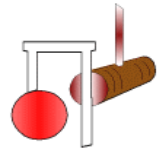


CORNWALL CROQUET CLUB

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Newsletter No. 79, December 2015



Isn't that just the way of things? In the last Newsletter I commented that the rabbits and moles had gone away to find someone else to annoy. How wrong could I be - the moles are back but fortunately not on the lawns. Their favoured burrowing spots appear to be under the clubhouse decking and on the path between the clubhouse and the gates, but no doubt action will be taken to send them away again.

Still on the subject of the lawns and premises, rainy November has left the lawns very wet and soft. This means that the slightest touch on the grass surface with a mallet often results in damage. It has therefore been necessary to take the most regrettable decision to close all lawns until they dry out and become firmer again. You will be advised by email when they become playable again.

Following the success of powder coating the 'carrot' hoops at the beginning of the 2015 season the committee has decided to also have the cruciform hoops coated. This will be a great relief to anyone who, in the past, has undertaken the task of re-painting the hoops during the closed season.

You may recall that I ended the section on lawns and premises in the September Newsletter with a reminder that the club needs volunteers to help with caring for the grounds and premises. We are grateful to two more ladies coming forward to help with the white lining. This is a job that has to be fitted in between matches, social play, weather conditions and the lawns being mown - often at short notice, so the more the merrier.

There's still a need for more help so please think about what you can do and let one of

the Officers know.

League Matches

In the last Newsletter I mentioned that two of our Association Croquet teams had reached the semi-finals in Federation competitions. In Federation League South our team met the Bath team at home on 13th September. The result, unfortunately, was a loss for us 3 - 4. Despite that I am sure we would all congratulate them on getting to the semi-final. In B League South our team met Lym Valley, again at home. They enjoyed better fortunes and won 3 - 2. This led them to the final which was held at Bath. Here they competed against Llandaff, but were beaten 3 - 2. Despite this, many congratulations to them for reaching the final.

Hints & Tips: number 1

(from Richard Griffiths)

Let's start with some elementary but crucial issues that often cause problems. They are to do with the simple matter of going up to the ball, and hitting it nicely.

Make sure always to "stalk the ball" for at least a couple of yards, even on the simplest of shots. The mallet goes where the feet are pointing, and the way to get them in the right direction is to walk up to the ball along the line you want the ball to go. This won't happen reliably if you just step sideways onto that line and then turn to face the aiming direction. If you happen to find yourself near to the ball it is very tempting simply to do this, and a frustrating miss at a 1-yarder is often the result. Make a conscious decision to stalk the ball until it becomes a habit.

As you make the shot, keep everything but your arms still – don't suddenly stand up if the shot was from a bent-knee position, don't lift the head or shoulders, and don't walk forward into the shot as soon as you've hit the ball.

Unless you are deliberately playing a stop-shot, make sure that the mallet follows-through, and that the mallet path is straight along the direction of aim, and not curved left or right.

Thank you for these reminders Richard.

Committee Notes

You may recall an email from our Chairman in October referring to a suggestion from the South West Federation to set up a Golf Croquet High Handicap League for players with a handicap of 8 or higher. At the S.W Federation AGM in November it appeared that there had been a small response to this and most of those who were interested were in the east of the region. Members of our own club had also shown little interest in the proposal so we decided not to enter at present.

In 2016 there will be a 'National Croquet Day' on 5th June in order to raise the profile of croquet both locally and nationally. It has been suggested that clubs join in by putting on event(s) to help. Watch this space and if you have any ideas on how you could help please let us know.

Thinking of buying new kit for next season?

Our Treasurer, Peter Cutting, has sent me this information:

"Bodmin Sports Shop has recently set up. Amongst other things, it specialises in bowls clothing which of course is complimentary with croquet clothing. They have an extensive range of shoes, bags, waterproofs, menswear, ladieswear, outerwear and headwear - all in white. Apparently bowls people travel down to Bodmin from Devon and Somerset! The other outlet for those 'down west' is Cornwall Bowls at Camborne."

Thanks Peter

Most Improved Player Awards

If you attended the AGM in March 2015 you will remember we had a discussion on the selection of recipients for the award of most improved Association Croquet player and Golf Croquet player. The committee has considered this and would like to try involving members in these awards by asking for nominations for them. The final decision will be made by the committee.

If you feel you would like to nominate a member for either award, please send the following information to our secretary, Dorianne by 12th January:

- i) Award for which nominated - AC or GC
- ii) Name of member nominated
- lii) Short résumé of their improvement over the year since the 2015 AGM last March - no more than 250 words (can be in note form)

NFU Insurance

The club used to insure everything with a broker called Perkins Slade Ltd. When our Treasurer, Peter Cutting, received our insurance renewal notice with a premium of £417.34 he thought it would be worth seeing what else was available. NFU quoted £262.35 for the same cover and he was able to negotiate sponsorship of £275.00 in addition. In simple terms, this meant that we were getting the insurance for nothing. All NFU would like in return is that we give them some publicity. For this purpose you will notice an advertisement for NFU elsewhere in this newsletter. You are asked to consider the NFU when renewing insurance and to mention our club.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Richard Griffiths on being selected to play in the Association Croquet World Championships which will be held at the National Croquet Center, West Palm Beach, Florida from 16th to 24th April 2016.

We wish him well.

2015 Finals Weekend

This was held on the 26th and 27th September and was well attended,

especially on the Sunday afternoon. The weather was perfect as can be seen from these photos kindly supplied by Stephen Read.



Bob Cash - The Brian Jepson Trophy (GC Summer Ladder)



Tony Jennings - The Dowding Cup (Association Croquet Knockout)



Peter Cutting - AC Level Play Trophy



Russell Moore - The Rosemary Bradshaw Bowl (AC Short Lawn)



Tony Jennings - The Plymouth Cup (AC)



Martin Hughes - Golf Croquet Singles Knockout Trophy



Peter Cutting - AC President's Cup

and finally



Des Honey - GC President's Cup

Congratulations

Congratulations to Stephen Read on being awarded the Croquet Association Diploma at the recent CA AGM at Hurlingham. Stephen's citation:

"Stephen joined the Fowey Croquet Club in 2003 and then the Cornwall Club a year later. He was immediately involved with the upkeep of the club machines at the latter club and has devoted hundreds of hours to equipment and grounds maintenance. He has made himself indispensable as maintainer and operator of the lawn maintenance equipment used for expanding club facilities. It is true to say that, had it not been for Stephen's experience and devotion, the club would have been hard-pressed to keep the lawns in their current fine condition. He is a member of the club Technical Committee,



to which he contributes much good advice and information. He has been known to make parts for mowers and other devices

and finds many useful items through the Internet. He is a keen photographer and can always be seen recording croquet action for posterity. He and his wife have produced and maintained photographic records of the club's many activities. He is always keen to help with the development of new players to the game and encourages them to extend their experience in various ways. He somehow manages to find time to play both croquet codes and has achieved a very good level in each. He has, and still does, represent the club in several Federation Leagues and has entered several CA Tournaments.

Although Stephen has been playing croquet for only 12 years, he has contributed more to the club, and to croquet generally, than most players with twice the years of experience."

Almoner's Report

It is good to report that we are all doing pretty well. Philippa Cutting (Peter's wife) has successfully had her heart surgery after two aborted visits to Derriford, and it doing very well. She loves working in her garden and will be back behind her wheelbarrow well before spring. It is a good job nothing much needs to be done outside at the moment. Take care Philippa.

Jeff Smith, who was very poorly a while back, is home and also making good steady progress.

At our Christmas meal on 8th, a collection was made for a little girl who is undergoing lots of treatment for stage 4 Neuroblastoma. She needs to go to America for further treatment as it is not readily available on the NHS here. I am absolutely delighted and thank you so much for your generosity and I know Millie's parents, Dean and Lynsey, will be too. £119.20 was dropped in my red box and will be added to my ongoing collection for "Millie's Journey". A huge THANK YOU, I was quite overwhelmed when I counted it out.

I wish you all A Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year,
Liz

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PICTURE GALLERY



It's a dog's life! Watching the Dowding Cup final.
Photo by Stephen Read



Members of Porthpean GC team enjoying a chat with the team captain from Exeter club.
Photo by Trevor Bainbridge



Peter Cutting runs rover with blue in the SWF Association League semi-final.
Photo by Stephen Read



Caught damaging the lawn!

St Agnes Challenge

On 10th September St Agnes Croquet Club made the journey to Porthpean for a return match in the St Agnes Challenge against Cornwall Croquet Club.

In perfect weather 24 games were played - 16 doubles and 8 singles - by players of all abilities and handicaps. The final score was a win for Cornwall with 18 points against St Agnes 6.

The St Agnes team enjoyed the experience of playing on good, fast lawns and promised another invitation to their home ground in 2016.

Croquet Books

There are several good books in the clubhouse on playing croquet. 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.



During 2015 many members have been observed engaging in a new game. It can be played by several players and involves them working together towards a common end. The players are divided into two separate groups - 'pointers' and 'placers'. 'Pointers' must scour the lawns in search of pairs of holes. Once they find a pair they must remain in situ and await the arrival of a 'placer' (see 2nd person from the left, above). The 'placer' must drop the appropriate metal hoop into the two holes as carefully as possible. It has been noticed that advanced players seem able to take on the roles of pointer and placer simultaneously, although this occurs normally when fewer players are taking part. The game is over when a short, white pole with coloured stripes at the top is placed in a single hole in the centre of the lawn. Players who finish this game in under 10 minutes are rewarded by being allowed to play croquet on the lawn."



Level Play match in the beautiful setting of Kingston Maurward Gardens, nr Dorchester.
Photo by Rhona Foster



A fine jump shot by Russell Moore
SW Federation Association B League semi-final.



SW Federation Association B League semi-final. Jenny Burrows pegs out.
Photo by Stephen Read



Dorianne Forsdick starts her black ball with characteristic vigor.
Photo by Stephen Read

