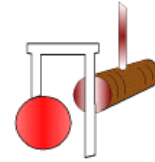


CORNWALL CROQUET CLUB

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Newsletter No. 74, September/October 2014

CHAIRMAN'S SCRIBE'S CORNER

As I write this, Finals Weekend is a couple of days away. Probably by the time I finish, it will be over, and winners will be clearing spaces for their trophies. After that, there will be a pause in competitive play before the winter sessions start. Just a reminder to those not on email or who have lost Des's info, this is what is intended – Summer season ends October 12th, Winter calendar starts October 13th. Winter mornings competitions start Wednesday & Thursday October 15th & 16th. Winter Club days start at 1.00pm.

In the July newsletter, I commented on the remarkable run of hot dry weather in June, with the sun umbrellas out on several occasions. Amazingly, after a bit of a relapse in August, September has been a real extension of summer, and there is nothing nasty forecast for Finals. The very dry weather has been wonderful for playing, unless you find very fast lawns a problem (anyone out there who doesn't?). It is also hard on the lawns, which have remained in pretty respectable condition, but the drought conditions are unsuitable for feeding & weedkilling.

However, we do seem to have cracked the problem caused by the rabbits, thanks to our own efforts and those of outside contractors. The ground at the base of the rabbit fences has been weedkilled, and this will be repeated as need be, so that we can inspect for damage or holes in the fencing. The pile of clay sand has been shifted and the residue dumped in the fringes of the car park area – I'm told that the rabbits have taken up residence in it.

The last load of surface dressing we bought proved not really suitable, but we have come to an arrangement with the Golf Club to buy the right material from them. Main initial work to the lawns will concentrate on Lawn 3 – we

still haven't found time to laser level the critical area of this, but really do hope to very shortly. **STOP PRESS – NOW DONE**

Lawn 3 will be closed immediately following Finals Weekend so that work can start with levelling, surface dressing & ladder dragging, while the grass is still growing.

The new white lining machine has indeed proved easier to use than the old one, and minor problems have been sorted out with the makers. The old machine has been given to the new St. Agnes Croquet Club.

Club Competitions Congratulations to the winners of the events which have been played since the last newsletter: Faith Hoop & Hilarity – Kathryn Smith & Bob Dack; Wilson Salvagers – Dorianne Forsdick & Jenny Burrows; Jennings Short Croquet – David Edwards; Golf Handicap doubles – Dorianne Forsdick & Russell Moore; Golf Handicap Singles - Fiona Russell. More details and reports are on the website

We have, as before, unfortunately had to postpone both the New Members & AC Novices events.

League matches As foreshadowed in the July Newsletter, this has not been a vintage year for us in the Leagues. In the Golf handicap league, Porthpean had 3 wins, including a walkover, Rosevear 2 wins. 5 matches were played. In the Golf Level, Cornwall could do no better than the one win against Sidmouth, plus a walkover against Kingston Maurward.

In the Association Leagues, the Federation teams won 2 from 5, the Intermediate 2 from 6, including a walkover against us, and another for us. The B league teams played four

matches, winning one and gaining a walkover in another.

There seems to have been an increasing problem for Clubs to raise teams for away matches, with more walkovers this season than I can remember happening before. There were good reasons for some, but we were rather surprised that a Club the size of Budleigh couldn't raise a GC team to visit us.

Not a League fixture of course, but the Friendly against Nailsea has had to be postponed for this year, with the hope that we might be able to play it early in 2015.

Other events Once again, Cornwall's Peter Cutting and Paul Schofield played at the Hurlingham Autumn Veteran's AC tournament. Peter didn't sweep to a win as in 2013, and in fact returned with his handicap of 5 brought back to 6. Paul got a very respectable 3 wins from 6.

Five of us are shortly going to Corfu to play in the Greek Open Croquet Tournament – Dorianne, Margaret & Stephen, David & Barry. (*what is the Greek for a double tap push shot?*) The event is described as a holiday with croquet.

Coaching The pattern chosen this year seems to have been reasonably successful. The Introduction to Association course run by Ian was well supported.

Work party We need if possible to re-coat the decking with the slip-resistant stain while it is still dry. New tins are in the equipment hut. Re-coating at least part of the Clubhouse is also needed, plus correcting the assembly of the front window frames, & re-sealing.

Club Almoner Howard has suggested that we should have someone to undertake this task – really just to make contact with members who we know are unwell, or who have for some reason stopped coming, to find out what any problem may be and see if we can offer help or support. Volunteer please!

Christmas Lunch (Yes, I know it's still September!) - This will again be held at the Kingswood on December 4th. The menu and list is on the board.

And finally Please let us know of any ideas for winter social events.



Just a reminder – this is what a threat of rain looks like!



Fiona & Jenny in action in the Golf Handicap Singles.

Best wishes,

David