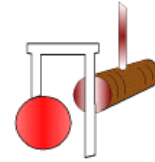


CORNWALL CROQUET CLUB

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Newsletter No. 60 August 2011

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Well, April, May, June and July all gone – the season more than half way through! All the league fixtures are over, but the Club's various internal competitions mean that many members are being kept busy playing their matches as "due dates" loom. Club days, particularly for GC, continue to be well supported, as are the Wednesday morning short lawn AC competition, and the Thursday GC. Interesting to note that many of the AC friendly games are being played as level play, and that some competitors (at both ends of the handicap range) in the AC short lawn competition feel that the present format involves too many bisques.

Open days were kindly treated by the weather, and attracted some 15 or so newcomers on each day. Membership take-up so far has been limited, but we extend a warm welcome to our new members, and are pleased to see them joining in on Club days. Many thanks to Ron for his introductory coaching sessions.

Commiserations & best wishes to Shirley Rosevear, who fell and broke her hip on the day before they were due to go on holiday. She is now (August 3rd) at home again, and seems to be doing well. The Club has sent some flowers, and best wishes for a full & speedy recovery.

Lawn 3 This is now being cut gradually lower, thanks very largely to Des Honey's efforts, and we have just started collecting the mowings rather than leaving them on the lawn. The thin spots & gaps are slowly filling in, but more weedkilling, fertilising, and surface dressing & levelling will be needed. Such work is of course very largely weather dependent. Howard has had very substantial protective fencing erected along the boundary adjacent to the steep bank.

SWF League results Congratulations to the B league players who with 3 wins from 4 matches have reached the area semi-final, playing Nailsea at home. The Intermediate team also won their group, with 3 wins from 4, and will be playing Abbey Glastonbury on August 14th. Abbey have

only one lawn, which unfortunately means that three of the singles will be only 18 point games.

The Federation team finished with 2 wins from 4. In the Golf leagues, Porthpean and Cornwall both finished with 3 wins from 7 matches. What became very apparent, at least for Cornwall, was that playing low handicap players – 5 or under – seemed to be a good way of losing matches. It's difficult to cope with 6-9 free turns against you! This seems to be a matter of some concern to other Clubs.

It became apparent that some Clubs were slightly puzzled, thinking that "Porthpean" was a separate club. The Committee has decided that to clarify matters, the two teams for 2012 will be Cornwall Porthpean and Cornwall Rosevear. After considerable discussion in committee, a proposal was adopted that members prepared to play in the GC teams for 2012 would be randomly allocated, but couples to be regarded as "items" when so doing.

Congratulations to Richard Griffiths, who as many of you will have gathered, has been having a successful tournament season, and if all continues on track, he would hope to be in the world top 100 by the end of the season.

GC world championships Ron George attended these as a referee, and seemed to have been kept quite busy. He even faulted the Egyptian current world champion! Other members went as spectators, and reported that it was quite an education, and well worth going – the main features seemed to be very strong and accurate hitting (spectators moved away from line of shot if no adequate barriers), and a considerable amount of gamesmanship. We were pleased to welcome Kevin Beard at the Club on three evenings – he was a competitor at the Worlds, and a member of the last Australian MacRobertson Shield team. He played practice games against Stephen & Des, who emerged fitter & wiser, after repeated visits to far boundaries to recover their balls!

Housekeeping A reminder for those who don't usually set up the lawns.

- a) If in doubt as to what hoops go where, look at the plan in the equipment hut. Never put cruciform hoops in straight carrot holes or vice-versa.
- b) Only tap hoops in sufficiently to make them firm. There is no need to bury the tops of the carrots. It's better to tap in from the side, as this reduces the tendency to rock the hoop.
- c) If the hoops don't lift easily, use the lifter. Please don't wiggle the hoops to loosen them – this simply enlarges the holes.

THANK YOU!

Also: if you are the last to leave the Club, please close the outer gates – the hope is that this might deter some of the people who bring their cars in and scatter litter, etc.

Personal thoughts from Tony Backhouse

This summer, so far, I have been to three (association) tournaments away from home, all level play advanced and all in a group of 2 – 8 handicap players. I therefore had four handicaps better than mine, and three above. Handicaps below mine progress in halves. I managed to hang onto my handicap of 5 by the skin of my teeth – so why do I go?

There are basically two types of croquet player, the competitive & the social. I am the former, anxious, by playing level – i.e. without bisques – against my equals, to improve. Most of my games are against those better than me. So, by watching them, wondering why they use tactics which perhaps I wouldn't have, spotting their techniques and emulating, or trying to, those I envy, I hope to get better.

What sort of a person are you? Competitive or social? Do you want to reduce your handicap or are you happy where you are? If the former, join the CA, get the CA fixtures book, peruse the competitions for the ones which would suit you, and enter. If the latter – don't bother.

Tony Backhouse – (still improving at 80, I hope!)

Reminders August 18th is the last day for entry to the President's Cups - GC & AC. These are played level, and the Association is in Advanced format. (this gives opportunities to get back into the game if your opponent gets too far ahead).

Also, August 18th is the last date for entry to the Golf Handicap singles.

September 3rd – Novice's Association day, & on September 4th, New Members' day

PHOTO competition – a not very serious competition – photos should be croquet-related, and on prints no larger than 7"x5". They should have been taken in July or August. No more than 3 entries per person, fee 50p per photo. There will be a small prize. More details later when we have decided what they should be! Watch the Club board, or emails.

Visit to Little Harbour I have been in touch with Jenny Blackhall, who I understand is the local fund-raiser, and who confirms that a visit by the Club will be welcomed. This will be after completion & handing over, probably in October or November. Again, more details later.

Referee's corner (Association)

You are playing red, and complete an Irish peel by putting yellow through its hoop, followed by red. Red stays on the court, yellow goes off. Should you retrieve yellow, place it on the yard line, and continue?

For the answer, see next newsletter, the Red Book, or Tony B or Richard! (or me – I've read the answer).



Ron's Lawn 4! Maybe special training for Dowlsh Wake?

Enjoy the rest of the season,

David