

C.C.C. UPDATE - April 2022

It is 18 months since the last edition of 'Update'. How time flies! Hopefully we have seen the worst of the Coronavirus and things will gradually get better. With a new playing season just begun the committee, through Nigel Dawson Cocks, is putting a lot of energy into recruitment and coaching. More of that later, but first some 'housekeeping'.

Please do remember the request that we put out last year to tidy up after yourselves when you go home after a playing session – putting away any chairs and equipment you have used, making sure all the washing up is done and mugs etc put away. Lights out, plugs out except the fridge, and all doors locked.

Now for the interesting bits:

Golf Croquet – The new 6th edition of the GC rules has been finalised and should be available from the CA shop soon. If you are an enthusiast, the full rules are now available on the World Croquet Federation website.

Some of you may have heard of the term 'Advantage Golf Handicap' or 'Advantage Play'. This is not to give either player or pair of players an advantage as the name may suggest, but rather to take away any advantage there might have been in order to give both players or pairs an equal chance to win a game. This is likely to be introduced in the South West Federation league games next year, so we have the opportunity this year of getting used to it beforehand. The committee spent quite a while determining how it can be introduced this year whilst all GC League matches we will be playing will be using the current format (i.e. extra strokes, often informally called bisques). In the end *the committee agreed that internal club competitions will be played in the Advantage Golf Croquet format and games in social play may be played in either, although there is a preference for Advantage Golf Croquet throughout.* Don't worry if you are getting confused. *Des will be joining the Thursday morning GC group to explain Advantage GC in greater depth commencing Thursday 14th April. He will also be there this week for those who want to play in the summer competition and for one or two more Thursday mornings to help people get used to it.* These few sessions will also be open to any other players who want to understand Advantage GC. One thing to remember is that you still take turns in hitting your ball and still approach the hoops in the same order etc. as usual so it's nothing to be particularly concerned about – Des will explain all!

Lawn Booking system – It is quite some time since we were booking lawns outside those for social play and matches so I will be attaching the explanatory notes I sent out when we first started using it along with this 'Update'. Please remember that *if you have not registered your email address on the booking system you will not be able to retrieve your password, should you forget it. If you have not yet registered on the system and would like to, just drop me an email and I will send you a user name and temporary password to get you started.*

The Croquet Association – Every five years the Croquet Association holds a survey of all croquet players whether members of the CA or not. This year's survey started on 22nd March and goes on until 22nd April. You can complete it online by going to www.croquet.org If you can't complete it online then the CA will

post a paper copy to you, complete with a reply paid envelope if you call 01242 242318. *Please do try to join in this survey as answers will help to shape the future of the CA.*

Recruitment – As many will know, we are slowly losing members, usually through age or illness rather than disenchantment. This means that not only has our income from subscriptions reduced but the club could also become less vibrant as members have fewer different players to compete with and to socialise with. This has been a concern of the committee for some time and we have now appointed Nigel to co-ordinate activities to encourage more people to try croquet and join the club. The result is that we shall be holding two Open Weekends in the near future – the first on 30th April/1st May and the second on 14th/15th May. *As in the past, we need your help by coming to play and welcoming visitors. The opening times are 10am to 5pm, so if you could come up to play at any time during the weekends it would be a great help.* We will also be asking you to get posters displayed advertising the weekends, as in previous years, and these will be available in the clubhouse from Wednesday 13th April

Following each of these weekends, if any visitors have expressed an interest to become more involved with croquet then we will be running coaching sessions for beginners on Monday evenings for Association Croquet and Tuesday evenings for Golf Croquet.

Coaching will not be limited to beginners only. Bob will be holding AC coaching sessions for both experienced players and beginners who could not attend in the evening. Felicity will be providing sessions on Some Tuesday mornings from 10.30am for post beginner improvers. These will start on 12th April and are open to any member who would like to take advantage of them. As some matches are scheduled for Tuesdays you should check your fixture list and with Felicity before turning up. There will also be opportunities for more experienced players to take part in coaching on a day or days to be agreed and a notice for this will be put up in the clubhouse in due course.

VACANCY - Sadly, Phil is having to give up white lining due to health problems. I am sure you will all agree that over the past 6 or more years he has done sterling work for the club ensuring that the lawns are always well marked. This does, however, leave us needing someone to take on the role. *If you think you might be able to help, either individually or with one or two friends please let me know as a matter of urgency.*

I hope that you can see that there is going to be a lot going on over the next few months. Don't stand on the side lines and just watch. Instead, get involved – I'm sure you will enjoy it and your participation will benefit the club.

Rhona