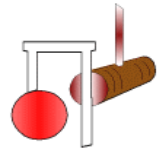


CORNWALL CROQUET CLUB

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Newsletter No. 85, December 2018



What a Year!

2018 has been a year of highs and lows. We managed to get a 50% grant of a little under £5000 from the CA to enable us to buy the new cabin in order to store clothing and kit. This has made a significant difference to our clubhouse which is no longer cluttered with coats, mallets and bags, providing more room for us to sit and relax in safety. We had excellent weather throughout the summer giving us more opportunities to play than I can remember during my membership of the club. We also celebrated the 95th birthday of one of our members - Leslie Stewart. Quite an achievement for Leslie who was still coming up twice a week to play.

Sadly we have lost members as well. As reported previously, Richard Griffiths died suddenly in the summer and only recently we heard of the death of Stephen Read. Stephen had been a stalwart of the club for many years, taking care of the mowers, putting his hand to fixing anything that needed it and generally helping in all sorts of jobs whenever he could. He was also a very good player and much admired by Golf Croquet players in particular when he used his knowledge of angles to run hoops that most of us would struggle even to attempt.

Then we heard at the end of November of the death of Marjorie Stewart, Leslie's wife. Marjorie and Leslie have been members for very many years and in their earlier days played for the club in league matches.

On a brighter note, for the first time in several years we now have a full committee with Keith Wakeford now our Vice-Chairman and Bob Burnett joining as a committee member. If you attended the AGM you will know that there had been no nominations for Treasurer following Peter's retirement. At that time Bill Waghorn said

that he was willing to take this on and we left the meeting with Peter and Bill making arrangements to meet so that Peter could explain what the Office entails. I am happy to say that subsequent to that, Bill was appointed to the Office of Treasurer at the committee's meeting at the end of November. So, welcome Bill!!!

League Competitions

2018 has been a difficult year in league competitions, particularly for Association croquet. The plan for us to enter the AC Advanced Play league had to be abandoned when we lost Richard early in the year. In the Federation League we didn't fare very well and in the Intermediate League we could only play four of the six matches due to the inability of other clubs to raise a team. The newly revived B League team was only able to play four of the normal six matches with one having to be abandoned when the lawns became flooded, and the other not being played as our opponents couldn't raise a team.

In Golf Croquet Rosevear played seven, won two, drew one and lost four matches, whilst sadly the Level Play team didn't fare any better, winning just two of their seven matches. It has to be said, however, that this is another very challenging league with seven matches to be played in a wide geographical area stretching from Poole and Swanage in the east to Taunton in the north. Porthpean played seven, won five and lost two, leaving them a creditable second in the league. Many congratulations to all the Porthpean players and their joint captains, Kathryn and Kathleen and thanks to all who played in any league for giving up their time to represent our club.

For the 2019 season we have had to take stock and rest some teams. There will be

only one entry in Association and that will be the Intermediate League for players with handicaps from 9 to 18 plus one player whose handicap is 20 or 22, if desired. In Golf Croquet we will be resting the Level Play team. The remaining two teams will be 'Handicap' and 'High Handicap'. The Handicap league is for players with handicaps of 10 or below with the option of one player whose handicap is 11 or 12. The High Handicap league is for players whose handicaps are 8 or above. From these you will see that players with a handicap of 8, 9 or 10 are entitled to play in both leagues. As these are separate leagues you could play matches for both teams. This flexibility will benefit team members as well as making life easier for the team managers. The change will also, hopefully, encourage more less experienced or new members to enter. Playing in these leagues and visiting different clubs is interesting, enjoyable and worth giving a try. So, please sign up for whichever team(s) you would like to play in when the lists become available at the start of next season

Our club matches were well supported through the year and, for a change, largely unaffected by poor weather. Many had good numbers entering, but still not all members join in. It really is worth 'having a go'. These club competitions are friendly affairs, enjoyable and make the club more vibrant. They also give good experience for match play at league level. So, let's see if we can get even more entries in 2019.

Thank You

This club needs to rely on the goodwill of members to help with maintenance of the lawns and premises and for those extras that the club couldn't afford to purchase. As you know, last year we received the very generous donation of a defibrillator from one of our members. I am delighted that this year, only recently, Keith Wakeford has donated a substantial multi-functional ladder to assist us with maintenance jobs and former member, Tony Dyson, has donated a gazebo which will be very useful to offer shade in summer as well as providing a 'meet and greet' space for open days. Very

many thanks to them both.

Finals Weekend

When the Saturday dawned sunny and warm this year we thought we were in for a good weekend weatherwise. That turned out to be over optimistic when Sunday gave us a complete change of temperature forcing players to resort to fleeces and spectators to seek shelter from the cold in the clubhouse. However, this didn't stop proceedings and finals games were played in good spirits by all concerned.

Here are some of this year's winners. Photos with thanks to Des Honey.



The Trophies



AC Level Play Trophy, presented by President, Howard Rosevear to the winner: Bob Burnett



The Dowding Cup - AC Knockout, presented by President, Howard Rosevear to the winner: Des Honey



GC Joyce Wilson Trophy for the Golf Croquet Singles tournament, presented by Joyce Wilson to the winner - Bob Cash



AC Wilson Salvors presented by Ian Wilson to the winners: Bob Cash and Des Honey



GC Summer Tournament Trophy, presented by President Howard Rosevear to the winner: Felicity Owen



GC Presidents Cup presented by President, Howard Rosevear to the winner: Bob Cash



GC Handicap Doubles Cup, presented by Pam George to the winners: Bob Cash and Des Honey

Golf Croquet Rules

Those who have received their latest copy of The Croquet Gazette will hopefully have noticed a large two-page spread on the 5th Edition of GC Rules. The Croquet Association has adopted the new rules with effect from 1st March 2019, so we will be starting our new 2019 season under these new rules.

The new rule books are not yet available, but we are told that they will be 'well beforehand'. If you can't wait to see what has changed - and there are quite a few changes! - you can see a full copy of the new rules on the World Croquet Federation website. Go to www.worldcroquet.org.uk/index.php/croquet-information/golf-croquet and click on the link to the Rules of Golf Croquet. Another helpful link on that page is to a summary of the changes and you will find that at the link 'WCF GC Rules Principal Changes'.

Whether you are desperate to read all about the new rules or not, please remember that we will start the new season using them so perhaps you could find some free time on wet and windy days in January and February to read through, at least, the summary of changes.

Charity One-Ball Competition

As you know for several years we have included a Charity One-Ball competition in our club programme and this will continue next year. Each time we hold this competition an entry fee is charged and all the money raised is donated to a local charity on behalf of the club.

This year we have also agreed to take part in the National CA Charity One-Ball Competition. This has been running for the past 12 years and to date more than £35,000 has been raised. As with our own competition, each year a different charity is chosen and for 2019 the choice is the Alzheimer's Society. Certainly a very worthwhile charity.

One Ball is a fun game suitable for both AC and GC players alike. The rules are very simple and don't particularly favour either of the codes. So, please do make sure you join in. The organiser for our club One-Ball competition will be Des Honey and for the

CA competition it will be Bob Burnett.

Association Croquet Coaching

If you were at the AGM, or if you have read the minutes of the meeting, you will know that Bob Burnett has offered to take on coaching in Association Croquet in order to boost the number of AC players in our club. You will have read earlier that we have insufficient players for all but one of the AC leagues and this is quite a serious situation for the club. Coaching is open to all members of our club, whether they have started to play AC or not, as well as any from other clubs who may want to join in. **There is no charge and no need to book. Just turn up on the first day.**

Bob will be making a start in January with the first two sessions, "An Introduction to Association Croquet" indoors at **1.30pm on Thursday January 10th and Thursday January 31st.**

By way of clarification: Thursday afternoons have been selected for these two initial sessions because we know that this day is convenient for the majority of Golf Croquet players. It is not the intention to continue holding sessions on Thursdays after the 31st and prevent either participants or others from playing Golf Croquet. On Thursday 31st Bob will have a good idea of how many participants there are and which days will suit the majority for future sessions and plans will be made accordingly. As I am sure most will appreciate, it is always difficult to find days for such events that will suit everyone's commitments, but he will try his best. **Please do try to support this project - you may find that you enjoy AC - I have!!**



And finally

I shall be going into hospital for surgery immediately after Christmas and laid up for 2 - 3 months, so leave you in the very capable hands of our Vice-Chairman, Keith Wakeford

Have a Merry Christmas and a Very Happy, Healthy and Successful New Year

Rhona

