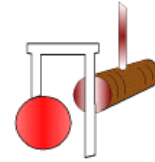


CORNWALL CROQUET CLUB

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Chairman's Corner

Where did the season go? With only the two President's Cups to stage, and some results to complete in the running tournaments, there's precious little left of it. However, it has been a successful season, despite the fact that the 'Cornwall' Golf team was pipped at the post by Nailsea, thanks to a bad lapse when we played Sidmouth, and the Association 'B'League team can thank Sidmouth for another lapse that put Sidmouth into the semi final. However, looking on the bright side, The match was scheduled for today, so I would have to put off writing this for yet another day.

On the subject of tournaments, the 'New Members' Day', scheduled for the 19th, will be postponed until early next season, due partly to illness and partly through holiday commitments of those eligible to take part. That means that the courts are available for general use on that day. To accommodate members who would otherwise not have been able to take part, we brought forward the Association Novices' Day to yesterday; so both days are available for use next weekend. Congratulations to Liz Honey for winning the day, and to all who took part, including the mentors who gave impartial advice to contestants during the games. I'm sorry that I couldn't get there, but hope to see those members taking part in some of the Association events next year. Why not come to some of the Short-Lawn Winter games; you will be given help, and it is an ideal place to get experience, and to enjoy yourself at the same time.

On the subject of the Winter, the Committee has considered the problems that we have had with Lawn 2 this year, and similarly with Lawn 1 last year. Consequently, the following arrangements will take place **from the end of October:-**

Lawn 2 (the one nearest to the clubhouse) will be closed until the new season, to give it a chance to recover from a very busy 12 months.

Lawn 1 will be available to play on, on Club Days only, from 1.00 o'clock onwards, until the end of February, when that lawn will also be closed to allow for work to be done on it. The Wednesday afternoons will be given over to the Winter Short-Lawn competition. The Golf Winter Ladder has never been popular, and will not be run this winter.

This arrangement will, it is hoped, allow members to play through the winter, provided that the weather permits it, but will not load the lawns to the same extent as in previous years; causing excessive wear. It has taken almost the whole season, and a lot of work, to get lawn 2 back to a good surface. Our thanks are due to those who have put in a lot of work on both lawns, particularly Malcolm, who has not had the time to actually play on them.

We owe a great debt of gratitude to Malcolm, who has done a great job in keeping our lawns in good condition. With the possibility of a third lawn, there will be more work needed, so we are hoping to arrange for the SW Federation advisor to come to the club to give us a course on grounds maintenance, so that we can get an experienced team established to spread the load (not to mention the fertilizer). We will be calling for volunteers when we know any more details.

Most of you will know that one of our members died in June. Brian Jepson had not been with us for more than one season, but he enjoyed playing Golf Croquet until he was taken ill, quite unexpectedly. The Committee decided that, as he had played only a couple of times this season, his subscription should be returned. However, his widow said to me, at his funeral, that she thought that Brian would have wanted the money to be used at the club. It has been decided to use it to buy a suitable

trophy for the Golf Summer Ladder. He also wanted his mallet given to the club, but not to be just put into the pool for general use. We have decided that it should be sold to any member who wants it, and that the money will be used within the club. A notice will be put on the board in the clubhouse, asking for offers from those who would like to purchase it. It is virtually new; having been used only a couple of times early this season. It is 36 inches long, has a circular head, with brass ends and would have cost Brian £237.50, with the head cover. It is therefore considered that around £190 would be a fair price. Obviously anybody can try it before buying it.

Dorianne Forsdick is trying to get a reservation, for Christmas lunch, at the Carlyon Bay Hotel. We have been there for the past two years and have been very satisfied with it. More information will be circulated when available.

Christmas may seem to be a long way off, and the start of next season in the dim and distant future. However, there are things that need to be thought about well before then, to keep the club running (dare I say it?) smoothly and efficiently. You need to be thinking now of possible members to replace both Lynda, as Secretary, and me, as Chairman. The Secretary's job is not particularly onerous, with a spate of work around the AGM time and various minutes of meetings etc, and circulation of information at irregular intervals. The Chairman's job involves a little more work – twisting a few arms here and there, presenting a trophy now and again, chairing the odd meetings and trying to look intelligent when the latest mower breakdown is being discussed. Then there is accepting the blame for anything that goes wrong, and allowing somebody else to take the credit for anything that goes right. Oh yes! And it is essential to have one deaf ear that can be turned in any direction instantaneously when the need arises. Organising tournaments is not necessarily part of the job.

So. Put your thinking caps on and find the persons you would like to do those jobs next season. We shall be asking for names in the New Year: do ask the person's permission first. We may also need new Committee members.

Having paused here to decide what to write next, I have had two 'phone calls. One was from Richard, to tell me that he has won the

Treasurer's Cup. This is a CA competition with 8 invited players, and played, this year in Ryde, on the Isle of Wight. With 2 matches each to play, there was a possibility of a 3-way tie. Richard had 8 points; there was a player with 9 and 2 with 7. Congratulations to Richard for a great result.

The second call was from Des Honey, who turned up to play and was approached by the contractor from the Hospice. There were various questions about filling in the area for the third lawn. So there is some good news to pass on – work has started on the third lawn. A letter has been sent to the Golf Club regarding the balls that come over from the driving range. Removal of part of one of the fences will increase the potential for balls to land on Lawn 2. This has been pointed out.

Contestants for Finals Weekend have still to be sorted out. Preliminary stages of the Plymouth and Dowding Cups have yet to be completed, as have those for the two President's Cups. However, we do know that Elizabeth Schofield and David Edwards will be contesting the Golf Handicap Singles, after a close finish to the tournament last week.

One topic we must look at is coping with vulnerable adults and children. Regulations are being tightened up and we may have to have a trained person within the club, whether or not we ever have such persons using the club. Final requirements have yet to be disclosed. If anybody has experience in this field, I would be pleased to know. We already have, in fact, a person responsible for this – did I mention it as one of the Chairman's responsibilities? – but things may have to change, including the constitution.

Don't forget that there will be a Presentation Day on Sunday 10th October, when the lawns will be open for a mixture of Golf and Association Croquet. The day will end with the presentation of various trophies, followed by tea (Supplied by yourselves, please). I apologise now, for my absence and hope that the day goes as well as it did last year.

Enjoy what's left of the season

Ron



Brian's
Mallet