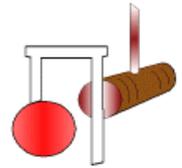


CORNWALL CROQUET CLUB

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Newsletter No. 80, June 2016

Well, the National and Club Open Day is over, so it's high time the next newsletter is published. Sadly, the weather deteriorated still further during December and the first three months of 2016, meaning that we were unable to play on the lawns pretty much all the way through winter. One 'plus' is that the lawns are looking better than ever this year despite the drenching they suffered. That did not deter some hardy souls from coming up to AC coaching sessions in the clubhouse with Richard Griffiths and I am sure we are all grateful to Richard for these.

Also, during the winter break we enjoyed another of Kathryn's social gatherings in the form of 'Pasty and Pud' lunch in the clubhouse. This gave us an opportunity to catch up with one another and enjoy some very good food. Thank you to Kathryn and Kathleen for all their hard work in putting this on for us.



In the last newsletter I mentioned that the cruciform hoops were to be re-coated during the closed season. This has been done and at a lower cost than the 'carrot' hoops, so we are now looking very smart indeed whether using full or half lawns.

Hopefully members will also have noticed that the doors to our two toilets - how did we ever manage with one? - have been eased over the winter, thanks to Stephen Read so there shouldn't be any more need for excessive force to open them.

And what of the moles and rabbits? Well, Des found a new contractor to deal with the mole problem which became quite severe over the first few months of the year when there seemed to have been a determined effort on the part of the little creatures firstly to create a 'new town' under the bank between lawns 1 and 2 and then to undermine the clubhouse itself. We hope that this has now been dealt with but are keeping a close watch on both areas. The rabbits continue to search our perimeter fencing for means of accessing the lawns and, again, we are checking regularly for any signs of breaches in our defences.

Has anybody seen the new white line marker yet and wondered why we have bought another one? I'll explain. Almost since we received the new line marker a couple of years ago we have encountered problems. Complaints to the company's rep. brought replacement and spare parts but we still had problems getting the paint to flow correctly. Our other difficulty was the time needed to clean out the machine after each use. Eventually these difficulties meant that we were taking more time to prepare and, later, clean the machine than

actually marking the lines. Our treasurer, Peter Cutting, decided enough was enough and contacted the firm to see, again, what could be done, having met the new representative at the Budleigh club shortly before. The new rep. came down to see us and, having listened to our many complaints offered to take the machine off our hands and replace it with a superior model **at no cost**. So the new machine cost the club nothing and so far seems to be behaving itself. Hopefully a very satisfactory outcome, particularly when the club is complimented on the condition and appearance of the lawns by almost every visiting team that comes to us in matches.

Association Croquet

The club is struggling to get sufficient players willing and/or able to take part in South West Federation competitions on our behalf. Please consider if you may be able to help, if you are already an AC player, or learn if you play just Golf Croquet at the moment. Perhaps members would like to go and watch part of the Bear of Rodburgh Friendly Match with Cornwall on 29th and 30th this month, not only to offer support but also to find out what it's all about if you are not an AC player.

Whose Job Is It?

Whose job is it to make sure there is sufficient tea, coffee, milk and biscuits for members to enjoy?

Whose job is it to make sure the clubhouse is clean?

The answer to this is - yours - the members.

There is a rota on the clubhouse wall for members to sign up to provide the milk, tea, coffee and biscuits for just one week. It's something that can be done along with your weekly shop. Just get a separate bill for the club items and put it into the envelope below the list with your name clearly marked on it and the treasurer will refund it to you. During the same week please also give the clubhouse and toilets a quick clean. If everyone took on one week

then there wouldn't be the need for some to cover two or even more weeks. Please note that you do not need to buy cleaning materials, toilet rolls etc.

New Members

A warm welcome to new members who have joined the club in the past few months. You will be most welcome at any of the club sessions:

Wednesday 10am - 1pm Short Croquet (half lawns) Association Croquet
Wednesday 2pm - dark Association
Thursday 10am - 1pm Summer Competition Golf Croquet
Thursday 2pm - dark Golf Croquet
Saturday 2pm - dark Association Croquet
Sunday 2pm - dark Golf Croquet

Please arrive by 9.45 for the two morning sessions to enable pairings to be determined. You can join these sessions at any point of the season.

For the afternoon sessions, it helps if members could turn up 5 to 10 minutes early to set out the lawns in time for groupings for play to be decided at 2pm. This is normally done by the lowest handicapped player attending.

Clothing

'Whites' are required for competitions (except the Wednesday and Thursday mornings detailed above). There is a sports shop in Bodmin which is recommended by the Treasurer and another - Trophy Textiles - in Pool Business Park.

If you want to have the club logo on your whites then this can be done at Cornwall Screenprint and Embroidery which is based in the small trading estate behind Tesco at Holmbush, St Austell. Just take the garment along and they will do the rest. Finally, a reminder that flat soled shoes must be worn at all times on the lawns.

Tony Backhouse

Many will remember that Tony attended the club's AGM having shaved his head to raise funds for the charity 'RP Fighting Blindness'.

He has asked me to pass on, through the Newsletter, a very warm 'Thank You' to all those who gave so generously. He has mentioned it on the page at 'Just Giving' which can be reached through his page on Facebook. The amount raised was over £200.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

Due to an Association match having to be played on Wednesday and Thursday 29th and 30th June the regular Thursday Golf Croquet sessions (morning and afternoon) will take place on **Monday 27th June**.

This match was flagged up to all members in an email from Des in February.



A member from Budleigh Salterton club demonstrates the importance of keeping your head down whilst hitting a ball, and afterwards. Also showing a novel way to carry his pegs!

Club Competitions

At last reckoning entries for various internal club competitions appeared to be down on previous years. For those who haven't entered any internal competitions before, please be assured that they are not as scary as you might think and that, whilst there is a serious side to the competition itself the days can be enjoyable with a lot of good humour. Please do think about supporting the donors of the various trophies by entering by the following dates:

Golf Doubles - 9 July
Faith, Hoop and Hilarity - 9 July

Read Trophy (AC) - July 30
Jennings Trophy (AC) - July 30
Golf Singles - August 14
Wilson Salvors (AC) - August 14
President's Cups Golf & AC - September 1

The dates of the matches themselves are in your Fixture List (copy on clubhouse wall). If you miss the entry deadline it may still be worth giving Colin a ring to see if there might be a space.

Almoner's Report

Pam Dodds: Pam Dodds died on June 2nd and her funeral was held on 10th at St. Mewan Church. As the wife of Tony Backhouse, Pam was a great supporter of the club, right from its inception, although not a player. She will be missed by the club and by her family, who demonstrated how much she meant to them by their loving eulogies at Pam's funeral.
Liz

AC World Championships

Congratulations go to Richard Griffiths on his excellent performance in the AC World Championships held recently in Florida. Representing Jersey, Richard won 4 out of the 8 games he played in the Plate, a fine achievement against the quality of players that take part at this level. We look forward to seeing more of Richard this season, both at the club and in SWF matches.
Des

Locking Up

Sorry to 'nag', but there have been several occasions in the past couple of months when the club site has not been left completely secure. These have ranged from leaving the toilet door unlocked to leaving the 'chain' off the main metal gates with the code showing on the lock. If you are the last to leave the club premises please take care to ensure everything is secure and check that taps are turned off.

We Have a Vacancy

The committee still has a vacancy for one member. Do you think you could make a positive contribution to how the club runs? If so, have a chat with any member of the committee to see if you think you have something to contribute and would enjoy it and, if so, let our secretary, Dorianne, know.

National Croquet Day

It seems so long ago now, but I cannot let the opportunity pass to thank everyone who attended the day, helped on the day and helped in preparations in any way. The day went well, the weather was ideal and approaching 40 visitors crossed our threshold.

The number of new members enrolled is not yet known. Nor do we know how many will join in future months or even years as a result of attending on the day, but for me the greatest reward was seeing how members got into the spirit of the day and enjoyed it.

Oh, by the way, the CA is already asking if we want a National Croquet Day next year! Thank you to all who took part, Rhona



Kathleen and Kathryn discover the pitfalls of long skirts, thin wooden mallets and wooden balls.



Golf Level Play teams, Cornwall v Sidmouth. There is a light-hearted side!

And finally - some images from Open Day, thanks to Stephen Read.



That wonderful raffle



The extra games

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