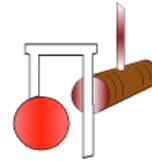


CORNWALL CROQUET CLUB

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Newsletter No. 75, December 2014

CHAIRMAN'S SCRIBE'S CORNER

Well, after a wonderfully summery summer, we are now definitely past short sleeve shirts time. We were very fortunate with Finals Weekend, when the weather treated us very kindly. Congratulations to all the winners, and the runners up, and to all those whose entries made the competitions well supported.

To clarify playing times in the winter season, Club days start at 1.30. Morning competitions start at 10.30. After an experiment with moving from short croquet to 18 point games on the Wednesday morning AC competition, it was decided to move back to short lawn. Unfortunately, on the first day when this should have been played, nobody could find any of the half-lawn hoop holes! Later, Des, Barry & I re-established these on lawn 2, also spray marking the corner positions. If we need lawn 1, more measurement and marking will be needed.

In previous winters, play has been restricted to Club days only. As the lawns look reasonably healthy, it has been decided that subject to sensible assessment of the conditions, games may be played at other times. If need be, we will have to revert to Club days only. At present, the main lawn in use is 2, with overspill onto 1 if numbers require this. In January & February, this will be reversed. Lawn 3 will remain closed until the 2015 season. As usual, all lawns will be closed during March.

To try to limit wear at the corners, would golf croquet players please start their games a couple of yards or so outside the corners – thanks! The lawns are very soft and showing signs of **mallet damage**. Players are reminded that this is a **fault** in both AC and GC. and the player should immediately declare the fault. Before play continues, the lawn should then be

enable the damage to recover quickly. It will not recover if you just stamp it in and leave a hole



Sticking with lawns, we did carry out limited laser levelling on 3, which confirmed that unfortunately, there is something of a ridge between hoops 1 & 2. We hope to be able to make some improvement. The lawns have been vertidraind, thanks to the efforts of Andy, the Golf Club's head greenkeeper. They have also been scarified, with many thanks to Stephen and others who fitted the scarifying heads, and then re-fitted the cutter to allow mowing. They have also been sprayed against leatherjackets, again thanks to Andy. The grass is longer than in summer as the cutters have been raised. We will have to do something about the wormcasts, which aren't quite as discouraging as the recent activities of badgers in my garden.

Due to a number of factors, it has not proved practicable to surface dress & ladder drag, and this will now have to be a Spring task.

While the materials have been bought, a combination of adverse weather, and people being away, has meant that the decking has not been re-coated. There are worn areas that will tend to be slippery, **SO PLEASE WALK CAREFULLY**.

League matches After asking players whether they would be available for the 2015 league matches, we have decided to enter the same

for the B league and Intermediate AC teams looked rather precarious. Colin has kindly volunteered (?) to be Intermediate Team manager.

Other events

Five of us played in the Greek Open AC Croquet Tournament in Corfu – Dorianne, Margaret & Stephen, David & Barry. After a terrible outward journey, our flight being diverted to Athens as landing at Corfu was impracticable due to stormy weather, and seeing far more of Athens Airport than we would have wished, we finally arrived about 20 hours late. The next day saw torrential rain that flooded the courts, and caused the schedule to be hastily amended. After that, the weather was glorious. We stayed in Doriannes's wonderful villa, perched about 1500 feet up Corfu's highest mountain, with fantastic views. We didn't do too badly, Margaret & David both reaching the semi-finals of the main event, Stephen winning the consolation competition, and being runner up in the Golf doubles.

Coaching The pattern chosen this year seems to have been reasonably successful. The Introduction to Association course run by Ian was well supported. We do hope that those who came to this course will come along and join in on AC days, possibly initially playing coached games.

Club Almoner's Report (Liz Honey): It was good to see Lynda Everett and Chris Clarke at the Christmas Lunch and both in good spirits. Lynda has responded well following her first sessions of Chemotherapy and is now back in her own home. Chris is recovering from a broken toe and has already returned to the croquet lawn.

Gill Shaw is now half way through her Chemotherapy and is coping well.

Martin Hughes and Jeff Smith have both been unwell but hope to play again next season.

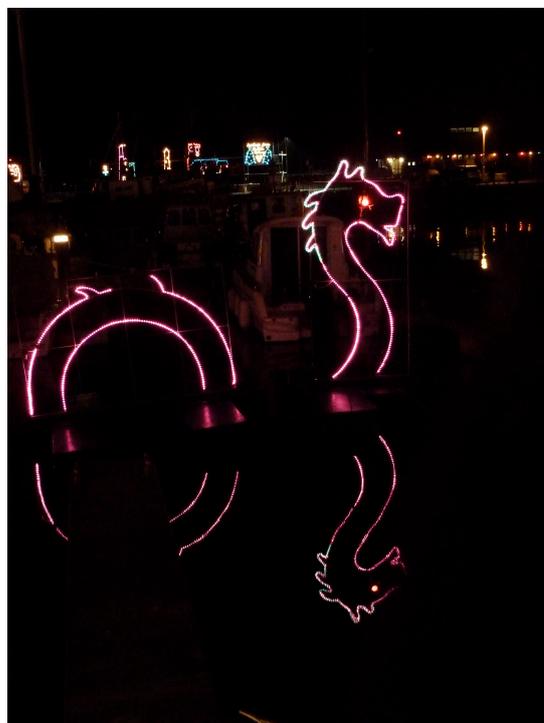
Sue Daw has had problems with her shoulder but hopefully will re-join next year.

All the above have expressed appreciation for the support, messages and cards sent to them from the club members.

Ian Rendell sadly died on Oct 27th. He used to live in St Austell and with his wife Mary, played croquet.

Mulled wine party Kathryn & Kathleen, with extra help, are organising this, which will be held at lunchtime on February 7th. Delicious homemade canapés, and three sorts of mulled wine, will be there to tempt you. Number will have to be limited, and a charge of £5 per head will be made. Put the date in your diary, and watch out for more information to follow.

And finally Please let us know of any other ideas for winter social events.



*So, what have these to do with croquet?
Well it's nearly Christmas!*



Best wishes, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

(Yes, this does mean it's the last 2014 newsletter)

David