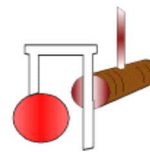


CORNWALL CROQUET CLUB

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Newsletter No. 89, July 2020

Sadly, I cannot start this Newsletter by celebrating that lockdown is over and many restrictions have been lifted, but for some of our members this is not the case and they are still urged by the government to stay at home.

Most of us have been lucky to be able to play through some glorious weather, but that brings dangers with it. It is all too easy to forget to keep the social distance advised, or to repeat theories denying the need for continued care at such a level. Please remember that the virus is still very much around and we owe it not only to ourselves, but also to our fellow members to keep to the rules. On some visits to the club I have seen examples of people forgetting to keep their distance or forgetting to wash all the equipment they have used, including door handles, taps, padlocks etc., so please spend a little extra time to wash and put away tidily any equipment that you use before leaving and remember that 2m rule.

SO, WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON SINCE THE LAST NEWSLETTER?

Well, we were all working at full capacity at the beginning of March cleaning the clubhouse, equipment, cabin and toilets. But then the effects of the pandemic started to impact upon our activities until we were in complete lockdown. This meant that your committee could not hold its planned meeting. From then until now all committee work has been agreed by email. Not the easiest way to work, but needs must. However, with the relaxing of numbers allowed to 'gather' outdoors we were able to hold a committee meeting in the open air last week. Oh dear, you would have laughed! Mid meeting the nice sunny morning turned into a cooler breezy morning with the result that parasols we had been using to shade ourselves took off—mostly in my direction, I might add. Undaunted, we soldiered on and the object of this newsletter is partly to let you know what plans we were able to make for the next couple of months as well as to thank you all for renewing your membership of the club and staying with it in what were very uncertain times. As you will be aware, grounds and grounds machinery maintenance has to be done whether the lawns are used or not so this has enabled us to continue to work on the lawns and keep them in good order for play. Our very sincere thanks to all those who helped to get everywhere looking good and shipshape.

Lockdown regulations enabled us to open the lawns for play on 13th May but, of course, it had to be well controlled in order that there weren't too many people on site at any one time. Our grateful thanks must go to Dorianne who volunteered to be our 'booking clerk'. This system has worked very well and it is good to see the lawns being used. However, we cannot expect Dorianne to do this forever so the committee has agreed to trial an on-line booking system. If you want to take advantage of this we will need your permission to add your details (name, telephone, email and handicaps) to the booking site. A separate page for this will be sent with this Newsletter.

FUTURE PLANS

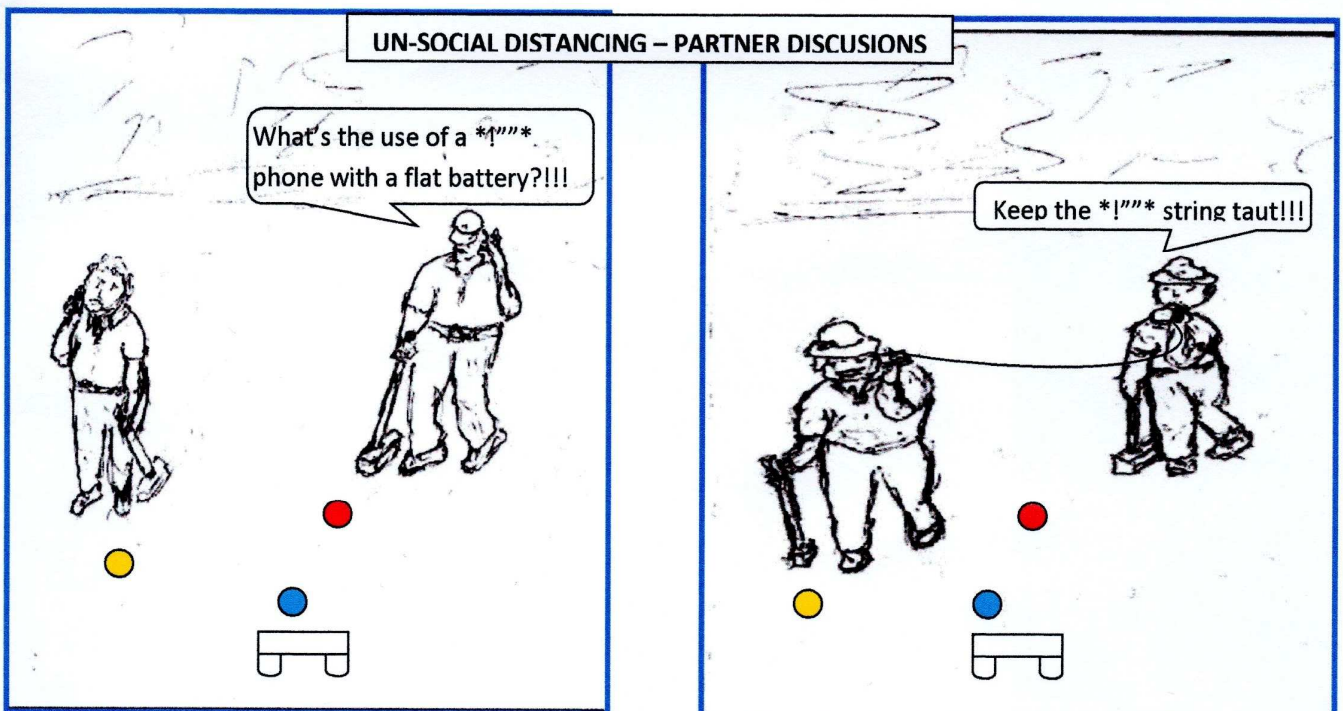
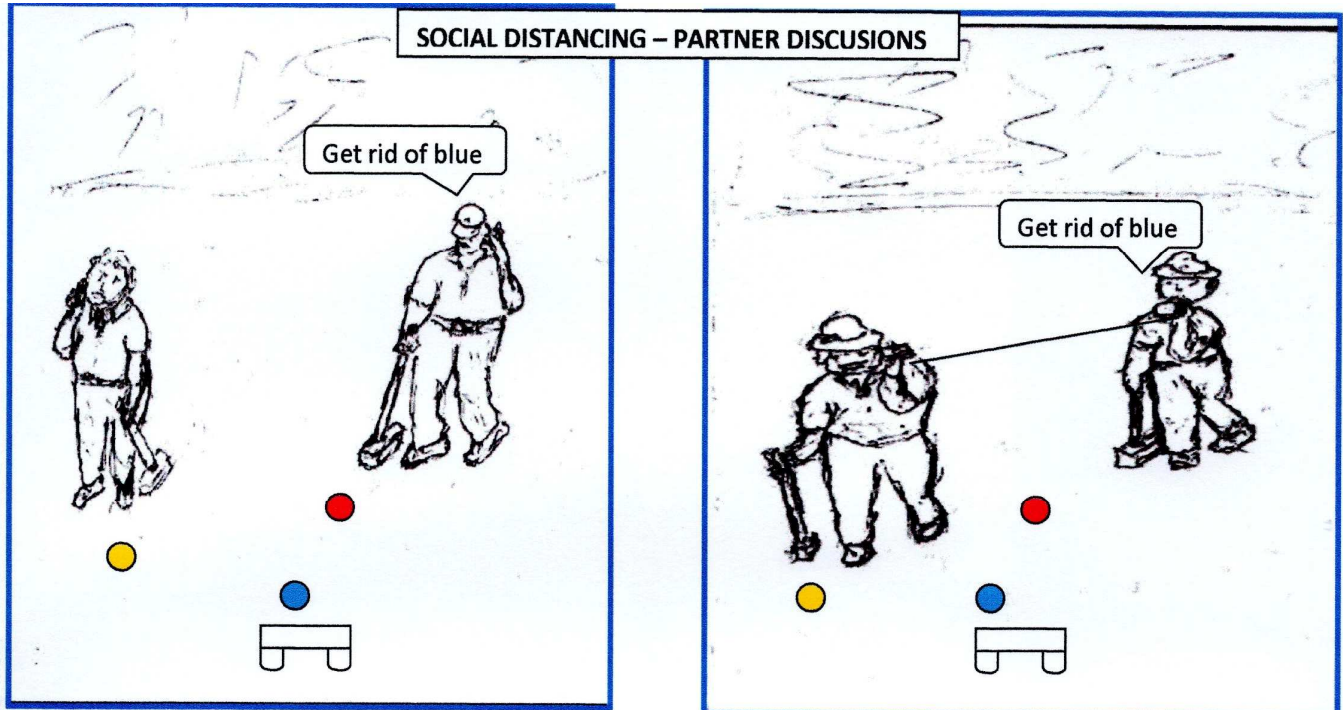
Following the successful two tournaments which are running at the moment, the committee has decided to increase your access to competitive play and you have received details from Dorianne about these. We hope this will enable you to play with a wider range of fellow members as well as satisfy anyone's competitive traits! Any ability to return to normal club days for AC and GC will be dependent upon the

government's regulations regarding Covid 19. This means that we cannot yet set dates for Finals Day or even the AGM. However, more restrictions have been lifted and it is now possible to play doubles games. Also double banking is now allowed *for singles games, but not during tournament games and only when booked or agreed by both pairs at the start of a morning or afternoon session.*

COACHING

Perhaps not everyone will know yet, that Bob Burnett is running AC coaching again. This time on Thursday mornings, starting at 9.30a.m. No need to book. Just turn up and don't worry if you haven't played AC before — he will be delighted to see you.

Thanks to Ron for exercising his imagination and skills in these amusing suggestions for GC doubles play.



TREVOR BAINBRIDGE

I am sure we were all saddened to learn of Trevor's death. The most often expressed comment when members heard the sad news was that he was 'such a gentleman' and I think we can all agree with that. Perhaps not everybody knows how much he did for the club. Tony Backhouse tells me that Trevor was involved right at the beginning of the club's establishment at Porthpean when in July 2003 he took Trevor, Howard and the golf club groundsman to the Plymouth Croquet Club to see what a well run, four lawn, croquet club looked like. Shortly after this Howard started work on providing the first two lawns. Trevor had served on the committee for many years and all will know that he regularly cut the grass of our outfield to keep the club neat and tidy. More recently, he headed the club's project to get a changing area for ourselves and visiting teams (the 'cabin'), travelling many miles and using his contacts to view a variety of buildings. His contribution went far beyond this, but he worked so quietly and without fuss that often we did not know how much until the results of his efforts were obvious.

Trevor was a valued member of the club's 'Porthpean' GC Handicap League team playing at games home and away, often driving a car full of other team members to matches. Nothing was too much trouble for him. He had a great sense of humour and always greeted one with a cheerful smile. He supported all club functions, often involving his wife, Margaret, in providing plates of food for social events and team teas.

I know that many members will have their own memories of Trevor and, like me, will miss him for quite some time to come.

FOR SALE:

- 1) **An ASDA George white nylon puffer gilet/body warmer. Small 18. £5.00 to club funds. Contact Joyce Wilson. 01726 823722**
- 2) **A full set of men's 'whites' many with club badge on (trousers, shirts, socks, waterproof jacket, heavyweight fleece) donated by Margaret Bainbridge for club funds. For details and to view, contact Rhona.**
- 3) **A set of waterproofs—probably Medium size. For details contact Dorianne**

CAN YOU HELP?

For almost three months now I have been covering three jobs - Chairman (for which I was elected), Secretary and Grounds Maintenance Co-ordination. The latter two became vacant on 31st March and the AGM respectively. This is not good for me and, very much more importantly, it is not good for the club. We need more members to serve on the committee either as Officers or committee members, someone to co-ordinate publicity and recruitment and more members to help with grounds maintenance.

Please have a think about what you might be able to do to help. Could you take on the position of Secretary? Perhaps you could adopt an area of the grounds that you would be willing to maintain, no matter how small. Or, maybe you have lots of ideas for increasing membership that you would be willing to take on or guide others to do. We have all heard the saying 'many hands make light work' and it could really be true if a few more people came forward to help in running the club. **Please don't leave it to someone else but rather think about what you could do.**

SOME VERY GOOD NEWS

You may remember a question at the AGM about an item in the accounts for £250 Sponsorship. It was explained then that this was an amount donated to the club by the local agent for the NFU (our

insurers) Ian Maddever. I am pleased to say that Ian has yet again agreed to sponsor us for the sum of £250 which will be a very welcome addition to the club's income.

If you are looking for insurance please do speak to the NFU and mention that you are a member of the club. They may not be the cheapest insurance you can find, but at least it will show them that we are aware and grateful for their sponsorship.



WANTED

2nd hand self propelled petrol mower. If you have a petrol mower sitting in your garden shed or garage which you no longer use, would you please consider donating it to the club or lending it very long term. Or, perhaps you know someone else who may have one. The reason is that when starting to prepare for the season this year the grass was too long to cut it with the club's ride on mower so we had to hire a normal lawn mower to get it down to a workable level. With the wetter winters we are experiencing I can envisage this happening more and more frequently so such a mower would enable us to keep the grass down throughout the winter, given the right conditions!

THANK YOU

A sincere 'thank you' to those members who have donated their original competition entry fees, from their March entries, to the club. This is not only welcome financially, but also gratifying to hear of such support.

Thank You.

AIDE MEMOIRE!

- * **Think about whether you can be the club's next Secretary.**
- * **Think about what job(s) you could do around the grounds on a regular basis; e.g. keeping a short section of fencing weed free etc.**
- * **Keep an eye out for a petrol mower looking for a new home - must be self-propelled**
- * **Let Dorianne know which club tournaments you would like to enter by next Thursday**
- * **Fill in the form to enable your details to be added to an on-line booking system as soon as possible**

Rhona