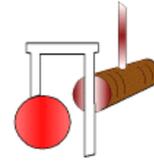


CORNWALL CROQUET CLUB

Email: info@cornwall-croquet.org.uk

Net: cornwall-croquet.org.uk



Newsletter No. 65 August 2012

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Rather a gap, I am afraid, since the June Newsletter – things seem to have been rather busy!

First of all, a very warm welcome to our new members. Please come along on Club days, and don't hang back thinking that you might be a nuisance because you have only just started – we want to see you. You can of course also book lawns – the booking sheet is in the Clubhouse. There will be a new members' competition on Sunday September 16th – Golf croquet format, and for those who have started on Association, a Novices Association competition on the 15th. DO PLEASE JOIN IN.

Well, we have had our week of summer, and as I write this, the skies are leaden and the rain is falling steadily. However, we are lucky in many respects, as there have been very few days when the courts have been unplayable, and we have a nice Clubhouse to shelter in. Cornwall Rosevear golf croquet team recently played their match at Barnstaple, who are in a new location on a flood plain just outside the town. I understood that due to surface water, saturated ground, unmowable grass & finally mechanical problems with their mower, July 25th was the first date they had been able to use their lawns this year.

Talking of lawn mowing, the diesel mower has proved a total success, being easy to use, and much faster than the old Ransomes electric. The bonus came when we sold this via E-Bay for £570, less commission etc, more than we had dared hoped for. Thanks to Stephen for all his work keeping this machine going, and to Paul Schofield for setting up the E-Bay advert.

Club Tournaments We have now concluded the Wilson Salvors Association doubles, the Golf handicap doubles, and Faith Hoop & Hilarity. Rather surprisingly, the weather was kind for all these competitions. All enjoyed good entries, nine pairs contesting the Wilson Salvors, won by Ron George & Colin Hadley, who repeated their success in the Golf Doubles tournament. Suitable rewards for the time & effort both put into organising Club events.

Ron George again organised a most successful Faith Hoop & Hilarity, attracting close to 40 competitors, each playing three 19 point games timed at a brisk 50 minutes, leaving plenty of gaps for Ron's ingenious "sideshows", including for the first time a fiendish slalom course, with time & other penalties for the careless. To give the event a bit of a summer party atmosphere, bowls of Pimms were set out at lunchtime to encourage a bolder & more adventurous approach to the game! The overall winners were Annie LeFevre and Barry Edwards.

At this point, a Chairmans whinge It takes a very considerable amount of time & effort to organise events such as these, even if people enter by the due date. We try to accommodate late entries if possible, but what really throws things awry is if people simply don't turn up on the day. PLEASE, if for any reason you find you cannot come, LET THE TOURNAMENT SECRETARY OR EVENT ORGANISER KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Shortly to be played is the Read Trophy for high bisquers, happily with an increased entry from last year.

Talking of Read



Stephen Read, aka the prowling paparazzo, prepares for an exclusive scoop.



But puts his camera down for long enough to try a rather technical-looking shot. Hope it worked, Stephen (unless of course you were playing me!)

League competitions The group matches have now finished, and congratulations are due to the “B” and Intermediate association teams, who were unbeaten, and will compete in the area semi-finals. That for the intermediates will be a home game, but for the “B”s, an away match, possibly at East Dorset, a long trek. The Federation team played five matches, winning 3.

Unfortunately, neither Golf Croquet team had a successful season, so we will simply look forward to better things in 2013!

Lawns League matches have been played on Lawns 1 & 2, which have attracted favourable comment from our visitors. Lawn 3 has been left if possible for general Club play, but some Club tournaments have had entries which have meant that all three lawns have been needed by the Tournament manager. We are sorry if this means that either Golf or Association players miss one of their Club afternoons, but this is occasionally unavoidable.

Lawn three has been playing well considering that this is its first year, but we are intending to carry out improvement work, and current thoughts are to close it as early as fixtures will allow, to enable some surface dressing and levelling work to be done before grass growth hibernates for the winter.

As usual, we will expect to keep at least one lawn open for most of the winter, with the usual total closure in March.

A gentle reminder – a stroke “which deliberately played is likely to, and does, cause substantial damage to the lawn” is a fault. Substantial generally means such as to affect the run of a ball over it. So please, don’t practice jump shots on the lawns, and don’t try them unless you are

reasonably confident that your mallet won’t dig into the lawn. With the best will, mistakes do happen, and if you do put a dig into the lawn, please do your best to repair it immediately.

D.I.Y We are a largely a do-it-ourselves Club, and this generally works well. Grateful thanks to those who have volunteered to keep catering supplies up to date, and to keep the Clubhouse clean & tidy. Please don’t forget to make your contributions for coffee & biscuits – it would be nice to be sponsored by Tesco, but we aren’t!

At this stage, particular thanks to Trevor who puts in considerable time mowing the large area of surrounding grass, and strims where the big rotary can’t get to. Thanks also of course to Howard for the use of his machine.

Many thanks to those who help set out the lawns and clear them at the end of play – please help with this if you can.

Other tournaments Various members have competed in away tournaments, notably Richard Griffiths at the Worlds in Australia, who reported have had an excellent time; Tony Backhouse who as usual has had his travelling boots on; and recently the Reads & Schofields who played in a level play Golf tournament at Hamptworth. In September, four of us are entered in a September handicap advanced tournament (*note – for veterans!*) on the hallowed lawns of Hurlingham – best behaviour required, and *positively NO jump shots!*

Congratulations to Rosemary Bradshaw, who won the recent Budleigh Salterton handicap event.

Lost & Found Rosemary will be at the Club for the Jennings Short croquet competition, and will bring with her a pair of white gloves left at Budleigh after the GC league match – come & collect if they are yours.

Finally **Fingers crossed for an Indian Summer.**

Best wishes to all,

David