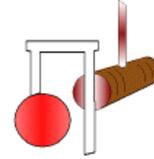


CORNWALL CROQUET CLUB

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Newsletter No. 68, April 2013

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

I'm afraid that there has been something of a gap since the January newsletter – but there hasn't been very much to report! However, with the season now under way, things are starting to happen.

Play in the winter was very limited due to the unkind weather. Insufficient games were played in the short croquet and golf competitions to warrant awarding the trophies.

The adverse weather in the winter and early spring also affected the extent to which we could complete the list of jobs which we had hoped to at least largely finish during March. However, weather windows did allow us to apply two coats of the slip-resistant stain to the deck, to re-coat the equipment shed, and to carry out some indoor work, e.g. to the Club mallets, flags etc. The lawns were all treated for moss and other actual or potential problems, and were fertilised. Further application of fertiliser and weedkiller will be needed for lawn 3, and probably on the other lawns, as grass growth and germination has been very slow in the cold and latterly dry conditions.

The mole catcher was called in when the beasties' activities had become grossly over-ambitious – a mini version of the Cornish Alps. Moles were reportedly caught.

While 1 & 2 are in very reasonable state despite the conditions, 3 which needed more germination & growth is not yet ready for play. We hope that with the warmer conditions & some rain, plus more fertiliser, we may be able to open 3 by early May.

There are various tasks still outstanding, the main ones being the final preparation of the lawn 3 bank and planting the saplings, and the

re-coating of the outside of the pavilion. So expect more pleas for help!

The lawn gang completed setting out and driving hoops on lawns 1 & 2 in temperatures of 3 – 4C, with occasional snow flurries! Grateful thanks to the hardy members involved.

On the subject of lawns, I would be surprised if just about all of us haven't taken a divot out of the surface at some time, with a miscued stroke. If this happens, please repair the damage as much as possible, straight away. Note that in certain circumstances, causing significant damage is a striking fault.

Club play This is of course now in full swing, and follows the pattern of last year. Coaching currently takes place on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month, starting at 10.30. *It would be very helpful if members who wish to come to the coaching sessions put their names on the list on the Club notice board, and indicate whether their interest is GC or AC.*

Club tournaments Just a reminder that the closing date for entries for the Level Play, Dowding, Plymouth and Golf KO competitions is May 1st. Entries & fees to Colin please.

This year, there is no need to formally enter the short croquet or Thursday morning golf events, and there are no entry fees. Just turn up, but by 9.45 please to allow play to start on time.

SWF Leagues Notices are up in the Clubhouse giving dates for all the matches, so if you are interested in playing, please indicate your availability. The level play GC league is a new event this year. *There is an amendment to the fixture list in that the Rosevear team's visit to Nailsea has been re-scheduled to*

Thursday August 8th, to avoid having to travel on an August Saturday.

Away tournaments The Cornwall team retained its position in the top division of the Nailsea Short Croquet team event, played over the weekend of April 13th & 14th. We were fortunate to play on the Sunday, the previous day having been thoroughly miserable, with persistent rain leaving lawns saturated and with some surface water. Sunday's weather was kinder, allowing the lawns to dry to some extent. While still wet, they played surprisingly fast. We got off to a rather disastrous start, going down 0-4 to the eventual winners Nailsea. Things then improved, with 3 wins in the 2nd round, and honours shared in the final two rounds. Nailsea were unbeatable after their third round matches, and were overall winners by a large margin. This left Cornwall, Fowey, Bath and Trendlewood (Nailsea) battling for second place, or to avoid relegation. In the event, Fowey took second place with 8 wins, closely pursued by Cornwall & Trendlewood on 7, leaving Bath with 6 being relegated. In all, 19 teams competed in four divisions.

Representing Cornwall were: Tony Backhouse (handicap 7), David Edwards (9), Des Honey (11), and Dorianne Forsdick (24). Dorianne played really well for 3 wins, and has probably ensured that he handicap will be reduced!

Fowey's team were all also Cornwall members – Stephen Read being the star of their show with four wins and no losses.

Cornwall is again well represented in the Budleigh High Bisquers tournament on April 20th & 21st. Best wishes for success to our competing members.

Open day Our first open day is on Sunday April 28th, from 10.30 to 5.00. Please come along to support & help, and if you know anyone who might be interested, let them know.

Mowing The cutters on the big mower have been sharpened & reset, and seasonal maintenance is almost complete. For those who volunteer (please!) for the mowing rota, we will have a refresher session on the use of the mower, date to be advised.

On the subject of machinery, we have Tony Backhouse to thank for giving the Club a petrol strimmer.

Congratulations To Des Honey who is now a qualified Golf Croquet referee.

Finally We will be running the photo and associated caption competitions this year – judging to be on Finals day. So get snapping – anything croquet related, not necessarily at Porthpean.

Best wishes to all, David

PS – sartorial elegance

