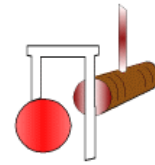


CORNWALL CROQUET CLUB

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Newsletter No. 46

December 2008

Chairman's Corner

We have been lucky, since the end of the season, to be able to play on lawn 1 on most of the club afternoons. Those hardy members among us have enjoyed either golf or association croquet or both. The Wednesday club days have been given over to short-lawn croquet, which is virtually the same as ordinary association croquet, with one or two rules that make little difference to normal play for all but Richard; who has to ensure that he makes two peels before he can peg out. Opponents are determined by a set pattern, once everybody has drawn a letter, and two games, each of 1½ hours maximum duration, are played. It has been great to see some members, who are new to Association, taking part, and holding their own. If you went through the "Transition to Association" course, or have only played a little Association, then this is a golden opportunity to get some experience by playing with an experienced player, who will guide you throughout the game. Don't feel that you are not good enough to take part; come and have a go and prepare yourself for next season. Don't forget that club afternoons start at 1.00 pm., and that warm clothing is advisable.

There will be some changes to the club web site next season. Paul Schofield has volunteered to take over from Ian Wilson to keep the site updated with results and photographs and general news as it happens. The changes are being prepared, and will be notified to all when finalised. Thanks to Ian for all the work that he done over the years, and for offering to maintain the archives on the present site. Thanks also to Paul for taking on the current news and information.

We have agreed to form a joint County Golf Croquet Team with Devon: the team will play in the County Championships next September.

The club has had some enjoyable social events recently: ten of us went to the Hall For Cornwall to see an Agatha Christie play "Then There Were None", which was very good, and a similar number had lunch at Treliwick, followed by a talk on the Cornish portrait painter, John Opie. We have also had our Christmas lunch at the Carlyon Bay Hotel, attended by 40 members, which was excellent. The quiz nights at the Ship Inn at Par (Polmear) have continued: we haven't won anything yet, but those attending have enjoyed themselves.

Don't forget on Thursday 18th December there will be mulled wine and mince pies available – just turn up and play at 1.00 pm, or come at about 4.0'clock. If you can bring a few mince pies or savoury nibbles, all well and good, but bringing yourself is the more important. A torch, to see your way out, is a good idea.

Our President and his wife have invited us to a social evening at their house in Porthpean. Howard and Shirley have had similar evenings there in the past, which have included chat, food and entertainment, and which can be thoroughly recommended. The date will be **Friday 30th January at 6.30 for 7.00 pm.** To aid catering, please let Joyce Wilson have a cheque (payable to Cornwall Croquet Club) or cash **by 24th January.** We would also be pleased to receive a raffle prize on the night. Cost, to cover catering, will be £5.00 per head. Numbers will be limited to about 45.

Another date for your diary is **1st March,** when we shall have our AGM. Various bits of paper, like Agenda, tournament details and entry forms, will arrive through your letterbox well before that date. The time, venue and directions will also be given. Nominations for the Committee will have to be received before the AGM, so don't feel that you will be pressurised to do a job if you turn up. It is a chance to have your say about how the club

should be run, and to meet with other members over a cup of tea.

I have indicated, previously, that we have had a second team accepted for the SW Federation Golf Croquet League next season. There are one or two restrictions; one of which is that nobody can play for two different teams in the same season. It will, therefore, be necessary to decide on the make-up of the two teams before the season starts and, with this in mind, to know who is available and wanting to play. In the past, we have tried to include as many players as possible over a season, consisting of about three home and three away matches. We hope that we will have enough players interested to form a nucleus of about ten players for each team, who will be available to cover both home and away fixtures. A match team can be made up of between 4 and 8 players, and a match is a combination of singles and doubles. All games are played to handicap rules. It is good experience to play against other teams, and to be competitive; apart from meeting players from other clubs. So! If you would like to play in some of the matches next season, please let **me** know in the next couple of weeks; either by e-mail or 'phone or any other means. We would also like to know if you have any preference to be included in a team with somebody else. For instance, it is sensible to include husbands and wives in the same group, and particular friends perhaps, if this makes travelling away easier. The two teams will be called "Cornwall" and "Porthpean". Don't assume that you are not good enough – if you would like to be included, let me know.

Some of us went to the SW Federation AGM recently: There were no items of great significance discussed. We did propose a change to the 'B' League handicap range; to make the lower handicap limit 18 (Currently 16), but this was defeated. Some clubs said that they would be unable to raise a team if this were implemented. We felt that a smaller range would encourage more high bisquers to participate. A position of 'Golf Croquet Adviser' was established on the committee – this has been a co-opted position as required up to now. Tony Backhouse, being a glutton

for punishment, was elected onto the committee as Development Officer for the South of the region. Having taken that on, his presentation of a CA Diploma never took place, because the CA Representative didn't bring the Diploma to the meeting as promised. So! We'll present it at our own AGM.

Malcolm has been hard at work on the lawns since the season ended. Many thanks to him and those who have turned out to help him. As soon as the weather clears up, and the lawns dry out, they will be vertidraind and top-dressed.

Don't forget that there are two ladders on the go through the winter: just add your name and start challenging members. There is an Association-Ladder Cup, but no Golf one as yet. The winners need to have played a minimum number of games to qualify. The summer cup was not presented due to lack of games played (Only 3, I believe).

Our committee has decided to buy 3 or 4 new mallets to cope with the increase in numbers. They will be in the shorter, lighter range to help the ladies.

It is good to hear that both Margaret Read and Jo Williams are progressing well after their hip operations. Margaret was seen playing putting after the lunch at Carlyon Bay Hotel – but somebody else had to pick her ball up for her, as bending is still not permitted.

Thanks to all those who have organised the various recent social events; they do help to keep members in touch with one another, apart from being enjoyable.

Finally, on behalf of the committee members, I wish you a very happy Christmas, and a New Year in which your croquet goes from strength to strength.

Ron.