, and the shipping charge is also shared. So, for example, 12 heavyweight polo shirts should cost only £12.58 each inclusive of VAT and shipping. Club members who prefer to share in a bulk purchase of a particular item can place their order with Simon Hathrell, taking care to specify the product code, colour and size required (details on the Whittakers website). Please note that this may involve some delay while a bulk order is being assembled, particularly for the less popular items. **SH**

*** Sew-on or iron-on embroidered club badges are also available at £3.50 each ***

Parking restrictions on the south side of the park are still as last year. But the Council are planning to provide 50 extra spaces in the Gade Avenue car park.



Rule changes

Association Croquet

The proposed amendments to the 6th Edition of the Laws of Association Croquet that were published for consultation have now been approved by the Croquet Association. Most of the changes cover situations where a referee would be called. However there are three changes of which all players should be aware.

- 1) The reference to yard-line balls in Law 6(h) has been deleted thus allowing in-court cannons
- 2) Law 28(a)(1) has been amended so that deliberately sliding the mallet along the foot or leg is now a fault.
- 3) Law 37(h) has been amended to allow a player who has committed a fault to delay their decision on whether to take a bisque until after the adversary has decided whether or not they want the balls replaced. It is no longer compulsory to replace the balls if a bisque is being taken.

Golf Croquet

The Croquet Association has decided that the WCF Golf Croquet Rules 2007 should be adopted by the CA as the The Laws of Golf Croquet 2008. The new laws can be found at <http://www.croquet.org.uk/golf/index.html> by clicking on Laws and Rulings in the left margin and then on The Laws of Golf Croquet 2008 (3rd Edition).

The law changes mainly clarify the existing laws. The only significant change is to Law 11 The Wrong Ball Law.

The first important point is that the correct ball is now defined as the next ball in sequence even if the previous ball was a wrong ball.

In singles if you play an opponent's ball or play when not entitled (i.e. take two successive turns) then the opponent can choose whether the balls remain where they are or are replaced where they were before the turn. No hoop points are scored and the opponent can then play either ball. Note that this penalty applies even if you play what would have been the correct ball but isn't the correct ball because your opponent played one of your balls in the previous turn.

If it is your turn to play and you play one of your own balls but out of sequence then (unless you commit a striking fault) the balls are replaced and the correct ball is played. In singles it is therefore desirable to stop your opponent playing if they are about to play one of his own balls which is the wrong ball in sequence.

In doubles if you play an opponent's ball or your partner's ball or if you play your own ball when your side is not entitled to play (i.e. you play after your partner or take two successive turns) then the opponent can choose whether the balls remain where they are or are replaced where they were before the turn. No hoop points are scored and the opponent can then play either ball.

If it is your side's turn to play and you play your own ball but out of sequence then the opponents can choose whether the balls remain where they are or are replaced where they were before the turn. No hoop points are scored and the opponents can then play either ball. However, if the previous ball was also a wrong ball then play simply continues with the new sequence that has now been established. In doubles it is therefore not a good idea to stop your opponents playing if they are about to play the wrong ball in sequence.

Ian Parkinson

Bring Your Own The cost of plastic cups has gone up so we would like to ask you to bring down your own cup or mug for refreshments. This would save an unnecessary expense and we would be cutting down on plastic waste.

