



Silver Jubilee Year

# The Bear of Rodborough Croquet Club

August 2009  
Newsletter

## Jubilee celebrations



A perfect evening, good food, great company and the best of hosts – our thanks to Richard and Rosemary for inviting us to their home for our Silver Jubilee Barbecue. They had put so much work into planning a special event with anniversary decorations, games, displays and two “photo cakes” – they created a magical occasion.



Thanks, too, to everyone who brought such super food and wine contributions.



Some photos defy a caption!



Fun and games were planned



and copious amounts of food eaten.

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**Membership.**

We are delighted to welcome new members this year and are pleased to announce that the club is now full. Anyone applying for membership now will be placed on a waiting list and contacted as places become available.

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## **League matches.**

Success after success! The B League continues its winning streak by beating Broadwas 3 – 2, beating Llandaff 5 – 0, and Worcester gave us a walkover because they could not raise a team. This means they are now in the semi-finals. Brilliant B Bears!

The Intermediate League beat Worcester Norton 6 - 1

The Federation League beat Broadwas 3 - 2 and beat Swindon 4 – 1 but lost to Kingston Langley 1-4.

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## **Silver Jubilee Jolly.**

### **Llanfairfechan beckons.**

Sixteen intrepid Bears and their spouses are venturing into deepest, darkest Wales for the annual Bear Summer Jolly. John and Joan, Brian and Carol, Keith and Kate, Richard and Rosemary, Robert and Sue, Michael and Ann, Richard W and Joy, Don and Faith head for the hills at the end of August and will attempt to bring glory to the club. Distribution of the September issue of the newsletter will be delayed until the Bears return so that pictures can be included.

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### **Hotel news.**

Rachel Sealey, the Wedding and Banqueting Coordinator, is leaving The Bear for another job within the Cotswold Inns and Hotels Group. We are very sorry to see her leave because she has been a superbly efficient and supportive link with us but wish her well in her new post.

Heather Kapnias is the new coordinator and we look forward to meeting and working with her.

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### **Congratulations**

Keith has just been made an Incorporated Engineer following an interview in London with the Society of Operations Engineers. The letters “I Eng” now join all the others which follow his name. I think he is trying to collect a complete alphabet!

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### **Handicap changes.**

Kate’s handicap has now come down to 14 and Keith’s to 12. Matthew’s is now 4.

## **Club matches.**

Well done to all who have played their club matches in good time. Despite the hotel using the lawn considerably more than in previous years, we have all been able to fit in our matches. In the doubles, it is just the final to be played between Matthew and Rosemary v Kate and Paul. The last singles quarter-final match is being played this week and the two semi-finals must be played by 3<sup>rd</sup> September.

The Advanced Tournament has been resurrected this year after several years of not being played. Don, Richard, Matthew, Peter and Robert will be competing for this trophy on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> October.

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### **Club Blazers.**

In a moment of high humour at a winter pub night, there was a suggestion that we could investigate club blazers. At the time, there was a huge amount of support for the idea and Nick has found a company which will produce them to our design. This could be a plain white/cream blazer with primary coloured trim or, we could go the whole hog and have material made specially with, for example, primary colour stripes – perhaps on a white background. There has also been a suggestion that ladies may prefer secondary colours. There is no suggestion of elitism here but I believe we would be the first club to sport such garb!! Bespoke clothing does not come cheap and depending on style and numbers made, prices would probably be in the £180 - £240 price bracket. If there is sufficient interest, we could have them within about eight weeks – ready for our annual dinner and for next season. I am still not sure whether Nick’s suggestion of matching boaters was a serious or frivolous remark made under the influence of Merlot!

If you would like to express initial interest (without commitment), please let Rosemary know (in her capacity as Secretary of State for Entertainment).

This would be the perfect kit on which to wear your Silver Bear and just imagine how intimidating it would be to the opposition if we all turned up to matches dressed to kill!

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## SWF AGM

The AGM of the South West Federation is to be held on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> November at 10.00a.m. at the Batch Country Hotel, Lympsham (4 miles from the M5 J22).

Please let Rosemary know if you would like to attend.

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### Tournament success.

Peter, Pat and Robert played in the Cheltenham July Tournament last week. After six days play, Robert ended the week on the same index as he started, but Pat and Peter reached the finals of the family doubles competition and missed out winning by only three hoops after their opponent made a seemingly impossible hit in from the boundary to overtake them and pip them at the post. However, had they won, they would have received a silver spoon which they would have had to polish for twelve months before handing it back. As runners up, they received a pair of whiskey glasses which they keep. The moral of the story is that it is better to be a runner up!

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**And finally, before you turn the computer off, scroll down to the next page to see the first in a new series of cut-out-and-keep features.**

#### For more information:

Our Club Website-

<http://www.faydon.com/Bear/Bear.html>

Croquet Association (of which the club is a member) -[www.croquet.org.uk](http://www.croquet.org.uk)

South West Federation of Croquet Clubs (to which we are affiliated) –

<http://www.swfcroquet.org.uk>

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#### The Bear of Rodborough Croquet Club.

Chairman and Hotel Liaison:	Robert Moss	01453 872386
Secretary:	Rosemary Danby	01453 872456
Treasurer:	Brian Pittaway	01453 860610
Handicapper and club competitions manager:	Don Gaunt	01453 822507
Lawn Manager:	Nick Hurst	01453 882960
Equipment Manager:	Richard Danby	01453 872456
Webmaster:	Don Gaunt	01453 822507

# Help! What do I do now?

This is the first in a series of features in which a point of law will be explained. Jargon will be avoided and terms simplified so that beginners will not find explanations too daunting. However, this will mean that for a definitive ruling, reference to the Laws Book will be needed and where appropriate, the relevant law will be indicated.

This article is printed on its own page in case you want to start compiling your own coaching manual.

## ***I have just taken croquet from the wrong ball. What do I do now?***

There are two different answers to this question. If you took croquet from a Live Ball (i.e. one that has not already been taken croquet from) there is no penalty - you simply replace the balls and then carry on by taking croquet from the correct ball. However, if you had taken croquet from a Dead Ball, there *is* a penalty – the balls are replaced and your turn ends. [Laws 27d and e].

## ***What is a dead ball?***

A ‘dead’ ball is a ball you have already roqueted and cannot do so again until you have scored a hoop or started a new turn. [Law 6e].

## ***My opponent is about to take croquet from the wrong ball. Should I stop him?***

This is called “Forestalling”.

You SHOULD NOT forestall if your opponent is about to take croquet from a dead ball but you SHOULD forestall if he is about to take croquet from the WRONG LIVE ball. This is because on a dead ball, no error (and therefore penalty) is committed until the stroke is made. [Laws 23b, 23c]

*(Next month’s newsletter will explain forestalling in more detail.)*

## ***I should have taken croquet but didn’t.***

This is an error without penalty. You simply replace any balls moved in error, take croquet, and carry on UNLESS your turn has ended in the previous stroke due to a problem such as a fault. [Law 27f].

It is your responsibility to declare a fault or error as soon as you spot it. This is usually immediately you have committed it but if you didn’t immediately notice and had gone on and played two further strokes, the Limit of Claims for these two situations has passed and the game continues as if nothing had happened.

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