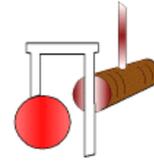


CORNWALL CROQUET CLUB

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Newsletter No. 58 April 2011

Chairman's Corner

Here goes with my first shot at a newsletter. I hope that I will be able to adequately follow up the excellent work of my predecessors. It won't be easy.

The season has now started, and the lawns will soon, if not already, be mown down to normal playing height. Both lawns recovered well from winter weather & usage, and have been vertidraind, fertilised, and treated for rather extensive moss growth, particularly on 2.

There is a good spirit in the Club, as was shown by having two candidates for the position of Chairman, and what proved to be an embarrassment of riches in those volunteering for Committee. My apologies for the rather confused way in which the Committee election was dealt with at the AGM. We were not prepared for organising a ballot! Also, very encouragingly, many members have contributed much time & effort in dealing with the daunting list of work to be carried out before the start of the season. There were excellent turnouts for both working-party days, which were blessed with good weather, and much other work, most of which will be evident, was carried out at other times. Thankfully, we have been able to remove the warning about the slippery decking – the coating works well. My thanks to all who helped.

Lawn 3 This has had initial fertilising, plus infilling of the worst of the rabbit scrapes, with some local re-seeding. It has also been surface dressed with an improvement to local dents & hollows. Stone picking provided a picture of what an onlooker might have assumed was an exercise in primitive agriculture!



Stone picking on lawn 3

However, much work remains to be done. This includes completion of the rabbit fencing, plus a protective rail along the top of the steep bank; overseeding; some local digging out to enlarge the available playing area; plus weeding. If any members want a creative & absorbing hobby, stone picking could be the answer – there are still a few thousand left. We can't at the moment estimate when lawn 3 might be playable, but as Ron mentioned at the AGM, he has struck a few balls on it. As ever, our thanks to Howard for what he has done for us. We may also have to erect high stop-netting across the end which faces the driving range. Too many golf balls are arriving on lawn 3 for safety, although the situation on 1 & 2 seems to have improved somewhat.

Competitions Please do enter the Club competitions, even if you are a novice at either Golf or Association. They are good fun, and also help in improving the basis of members' handicaps. Dates of last entry are in the fixture list – please send entries to Colin together with your entry fees. Wednesday mornings are for the Association Short Lawn competition. This competition will start on April 20th. A new singles GC competition will take place on Thursday mornings – please turn up by 9.45 for both of these events. You do not need to

organise opponents. Des has separately circulated the outline details, and more information is on the Club notice board. The GC competition runs in parallel with the Summer Ladder. Ladder games have to be arranged with your chosen opponent and can be played whenever is convenient, and when a lawn is available to be booked. When booking a lawn, please indicate whether it is for GC or AC – you can double bank on either, but you can't mix the two.

Details of the dates of the various League matches are now on the notice board – please indicate your availability. Unfortunately, the fixtures involve a few long trips, particularly for Porthpean who have to play away to East Dorset.

Team captains for Golf should note that there have been some amendments to the League rules. They may be downloaded from: <http://www.swfcroquet.org.uk>. A copy is on the Club noticeboard. Clarifications have also been issued on some aspects of the GC laws. Ron will be explaining.

Coaching Main details are in the fixture list. As the format for the Presidents Cup (Association) has been altered for 2011 to try to encourage a larger entry, Richard will be coaching those interested on the Advanced format now adopted. This gives the less experienced player a better chance of getting back into the game if their opponent powers too far ahead. PLEASE CHECK THE NOTICE BOARD FOR DATES & DETAILS. There is an early season Association refresher course on April 13th, and a Golf stage 1 improver course on the 14th. Both will run from 10.00am to 1.00pm.

Congratulations

To Richard Griffiths for his CA Gold Award, resulting from his play in the Europeans last September.

To Stephen Read, who had four straight wins in the Nailsea Short Lawn competition, including two whitewashes, one against a minus ½ player. (*But... he was playing for Fowey!*)

To Ron George, who will be doing a stint as referee at the World Golf Croquet Championships in July.

Getting better It was good to see Colin back on the lawns again after his further knee operation – more on this under the Nailsea heading.

We were very pleased to see Joyce back on the lawn for the first time following her operation, playing a game of GC in perfect weather.

Hamptworth Four members, Margaret & Stephen Read, and Barry & David Edwards, visited Hamptworth Croquet Club in mid-March, for one of their winter Golf Croquet weekend tournaments. There are four full size lawns, and the Club will this year be hosting some major events. It is part of a well appointed Golf & Country Club. Separate tournaments were very efficiently organised for each day. After the limited play on our slow winter lawn, Hamptworth was a bit of a shock, with what seemed to us very fast lawns which were difficult to get used to. You almost had to search for grass! We nearly came away with a winner, Margaret finishing a very close second on day one, beaten only on hoop counts. Well worth a thought for next winter. Both Golf & Association weekends are organised.

Nailsea Short Lawn Cornwall started the season in fine style, winning their division in this tournament, played on April 3rd. Ten Clubs compete, playing in two divisions. We were in division 2, not having entered in 2010, and having been demoted in 2009. Four rounds were played, and Cornwall were unbeatable after the third. The team members were: Des Honey, Ron George, David Edwards & Colin Hadley. Colin was a little concerned that his knee would survive the four games, following his recent further operation. Pam George stood by as a possible substitute. However, Colin kept going well, achieving three wins out of four.

Don't forget

1. Handicap cards – if yours has not yet been handed in at the Club for checking, please do so ASAP.
2. The website – lots of information on this. Please inform Paul Schofield of any news which you think should be included. (mellcroq@gmail.com).

Also, suggested contributions for the Newsletter are most welcome. Send them to me, please.

3. Open Day – May 15th – do encourage your friends & neighbours to come along and sample croquet. We also need helpers for meet & greet, refreshments, on the lawns etc.
4. Subscriptions are now overdue – please send, together with the subscription form, to our Treasurer, Paul Lewis. The end of April is the cut-off date for continuing membership.

Finally Good croqueting (*is that a real word?*)

David