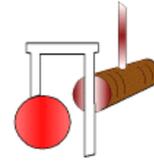


CORNWALL CROQUET CLUB

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Chairman's Corner

Where has the year gone? It seems like only yesterday that we started out with good intentions to get our handicaps down, and here we are with all our club competitions completed. The season has been very successful for the club, not just internally, but in the various Federation leagues. Our second golf croquet team (Porthpean) started with fear and trepidation, but finished with an impressive win over the Nailsea team. The 'B' League team came equal first, but lost to Sidmouth and consequently the title, whilst the Intermediate League team was similarly placed second to Exeter. There were no such complications for either the Federation League or the Cornwall Golf teams, with clear wins in their respective sections. Both semi-finals were hard fought; the golf team being two games down, with three to play, and the last game in progress won by a long shot to block the opponent's certain run to the hoop for a draw. But that wasn't the end of the tension, as the opponent went for a jump shot, to force a doubles play-off, and missed; leaving our player to run the hoop for an overall match win of 10 ½ to 9 ½. The Federation team has since won the Federation Shield for the first time, beating Kington Langley, the holders and several-times winners, by a convincing 4 games to 1. That was a brilliant win, and congratulations to the team of Richard Griffiths, Tony Backhouse and Peter Cutting. And talking of cutting – Tony's reward was to have handicap cut to 6.

The Golf final will take place at Bristol on Saturday 3rd October against Broadwas (Worcester): I have every confidence that they will quit themselves well, and wish them every success.

The whole season has been memorable for all kinds of reasons, apart from the league successes. All the club tournaments have been well supported, and keenly fought; but always in a good spirit. Several outside members have

commented on how friendly the club is, and how welcoming. This has been echoed by many of the season's new members, who had their own competition on a lovely summer's day. The day was won by John Perry, with a spectacular hoop run from the corner flag with his penultimate ball, whilst his opponent, Christine Clarke, was already eyeing up the title, with her last shot in a runnable position. She had a shot to hoop 10, which looked promising, but stopped a yard short. Such are the joys of the game!!

So! What comes now? We haven't decided just what the availability of the lawns will be over the winter. There is work required to be done to do some more levelling, which will depend on the weather, and vertidrainage when the ground is dry enough – probably in March. It would help if Golf players could use varying corners to start from, to cut the wear and compaction at the Yellow corner. It is a good idea to try different routes, as it helps to get used to differently-orientated lawns that are used in other clubs. Another idea is to start anywhere along the line from the yellow flag to a point level with hoop 4. It is left to individuals to use common sense as to whether or not the lawns are fit to play on. They can be too wet or frosted in the early morning.

There was a successful 'Transition to Association' course in August, followed by a competition for six, of the seven, last week. All the games were overseen by a mentor, to give advice and encouragement. Richard is going to organise another winter-club-afternoon, short-lawn competition, which was so successful last year: I hope that the newcomers to Association will take advantage of this to get some experience. No doubt you won't be just left to get on with it; but will have somebody to help you along as a doubles partner. Just turn up, you don't have to be at every club afternoon.

Hoops have been found in the wrong holes on several occasions recently. Please look at the

diagram in the equipment hut if you are not sure which to use. The bottoms are different for the 'A' & 'B' lawns: putting a round (Carrot) bottom in a star-shaped hole (and vice versa) makes the hoop loose when the proper hoop is inserted.

Paul and Elizabeth Schofield and I went to Brighton recently to represent the county in the Inter-County Championship. We were part of a Cornwall and Devon side of six players, and one of twelve Counties taking part. The standard was very high, and we were playing those with handicaps in the 0 to 4 range, including an England player. We beat three other counties, including two in the final top five, but shared the bottom places with two counties also with three wins. It was an enjoyable weekend, and good experience. Our lawns are in far better condition than those, at the Sussex County Ground, where we played.

Because of the Federation final clashing with our programmed Finals Day, our finals were re-arranged. The various trophies, normally presented on Finals Day, have not been presented. It is proposed to have an end-of – season party on Sunday October 25th, when trophies will be presented and everybody can have a get-together. The lawns will be available to play either code from one o'clock, and then we'll have the presentations and tea in the late afternoon. Everybody is welcome – not just those who have won something – so do come and bring either something savoury or sweet as a contribution towards the tea.

It's good to see both Joyce and Colin back at the club after knee operations. Joyce has been playing some croquet, but Colin has a little longer to wait. David has to have his other hip done on October 14th, so we wish him well for that.

Finally, from the 26th of October, club days will be from 1.00 pm. Games should not be started before that, unless the organiser sanctions it, but there is no reason why members cannot practice, or play before the start, provided that play is stopped at 1.00 pm.

If you have any ideas for a social event during the winter let us know. Don't forget to book the Christmas lunch.

Ron.

Have you any wood, suitable for shelving, in your shed?

Richard wants to build some shelves in the clubhouse and needs about 40 running feet of 9" or 12" planed wood.

If you have any, please contact Richard.

**Don't Forget the
Party
on 25th October**

Congratulations to

Rosemary Bradshaw

During the year Rosemary has had several wins at various tournaments

1. The Thorpe Cup at Roehampton
2. The Strickland Cup in the National Veterans
3. The Pat Turner Cup in Budleigh's May Tournament

It was good to see Rosemary at our Short-Lawn Tournament, and at the friendly at Nailsea, where she helped us to get the lamb back.

Pity about her handicap now being 12!

For those who wonder "Who is Rosemary?" –