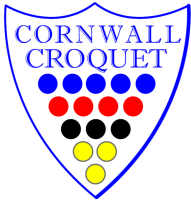
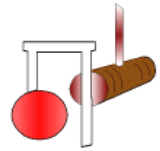


# CORNWALL CROQUET CLUB



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## Newsletter No. 84, August 2018

Where has the time gone? I would normally send out a Newsletter in June, but things have been quite busy this year, so apologies if you have been eagerly scanning your email lists every day to no avail.

I suppose the first thing to mention would be not 'the elephant in the room', but 'the new building at the club' (let's call it the 'cabin' for now). What a job we have had getting as far as we are with it. Having received planning permission and approval of our grant application we hoped to have it up and running by the beginning of the 2018 season, but the weather had different ideas. The very wet winter and spring delayed groundwork being prepared by the builder and then made it impossible for a lorry to drive onto the site to deliver the cabin. Even when we did risk it the lorry succeeded in getting itself bogged down and Trevor (acting as unpaid clerk of works on that day!) had to call upon a farmer friend to come with his tractor and help. Since then the weather turned full circle and delayed our getting the finishing touches to the decking - building steps at the end and sorting out the drop at the front. Despite these setbacks I hope you feel this has been a worthwhile project which will enhance the facilities at our club. Having travelled to several clubs this season for SW Federation league matches I can safely say that our facilities, including all buildings and lawns, are excellent compared to many.

I am happy to say that we have now received our 50% grant for the cost of the cabin from the Croquet Association.

So, what's been going on since the last Newsletter? The winter indoor games sessions continued despite some very cold weather and, of course, that event which is rapidly becoming a permanent fixture in our club calendar - 'Pasty and Pud'. This was held in early March and provided a much appreciated opportunity for members to get together in that long hard winter.



*The 'Puds' revealed.*

What came next? Well we managed to open for the 2018 season on 31st March despite the very wet weather over the previous few months. Thanks in no small measure to the members of the Grounds Sub-Committee

and the volunteers who do so much to keep our club looking so good. When we have visiting teams coming for matches they often admire our site and the condition of the lawns and are surprised to hear that it is all done by volunteers from the club.

Thinking of volunteers, there seems to be a very small number of ladies (yes, it is all ladies who do it, but it doesn't have to be) who keep the clubhouse and toilets clean. I am sure there are others who could help with this and fill up the gaps in the list on the wall by the microwave. Please do try to help if you can.

At the beginning of the season we welcomed a team from East Dorset Croquet Club to a friendly match. This was a very informal affair which I am happy to say Cornwall won. A very enjoyable day and a good result. Some of the East Dorset members enjoyed their visit so much that they returned on one of the Open Afternoons to play.



*Members of Cornwall Croquet Club and East Dorset Croquet Club at the end of an enjoyable day.*

The various teams representing our club in South Western Association leagues are having mixed fortunes. However, one of the biggest problems is the difficulty some team captains have in actually getting a team together to play. This is mainly in Association Croquet, but there have been

problems in Golf Croquet as well. The fact of the matter is that we don't have sufficient members taking the plunge in the field of Association Croquet. I know a lot of members feel AC games take too long, but they don't all have to be. For example 'Short Croquet' is played on half lawns and is only timed at 1¼ hours and, believe me, I have played in a few GC games which have taken that long to finish and haven't had the chance to sit down between turns! If you have enjoyed the Charity One Ball event then perhaps you may find this shorter form of AC worth trying. Worth thinking about.....

### **Richard Griffiths**

It was with great sadness that we heard of the sudden death of Richard Griffiths in May.

Richard had been a member of this club for many years. He has held the Office of Vice-Chairman and was a Croquet Association AC coach.

He played at national and World Croquet Tournaments where he had many successes and was Captain of the Channel Islands team in the CA Inter-County Championship, to mention just a few.

Richard was a club coach and in recent years I have been particularly grateful to him for the time and effort he dedicated to coaching at our club in both GC and AC during the quieter months.

We shall miss him here but our thoughts must be with his family for the loss they have suffered.



*Extracted from our own club Newsletter - A SW Federation League AC match at Plymouth in May*

2010. Some familiar faces of our members on the right. Standing, from right to left: Richard Griffiths and Peter Cutting. Seated, from right to left: Tony Backhouse and Stephen Read.

Photo by Stephen Read

**The Committee is particularly 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 yellow corner whilst outside the playing area.**

That is an extract from last year's June Newsletter and still we are seeing balls being knocked right the way down or across the lawn when there is another game on the same lawn. Please do be mindful of others on the lawn and avoid a nasty accident.

### **Almoner's Comments**

Thank you to everyone who has let me know when members have been unwell etc. I have spoken to Chris Clark, Graham Clarke, Tanis Boxall, Stephen Read, Colin Hadley and Marlene Bowden. If anyone has slipped through the net, my apologies.

I was not able to take any action re. the death of Bonny Riches. She had not been a member of the club for a few years and I have no contact for any family members.

Joyce Wilson

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### **AGM**

The club's AGM this year will be held in the Pattern Hall, Charlestown, hopefully alarm bell free, on Sunday 4th November. It is perhaps appropriate at this time to mention that the committee has, for over a year, been running short of one member - a Vice-Chairman. Hopefully this vacancy will be filled when we have elections. We will also need a new Treasurer as Peter's term of office ends this year and he has indicated that he will not be seeking re-election. Please do think seriously about finding a new Treasurer and if you need any information of what the role entails I am sure Peter will be happy to answer any

queries. This is a vital role in the club and Peter has worked very hard to ensure the club's funds are managed well as well as sourcing sponsorship of hundreds of pounds which has kept our insurance costs at a very low level.

A Treasurer is one Officer we cannot manage without so, please, think about who could fill it, or even if you could yourself.

### **Leslie Stewart**

This seems an appropriate point to mention one of the celebrations we have enjoyed this year - that of Leslie Stewart's 95th birthday. As you will know this took place on Sunday 11th June, although the actual date for Leslie was 10th June. It was good to see Leslie's sister down again to share in the festivities.

To mark the occasion we were all treated to a slice of Leslie's birthday cake, a delicious fruit cake made by Kathryn. At the end of the afternoon Leslie took the remaining pieces to share with residents at Penrice House and, of course, his wife, Margery.



*Cutting the cake*

### **Publicity**

You will have noticed that the committee has been trying to promote the game of Croquet both at the club and in the wider community. We extended this year's National Croquet Day to a week and attracted one or two new members; more new members have come from recommendation from existing members. Members constitute a vital part of the club. It seems easy to say, but without them we would not exist and because we are a



large club we have higher overheads than others and therefore need more members. Because of the hard work of several people we have managed to keep membership fairly stable, but still need more.

Another event to show croquet to the outside world was the visit of a group of Polkerris Beavers. Coming just a short while after Leslie's birthday celebration these little people aged from 6 to 8 offered a sharp contrast to club members and to those who came to help. They thoroughly enjoyed their visit and even the smallest managed to handle the full sized mallets surprisingly well.

Joyce arranged for a visit of members from St Austell Bowling Club so that they could see what croquet is all about. Those who came had a really enjoyable time. It was interesting to hear from them that they share similar problems to ourselves - attracting new members, getting help with running the club etc. We now look forward to receiving an invitation to go and try out bowls!

Following this Des presented croquet to people in St Austell when St Austell Brewery invited the club to demonstrate the game in Aylmer Square and more recently Kathryn and Felicity have already put on a demonstration and opportunity to 'have a go' at Lanhydrock. Such events may not immediately result in new members joining, but they do promote the game in the area and perhaps sow seeds of interest for the future.

There will be another event at **Lanhydrock on Monday 13th August** and if you are able to go along and help this would be much appreciated. **Please see the notice at the club for details or contact Felicity or Kathryn.**

### Reminders

A reminder - again - about locking up. We now have two more doors to lock - the cabin. Both of these doors have double locks so please do not give up turning the key until you have felt the lock operate

twice.

There have been instances recently of lights being left on in the toilets and the large parasol base being left out. Please just open the toilet doors to check lights and taps before locking up.

The parasol base has already damaged the new decking by being dragged across it. It is heavy so to protect both the decking and your own health get someone to share the load and help you.

**Safety** In the hot weather we have all been drinking more water and squash. This means glasses are being taken outside, so care needs to be taken not to leave them where they can be broken. We have a small number of plastic tumblers which are the much safer option for outdoor use.

**Corner flags.** It was only when I started marking the courts' white lines that I became aware of the correct positioning of corner flags, so I thought perhaps others may also be unaware of this. The corner flags must be placed in each of the four corners of the lawn and must touch the inside edge of the white lines. They should not be placed on or outside of the line itself.

### Safeguarding

Your attention is drawn to the club's Code of Good Practice - Safeguarding Childrency on the noticeboard above the bookcase. As we have more children visiting the club please read it and adhere to it. This exists for the benefit of us all.



*Happily our feathered friends managed to make the journey back to us this year.*