

**OPENING NIGHT. The new season will begin with a bang on Wednesday 2nd April.**

Starting at 6.30p.m., you are invited to try your luck with a Beat The Chairman Challenge. This hilarious event will help get rid of those winter blues and mallet cobwebs and be your chance to try out Nick's new lawn arrangement. It is pure coincidence that he will be abroad on this night so unable to hear our comments about how the new lawn plays!

**Club Matches.**

The match lists will be up on the board on Opening Night and the person you have to play first will also be there so **please bring your diaries** and arrange your first match there and then.

Experience shows that it is easier and very helpful to other members if matches are arranged early because as soon as we approach summer holidays, arrangements become more difficult – occasionally impossible!

**Coaching.**

*Association Beginners'* coaching with Robert on Mondays starting at 2.30p.m. on April 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>.

*Tactics* with Don at RDS on Mondays 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> April starting at 7.30p.m. If you have a copy of Plus One on Time, please bring it. Please also bring paper, pens and coloured pencils. **This really is an opportunity not to be missed! Cancel any other arrangements and be there. You won't regret it!!**

**Annual subs are now overdue.**

Please send payment to Brian. Cheques should be made payable to The Bear of Rodborough Croquet Club. Standard Membership - £20

Country Membership (over 15 miles from club) - £10

**The SWAN magazine** is now out and will be available either at next Wednesday's pub night or at the Opening Night.

**Change of rules affecting Beginners' League matches.**

Your manager will acquaint you with these rule changes which affect the number of bisques you will give/get but if you want detailed information, you will find it in The SWAN.

**The final pub night** of the winter will be next Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> March, at The Village Pub, Nailsworth, where we will have a talk from the brewery owner, a tour of the brewery, a meal and samples of some of the six beers they produce. The cost of £12 per head includes the meal, the tour and four half-pints of beer.

**The Bear** is once again running its very successful and popular Beer Festival over the three days of the Easter weekend and for those of you who have not tried it before, it is well worth going.

**Vienna 2008.** Currently, ten members are travelling to Vienna for the friendly in the summer. Most are travelling out on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> August and returning on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> though a few are staying longer. For any other folk wanting to go, flights with Easyjet are around £90 return and our hosts are arranging reduced rate accommodation at a good hotel near the club. As soon as we have details, everyone will be responsible for making their own booking because deposits must be paid.

**New System.**

I make no apologies for repeating the following as the efficient running of the season and good relationships with The Bear relies on it:

A new system is in place this season to prevent clashes and to ensure no-one wastes time travelling to The Bear to find the lawn is already in use.

You will find a year planner in the pavilion. Please enter on this dates and times of all matches you arrange.

Hotel bookings will also be written up on this so no-one should be inconvenienced but, although the hotel tries very hard not to inconvenience us, if they get a lucrative booking at very short notice, they clearly cannot turn it down on our part. We therefore can only expect this new system to be 99% perfect!

**Handicap cards.** Please ensure your cards are up to date and, if Don has not verified it recently, please ask him to do so before the first match of the season. If you are in need of a new card, Robert has a supply of them.

**Handicap Conference Report.**

Robert attended the Handicap Conference at Taunton, run by Don where nearly all the clubs in the region were represented, as was the CA. The main aim was to encourage greater consistency of handicapping within and between clubs and to continue the excellent achievements made over recent years.

Also, there is a move afoot to change the handicapping system radically to remove many of the current anomalies (such as banditry). This is currently

**The Bear of Rodborough Croquet Club.**

Chairman and Hotel Liaison:

Secretary:

Treasurer:

Handicapper and club competitions manager:

Lawn Manager:

Equipment Manager:

Robert Moss

Rosemary Danby

Brian Pittaway

Don Gaunt

Nick Hurst

Richard Danby

01453 872386

01453 872456

01453 860610

01453 822507

01453 882960

01453 872456

only a suggestion but – you heard it here first!

It is pleasing to note that all clubs now start with a handicap of 28.

SWF tournaments accept players of 24 or less and CA tournaments with a handicap of 20 or less.

**Golf Croquet Handicaps** are different from Association Croquet handicaps and are changing as from 15<sup>th</sup> March 2008. The new golf handicap will range from 0 – 12. Members wishing to compete in Golf Croquet tournaments must ensure they have and use the new (green) Golf Croquet Handicap Card which accommodates this change.

See the CA website for more info.

**For more information:**

Our Club Website-

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

Please keep a regular watch on this site as Don will be keeping it up to date.

Croquet Association -

[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>

**Club Golf Tournament.**

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September 10.00a.m.

**AGM** – Monday 15<sup>th</sup> October

**Difficulty downloading newsletters?**

If you would prefer a paper version, please ask Rosemary.

**Congratulations** to Kate on achieving her Master’s degree with a distinction.