

CORNWALL CROQUET CLUB

Chairman & Secretary;

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Newsletter No. 19

General: The end of the season is upon us and, once again, we have achieved nothing in the way of finding some land and establishing ourselves as an effective club. The two disappointments we have suffered this season have been particularly discouraging for me after about seven years looking. Roche was, perhaps, to be expected. The club is heavily oriented towards the more generally known sports, football and cricket. So their decision to use available, additional land for a second football pitch hardly surprising. Tregye was a cruel disappointment. The fact that we were the only serious bidder for space obviously precluded any permanent decision when the goal was to achieve a co-ordinated community sports facility. But our request for temporary occupation to make one or two lawns through our own efforts, expected to last for a maximum of two years with the undertaking to move out any time the land was required (and how could we possibly have defended our presence against an onslaught of earthmovers) was, we thought, such that no objection could possibly be made. But the Governors of Truro College thought otherwise. Now the field remains unused and deteriorating, the grass and weeds flourishing, only a kick-about area in occasional use by local youth. Sad!

Future Prospects: I wrote to the Croquet Association the other day to describe our experiences. I blamed the refusals partly on the general ignorance of Association Croquet as a sport and on its images of vicarage lawns, upper class twits with mallets and glasses of bubbly and of the White Queen. I opined that a publicity video, thoughtfully and imaginatively made, would be useful to show committees and other influential groups. I asked for six copies. But no such video has been made owing to a shortage of funds and this despite the fact that it would encourage membership and the establishment

of new clubs, thereby adding to subscription income. Short sighted?

So now our hopes rest with Killiow, still far the best option if it comes off; excellent position in population and access terms, good ambience, benevolent management (we believe) and, apparently, willing - though so far, not right now. One hopeful sign is the willingness to let us use the front lawn at Trevarno in the evenings after the public has departed - not ideal by any means, but much better than nothing.

Subscriptions: The appeal in the last two issues has resulted in nine subscriptions being paid, some, especially valued, from members who, so far, have gained very little from their membership. I would emphasise that we are here as a club to serve ALL our members. So please contact me or Ian Wilson or Malcolm Hooper (01326 250344) if we can provide any service or help to get you playing.

Club Website: The more observant may have noticed the address of our club website at the head of the page. This has been designed and installed by Ian Wilson and is well worth a visit. Tell everyone, friends and relations, about it. Let Ian know if you have any interesting and relevant items for inclusion (either on [<ian@slft.co.uk>](mailto:ian@slft.co.uk) or phone 01872 870793).

Club Logo: You will also have seen the badge at top left. This, one of a variety of suggestions, was also designed by Ian and is included above as it is one of my favourites although the colours have not transferred too happily into my software. However I do not wish to impose any particular proposal and so you will find some choices over the page. Please let me or Ian know which you prefer a.s.a.p. .

Ian and I are also proposing, with the preferred logo, to get the software designed for this to be embroidered on white polo shirts, sweatshirts and possibly other white clothing. We will let you know when this might be available together with the cost. We hope to organise this through a Truro firm, called ADVerTees. We are going to see them on 12 October so let us know which badge you prefer, or even design a new one, without delay.

Plymouth Croquet Club: Ian Wilson and I were involved in a Plymouth Club team in the final of the South West Intermediate League at Sidmouth on Sunday, 30 September, against Dyffryn. The weather was foul, half a gale from the SW blowing over the lawns straight from the sea. However we scraped a win (4:3) which meant that Plymouth, having only entered two out of four of the leagues, won them both - quite an achievement.

We still only have three players with CA handicaps, Ian Wilson (11), Malcolm Hooper and me

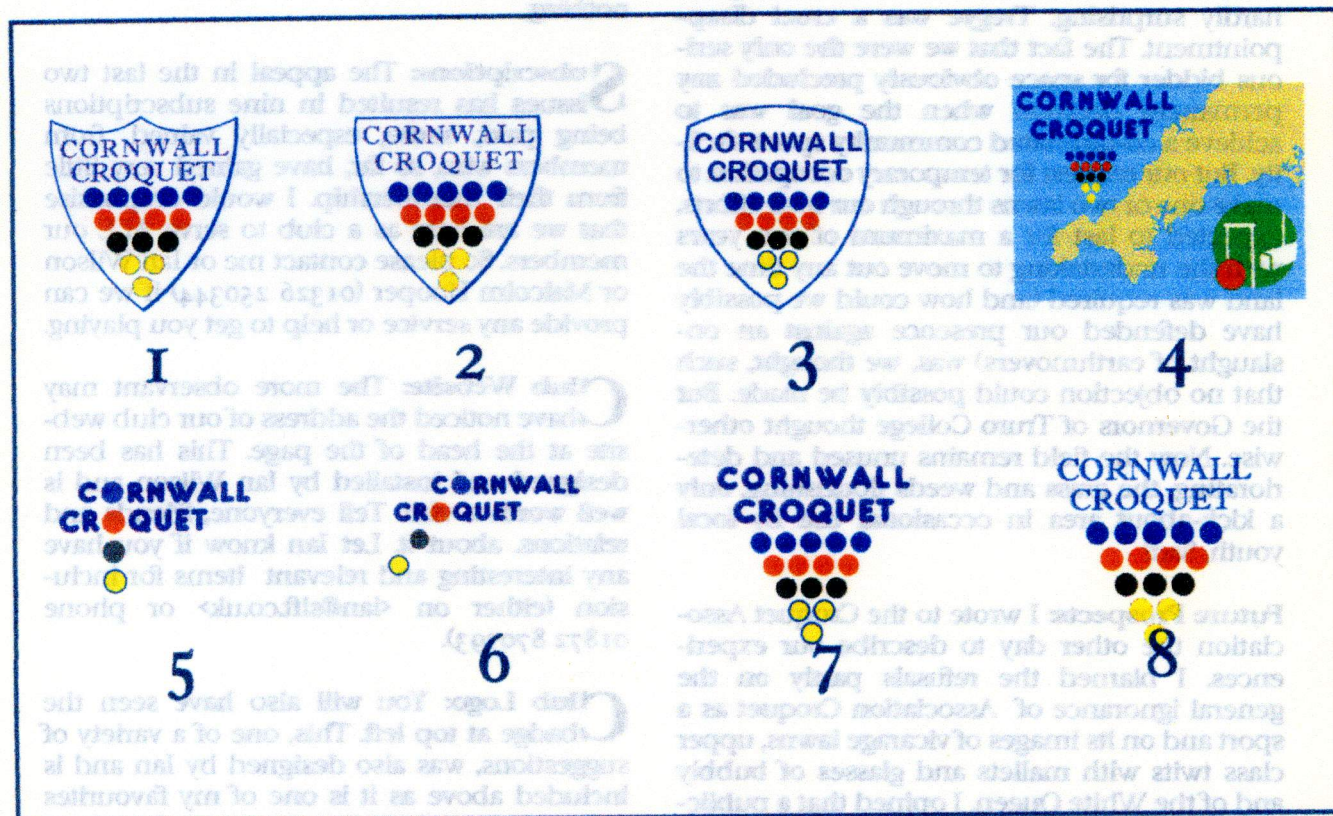
(both 9). Malcolm and I also achieved our Croquet Association Silver Awards during the season, Malcolm in May and I in September (either enthused by his example or determined not to be beaten!). These mean completing a 12-hoop break without bisques and winning the game in a CA-sponsored tournament.

Miscellaneous: I have some information about croquet holidays in Austria in 2002. Anyone interested?

Best wishes -

Tony Backhouse

6th October, 2001.



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