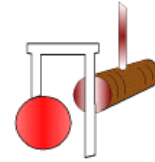


# CORNWALL CROQUET CLUB

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## Newsletter No. 64 May/June 2012

### CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

A lot has happened since the start of the season. The weather has continued to be "unsettled" as the met-men would say – seems to me that it's been pretty settled as mainly cold and wet! We were lucky to get through the pre-season work, in March when Spring seemed to have arrived.

The big event of April was the formal opening of Lawn 3 by Radio Cornwall presenters Pam Spriggs & Ross Ellis, who is also their sports producer. We also welcomed guests from Little Harbour, and Adam Wimshurst, who is one of the South West Federation's development officers. The forecast was as usual pretty gloomy, but very fortunately there was a gap between periods of rain which enabled the opening ceremony to be carried out almost in the dry. Much work was done by many members to make the day a success, A stylish table of nibbles and more substantial fare was laid out in the Pavilion, which was decorated with flower arrangements. Pimms was served to guests and the goodly number of members who attended.

All in all, I think the Club rose magnificently to the occasion, and many kind comments were made. Very many thanks to all involved with the preparation & running of the event. As many of you will know, Radio Cornwall's interviews & chat may be accessed from the website, and the Sta. Austell Voice gave us generous coverage.



*The magnificent croquet cake.*



*Pam Spriggs cuts the ribbon to formally open Lawn 3*



*But whoever taught Ross Ellis how to play WON'T get a Coach's badge!*

Meanwhile, while preparations for the Lawn 3 opening were under way, croquet was being played, not only at the Club, but in foreign parts. A team of four, Colin, Ron, Des & me, competed for Cornwall in the Nailsea Short Croquet inter-club event on April 15<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to a 4-0 win in our final match, we emerged in joint second position in the top division. Just behind us was Fowey, whose team consisted entirely of members with membership of both Cornwall & Fowey.

Following on a mere week after this, and ending on the day before the Lawn 3 opening, six members (Dorianne, Margaret, Barry, Tony Dyson, Elizabeth Schofield, and Jenny) competed in the Budleigh High Bisquers event, forming more than one-third of the total entry. Margaret finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Egyptian. Rosemary Bradshaw kindly invited players & hangers-on round to her house for drinks on the Friday evening, and convivial dinners were enjoyed on the Friday and Saturday.

Open Day This was held on April 29<sup>th</sup>. A vile day had been confidently forecast, and was all too true. A northeast gale, driving rain, and temperatures which, according to my car, ranged from 4C to 7C. There was no way the event could be cancelled, as we didn't know whether any heroic visitors would turn up. I have never seen so much surface water on Lawn 1.



*The Chairman hooks a dangerous catch on Lawn 1*

In fact, three or four did, and a couple signed on. Meanwhile, those members who came to deal with the crowds considered the refereeing problems set in "Swan", then looked on amazed as Russell showed how he could not be beaten at various challenges with coins or suchlike – we assumed this was a sign of a mis-spent youth or National Service. Poker (or Liar) dice finally involved all present. I have never seen so much water on Lawn 1. We can only hope for good conditions for the second open day on June 24<sup>th</sup>.

League fixtures The first games in both the Association and Golf leagues have been played. In the Golf, Rosevear beat Porthpean 12.5 - 7.5, but Porthpean managed a good win against Exeter, who were competing in this league for the first time, with some of their players being a bit uncertain on tactics & the laws. Rosevear's second game, against Nailsea SW, was a close fought affair on a day which was thankfully almost windless, and improved to be actually quite warm & sunny. Unfortunately, Cornwall got off to a slow start, and went to lunch with a deficit of four points. Sunshine & warmth seemed to have an improving effect, but despite Cornwall getting the better of the afternoon's play, Nailsea finally won 10.5 - 9.5

The B team started with a good win against Budleigh at Budleigh. Their second match was due to be played at home against Plymouth, but did not take place, as Plymouth could not raise a team, and have in fact withdrawn from the competition.

The Federation team have played three matches. The first, against Plymouth, proved not to be very successful, to put it mildly, as we were whitewashed 5-0. Although Plymouth's lawns were their usual distinctive selves, (the daisies were very pretty!) we could not blame the conditions. Three games were close, minus 2, minus 3 & minus 4, but in two of the afternoon singles we were well outplayed. However, amends were made when we beat Budleigh 4-3 on a cold windy day, all competitors looking as if they were on an arctic warfare exercise. A 4-3 result went against us at Sidmouth, where Tony Jennings very nearly brought off the singles win which would have given us the match.

One ball tournament This was ably organised and run by Des Honey, and attracted an excellent entry of 16. It is a charity competition, with an entry fee of £5 per player, so we raised £90 for the breast cancer charity – splashes of pink were evident on most players. Everyone seemed to enjoy the event, with not many games becoming disconnected processions. We will almost certainly run a similar event in future. The final, played at Chichester, was won by a 24 handicap player, and the charity is expected to benefit by upwards of £3000.

World Championship As many of you will know, Richard Griffiths competed in this, representing Jersey, and reports having had a most enjoyable time, and scoring some good wins.

Handicaps The Technical Committee has adjusted the handicaps of players at the upper end of the handicap range, in accordance with the decision to have a maximum AC handicap of 24, rather than the previous 28. The list of current playing members is now posted in the pavilion. PLEASE check your listed handicap and correct it if need be.

Commiserations To Shirley Rosevear, and to Lynda Everett, both of whom are suffering from the after effects of falls. Also, to Lesley & Marjorie Stewart, who have had a poor time with health problems over the winter and spring. Best wishes for good recoveries.

Reminders Some subs are still outstanding – these were due at the start of April, so if you have overlooked yours, please send a cheque to Paul Lewis as soon as possible.

The second Open Day will be on June 24<sup>th</sup> – helpers please!

Don't forget the website – much information, match reports, photos, links, playing hints & suchlike are there.

**Best wishes to all,**

**David**