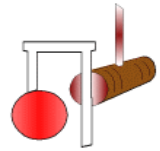


CORNWALL CROQUET CLUB

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Newsletter No. 83, December 2017



Well, I suppose the first thing to think back on would be our AGM. Not only staged at a completely different time of the year, but heralded by the unwanted 'entertainment' that the hall's fire alarm provided. Thanks go to Felicity for all her efforts in finding someone who could stop the horrendous noise the alarm made and to all those who helped in making the move to our own club building go as smoothly as it did. From my personal point of view - what a 'baptism of fire'!

For those who didn't attend, a real highlight of the meeting was the presentation of the CA Diploma to Ron George in recognition of all he has done for croquet, not only at our club but also for other clubs in Cornwall.

In the last newsletter I mentioned the reduced number of members signing up for cleaning duties. I'm happy to say that we finally had all weeks covered, but this was only because some members took on two or even three weeks. Hopefully more will join in next season to spread the load.

On to the lawns. In the December Newsletter last year I reminded members of the need to take care with mallets, avoiding hitting the turf in strokes and not leaning on mallets whilst waiting for turns. The same applies this year as the lawns can get soft after rain and therefore susceptible to damage. The condition of lawns is closely monitored and it is possible that all three will have to be closed, but you will be given as much notice of this as possible. Meantime, after heavy overnight rain it would not be wise to go up for a morning session and please use your discretion as to whether they are playable in the afternoon. If not, then there are lots of games in the clubhouse for a social afternoon. It is always a difficult decision to close all three lawns, but once this does happen we will re-start the

regular social games afternoons which were appreciated by members last winter/spring.

Committee Notes

Those who attended the AGM will know that we left that meeting with two vacancies to fill as, sadly, there had been no nominations for a Vice-Chairman or a committee member. The good news is that we have managed to fill the committee vacancy and in January next year Keith Wakeford will be invited to his first committee meeting. That still leaves us with a vacancy for Vice-Chairman.

League Competitions in 2018

This year we gave quite a lot of thought to the possibility of entering one team in the Golf Handicap league and one in the Golf High Handicap league. You may recall that the handicap league is for players with a handicap of 10 and below, with the ability to including one player of handicap 11 or 12 and the high handicap league is for players with handicaps of 8 and over. In the end we decided to keep to two teams in the handicap league for another year and think about it again next year. If you have any views on this please do let any of the officers or team captains (Bob and Kathryn) know.

The other Golf Croquet team we will be entering will be in the Level Play league.

In Association Croquet we are hoping to enter the B league again. This is for players with handicaps of 16 and over. We are also adding an entry into the AC League for Advanced Play. In this league there is no restriction on handicaps but, as the name suggests, it really is for lower handicapped players. In addition to these two, there are also the Intermediate League and Federation league teams. So, lots of opportunities for you to get involved in playing for your club. It may seem a little daunting, but it really is

enjoyable. You meet players from other clubs and go to play on different lawns. In most teams you would play one group of clubs at home and the other 'away' and this would reverse the following year so that everyone is treated fairly, both on the lawns their matches are played on and on the travel involved. Please do think about joining in - it really is enjoyable.

Hints and Tips

Last year we were given some very helpful and clear advice from Ian Wilson on Striking Period Errors in AC and GC with particular focus on double taps. He is now covering Crushes and Damage to Court faults.

Striking Period Errors in AC and GC, Part 2

Crush Shots

AC (Laws 28a9 & 28a10)

To be a fault, the striker's ball must be hit into a hoop upright or peg so that mallet, ball and upright are in contact simultaneously.

It has been demonstrated that this fault is not as common as might be thought: If the striker hits the ball directly at the upright it is more likely to be a double tap, due to the very short time the ball and mallet remain in contact after the initial contact. Unless the ball is within about 2mm of the upright a crush is unlikely.

In addition, Law 28a10 deals with the situation where the striker's ball is **already touching** an upright (hoop or peg) before being struck with the mallet. It specifies that the stroke direction must be **away** from the upright to avoid the crush fault.

Note that if the shot is a peg-out it is **not** subject to this Law.

GC (Rules 13a7&13a9)

To be a fault, the striker's ball must be hit into a hoop upright or peg so that the mallet, ball and upright are in contact simultaneously.

In addition, Rule 13a9 deals with the situation where the striker's ball is already touching an upright (hoop or peg) before being struck with the mallet. It specifies that the stroke direction must be **away** from the upright to avoid the crush fault.

Damage to the Court

In both AC and GC, it is expected that any damage is repaired immediately **after** the stroke is judged to be a fault or not.

AC (Law 28a15)

Criteria for committing this fault are that the damage must be caused by the mallet (not the striker's ball) and that a subsequent stroke played over the damaged area (before any repair) is **significantly affected**.

A test of what constitutes 'significantly affected' is not specified in the Laws. The Commentary on the Laws suggests that a ball passing over the unrepaired damage with a speed such that it stops at approximately one mallet length away, but at a position more than one ball's width away from where it would have done if the area were undamaged, would be a fault.

In addition, since amendments to this Law in 2008, this applies only when the striker's swing is impeded by hoop, peg or a ball not in contact with the striker's ball, or, when a Jump Shot is being attempted, or, when the striker's ball is part of a Group.

The rationale behind this amendment is that the shots specified carry increased difficulty in execution and are therefore likely to 'go wrong'. They are, nevertheless, **intentional** and the risk of damage to the court could be lessened by playing the stroke in a different way.

Restricting the circumstances where the Law is applicable is intended to deter the striker from being 'reckless' with difficult strokes and yet be lenient with **unintentional** damage caused by otherwise unexceptional strokes because of miss-hits or faulty technique. In the case of this 'unintentional' damage, advice, coaching or warning after the game are expected to be used to reduce the likelihood of such occurrences.

Note that the AC Laws (unlike the GC Rules) does not specify any consequences after damage to the court outside of the striking period. Any damage to the court caused by 'temper' or 'high spirits' are expected to be dealt with by warning advice after the game.

GC (Rule 13a15)

A fault is committed if the striker plays a stroke which causes damage to the court which, before repair, can affect a subsequent turn. Note that the damage must be caused by the mallet; damage caused by the striker's ball is not a fault.

Note that (unlike in AC) there is a non-striking fault under rule 12b for if a player causes damage to the court which, before repair, can affect a subsequent stroke. In this case the Rule does not specify mallet damage, so it includes damage caused by the mallet in air-swings and any careless use of the mallet, feet or other 'equipment'.

A test for how much damage affects a subsequent stroke is not specified, but the commentary suggests that if a ball rolled gently over the damaged area is likely to change direction then it is a fault.

Ian Wilson

Thank you, once again, to Ian for this summary of the laws and rules.

Well Done Kathryn!

As we all know, Kathryn Smith is a marvel at organising social events for us and she maintained that enviable reputation recently at the Pasty 'n' Quiz event on 17th November. It was a very enjoyable evening with lots of laughter and amiable banter. At the end of the evening Kathryn told us she would be organising another event after New Year - probably in February. Keep a lookout for details!

Not only are these very enjoyable events which enable members to get together informally, they also result in very welcome funds for the club. In 2017 Kathryn's events have raised £229! Our sincere thanks go to her and, of course, all who have helped with and supported the events.

Richard Peek

Many will recall that Richard had a terrible accident earlier this year which resulted in him being hospitalised for months. We have now heard from him that he has made good progress and is living at home now and getting about the house using a walking frame or sticks. This is very good news but sadly Richard and Anne are still going through a bad time as Anne is now in

hospital following a fall at home in the summer. Richard tells us "if any members would care to come and say hello it would be good to see you."

David Laity

Sadly, we have recently learned of the death, at the end of November, of David Laity, a former member of this club who was very active in the formation of Cornwall Croquet Club. All who enjoy playing at our club owe him a debt of gratitude.

St Agnes Challenge

As you know, each year Cornwall Croquet Club holds an annual friendly GC match with St Agnes Croquet Club. This year the match was held at Porthpean and in true tradition was won by us.

We all thoroughly enjoyed the day which, again according to tradition, was topped off by a good tea provided by the home team. The result of the day was a win to Cornwall with 14.5 points against 5.5 to St Agnes

*Sunday 17th December 1.30 - 3.30
Escape from the pre Christmas
hustle and bustle with tea/coffee,
mince pies and friendly chat in the
clubhouse
No need to play.*

2017 Finals

Finals Day was well attended despite the rather chilly weather. Congratulations to those who took part in the finals on the day, at competitions held earlier in the year and to all those who took part in the competitions, whether winners or not. Here are some of them.



*Golf Handicap Doubles Tournament. The winners:
Linda Lang and Russell Moore. August 2017*



Faith, Hoop and Hilarity. The winners of the doubles final: Liz Honey and Kathleen Moorshead



The Rosemary Bradshaw Bowl. AC Summer Short Croquet. The winner: Bob Cash



The Jennings Short Croquet Tournament. The winner: Ian Wilson. September 2017



AC Plymouth Cup. AC The winner: Dorianne Fors-



The Read Trophy AC High Bisquers Tournament. The winner: Bob Cash. September 2017



The Dowding Cup - AC Knockout. The winner: Ron George.



AC Level Play Trophy. The winner: Bob Burnett


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New Members Trophy. The winner: Rob Adams



Golf Croquet Presidents Cup. The winner: Bob Cash

And finally:



GC Knockout Cup. The Winner: Liz Honey



One of our newest members, June 2017. The pair successfully raised 3 chicks whilst with us. Perhaps they will return next year now they know we're



Association Croquet Presidents Cup. The winner: Bob Burnett



Bob Burnett gets down to business in the AC Presidents Cup final.

Have an enjoyable Christmas

Rhona

*Other winners, but regrettably no images:
Brian Jepson Cup for the GC Thursday Morning
Tournament - Felicity Owen
Wilson Salvors for AC Doubles - Bob Cash and Des
Honey*

Trevor and the Croqueteers

Trevor, whilst in Portugal earlier this year, called in on the Bela Romao Croquet Country Club. He was very impressed and asked around in our club to see if anyone was interested in a trip there in October. A small group of us, Howard, Janet, Kathryn and Felicity joined Trevor on a five day trip at the end of October 2017. We flew from Exeter (although you can fly from Newquay earlier in the year), to Faro and after a thirty minute taxi journey arrived at the stunning

We had a delicious soufflé and salad for lunch. The food is excellent at the club house. It is a thirty minute walk from the sea, although a few of us walked to Fuseta and it took us a little longer! From the clubhouse and lawns there are stunning sea views. The club has gorgeous gardens with plumbago, hibiscus, lantana, oleander as well as olive and carob trees to name but a few.



Bela Romao. We were greeted by Sarah who is a chef and who with her partner Lita run the club.

We stayed in the villa & studio apartments next door to the club which are very well appointed. Both the club and the villa have pools and ample lounging space with an abundance of sun loungers and hammocks. We opted for a food and drink starter pack and this included fruit, wine (a super house white Insolata), beer, cold meats, cheeses, tomatoes, bread and pastries.

The villa is set in its own gardens with a roof terrace, terraces to front and side, and five double bedrooms with en suites. It was very well equipped and like the clubhouse eclectically and attractively furnished.

We shared the lawns with club members on the weekend and had the lawns to ourselves the other days. The club has a lot of mallets that can be borrowed, they are all wooden and some are round headed. For those of us who use metal mallets these were more challenging! There are two lawns at the club and another under development. The grass is in an exceptionally good condition.

We had some very good games with club members, the owners and amongst ourselves.

Most evenings we took a taxi to nearby seaside restaurants and had some super fish dinners. It is possible to eat at the club but this requires booking well in advance.

We all enjoyed the trip immensely and would recommend the club and the villa. It's a super setting, fabulous gracious and generous hosts, amazing food and a great place to play Croquet.

Felicity Owen

Many thanks to Felicity for being kitty holder and cashier keeping our spending under control and for the high tech method she used with her iPhone to produce our E Ticket boarding passes. Thanks from Howard and I to the three lovely ladies for their great company and for keeping food on the table when eating at the villa. A great time was had by all.

Trevor Bainbridge

There's a possibility of going again in October next year and/or in 2019. If you're interested let Trevor know.

More photos of the club and villa can be found on trip adviser: www.tripadvisor.co.uk/Attraction_Review - g312713 - d6164456 - Reviews - https://BelaRomaoCroquetCountryClub-MoncarapachoFaroDistrictAlgarve.html

