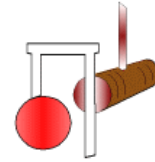


CORNWALL CROQUET CLUB

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CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

As I write this, a southeasterly gale, with heavy rain, batters Fowey, and Fowey Croquet Club's annual Golf Doubles competition, scheduled for today, has been cancelled. So summer is definitely over.

Nonetheless, this is not the end of croquet for the next few months. Both lawns are available for use until the end of October, and the Winter timetable runs from the start of November. Just a reminder that this means that play is restricted to Club days, Wednesdays (AC) Thursdays (GC) Saturdays (AC) and Sundays (GC), starting at 1.30. The AC short lawn competition runs on Wednesdays, and the Golf competition on alternate Thursdays. *Play will be on Lawn 2 only until further notice.*

We have I think had a successful season. Membership has held up well, and we have welcomed new members into the Club. Competitions have been generally well supported, but we need to look at the format of the Read Trophy for high bisquers, to increase this year's disappointing entry. Those of you who qualify for this may expect some friendly persuasion next year to enter, if you appear to be reluctant! Congratulations to all the winners. In AC at least, an increasing number of friendly games have been played level, and some members have commented that both in AC & GC, as long as their handicaps are reasonably close, bisques or free turns don't improve their enjoyment of the game.

The South West Federation league results have been pleasing. Both GC teams had almost identical results, finishing in the middle of the table. The AC Federation team won 2 & lost 2. The AC Intermediate team reached the semi-finals, but went down 2-3 – by one hoop in the crucial game, but had the satisfaction of taking twice as many games from Abbey Glastonbury as had been managed by all the other teams put together in the preliminary rounds. The outstanding result was of course the B leaguers' victory in the area final, winning by one hoop in the final turn of the final game. CONGRATULATIONS once again.

The big development, which should bring major benefits to the Club, was of course the opening of Lawn 3, which was brought into action for the Golf Singles due to the large entry. Many thanks to those who put in a considerable amount of time & effort in getting the lawn ready for play. Work on the lawn will continue, but most competitors were pleased with the way it played at this stage in its development. We will be arranging a formal opening early in the 2012 season, details yet to be arranged.

The other major event was the closure of the golf driving range following its purchase by the Hospice organisation. This immediately solved what had seemed to be the intractable problem of bombardment by golf balls. The reinstatement of the outer gate has proved effective in stopping or reducing both the boy racers and their litter.

Lawn 3 - Howard has had very substantial protective fencing erected along the boundary adjacent to the steep bank, and has very generously paid for this himself. Much appreciated. We have had a delivery of compost-rich top dressing, which will have to be spread & graded as soon as weather permits. Fortunately, we have sufficient hoops & Barlow balls for Lawn 3, but will need to buy two sets (at least) of Dawsons, also buy or make corner flags, and possibly pegs. Tony Backhouse has kindly made a further supply of corner/yard line markers. A shelter will be needed, so there will be a drain on funds for these items – a set of Dawsons for example is about £320.

Referee's corner (Association) August's question was:

You are playing red, and complete an Irish peel by putting yellow through its hoop, followed by red. Red stays on the court, yellow goes off. Should you retrieve yellow, place it on the yard line, and continue?

ANSWER - No. A ball played in a croquet shot has gone off court, and it is end of turn, unless of course a bisque is taken.

Photo competition There were some good entries for this, which was judged by Tony Backhouse on the Sunday afternoon of the Finals weekend, and

who also very kindly donated the prize. Some entrants also had a creative time with their captions!

The winner was taken by Barry Edwards, and is shown below.



??Briefing time before the Golf match at Dowlish Wake – Ron gives serious consideration to a tactical suggestion by yours truly!

I can't resist adding a couple more from the competition:



I don't understand croquet, but I suppose I'd better watch him!

And:



I think this is the red ball!

The caption was: "I think this is the red ball".

Isn't it good to know that the dignity of the chairman is so well respected!?

And finally For those of you (if any) who sometimes get confused by the Laws of Golf Croquet, the following poem, by Des Honey, will make all clear. (see next page)

SO NO MORE CONFUSION ABOUT THE LAWS, PLEASE!

Best wishes to all,

David

Wrong **B A L L**

Thoughts of a Golf Croquet Player

A croquet player called Liz soon gets in a tiz,
the sequence of balls to define.

“Laws are no good at all when we hit the wrong
ball.

Is it his turn now, or mine?”

“Des hits Red, then hits Black so I hit it back,
now I’m sure t ’was him out of turn”

“Do I go on with Red, hit his Yellow instead
or does the Black return?”

“Oh! He’s hit my Blue and run the hoop thru.

I think I should speak my mind.

If it stays as it is, that doesn’t seem the biz

now that he’s put my ball behind.”

“Now I could claim the point, put his nose out of
joint

and teach him to take more care”

“But how can that be? The point’s not for me,
it was him who put it there”

“I’ll give him a fright and run thru with White

and while he ponders that,

give his next ball a kick, or push with my stick

or hide it under my hat”

As he walked back, his foot touched the Black,

He said “That’s allowed in the laws.”

“Good, it’s my turn with Blue, I’ll just push it thru
and crush it in the jaws.”

“Hit his Yellow with a bump. Didn’t know Des
could jump!

Leaving a mark on the ground.

It went thru so sweet and rolled against my feet,
whilst knocking the pegs all around.”

“Now my Blue’s near the hoop, get it thru with a
scoop,

whilst putting my hand on the ground.

Other hand on the head to keep in good stead

He’ll not hear the double-tap sound”.

“Time for the score, says he won seven four,
though there’s only one peg on my loop.

The last was the twelfth that I crept thru with
stealth,

so it should be the golden hoop”

“He goes off with a grin, knowing I let him win,
some may say silly old me.

But it fulfils my wishes that he’ll do the dishes
after he’s cooked my tea.”

“They say read the laws, it covers wrong balls
and other croqueting faults.

I find them chaotic and to follow their logic
always my brain assaults”

“But I read them before, till they fall on the floor
‘cause they always send me to sleep”

“So we’ll muddle along, hitting balls right and
wrong

and our own counsel we’ll keep.”

“We do it for fun, when all’s said and done.

When finished I go off and hide”

“If I’m going to win, the answer’s within
so I study my ‘Idiot’s Guide’.”