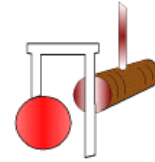


CORNWALL CROQUET CLUB

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Newsletter No. 63 April 2012

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Well, the season has started – fairly easy to know this as the temperatures dropped from about 19 to 9 in a couple of days, and then carried on downwards! However, the weather if cool was sunny and very pleasant for the opening weekend, which saw all three lawns in use both for the AC and the GC, the latter as usual very well attended.

The other excitement was the arrival of our new mower – a diesel powered Jacobsen, brought down from Rushden, a little way northeast of Northampton. Des Honey and Pete (Des will explain) towed it down, the whole long trip being done in one day. We owe them great thanks, as the various other options for transport were all expensive, and had other drawbacks which would have added to costs and difficulty. The mower arrived at the Club on Sunday morning, was offloaded, the cutters refitted, and after some adjustments, the machine was put to work mowing lawn 1, which it did very well indeed. It comes complete with scarifier & grooming attachments. Speed over the grass is considerably faster than that of the Ransomes electric. Would anyone like to buy an interesting Ransomes three-gang electric mower?? Would make ideal Christmas present!



Des brings home the new mower.

Thanks to a spell of good weather, and the usual efforts from various members, almost all of the tasks on the worklist were completed by the opening weekend. Many thanks to all those who

helped in any way, on the two working party days, and on numerous other occasions. Hoop setting was effectively a full day's work for six people, plus a sole effort by Tony Jennings who re-assembled the white liner, and set out all the lines.



Due deference to the chairman would be right and proper.....



.....If only his aim was better

Lawns 1 & 2 have been vertidraind & surface dressed, and lawn 3 surface dressed only, on the advice of the Golf Club greenkeepers.

Meanwhile, off the lawns, Dorianne has put in many hours dealing with paperwork, correspondence etc, and is now having a well deserved break on Corfu, returning the day before she travels to Budleigh for the High Bisquers tournament.

League fixtures The calendar for these has now been finalised, and has produced a busy early season, particularly May, when there are no less

than 12 golf or association fixtures. Lists are on the notice board, so please add your name if you would like to be available for league matches. Carole Gardner is now in charge of publicity, and asks that match reports are sent to her as soon as possible after the event. Photos are good, but the press are more interested in action or unusual shots rather than just the usual group photos.

Club Tournaments The Club fixture list has now been issued, and a copy is on the board. Please note closing dates for entries to the various competitions – Colin will be delighted to receive your cheques! Entry forms went out with the AGM papers. A new event this year is our entry in the national charity one-ball association event – about a dozen members have entered, with an entry fee of £5 per head, and we will be playing the preliminary heats on May 4th. (*PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE*) The winner or other qualifier will be invited to attend the final at Winchester on May 12th. The chosen charity is the Breast Cancer Campaign. For more details, check noticeboard or contact Des.

Coaching The pattern of coaching is expected to be similar to last year's. Early dates for your diary – Association refresher course, April 11th, and Golf Croquet Improver session (stage 1) on Thursday April 12th, run by Ron George, the latter largely aimed at the less experienced player. Both courses will run from 10.00am to 1.00pm. The usual Club sessions will of course take place in the afternoon, and at least one lawn will be available for Club play in the mornings.

“Foreign” events Six members have entered the Budleigh High Bisquers tournament on April 21st & 22nd, and will be accompanied by various supporters & groupies. Cornwall has also entered the Nailsea Short Croquet team competition to be played on April 15th. Richard Griffiths is playing in the World Championships in Australia in late April/May. Here's hoping all our competing players will be in fine form!

Handicaps The Technical Committee recommendation that the Club reverts to 24 as the starting handicap for Association croquet was accepted by the general Committee. The relevant changes to upper-end handicaps are posted on the noticeboard.

Open Day Our first Open Day will be on Sunday April 29th, from 10.30 to 5.00. We need helpers on the courts, to set out half-lawns and to guide and instruct our visitors, also in the Club for teas, coffees & social chat. We need to start setting things up not later than about 9.30. Please come along and help make it a successful day. Please

park further down the parking area, so that visitors can park nearer the Club, or if the ground is suitable, possibly inside the fence.

Formal opening of Lawn 3 This will take place on Monday April 23rd, St. George's Day. We have invited Radio Cornwall presenters James Churchfield and Pam Spriggs, also guests from Little Harbour. We had originally hoped that James & Pam would be able to come in the early afternoon, and stay for most of the afternoon, but this has not proved possible, so we are expecting them at about midday, to stay until about 1.30. They will formally open Lawn 3, and we hope have time for a short session of croquet. After this, the lawns will be open for play by members and guests, followed by a Club tea. Help will be needed in the morning to set out the lawns, and to add some festive decoration around the Club. Contributions for the tea, please, where Liz Honey will coordinate things (01726 77692). We also hope to have some appropriate alcoholic beverage available at lunchtime for our guests, and by donation for members. Please come along to this special event – whites are requested.

Photo competition Last year's competition produced some excellent shots, and there will be another competition this year – anything related to croquet, at Porthpean or away, any time from now until entries are judged on finals day.

Reminders

- a) Des Honey would like to hear from anyone who is prepared to join the mowing rota – the more of us there are, the less often the job will come round.
- b) St. Austell Rotary Club will be visiting us on the evening of Friday April 27th, starting at about 5.30. Helpers please! A further visit, from the Scouting Fellowship, is expected on the evening of Thursday June 7th.
- c) Subs were due at the start of April – if you haven't sent yours yet, please do so.
- d) Playing in one of the League teams, or just proud of your Club? Badged sweatshirts & polo shirts are available from Cornwall Screenprint & Embroidery, 01726 68689. Sweatshirts £14.10, polo shirts £12.90.
- e) Nagging time – we have new flags, courtesy of Liz Honey. PLEASE keep them separate from the hoops in the wheelie trucks – the originals were damaged by being spiked by the hoops. Nag 2 – only drive the hoops far enough to be firm and with the shoulders not interfering with the run of the ball – they don't have to be driven flush with the ground.

Best wishes to all,

David