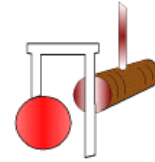


CORNWALL CROQUET CLUB

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Newsletter No. 47 January 2009

Chairman's Corner

Once again, this is going to be all my own input, but I hope that future newsletters will have contributions from others in the club. Comments or reports or announcements or even poems have been welcomed in the past, so that goes for the future as well. I don't guarantee that there will be a newsletter on regular dates, so let me have your contributions at any time – by e-mail, post or left for me in the clubhouse.

Play has continued throughout the winter, when the weather has permitted; there were eight of us playing in the sunshine yesterday. However, it has come to my notice that some members were playing during the recent very-cold spell. Whilst I am not saying that those members were playing when conditions were not suitable, I must remind all members that it is your responsibility not to play on very-wet or frosted lawns. We are very lucky to be able to play at all during the winter; most clubs cannot; so please don't abuse the privilege.

Colin Hadley, our new Tournament Secretary, has been busy arranging the matches with other clubs and, with the Technical Committee, dates for club tournaments and coaching. The list of fixtures is now complete and the card should be ready for printing shortly.

Richard Griffiths has taken over the job of Coaching Co-ordinator from Nigel Grant, to whom thanks are due for his work in both that capacity and that of Technical Committee Chairman (Now Tony Backhouse). Richard has prepared, already, details and entry forms for the various improver coaching sessions: it is up to members to take advantage of the free tuition offered. The sessions are designed, and timed, to prepare individuals, at various stages of competence, for the season ahead. For instance, those aspiring to playing for the

'B'league will find the Improver Stage 2 beneficial. However, remember that the listed ranges of handicaps are for guidance only, and not cast in stone: consult Richard if you feel that you would do better in a course not indicated as in your handicap range. The main thing is to want to improve, and to learn how to do so. But remember that you don't improve just by listening to a coach; you need to put the content of a course into practice in subsequent games; even if no improvement seems to come for the first few times – just keep trying. Many a coach has been seen tearing his hair out, after a training session, when watching his pupils ignore the very things that they have learned earlier in the day.

There will be a session for the Golfers that is designed to take them beyond the beginner's stage. It will include aspects of the rules, not covered in the basic course, together with progressive aspects of tactics and use of extra turns. Provision of an advanced Improver course will be explored for some point in the season, but this depends upon availability of suitable instructors from out of the county. Improver courses, available elsewhere, will be published in the SWAN magazine in March – copies will be available in the clubhouse.

A course for prospective coaches has been arranged at Porthpean for the 14/15th April. We received a number of names some time ago, and I will contact them to see if they are still interested and available. It is not too late for anybody to come forward. Candidates, who complete the course successfully, will be expected to help with the season's training, at appropriate levels of skill, alongside our established coaches. Once the club is satisfied that a candidate has sufficient experience, the club will recommend a CA appointment as a Club Coach. Progress from there will be up to the individual; there being various levels of competence. The course will cater for both codes, as an instructor in each will be present.

If you would like to take part in the course, please let me know by the 5th February. The course fee will be in the order of £10 and will cover the two days.

The Short-Lawn games, on Association Club afternoons, have been very successful. Not only have the shorter games added to the enjoyment, but there has also been less waiting time in the cold. The system, devised by Richard, caters for any number up to 16 to be accommodated, at the same time, on the two half courts. Thank you Richard. The short-lawn set up has also enabled some new to Association to enjoy games with an experienced partner and mentor. So, if you enjoy Association, but haven't a lot of experience – come and join in on a Wednesday afternoon. You'll be made very welcome.

Annual Review

Please leave your handicap cards in the clubhouse, or give them to Richard, Tony or me at the AGM.

I hope to see you all at the AGM on 1st March. There are three vacancies for the Committee, in order to have at least 5 ordinary members, as required by the constitution. There are two nominations of retiring members, leaving at least one more required. The committee meets once a month during the season, and two or three times during the winter. Meetings are normally held at Porthpean after one of the mid-week club afternoon sessions.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

BOTH LAWNS WILL BE CLOSED FOR MAINTENANCE FROM 9TH MARCH – 3RD APRIL

Help required – please contact Malcolm

Paul Schofield has set up a new web site to keep us all informed of what's happening in the club. There are various pages and opportunities for you to contribute to the site. It is accessed from the original site, which will stay for archiving records etc. Information, reports, pictures etc should be sent to Paul at mellcroq@googlemail.com

The new season will start on Saturday the 4th April, when Club afternoon sessions will revert to starting at 2.00pm. Ron.

→ NOTE ←

READ TROPHY

In order to encourage entries from those with higher handicaps, the Technical Committee has decided to alter the published conditions of entry for this tournament. It will now be for those with handicaps from 20 upwards and games will be 14 points (6 hoops) on half courts.

PLEASE ALTER YOUR COPY OF THE TOURNAMENT LIST

CLUB TOURNAMENTS

There is a range of tournaments to suit all levels of expertise in both

Golf and Association Croquet

Be sure to enter the competition of your choice by the last entry date shown on the list of available tournaments in your AGM Pack

ASSOCIATION CROQUET PLAYERS

Do you know about the

POSITIVE PLAY MERIT AWARDS?

Whenever you play in a competition, or match, you can accumulate points for various achievements.

You could win a cup just for trying to play well and applying yourself to making certain breaks, with or without bisques.

Open to all

irrespective of handicap

See details in the Clubhouse

Start accumulating points from 4th April