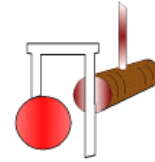


CORNWALL CROQUET CLUB

Email: info@cornwall-croquet.org.uk

Net: cornwall-croquet.org.uk



Newsletter No. 73, July 2014

CHAIRMAN'S SCRIBE'S CORNER

Firstly, a very warm welcome to our new members – we look forward to seeing you on the lawns, and if you are a beginner, don't feel shy about joining in. Apart from the coaching sessions, our more experienced players will be pleased to help in any way.

Some more good news – Howard has indicated that subject to suitable terms & conditions, he would be willing to set up an extended lease arrangement for the Club. This could mean that for the first time we would be eligible for grants.

We enjoyed a remarkable run of hot dry weather in June, with the sun umbrellas out on several occasions. This was great for playing, unless you like it cool, but not great for the lawns, which became very dry and were showing little growth. For a little while, we stopped mowing, but even so, the lawns were by our standards very fast & not very easy. The trouble with very fast lawns is that the run of the balls as they slow down is more affected by any unevenness. Back to normal now, after a fair amount of rain, although Stephen has raised the cutters on the big mower.

However, as most of you know, this hasn't been our main problem. The rabbits have caused considerable damage to lawn 3, and fortunately lesser problems on 1 & 2. It seems that the beasties are either finding or making holes in the rabbit fencing, or possibly climbing over where the netting is low. Thanks to the generosity of John Clements, as mentioned in Des's recent email, the boundaries, inside and outside the fences, were cut back to allow better inspection of the netting. We need to finish clearing back, close to the fences. Help please!

We had thought that it might be necessary to renew the perimeter rabbit fencing, but the

advice was that this was not needed, saving a considerable sum. We are optimistic that when this work is finished, we may have dealt with the problem. The lowest length of fence was raised. We are optimistic that when this work is finished, we may have dealt with the problem.

The last load of surface dressing we bought proved not really suitable, but it now looks as if we will be able to come to an arrangement with the Golf Club to buy the right material from them. Paul Schofield has lent us a laser level, which might tell us whether the big turn to the right between hoop 1 & 2 on lawn 3 is caused by a hollow (fillable) or a ridge (big problem).

Still on lawns, the Committee has decided to buy a new white lining machine, which was recently demonstrated at the Club. It is easier to use & should be more economical with materials. The cost to the Club has been reduced by the sale of our second 24" petrol mower to the new club at St. Agnes, and a donation from a member. Many thanks to Rhona & Tanis for keeping our lines so well.

Club competitions A reminder & request - please arrive in time to help with setting out the lawns etc, and to give the organiser adequate time to organise.

The One Ball competition was well supported & again proved popular, and will undoubtedly be a regular feature of the fixture list. It was won by Stephen Read – congratulations. A sum of £85 was raised, for the benefit of the Little Harbour children's hospice.

After an adjustment of the handicap limits to ensure that there was a worthwhile entry, the Read Trophy was won by Peter Dexter. Again, congratulations.

Last year, towards the end of the season, players with backlogs of games were tending to play these on Club days, particularly in the AC competitions. Peter Cutting has certainly avoided doing this, with a clean sweep of wins in his block of the AC Level Play before May was out! We were thinking of ordering a supply of “I beat Peter Cutting” T-shirts, but decided there would be too little demand.

We are experiencing a reduction in the number of new Association Croquet players in the Club. This is affecting both internal and external competitions. Hopefully, some of you will like to try another variety of croquet and will be tempted to join the “Transition from GC to AC” course which Ian Wilson will be running later in the season. All the existing AC players will gladly help you further in tackling this challenge. Ian can provide further info if need be, and the **dates are: July 29th, August 12th & 19th, times 17.00 – 19.00**. For anyone who may be deterred by the idea that all AC games are three-hour affairs, this isn't the case. You can play shorter (14 or 18 point games), and the Wednesday morning short croquet games are timed at 1hr 15 minutes.

League matches I have to say that it is now evident that we are not going to be champions in any of the leagues, but on the other hand, we have had wins in both GC & AC, including our first ever win in the GC level play, against Sidmouth, thus managing the infinite increase over the number of wins in 2013!

There seems to be something of an increasing problem for Clubs to raise teams for away matches. This has so far affected the GC Level, where we await advice as to whether Kingston Maurward will be able to get to us, having earlier postponed, Porthpean GC, ‘B’ league, and Intermediate, where we had to call off our away fixture at Lym Valley, and Kingston Maurward have also cancelled.

Coaching Following the encouraging support at the sessions so far, these will continue – details by email, or on the notice board. If there is some particular aspect you would like covered which is not listed, please let us know.

And finally Don't forget that August 1st is the last date for entry to the Jennings Short Croquet event.

Also, we have, thanks to Ian Wilson, an excellent Club website packed with information & useful links – well worth checking out.

Best wishes,

David



*Peter Dexter the “Master Jumper” in action.
For AC players, this is not a fine take-off, or a coarse take-off, but maybe a high take-off?*

Thanks to Stephen for the photo