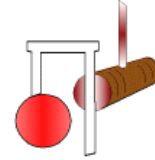


CORNWALL CROQUET CLUB

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CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

What a relief to find that this summer, after a poor start, has produced weather which has been better than most of us had feared. The very dry hot spell resulted in the lawns playing as fast as I can remember, needing a delicate touch. However, the recent rain has surprisingly quickly greened them up again, and in the last few days, visible growth seems to have been happening overnight.

We are hoping and intending to carry out more work this autumn to improve the lawns, but particularly for Association players, the general view is that lawn 3 is well able to provide a good game. The general run of the balls is mostly pretty true, but some final twists and turns as the ball slows down probably make for more problems for GC players. However, our lawns stand up well in comparison with those of most other clubs in our area.

As many of you have probably noticed, we have an electronic mole deterrent situated at the edge of lawn 3 – whether this is effective, or if the moles are just resting, we don't know, but their activity is now very low. (*However – Howard says just you wait until winter*). Not due to moles, but to other beasties unidentified, there are a number of holes and hollows mainly between the gate and the Clubhouse, so do watch your step.

Security

- 1) When I arrived early a few days ago, the side door was not only unlocked, it was wide open. This would have been all too obvious from the car park and access track.
- 2) A week or two previously, one hoop had been left out on the lawn.

Will the last person to leave the Club please ensure that all equipment is put away, and that the Club is fully locked. If you are unsure of where things go, or how to lock up, just ask one of the members who know the routine.

Polite requests.

1. It is helpful to those who set out the lawns if the hoops are put in the wheelie-bins in order.
2. A plea from Ron George and Colin Hadley, who between them organise most of the Club tournaments. Please consult your fixture list and entry forms, and enter the competitions by the requested dates. We cope with late entries as far as we can, but particularly with events with large entries, this can leave the organiser with last minute re-scheduling which can be very time-consuming. Equally, if for any reason you have to withdraw an entry, please advise the organiser as soon as possible. THANK YOU!

Club play & coaching As has been circulated, much diminished interest in the Monday morning coaching has resulted in this being cancelled for the remainder of this season. It is difficult to arrange group coaching where people may be of quite widely differing standards. We are thinking about how best to provide coaching during next season, or indeed the winter. Any ideas please?

Club tournaments Various of these have now been completed – congratulations to the winners – but at the time of writing, we still have the Jennings short croquet, Faith Hoop & Hilarity, GC handicap singles, and the President's Cups events to look forward to. Apart from those, it is clear that some of us at least will be involved in a "September panic" to complete matches which have been running throughout the season. (I did mean to heed my own advice on this, but)

SWF Leagues Both Porthpean and Rosevear have finished their fixtures in the Golf Handicap leagues. Porthpean have an enthusiastic team and have improved on last year's results, with two wins. Rosevear ended the season with a good win against Barnstaple, 13-7, and have won 3 of their fixtures.

Cornwall have yet to win a match in the new level play Golf league, but have one fixture outstanding against Exeter.

The Association Federation teams have had a rather disappointing season, winning only one match, and losing heavily to Taunton Deane, on lawns which had suffered badly in the hot dry weather, also at Budleigh, where the lawns couldn't be blamed! Tony Backhouse is standing down as organiser of the Federation teams – many thanks for your efforts, Tony.

However, the real successes have been with the Intermediate and B league teams, both of whom were unbeaten in their group matches. The B league team played their semi-final on the 17th in wet and dismal conditions, but the opposing Nailsea team proved too strong, and we lost 1-6. Nevertheless, the B leaguers have had a great run – two SWF overall wins, and a semi final – in three successive years.

The opponents, venue and date of the Intermediate semi-final await confirmation.

Work to be done The re-coating of the outside of the pavilion has now been completed. Many thanks, Rhona, Margaret & Stephen.

We would welcome a few more volunteers to go on the “domestic” rota – some people are on the list several times – it isn't very time consuming, so please help – it's your Club. Not to forget gardening. We have various ornamental shrubs which are mostly doing well, but need routine attention, and clearance of weeds.

Come autumn, we will be clearing and planting the saplings on the lawn 3 bank. Howard's weedkiller certainly dealt with the weeds. We need to weedkill, tidy up, and recover the heaps of surface dressing. It would also be good to tidy up the unsightly heap of

china-clay sand – a call for a work party looks likely! Winter time will need the hoops repainting – this wasn't done last year, and they are looking scruffy.

The lawn gang aims to do more work to continue to improve the lawns.

It never stops, does it!

People Tony Backhouse and Pam are shortly to move into a new flat in Duporth, Tony Jennings has just moved a short distance in Par, and Maggie Dawson is also moving. Fortunately, all remain close to the Club. We wish them well in their new homes.

Winter Sorry to mention the word, but if anyone has ideas for social events, visits or suchlike, please let us know. As before, croquet will continue on a more limited basis, subject to weather & lawn conditions.

And finally What follows is stated to have been a genuine GCSE answer. (!???)

Ancient Egypt was inhabited by mummies and they all wrote in hydraulics. They lived in the Sarah Dessert and traveled by Camelot. The climate of the Sarah is such that the inhabitants have to live elsewhere.



The Officer Commanding (Sheep Brigade) considers his tactics before leading his troops “over the top” when the opposing forces (human), withdraw.

*(Wilson Salvors)
Thank you Stephen*

Don't forget – photo & caption competition!!!!