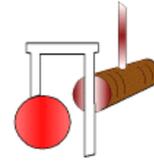


CORNWALL CROQUET CLUB

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Newsletter No. 77, May 2015

CHAIRMAN'S SCRIBE'S CORNER

Well, the new season is now well under way. Firstly, a very warm welcome to our new members. Whatever your level of play, Golf or Association, we hope to see you making good use of the Club.

Secondly, thanks to all those who pitched in during March and afterwards to carry out the closed season maintenance and improvement work. We were fairly well treated by the weather, and just about everything on the maintenance list was done. The major improvement focus was on lawn 3, where some 3.5 tons of surface dressing was brought in and ladder dragged to try to improve the surface. Reseeding was also carried out, and the playing surfaces extended at corners 1 & 3, the new areas being turfed. The excavating & turf laying was carried out professionally, with "amateur" help from Club members, these being very largely Des. He has also paid frequent visits to the Club to water in the new turf, an essential in the dry conditions which followed the main work. Many thanks Des. The turf seems to have settled in well, and a couple of light mows have been done. Despite the cool and dry conditions, the surface dressed areas are mostly filling in well with grass. We are not promising much improvement to the right bend approaching hoop 2, as our laser levelling showed that there is a slight ridge on this line. At the moment, the re-opening date for 3 is uncertain, being dependent on weather conditions & grass growth.

We did go ahead with powder coating of the three sets of "carrot" hoops, partly from Club funds, and partly from generous donations from members. The hoops look very smart, and are performing as hoped.

We have now bought a bar sprayer which will tow behind the main mower. This will speed

up the application of liquid fertilisers, weed treatments etc, and saves the lawn gang having to lug around the backpack sprayer.

Committee After many years as Treasurer, Paul finally retired from this post at the AGM. Many thanks Paul, and we really would like to see you back on the lawns wielding a mallet. We welcome Peter Cutting as our new Treasurer, and on the committee Joyce is back after a gap, and Fiona Russell is a new addition.

Lease After quite protracted discussions, it now seems that the Club will quite shortly have the benefit of a ten-year lease. A lot of work has gone into getting to this stage, and thanks are due to all involved.

Open Day The first of this year's open days was held on April 26th. In the days running up to this, the forecasts were pretty dire. However, on the day, all turned out well, and the event was very successful and well supported.

Club competitions The draw for the Golf Knockout has been made, so you can get playing as soon as you like. The blocks for the AC level, Plymouth Cup and Dowding Cup competitions should shortly be available.

The CA has decided that AC 14 point games will now score 10 index points. Also, the method of allocating bisques in AC handicap doubles, experimental in 2014, is to be adopted as standard in 2015. There is an explanatory printout on the noticeboard.

The current GC handicap system, with "effective" handicaps for those at 3 or below, will continue for this season, but an experimental system is being trialled in East Anglia, and may if successful apply in 2016. Again, we ask that if you have entered a Club competition but find that you can't play, please

do let the competition secretary or event manager know as soon as possible.

Leagues We have entered the same leagues, GC & AC, as last year, after some doubts as to our ability to reliably field AC 'B' league and Intermediate teams. It has proved to be the case that getting full teams for some fixtures is a struggle. If you would like to be available for any of the leagues, please put your names on the lists on the board, and indicate by a tick or a cross which matches you could play in.

Team managers/captains must notify selected players in good time so that they may make any necessary travelling or overnight arrangements.

The first GC handicap league match of the season is always Porthpean v Rosevear. This year, in very chilly conditions, a close and enjoyable match was played, Rosevear managing a win by the narrowest of margins, 10.5 – 9.5.

External events The Club competed in the Nailsea Short Croquet tournament in April. We had hoped to get back into division 1, but had to be content with maintaining our position in the 2nd. Fowey held on to their spot in division 1, but it might be mentioned that all their team were also CCC members! We were also well represented at the Budleigh High Bisquers tournament, but were unable to bring back any of the silverware

Croquet Association At a special meeting, the CA passed motions to allow a gradual increase in capitation fees over a period of years, and to admit all members of affiliated Clubs as CA members. This latter will not take immediate effect while details are being sorted out.

Almoner During the month of April it was good to see playing on the lawns: Ron George, following his operation; Lyn Everett – just one game on a good day, which she really enjoyed; Also Jeff Smith, Martin Hughes, and Lesley Stewart, who is able to leave Marjorie for a while. A warm welcome back to all of you.

Pam Manasseh is making progress but won't be able to play for a while yet, and Tony has been seen up at the Club admiring the lawn improvements.

Gill Shaw is having a welcome break from chemotherapy and when the weather warms up she will be along to see us all.

Dorianne has had a shoulder operation, but after a period when little improvement seemed to be taking place, things are now getting better, and she is back in action with very little moderation to her distinctive follow-through!

And finally **PHOTO EXTRA!**

Best wishes,

David



Ready to lay turf on lawn 3



You rely too much on your GPS, Peter!



“What about the workers”, I hear you cry!



Graceful but ineffective. Ron at Nailsea



Graceful? – and you are supposed to use the end of the mallet – Tony J at Nailsea



Russell disappears into the mist, searching for grass to mow.

STOP PRESS

Handicap GC league – Cornwall
Rosevear 17, Exeter 3.

GC Level league – Sidmouth 15.5,
Cornwall 4.5

B League - Cornwall 2, Sidmouth
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