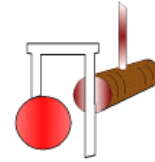


CORNWALL CROQUET CLUB

Email: info@cornwall-croquet.org.uk

Net: cornwall-croquet.org.uk



Newsletter No. 71, December 2013

CHAIRMAN's CORNER

Apologies – is it really so long since I concocted the last newsletter? On checking, it seems that it really is.

The main season is now well and truly over, but the hardier or sillier souls are still playing, and on the better days, the numbers coming have meant that the limitation of only having one lawn available has led to some rather odd patterns of play, such as a team of three versus a team of two.

Security Unfortunately, we have had another break-in, through the side door, and at the moment only the padlock is being used. However, apart from minor damage to the door, the only loss was I think the coffee, and, as we can't find it, the electronic mole deterrent.

It sounds almost too basic to ask that all equipment is returned to the Club, but on arriving recently, Ian found a blue ball in the grass by lawn 1.

Will the last person to leave the Club please ensure that all equipment is put away, and that the Club is fully locked. If you are unsure of where things go, or how to lock up, just ask one of the members who know the routine. Don't leave anything out which might look tempting.

Lawns Due to combinations of poor weather, people being away, and other things to do, we didn't manage to start improvement work on lawn 3 as early as we had wished. However, my ladder has been used to try to identify local dips & hollows, particularly near or on the track to hoops, and some at least of these have been filled as far as is prudent with surface dressing. – about five barrowloads so far. It is

important that enough grass shows through the filling to allow it to continue to grow. We might well be able to do a bit more of this work. It should we hope be of particular benefit for golf croquet.

A fair amount of moss has developed on lawn 1, and rather less on 2. Treatment has started but more is needed. At present, it looks as if lawn 1 will continue in use during January, as we are still looking for effective ways to repair local worn or bare patches on 2, some of which have so far resisted all efforts to deal with them.

The saplings have now been planted on the lawn 3 bank, and a liquidambar tree, an 80th birthday present to Howard, has been planted close to the entrance, which should look lovely.

Club tournaments Rather late to be commenting on these, I am afraid, but we were kindly treated by the weather on Finals Weekend, when a good number of members came on the Sunday – adding considerably to the atmosphere – many thanks. The Club tournaments were well supported, and in the AC level play, we may well decide to change this to a block format rather than all-play-all, which duly led to a “September panic” to complete matches which have been running throughout the season.

Congratulations to all winners, and indeed runners-up and to everyone who took part in the various event. Roll on 2014!

And not to forget the excellent entries to the photo and caption competitions, judged on the Sunday of Finals Weekend.

SWF Leagues There have been some changes to SWF league rules for next season,

but the general pattern will remain. Disappointingly, we have been told that there are only three entries for the 2014 Intermediate AC league – at the moment we don't yet know what will happen – the possibilities seem to be to play home and away games, or just arrange some friendlies.

There was some good news at the SWF AGM about other Southwest Clubs – Plymouth, which appeared to be almost moribund, have received a CA grant for an electric mower, the only type they are allowed to use, and have apparently had a considerable influx of new members. We hope to see them back in the leagues before too long. I also understand that Barnstaple have had a grant towards improving drainage and lawns. They have had real problems in the last couple of years.

Cornwall put forward a proposal to the SWF AGM that the Federation should adopt the CA standard maximum AC handicap of 24, rather than the 28 which currently applies. This was passed. There is a widespread view that GC handicaps remain a problem, and a SWF conference on this subject will be held in the New Year. We will send at least one delegate.

As some of you will know, our players did rather well at the Hurlingham Autumn Veterans tournament, and this resulted in three of us – Peter Cutting, Des Honey and myself, having our handicaps sharply reduced. This was justified on the results at the tournaments, but the comment was made that SWF AC handicaps were inconsistent with those in other Federations. We raised this with the SWF, and were told that it would be discussed at the AGM. For whatever reasons, this did not happen, and some of us remain concerned that if the suggestion can be substantiated, something should be done about it.

Social Several members much enjoyed a visit to the Hall for Cornwall to see the Moscow City Ballet in “Don Quixote”. By the time you receive this, we will be about to have our Christmas Lunch, or, if you aren't on email, you will be digesting it!

Any further ideas for events during the winter will be very welcome.

And finally *Courtesy of Giles! A vicious game???*

HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

From the photo competition and elsewhere: -



Which grip is this???



Stephen likes to tease Sheba by barking at her



Not every day this summer was perfect!

