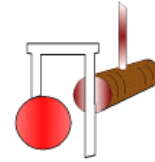


CORNWALL CROQUET CLUB

Email: info@cornwall-croquet.org.uk

Net: cornwall-croquet.org.uk
freewebs.com/porthcroquet/



Newsletter No. 53 December 2009

Chairman's Corner

Well there has been some play during November, but the atrocious weather has kept all but the hardy members at home in the warm. The lawns are standing up well to the conditions, but members are asked to use common sense in deciding whether or not the lawns are fit to play on. I was asked, by one member, if somebody could be nominated as a contact to determine if lawns are playable. We discussed it again in committee last week, but came up with the same answer; that, without somebody going to the club to make a decision, it is impossible to know the state of the lawns. It is just not practical to set up such a system; so I repeat "It is up to members to be sensible about playing, even if it does mean a wasted journey if you don't get a game". Lawn 1 is currently not playable as the grass has been allowed to grow so that sand can be applied to fill some of the hollows. It was unfortunate that the weather broke as soon as this was started. The scarifier also broke, but the part has now been delivered, so that it will be available once the lawns dry out.

The short-lawn competition is up and running on Wednesday afternoons. The weather has kept the numbers down, and the weather has precluded play on some days. It was very gratifying to have 13 playing on the first Wednesday, including several of those who attended the transition course in August. I hope that they will continue to play as the weather improves.

Colin and I attended the Federation AGM at Weston-Super-Mare two weeks ago. There were several propositions to make changes in both the Association and Golf Leagues; most of which were defeated. The only one that affects us directly is in the Golf league: in future matches, all double-banked games will be scheduled for 45 minutes, instead of 50 minutes. Each game will be timed separately so that the clocks can be stopped if a game is

held up by the other game in progress on the same lawn. I have reservations about the need for this, but time will tell whether the effect will be to produce other problems. The club will purchase four clocks for use by members. The other proposal was to start a Level-play Golf League, but there were only seven clubs for it, two of which decided against later on. The obvious problems are travelling, if a small number takes part, and over-crowding of the calendar. I did make the suggestion, when the Tournament Secretary tried to persuade me into entering a team, that perhaps a one or two-day tournament for the Northern and Southern sections, with a play-off between the two winners, might be a possibility.

Nobody, except Joyce, has turned up at the club on the first Monday of either October or November. If nobody turns up in December, the idea will be scrapped. There will be 39 members turning up for lunch at the Carlyon Bay Hotel on the 3rd: if it's anything like last year, it will be an excellent event. Thanks to Joyce for doing all the arranging.

For the past two or three years we have had a club party just before Christmas. However, with the weather being so unpredictable, it has been decided to have it in the New Year, on Saturday 9th January. Play can take place in the afternoon, from 1.00 pm, and then we'll have a tea around 4 o'clock. There will be some other distractions during the afternoon. Please bring a small donation of food for tea – savoury or sweet. The presentation afternoon was a great success: we are considering whether or not to do it again next year – what do you think? Do let a member of the Committee know.

...and talking of the Committee. The AGM will take place on Sunday March 28th; the venue has not been finalised as yet. The Committee is structured so that members are elected for three years – this gives a period of continuity and stability, such that everybody doesn't retire at the same time. In March the

Secretary and Vice Chairman will each have completed three years in office. Both Lynda and Richard can stand for re-election, but the posts are also open for anybody else to be nominated. Nomination papers will be distributed before the AGM, but please think about other nominations. You must, of course, get the consent of anybody that you nominate. We have the requisite 6 ordinary members, but can have more than 6 if the situation warrants it. My term, as Chairman, runs out in March 2011, so you might like to think of a likely replacement and get that person onto the Committee for the coming year.

We are in the process of compiling next season's fixture list, which involves agreeing fixture dates with all the clubs that we play in the various leagues, and fixing our own in-house tournaments and training sessions. If you have any specific ideas, or requirements, let me, or Richard, know ASAP so that things can be arranged where possible.

We shall require your handicap cards to be handed in for perusal before the start of the season. Don't forget that any ladder matches should be recorded and, if there are two or three games played in the match, they must all be entered separately. Golf handicap games always count for 10 points on the card; it is only in Association that lower points are used for shorter games.

Details of the "High Bisquers" Weekend, at Budleigh, are on the board in the clubroom for those interested.

Finally, have a very happy Christmas and a successful croqueting New Year.

Ron



Do you remember when we actually had sunshine? Those dark patches are called shadows, if I remember correctly.

**Don't Forget the
Party
on 9th January**