

CORNWALL CROQUET CLUB



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General and Personal

After this most dreary and depressing winter, I imagine we must all welcome the thought of a new croquet season starting in a couple of months. The first CA Tournament starts at the Surbiton Club on 31 March, after which they come thick and furious. I have entered for five tournaments away from home and will hope also to play at Plymouth, locally on Malcolm Hooper's beautiful lawn and anywhere else where I am invited. Malcolm, Ian Wilson and I, all being members of Plymouth, will probably be organising joint trips there from time to time and will always be happy to take other members for individual coaching as well as games on full-size or short lawns. Do not hesitate to let us know if you wish to join us; dates are always negotiable (though the weather may not be) and we are as keen as you may be to help learners and improvers. Don't be shy.

Committee Meeting

We held a meeting on 11 January mainly to discuss the questions of establishing a club (Tregye vs Killiow) and of finance. These subjects are dealt with separately below but I must thank Alan Truan, Clerk to Feock Parish, for attending, giving generously of his time and putting us fully in the picture about the Tregye playing field.

Tregye Playing Field

Matters are far from clear at the moment. The hope was that a number of sports would make unequivocal proposals for involvement, with the result that such matters as development costs, grant applications, maintenance equipment and so on could all be shared, so lessening the start-up costs for us all. I rather fancy that we are the only ones so far to make firm proposals. Alan Truan is trying to make arrangements to meet with the Truro College representative to see if we can make progress on this front.

We are also doing some work on setting up costs and running costs thereafter so that we can be realistic with the size of grant to be applied for and subsequent running costs, numbers of members, subscription levels and so on.

Killiow

Not surprisingly, no start has been made on any lawns at Killiow. I understand that they are concentrating on work at Trevarno Gardens at the moment. Killiow has great advantages over Tregye for starting a club. Being privately owned and with its own construction staff, the costs of lawn building would be much reduced and covered by the owner. Maintenance would also be carried out by the groundsmen already

You will have noticed that this issue of the Newsletter is rather different from previous ones. I have just loaded an up-dated version of Serif Pageplus, am labouring with its procedures and have lost some of the earlier fonts and art gallery - very annoying! Also the heading for the Club writing paper. In particular I have lost the Casper Open font which I liked very much.

employed on the golf courses. And there is an existing clubhouse with bar and other facilities. The disadvantage is the loss of freedom in a privately owned-club balanced by the lack of direct responsibility for the members of that club and, possibly, the earlier and easier establishment (at last) of two lawns.

before, i.e. £5 for a single person, £7.50 for a married couple, this entitling them to the newsletter, coaching, option of travel to and use of Plymouth (I think non-members of the Plymouth Club are expected to pay a small "green fee" - £1 if I remember correctly.

Rules

In any event, at the moment the choice is not ours to make. We have to see what is actually on offer and then make a choice.

PLEASE FORWARD A CHEQUE FOR YOUR SUBSCRIPTIONS, MADE OUT TO THE CORNWALL CROQUET CLUB, TO THE HON. SECRETARY AT OPUS, 49 PERHAVER LANE, GORRAN HAVEN, PL26 6NZ.

A revised booklet containing the Rules of Association Croquet has been produced and is obtainable from the Croquet Association for a cost of £4; this includes postage but

Finance & Subscriptions

When we finally get going, we will have to raise, beg, borrow or steal at least £5,000 ourselves to provide the necessary basis for a grant application. Some years ago when we had a false alarm on this, we were given loans of £50 or £100 by some members. But if we are to be serious about it, we will have to think more of loans or repayable bonds (is that a pleonasm?) in three figures with, perhaps, life membership to anyone who donates £500 or £1,000. Just a thought! Reactions will be welcomed.

the price may apply only to members. These rules are not only of use for settling arguments on or off the lawn but also as a soporific for insomniacs. The main changes, I believe, are in refining the detail for a number of esoteric points but, if I find any significant changes, I will publish them in the next issue of this occasional periodical. Contact the CA by phone (020 7736 0036) and ask for the shop or e-mail on <caoffice@croquet.org.uk> or visit their website at <www.croquet.org.uk>

Meanwhile the question of subscriptions raises its ugly head. I suggest the same as

The website includes entries by many of the clubs around the country (including one from Cornwall which, as you can imagine, is somewhat sparse) and is worth a visit.

I have asked for reactions to various suggestions in the past and never had a cheep back - very discouraging. Please give me a ring, write me a letter, send an e-mail. Remind me that there is someone out there, that these letters do not automatically get binned by the postman.

With my best wishes, even if somewhat late, for the New Year and the new croquet season -

Tony Backhouse

Tony Backhouse
5 February, 2001.