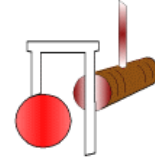


CORNWALL CROQUET CLUB

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CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

First of all, a welcome to our new members. Please join in on Club days, and don't forget that the lawns may be booked for other dates except when a Club tournament will need all three lawns. On League match days, lawn 3 remains available for general play, as the League matches only use lawns 1 & 2. If booking, please indicate whether it's Golf or Association that you will be playing – double banking on either is fine, but you can't mix the two.

The season has now well and truly started, and it was a welcome sight to see members in short sleeves and even (yes, Russell) in shorts, during this year's summer. As I write, we are back to normal with fog rain and drizzle.

After the very slow start of grass growth and, where we had re-seeded, germination, the lawns are in reasonable shape. The recent dry spell produced some fast conditions which showed up the "lawn effects", without which we might run out of excuses for missed shots. The general view is that the effort of surface dressing and ladder dragging carried out in the autumn have improved both lawns 1 & 3. More work will always be needed to try to bring about a continuous improvement in the quality of our lawns.

In passing, and to put our own efforts & budget in perspective, a notice posted at Budleigh pointed out that their annual maintenance and improvement spend on their lawns was in the order of forty to fifty thousand pounds!

The mole catcher attended earlier in the spring, with reported success, but some activity continues. We have bought a solar powered sonic mole deterrent – verdict still out on its effectiveness.

There are still some jobs awaiting completion from the Spring "hope-to-do" list, in particular re-coating the outside of the Clubhouse. One coat of the Sikken's Cetol has been applied to the wall adjacent to the mower shed, which has tended to allow water penetration more than the other faces of the building. A second coat would almost certainly be beneficial, and of course the other faces do need doing. The back is probably OK without further action at the moment. If anyone feels like progressing this work a bit more, this would be welcome. The timber must of course be dry!

The final preparation of the lawn 3 bank and planting the saplings is now planned as an autumn job.

Club play & coaching At present, the pattern of coaching on the 2nd & 4th Mondays of each month is continuing, but may be changed. We will let you know. *If you would like to be coached, please put your name on the list on the Club notice board, and indicate whether your interest is GC or AC.*

Club tournaments A number of matches in the various Club tournaments have already been played, and with good entries in the "all season" events, this should perhaps avoid the September panic! I am very pleased to see the good entry for the Read Trophy for high bisquers- the best it has been for some years.

SWF Leagues A number of these matches have now been played. In the Golf leagues, congratulations are due to Porthpean, who for the first time won the opening match of the season, which has to be against Rosevear. In their second match we and our visitors from East Dorset suffered horrible conditions in the morning, before extensively flooded lawns caused the match to be abandoned at lunchtime. The outstanding games will be

played later, and fortunately the E. Dorset team seemed happy to come to Cornwall again. The intention is to play some friendly games in the afternoon.

Rosevear beat Budleigh in their second fixture and followed this with a good win against Exeter.

In the first of the GC level play matches, Cornwall entertained East Dorset, who had already played twice, winning 14-6 and 19-1. We did well to lose only by the narrowest of margins, 9.5-10.5, but it has to be said that E. Dorset were unable to field their strongest team.

In the Association leagues, the B team continues its successful run and has now won all three of its matches so far. For Ron's entertaining match report, do look at the wenbsite. Congratulations to Tony Dyson, who has lowered his handicap to 14, and so will no longer be able to play for the B league team. Welcome Tony to the Intermediates, who won their first match against Exeter, and will shortly be playing Sidmouth.

The Federation team had a narrow loss 3-4 against Sidmouth.

Away tournaments Cornwall members again were well in evidence at the Budleigh High Bisquers event, with two reaching the semi-finals. Five of us will be competing in the Autumn veterans tournament at Hurlingham

Open day Our first open day was on Sunday April 28th, and we subsequently had a visit from Lerryn W.I. The second open day was held on June 9th, in excellent weather. All three lawns were set out and in use, and the Club was a hive of activity. However, we received no visitors! Perhaps the weather was too good?

Mowing The mowing rota has now been circulated, and the mower is working well.

Best wishes for a speedy convalescence to Ian Wilson, who has undergone an exploratory operation, and will have to take things quietly.

Also to Lesley Stewart, who has recently celebrated his 90th birthday, and who we are delighted to say remains a playing member.

Finally Don't forget that we are running the photo and associated caption competitions this year – judging to be on Finals day. So get snapping – anything croquet related, not necessarily at Porthpean.

Best wishes to all,

David

PS I am grateful to the *prowling paparazzo*, Stephen Read for these two shots.



Coaching hint for Dorianne: You should try to use a little follow-through!

(D playing the winning shot in one of the GC doubles against Exeter)



Alas, croquet is not the genteel game it used to be. At a recent match, brawling broke out amongst some of the spectators on the terraces!