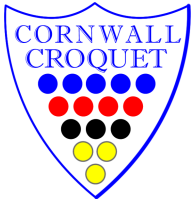
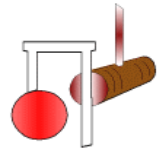


CORNWALL CROQUET CLUB



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Newsletter No. 82, June 2017

Let's start with the lawns—we usually do! I think it is generally agreed that they have recovered from the very wet winter and spring very well. Thanks are due to the very small team of helpers who care for them, mowing feeding and keeping an eye out for attack from rabbits. You will all have seen that we now have a 'new' mower which is much more modern than the previous and easier to use. It's so easy that two of our lady members are now on the mowing team! The 'old' mower is still with us as a back-up and this is a very satisfying situation meaning that in the case of breakdown we can always keep the lawns cut for us all to use.

I must also thank those who keep the club's perimeters clear of weeds so that stray weed seeds don't invade the lawns (thank you Peter) and the one man mowing team that regularly cuts the outfield and the two smaller fields at the side and end of our general area (thank you Trevor)

Where is everyone?

There is a list of dates on the wall in the clubhouse where members can sign up for cleaning duty for just one week. But where are the members? Only a handful have signed up to date so, please, if you are willing to take on one or two of the empty week slots you would be very welcome. It's not an onerous task - just a sweep round the floor and wipe down the worktops and sink area, plus cleaning the two toilets. It shouldn't take long and is something our gentlemen members could undertake as

well as the ladies.

Winter/Spring activities



I know that winter and spring are distant memories now, but it's worth noting one or two things that have happened. Before Christmas Kathryn kindly offered to teach us how to create centrepieces for our Christmas tables. Sadly only five came but the results were much admired.

Also over the winter we held social games afternoons on Thursdays and Sundays. To say that on occasions the clubhouse rang with laughter would be an understatement! We enjoyed a variety of table games and, more importantly, had a lot of fun and got to know each other much better. This certainly kept the club alive for those who wanted to while away some time with fellow members and is an initiative I hope to repeat next winter if we are again faced with enforced lawn closures due to the wet conditions.

What about the Pasty and Pud' event laid on, again by Kathryn, in February. This was the third year she had organised such an event and proved to be as successful as those

before. We were blessed with good weather again and managed a game or two in the afternoon. This was very much appreciated after a long wet spell preventing us from playing. Our thanks go to Kathryn and her helpers for making this possible. I expect by now that you are getting to see why I asked Kathryn to take on responsibility for social events through the year - she does it so well and has already got more planned!



The Puds

Some Observations on Play and Etiquette from Richard Griffiths

The following notes are based on recent experiences and observations at the Club. Numbers in brackets are references to the relevant laws or rules in GC or AC.

AC laws: End of turn, continuation shots, misplaced balls and bisques.

A number of players are forgetting to play their continuation shot, particularly when it is the last shot before quitting the lawn, but also when it is the last shot before taking a bisque. Should the player not want to move the ball by a further stroke, that is allowed (for any stroke) by declaring it (AC 4d4),

but too often the player suffers a disadvantage by playing a bisque prematurely, when the continuation shot could have improved the position. The adversary if seeing that this is about to happen is required to forestall (AC 37e), but if this does not happen there is no remedy available for either player (AC 4d5 and 37e).

A related error, and one usually much to the player's advantage, concerns starting a new turn with a bisque and playing the striker's ball from within the yard line area instead of first placing it on the yard line, where it should have been placed at the end of turn. It is a misplaced ball, and to play it is an error (AC 27) which adversary should forestall (AC 23c2); however, it is an error categorised under *Other Cases*, for which there is no remedy under the laws, and unless forestalled the stroke is condoned as lawful (AC 27i).

Etiquette.

The Laws and Rules both have sections that are essentially to do with etiquette (GC 14 and AC Part4). Double-banked games suffer especially when players fail to be aware of what is happening in the other game, and cause distraction by loud calls and conversation in earshot of the other players, walking in front of a player's shot, or time-consuming mishandling of ball-marking (best to check you have ball markers easily available before starting the game), and failure to comply with the guidance on which game has precedence (AC 52). These sections of the Laws and Rules are well worth a read regardless of which format is your primary choice, and compliance with them will enhance everyone's enjoyment of the game.

Many thanks to Richard for these timely reminders. The Committee is particular keen to highlight the safety aspect of returning balls to the appropriate position off the lawn. Please do be aware of other players and send your balls off the lawn as close to where you are as possible. They can then be moved safely to the baulk line or

yellow corner whilst outside the playing area.

Next time look out for guidance on the rules concerning Damage to Court faults from Ian Wilson.

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 Comments

The club has sent good wishes cards to Anne and Richard Peak after Richard's accident, Tanis Boxall after her operation and an informal celebration for his 94th birthday was held at club for Lesley Stuart. A letter of thanks was sent to Tony Backhouse for his contribution to the club as he is in the process of moving to Exeter to live closer to family. A card of congratulations was also sent to Margaret and Stephen Read on the occasion of their Diamond wedding anniversary. A letter was also sent to Elizabeth and Paul Schofield who have moved to Budleigh Salterton. Club members have visited them in their new home where they are settling in very happily.

It is a small gesture to send someone a card from the club so please let me know if you know of anyone who is in hospital, unwell, or has a special event etc.

Joyce Wilson
joycewpl26@gmail.com 01726 823722

Coaching

Early in the season we were fortunate to have coaching sessions from Richard Griffiths and new member, Bob Burnett for both Golf and Association Croquet. This was followed by a full morning of Golf Coaching from far country member, Paul Francis. Our very sincere thanks to all three for giving up their time and sharing their expertise with us. One point that arose time and time again was the need

for practice and this led me to realise that I don't devote enough time for this. It's all very well attending coaching sessions, but when do we put in the essential follow up practice? Social play is just that - social - and very enjoyable. We learn from it, of course, but don't get many opportunities to develop individual skills. Time for this can be a problem and if you live a distance away from the club then this is also a factor, but if you are intending to come up to social play, then how about trying to arrive, say, half an hour earlier to devote to practice, after all, they do say 'practice makes perfect'!

Association Croquet

Following a successful series of coaching sessions on Wednesday evenings by Ian Wilson and Peter Cutting it is good to see newcomers to this form of croquet coming up to Wednesday morning Short Croquet.. The club is now in desperate need of more players in AC and this is a positive step forward. As stated in the December Newsletter, we have had to pull out of the 'B' League in AC this year as it was becoming too difficult to field a team for the league fixtures. We are now seeing a similar problem starting to arise in the Intermediate League. This is not a new problem and is certainly not restricted to our club alone, but it is one we have had for some years and looking back through past Newsletters I see that a shortage of AC players was highlighted in newsletters some years ago. So, why not give AC a try? It doesn't always have to take 2 - 3 hours for one game - short croquet is often restricted to 1¼ hours.

Health and Safety

Yes, I know, we seem to be bombarded all the time with regulations to keep us safe, but they are important, as we are sometimes reminded when we hear in the news of terrible tragedies. As the club has responsibility for the clubhouse, lawns and surrounding grounds we need to have a Health and Safety Policy. You will find this

displayed on the club noticeboard together with a risk assessment document which highlights areas and activities where care needs to be taken. Please do take time to read these documents.

In particular I am to advise you:

- a) not to use any electrical equipment which looks as though it might be faulty, but to mark and remove it and report it as soon as possible to any officer of the club.
- b) not to attempt to lift heavy or awkward objects without appropriate assistance.
- c) to observe appropriate hygiene regimes when handling and storing food and to follow advice on notices when chemicals have been applied to lawns.

The club's health and safety officer is **Dorianne Forsdick**

As a general rule if you see anything or any activity that is potentially unsafe, please report it as soon as possible to any officer of the club.

Whilst on the subject of documents I would also draw your attention to the new Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy on the noticeboard. This does not only apply to children, but also to vulnerable adults and for that reason is relevant to us should either attend the club.

Security

Yes, that old chestnut again, BUT, a very serious one.

Whilst at Budleigh Salterton at a GC league match, I received an email with this message in:

"When I arrived at the club yesterday, for a coaching session, I found that the door to the clubhouse was wide open and hooked back. There were no signs of anybody having been in there since Sunday Club Day. Everything else was locked, including the gate....."

This could easily happen again and again because the clubhouse has a snap lock, which can be snapped after the rest of the site has been locked. The lock is not very

secure, if somebody wanted to get in, but we shouldn't be inviting casual visitors to have a look around by leaving the door open."

There have been other instances of doors being left unlocked or open and this has raised again the need for all members to be extra vigilant when locking up. We all have our own sequence for this, but I suggest that the clubhouse itself is secured on both doors, with the keys in hand, and then the back path is taken to the keys' hiding place, ensuring that both toilets and the equipment shed are locked before leaving.

A SUMMER BUFFET



Friday

28th July

Salads

*Savoury platters of cold meats
and cheeses*

Assorted Pavlovas

Tea/Coffee

all for

£7.50 p.p.

**Croquet from 4pm,
Buffet served at 6pm.
Bring your own cold drinks if
preferred.**

Numbers limited to 35.

**Please sign up on the list in the
clubhouse or contact Kathryn direct
on 01726 64158 by 21st July**

Out and About

Extract from an email from Des Honey:

"Rhona will be travelling on the day and has offered to take Ron and Bob.
Des & Kathryn have booked accommodation at Sidmouth."



Ron and Graham - oh dear! If you insist on knocking a ball off the court it's perhaps best not to choose the green one. (They took almost 5 minutes to find it!)



Our Treasurer, Peter, strikes a pose at the Nailsea AC Short Lawn Competition whilst waiting for his turn!

Do you ever wish you could 'jump' over a ball in the jaws of a hoop. I know some of our members are very good at this, but during a GC league match against Sidmouth recently Porthpean team encountered a 'jumper' who could pull off some truly remarkable feats. Not only were his jumps high, but also executed from significant distances from the hoop and including several bounces. Inevitably they soon became referred to as 'Barnes Wallises'. It must be said that the player, Michael, was very happy to explain and demonstrate to us all how he achieved these when off the lawns, showing the true spirit of sportsmanship.



Photo by Felicity Owen

and finally.....

'Springwatch' at Cornwall Croquet Club.



It looks like she may be sitting on eggs so hopefully they will hatch soon. Please be extra careful not to disturb and frighten the adults away.

Rhona