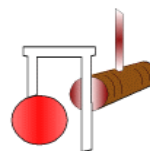


CORNWALL CROQUET CLUB

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Newsletter No. 81, December 2016



Let's start with the lawns! Happily we seem to be winning the battle with both moles and rabbits. There are still a few around and the only way we can totally win is to be vigilant for holes in the fencing and for new mole hills so that we can prevent further attack.

Unfortunately the recent wet weather has started to have an impact on the lawns, rendering the surface very susceptible to damage if we are not extra careful with our mallets. Please do take care when hitting balls so as not to hit the turf at the same time and be aware of where you rest your mallet (and perhaps lean on it!) whilst waiting for your next turn. We are fortunate in that we can still play on 2 of our lawns and hopefully this will continue throughout the winter.

Lawn 3 continues to be improved by the application of top dressing to level out the deeper undulations and all lawns are benefitting from the application of fertilisers. This is all thanks to a small band of members who give up their time to care for the lawns for us. I seem to be saying this in every newsletter, but it still holds true - please consider if you may be able to help out with the various jobs involved. You may not be able to commit to helping on a regular basis, but perhaps you would be willing to be called upon to help with a one-off job from time to time. Either way, please let one of the Officers know.

Committee Notes

In the last newsletter I mentioned that the committee had one vacancy to fill. I am happy to say that Kathryn Smith accepted the committee's invitation and was co-opted onto the committee in the summer. Kathryn has been a committee member in the past.

League competitions in 2017

At a recent meeting of Officers and team captains for both GC and AC teams it was agreed that the club should continue to enter teams in 2017 in the Golf Handicap league and the Golf Level Play league. In Association it was agreed to enter the Federation league and Intermediate league but sadly not in the 'B' league. The decision re the B league was not an easy one, but stemmed from the shortage of Association players with high handicaps. The problem of recruiting players to Association Croquet play has been mentioned before and, as we can see above, is now impacting upon the club's ability to take part in SWF league competitions. If you have any ideas on how we can encourage more members to engage in AC play we would be very pleased to hear them.

GC Handicap League

The club enters 2 teams in the Golf Handicap League - Porthpean and Rosevear. There has been no restriction on the handicaps of players, so it was all straightforward. Last year a new category of league was introduced - the High Handicap League for players with handicaps 8 and above. You may recall an email from Des asking if anyone would be interested in playing in this league and the response was minimal. However, some clubs did decide to play in it and the result is that it will continue in 2017. So, in Golf Croquet there is now the High Handicap League, the Handicap League and the Level Play League.

Along with our Chairman Des, Secretary Dorianne and team captain/committee member Kathryn I attended the AGM of the South West Federation. In common with many AGMs there were reports from officers and committee members. All seemed fairly

positive. Then came resolutions which had been tabled by several clubs in the area in addition to 2 which had been tabled by the committee. The latter were passed with little problem. Onwards to the remaining 8! Of these one AC rule was changed so that opponents are paired in the Federation League in the same way as they are for the Advanced league, i.e. in handicap order for singles games.

In GC one only rule change is relevant to Cornwall Croquet Club and centres around which handicaps should be entered in which league, Handicap or High Handicap. After much discussion it was agreed that the Handicap League would be for players with handicaps up to and including 10 plus the option to include one player with a handicap above 10.

2016 SWF Results

Golf Croquet - Rosevear had a good year coming 2nd in the South West division, winning 5 matches and losing 1. Porthpean didn't fare quite so well and came 4th in the South West division, winning 2, losing 3 and drawing 1. The division comprises 7 teams.

In the Level Play league unfortunately Cornwall came bottom of the league.

Association Croquet - In the B League (handicaps from 16 upwards) Cornwall had a very close battle for 2nd place with Sidmouth, both having won 3 and lost 2 matches. Sidmouth was given the 2nd place by virtue of having 2 more points than Cornwall.

In the south division of the Intermediate League (handicaps 9 - 18 plus optional 1 more from 20 - 22) Cornwall came 4th out of 6, winning 2 and losing 3 matches.

In the Federation league (handicaps 14 and under plus one optional 16 - 18) there was a 3-way tie for 2nd place between Sidmouth, Lym Valley and Cornwall, all of whom had won 3 and lost 3 matches, but unfortunately Cornwall ended up 4th out of the 7 teams because we had the lowest number of points.

Most Improved Player Awards

You may recall that last year we tried a new way of identifying the most improved players in Golf and Association croquet by asking you, the members, for nominations for the awards. This seemed to work quite well, although more nominations would have been even better! It has been decided to use the same system again this year. As previously, the final decision will be made by the committee.

If you feel you would like to nominate a member for either award, or both, please send the following information to our secretary, Dorianne, by 14th January:

- i) Award for which nominated - AC or GC
- ii) Name of member nominated
- iii) Short résumé of their improvement over the year since the 2016 AGM last March - no more than 250 words (can be in note form)

Please do try to think of someone deserving of the award as we want members to be involved as much as possible in this process.

Hints and Tips: *For this issue I have asked Ian Wilson to comment on stroke faults in AC and GC. As this is a wide area Ian has concentrated initially on 'Double Taps'. 'Crushes' and 'Damage to Court' faults will be covered in the next newsletter.*

Striking Period errors in AC and GC, Part 1

In **AC** errors committed during the striking period are called **Faults** and are defined in **Law 28**.

In **GC** errors committed during the striking period are called **Striking Faults** and are defined in **Rule 13**.

There are features common to any error committed under Law 28 and similarly Rule 13: -

AC

In **AC** if the fault is identified before two further strokes (the 'limit of claims' for Faults), then the turn ends, any points scored because of the Fault are cancelled, and the striker should ask the adversary whether the balls should be Rectified i.e. returned to their positions before the fault

occurred. If the adversary decides against Rectification, then the balls must be moved to the positions they occupied AFTER the FIRST stroke in error – thus if the fault is noticed immediately after the first error stroke, the balls will simply remain in their positions, they will only need to be moved if a second stroke has been made (Law 28b) In Handicap play, if the striker has bisques, a decision about whether to take a bisque or half-bisque, need not be taken until the adversary has decided on Rectification or not (Law 37h).

If the 'limit of claims' has passed, then there is no remedy.

GC

In **GC** if the Striking Fault is identified before the opponent has played their next stroke, any points scored because of the Striking Fault are cancelled and the opponent may choose to leave any affected balls in their positions after the striking fault or move them to where they were BEFORE the Fault occurred (Rule 13b1).

In Handicap play, if the striker decides to take a free turn any balls affected by the Striking Fault must be moved to where they were BEFORE the Fault occurred (Rule 16f).

If the Striking Fault is not identified before the opponent has played the next stroke there is no remedy.

Double Taps

AC (Law 28 a7A & 7B)

In Croquet Strokes or in Continuation Strokes where the Striker's ball is already touching another ball, this law stipulates that the multiple contact between ball and mallet should be 'visible' (can be seen by someone with normal sight and in a good position to observe), without resorting to a deduction made using the behaviour of the balls and mallet. In many cases, it is extremely difficult to differentiate prolonged contact (itself a fault, 28a7C)) and double taps. In practice, these lax standards make the two ball strokes playable and judgeable by a referee.

In other strokes (single ball) any subsequent contact between mallet and ball after the first contact is judged as a fault, unless the shot is a roquet, a peg out or hits a ball just pegged out in the stroke. Note the

following exceptions - if the shot is a roquet it is a fault if the ball has hit another object after the roquet and if the roquet was on a 'dead' ball where the striker's ball was initially very close to the 'dead' ball.

GC (Rule 13a6)

Any subsequent contact between the striker's mallet and ball after the initial contact is a double tap. The most common causes are a gentle shot with excessive follow through or a hard shot along the line of two balls where the two balls were initially close.

Some rules of thumb to guide a player's judgment when playing along the line of two balls:- If a mallet hits one of two balls along the line of centres which are 4mm or less apart then the shot should be considered a fault, either a double tap or under Rule 13a8 (mallet and 2 balls in contact). If two balls are less than 2 inches (5cm) apart then a hard stun shot is quite likely to generate a double tap. Similarly, a hard shot played with follow through may generate a double tap even if the two balls are 6 inches (15cm) apart – in this case the striker's ball might be observed to travel further than expected. In these circumstances playing at an angle to the line of centres may avoid a double tap.

Ian Wilson

***Note:** Des asks that all GC players read and adhere to Appendix B, page 43 of the GC Rule Book: Double Tap guidance for players and referees.*

Very many thanks to Ian for this very comprehensive summary of Double Taps.

Millie's Journey

This time last year I was making a collection to help enable a little girl, who has stage 4 Neuroblastoma Cancer, to go to America for specialised treatment which is not readily available in this country. I am very pleased to give you all an update and thank you all again for your generous support.

Millie, now aged only 4, has been to America for her first Proton Therapy treatment and will be going every 3 months for the first year and then 6 monthly in the second year. She is pretty much on the road to recovery, goes to school again now

and her hair has grown back following the intense chemotherapy treatment she had to undergo before going to America. All very positive, particularly for such a little one.

If anyone wants to follow her on Facebook the address is 'Millie's Journey. There appear to be 2 Millie's Journey sites, but Millie McColl is the 3 year old mentioned. The other one refers to a 10 year old.

Liz Honey

Croquet Books

Just a reminder that there are several good books in the clubhouse. These are available for loan to members. If you decide you would like to borrow one, please complete the loans register in the bookcase both when you take the book out and when you return it. This will enable us to keep track of them.

Almoner's Report

Bob Dack died in August following his battle with cancer and in the last week we hear of the sudden death of Tony Jennings whilst out in Benidorm on holiday. Des has written a separate obituary with more details.

Paul Schofield had a T.I.A about a month ago and following a spell of no driving he is now able to resume his independence behind the wheel.

Liz

St Agnes Challenge

In this annual friendly match it was Cornwall's turn to travel to St Agnes again on Friday 23rd September.

We played 24 games in all - 16 doubles and 8 singles. To say the St Agnes lawns have their own unique properties would be an understatement. I had never, until that day, seen a ball pass the front of a hoop and then decide to return and run it! Great fun and a match played in good spirit. In an email following the match the captain of St Agnes team wrote: "We always enjoy having you as you are great sports and it is great fun, despite lawn 3 hoop 2!!" And that's what it's all about, surely. The final score was St Agnes 17, Cornwall 7. All credit to St Agnes on a well deserved victory.

Tony Jennings

Tony was a member of Cornwall Croquet Club from its very early days. Having played croquet as a child, Tony was one of the 8 people that formed the croquet club at Fowey in 2003. By 2004 he was also playing in CCC's first competition on the new lawns at Porthpean where there were just 14 members. In April 2005 Tony, with Ian Wilson, Paul Schofield and Nigel Grant, represented the club at its first away competition at Nailsea. His dedication to the club is demonstrated by the eight occasions between 2007 and 2015 that he has won a trophy, also by the two trophies that he has gifted to the club. One of these was awarded for the annual Short Lawn competition. This he always ran in his quiet, kind and unflappable way, ably assisted by Mr Kit in recent years. It was only his failing health that prevented him taking on the role of Chairman.

Whilst on holiday recently with friends in Benidorm, Tony was taken ill and subsequently passed away at the age of 74. He will be remembered with great affection as both a skilful and gentlemanly player and as a hard worker at Cornwall Croquet Club.

Des Honey



Tony as we will remember him, sharing a joke as he received the Plymouth Cup on Finals Day in 2015.

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Gentle Reminders

There have been several instances in recent months of the clubhouse not being fully secured at the end of the day. Please ensure that the double doors are locked as well as bolted and that both toilets are locked. In the damp weather the toilet doors, particularly the new one, swell up and become stiff and this could lead to an assumption that they are locked. Please check with the key to make sure.

I have also been requested to ask that rubbish is removed from the clubhouse at the end of the day's play.

The Big Mower

We are often complimented by visiting teams on the condition of our lawns. This can only be achieved through the tender loving care given to them by the small band of members who mow and feed them and, of course, through the efficiency of the machinery they use. It has become apparent for quite some time that our current mower is needing more and more attention to keep it going and the committee is therefore actively seeking a replacement. If we manage to find one then we will keep the present one in the hope that it can be adjusted to cut the outfield. Currently this is done by Trevor Bainbridge using a mower borrowed from the golf club.

I'm now coming to the crunch!! Both mowers will not fit into the mower shed so we hope to be able to store the present one in the shed (stable) in the field below lawn 3. Currently this is surrounded by brambles and the approach from the gate is uneven. It is quite possible, therefore, that in the winter months we will be looking for offers of help to ensure that we can access that shed. Please do think about what you can do to help so that you are prepared when the call for working parties comes. For obvious reasons we don't want to leave either mower outside.

Advance Notice

Kathryn is hoping to run another 'Pasty and Pud' event after the New Year. Keep a lookout for details later.

Gallery



Joyce Wilson presents the Joyce Wilson Trophy to Bob Cash, winner of the Golf Singles Tournament, 5th September 2016



The cups and trophies on Finals Day, 2nd October 2016



Linda Lang receives The Golf Knockout Cup from President Howard Rosevear, 2nd October 2016



Rhona Foster receives The GC Presidents Cup from President Howard Rosevear, 2nd October 2016



Des Honey receives The Plymouth Cup from President Howard Rosevear, 2nd October 2016



John Clements receives The Golf Summer Tournament Trophy from President Howard Rosevear, 2nd October 2016



GC Handicap Doubles Final. Des Honey and Bob Cash (winners) v Howard Rosevear and Trevor Bainbridge. 1st September 2016 (postponed from 1st August due to bad weather)

A good crowd came to watch.....



Local interest at St Agnes. This visitor was so absorbed in the game that he eventually had to be escorted off the premises.



Rhona