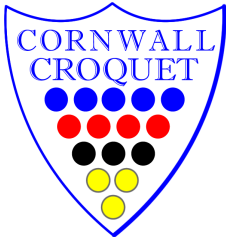
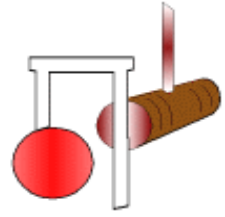


CORNWALL CROQUET CLUB



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Newsletter No. 86, April 2019

Here I am, back again! Before I launch into club matters I would say on a personal note a big thank you to those who sent cards, emails and phone calls wishing me well during my enforced incarceration at home following surgery at the end of December. All seems to be reasonably well now with my target of playing on this year's season opening day met.

Thank you also to Keith, our Vice-Chairman for stepping in during what is the busiest time of the year in terms of planning for the year ahead and beyond.

March 30th gave us a pretty chilly start to the year but was soon followed by some unseasonably mild weather that brought out many players to enjoy our sport. This was only possible because of the hard work put in, not just over the winter months but throughout the year, by the band of volunteers who ensure the lawns are there for play. This does not only mean many hours working on the playing lawns and ensuring they are laid out correctly with hoop holes, but also keeping the surrounding area and car park in good order. Please do your best to keep the lawns good by careful use of your mallet to avoid lawn damage and ensuring that hoops are not hammered too far in. There is no need for the 'shoulder' of the hoop to go into the ground - just resting lightly on the grass is sufficient. We are, after all, playing with spherical balls and not cubes :) The new season has also brought in a reassuring number of member renewals,

but there is still a handful who have yet to renew membership. Please do send your subs in to our Treasurer, Bill, as soon as you can. We also need some new members to keep the club on an even keel. We lost several members last year through ill-health or moving away, so it would be good if we could find new members to bring our numbers back up again.

Very many thanks to Graham Varco who has made a second hoop lifter for us and has also made a very long bolt to secure the double wooden gates at the entrance to the car park. Thanks to the efforts of Des and Peter these will ensure the gates should not suffer any more damage from the stress of hanging loosely.

We had successful spring cleaning days in March when the clubhouse was cleaned out thoroughly. ***Hopefully we can keep it looking spick and span now if members would sign up for the cleaning rota which is now hanging by the microwave oven.*** Sadly, last year some members kindly took on a duty 3 or 4 times as so few signed up. This is one of those tasks that, if done regularly, shouldn't take long to do, so please let's see the burden shared more this year.

What a good turnout of golf croquet members when Des held a meeting to explain the revised golf croquet rules. I expect it will take a while for us to get used to them, but with league matches looming on the horizon this is something we need to do. I am sure you will want to thank Des for going to so much trouble preparing notes on the changes and delivering them to us.

League Competitions

Thinking of rules and league matches, as explained in the last newsletter we shall only have one AC League team and two GC league teams this year. The AC League is the Intermediate league. This is for players with handicaps of 9 to 18 with the option to include one player whose handicap is 20 or 22. Colin Hadley is the Manager for this team.

The GC league teams are the Handicap League and the High Handicap League. The Handicap league is for players whose handicap is 10 or below, but there is an option to field one player whose handicap is 11 or 12. The High Handicap League is for players whose handicap is 8 or above. So, if your handicap is 8, 9 or 10 you are eligible to play in both leagues if you wish. This could allow team managers a welcome degree of flexibility. The only other thing to be aware of is the rule about eligibility which contains the following:

"On the day any match is played, each player shall comply with the appropriate handicap restriction". This means that you will be able to change leagues if your handicap goes up or down and you can no longer play in one or other league.

The team list forms are on the notice-board so hopefully we will see plenty of names on them soon. It is very good experience playing in the various leagues and interesting visiting different clubs. If you are not yet convinced then please do have a word with either Bob Cash who is the Manager/Captain for the Handicap League or myself as Manager for the High Handicap League.

Charity One-Ball

We are fast approaching the first of our two Charity One-Ball matches. This is the Croquet Association Charity match. We have a good number of entrants for Friday so let's hope the weather plays its part to

ensure we all enjoy the day. As you will already know, we ask for a donation towards this year's chosen charity (The Alzheimer's Society) of £5 minimum from each player. When we send your donations to the CA we will also submit a Gift Aid application form which will increase the amount of money from our club by 25%.

Another aspect of the competition is that you are invited to wear something blue, which is the 'house colour' of the Alzheimer's Society. This can range from something as small as, perhaps, a ribbon or scarf to full dress in blue. It's entirely up to you. Just come and join in the fun! The competition starts at 10am so please arrange to be there by 9.45am - earlier if you will help to put out the lawns.

Visitors to Club

We welcome visitors to the club accompanied by club members. There is a very smart new Visitors Book on the book-case detailing the charge for these and with forms for the visitor to fill in. Please note that these charges relate to visitors who have played croquet before or do not live in the area and therefore would not want to join. If you bring a visitor who you are hoping to encourage to join there is no charge. We really do need new members to keep the club going, so please try to spread the word about croquet and perhaps bring someone along on Croquet Open Day - 12th May

For Sale

1. A former member has kindly donated her wet weather gear for sale with the proceeds to go to club. I have added the retail prices for guidance. If interested please contact me with an offer. The gear comprises:

Emsmorn waterproof jacket. Size - L. Cost at new £55

Emsmorn waterproof hat, Size - 55cm. Cost at new £13

Emsmorn waterproof overtrousers. Size L. Cost at new £22

These can all be bought individually or as a set. They are in very good condition, clean, with no signs of wear.

2. Peter Cutting has a boxed croquet set by Jacques that is looking for a home. It belonged to Jackie Sargisson's late husband Conrad who was a vicar on the local circuit. She would like £60.00 for it. The mallets are round headed and made of box wood -- needs a bit of attention but would be ideal for someone looking for a garden set. Please contact Peter on 01208 871187 if you are interested.

Coaching

There are several opportunities for coaching and details of these are on the club noticeboard (the easel one). We are also hoping to arrange some additional sessions with 'outside' coaches so please do keep looking for notices - we don't want you to miss out.

Help Needed

Whilst we got on with the spring clean very well, there are still some repair and maintenance jobs to be undertaken. I will put a notice in the clubhouse detailing what still needs to be done. The major undertaking will be to replace some rotten lengths of decking boards and link the cabin decking up with the clubhouse decking, but this is subject to committee approval of the cost of materials. If you think you can help with any, please let me know. Also, these repairs often require small amounts of paint, stain, varnish and timber. If you have any leftovers from jobs at home, please don't throw them away before checking to see if they would be any use at club.

Thank You

Rather belated is a big thank you to Kathryn for what I'm told was a very successful Pasty and Quiz evening. I hope you have all remembered what a spoolie brush is for!! In all, the evening raised a very much needed £112 for club funds thanks to Kathryn and all who supported it.

Handicapping

I know that Kathryn, our GC Handicapper, has spent a lot of time over the winter months going through the GC handicap cards to check for errors and confirm or change handicaps. There have been

some errors in the mathematics - including on my own card! I think it will also help if we all record the results of games in the same way, i.e. own score first and opponent's score next. This makes it clear who won and lost the game. So, please do take care when filling in your cards in matches. If you intend to play in any club or league competitions you will need a card, so if you don't yet have one please speak to Kathryn and she will give you a card and handicap for GC or Bob Burnett or Des Honey for AC

New GC Rules in action

One new rule that has caused some initial confusion is wrong ball play. Repeated reading of the new rules (10.3 - 10.4.2) over and over again will definitely help but basically there is no penalty, just replace and replay, if the striker or striker's partner played an opponent ball or the striker's partner played the striker's ball. What is different is when the striker plays their partner ball or the striker's partner plays their own. In these instances it is up to their opponents to choose whether to replace and replay or to do a ball swap. This is where the wrong ball is swapped with the offending side's other ball and the non-offending side continues play with the ball that follows in sequence after the offending side's other ball (i.e. the ball that should have been played).

An error that still occurs is which ball to start off the second game, where more than one game is played against the same opponents. This is not a new rule to this 5th edition, but worth repeating. When a side wins the first game their opponents have the choice of starting the next game with *either of their balls*. It does not have to be the ball that would follow the one that won the last hoop of game one, which is what some are still saying.

**Please don't forget Open Day on 12 May.
More details to follow.**

Rhona