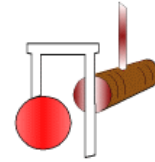


CORNWALL CROQUET CLUB

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Chairman's Corner

In spite of the "Summer" weather, there has been much activity at the club. We have two teams in SW Federation semi-finals, having won their league sections. The Federation League semi is at Plymouth on 6th September against East Dorset, and the Cornwall Golf Croquet team, unbeaten in the section, will play Nailsea SE at Nailsea on 20th September, but this could be changed. Our remaining teams have mostly tied for first place, but have lost to the declared winners. In the first year of playing a second Golf team, Porthpean has overcome all sorts of selection problems, due to operations and various other reasons, but came a creditable 4th out of 6 in the section. It was said that those new to competitive matches lost some sleep before the first match against an outside club; only to find that they thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

On August 27th the club has its annual friendly match against Nailsea, at Nailsea. There will be Association and Golf matches, with the winning team taking possession of the trophy, in the shape of a lamb, which we hope to regain after losing it at Porthpean last year.

On 12/13th September, Elizabeth and Paul Schofield and I will be at Brighton, playing in the Inter-Counties Golf Tournament. Cornwall and Devon have entered a joint team for the first time.

Congratulations to Richard on winning the Oliver Memorial Championship at Budleigh: there is a report below. Richard, Tony Backhouse and Nigel have been entering various tournaments, as have some other members at times. For those new to the game, there are all kinds of tournaments around the country that cater for all grades of players.

Can you imagine what an insurance company would say if they had a claim for a car running into a tent on the highway? Well, fortunately they won't be getting one this time, but it was

a close thing. I was at the club on my own, having a bit of practice and getting ready for the F H & H event, when I chanced to look up just as the tent was passing over the clubroom, upside-down, and being torn by the top of the flagpole. It landed straddling the road. I dragged it to the side and was then helped to get it back into the club by a couple of passing motorists, one of whom had driven under it as it came over the hedge. We had quite a struggle in the wind. Fortunately, there wasn't too much damage and we hope that the repairs will stand up to the elements. Thanks to David and Colin for getting the repairs done.

It is good to see Joyce back on the lawns after her knee operation, and Lynda after a long spell away looking after her mother. Paul should be back competing this week, after his operation, and I hear that Tony Dyson has been doing a bit of practicing now that his replaced hip allows it. Welcome back all; we've missed you.

There have been three club tournaments since the last newsletter, all of which were very enjoyable and closely fought. The weather wasn't at its best for the Golf-Croquet doubles, but players weren't to be put off by the rain on the Saturday. The result was in doubt until the very last game, when Elizabeth Schofield and Tony Jennings came out as winners. Tony is doing well at golf this year. Having been a staunch Association player for years, he now plays both codes. Faith, Hoop & Hilarity, designed to help new members to integrate into the club, was again an enjoyable day with lots to do apart from playing croquet. With the new members paired with an experienced one, and my special handicapping formula, most games ended with only one or two hoops between the teams. The final was won, for the second year running, by Russell Moore, partnered by Marjorie Stewart this year. The target Croquet was a draw between the Leslie/Kathleen and Colin/John Perry teams. A magnificent hit on the peg, from Kathleen,

won the play-off for the prize. Jean Wehrle surprised herself by getting a high score on the 'Promorush' game, which didn't really need Stephen's contribution, to win the event. The book quiz was won by Linda Lang, and Peter Dexter stole the points in the Pothpean Chase. The third event was the Read Trophy, which had a changed format this year on half courts. Seven members took part over the weekend, with everybody playing each other. Once again the result was in doubt until the last round, when the winner of the Jenny Burrows/Des Honey game would decide the overall winner. Des made no mistakes and took the trophy. Thanks to Colin for arranging and managing the event, and to Tony and Nigel for coming to referee.

We may change the dates of Finals weekend and New-Members' Day, due to the situation with the league games and possible clashes with our fixtures. Finals weekend would go back two weeks to October 10/11th and the New-Members Day to either 26th or 27th September. If anybody has any violent objections to these changes, please let me know A.S.A.P. or sooner. I will be talking to members over the next couple of days.

In the meantime, we have the Jennings's Short-Lawn Association Tournament coming up next week, followed closely by the Golf Singles Tournament. The last date for entry to the latter, and for the President's two cups is 18th August. In the light of our experience last winter, after a wet summer, the committee will have to think carefully about the availability of the lawns for play during the winter. Lawn 1 was in a sorry state, which kept it virtually out of use during April.

Let's hope that we get some decent weather to end the season.

If you have any ideas for social events during the winter, please let the committee know.

Ron

The Oliver Memorial Bowl.

Richard Griffiths won the handicap singles at the South West of England Championship held at Budleigh Salterton during the first week of August. Fortyeight players contested the event, which was run in 8 initial blocks followed by a knockout stage for the block winners. After

winning all the games in his block Richard won the quarter- and semi-finals to play the New Zealand visitor Wendy Betteridge (5) in the final. After a tough game extracting the 5 bisques (he had already faced a total of 35 bisques in the earlier games) Richard had his Peg-Ball removed by Wendy, and the game progressed from a 3-ball to a 2-ball contest. With both players on peg Wendy missed a long shot at the peg, enabling Richard to finish and win by plus one. (Sorry, the photo wouldn't print.)

The trophy is the Oliver Memorial Bowl, first awarded in 1945, though actually much older. The hall marks show it to be made in 1879 by the London silversmiths Walter & John Barnard. With the stand removed it still weighs-in at two and a half pounds, with a capacity of one gallon, and was probably intended as a fruit bowl or a punch bowl.

FAITH, HOOP & HILARITY SCENES



WINNERS – Marjorie & Russell



THE OTHER FINALISTS – Des & Gill



They called the referee in the end.