



The Bear of Rodborough Croquet Club

January 2012
Newsletter



CONGRATULATIONS to John Munro for being awarded the CA Diploma for services to croquet. Before joining us, John was a member of Blewbury and Cheltenham CC. He has also just retired from the post of Federation Development Officer for the South of England and can now add this award to The Coach of The Year award he received previously.

John was presented with his diploma by Don in his capacity as former chairman of the Croquet Association. His citation reads:

John Munro, Southern Federation of Croquet Clubs

John has been a member of Blewbury CC for many years, usually holding office in the club. In 2006 however he was elected to the Southern Federation of CCs committee in order to take over as Federation Development Officer. In October he took up his position and became a valuable member of the CA Development Committee. He has a great deal of patience and enthusiasm that has proved to be a perfect combination for new clubs. Better-established clubs have also appreciated his depth of knowledge, especially when negotiating their way around applications for grant aid from the Development Committee.

John has been most conscientious and it is not thought that he has missed a Development Committee meeting or a Federation Committee meeting since he was elected. The work that he has done on behalf of the CA and the Federation has been quite exceptional. He recently moved to Gloucester and joined Cheltenham CC but continued as Development Officer. Despite the extra traveling he still continued as always. But he decided to retire from the Southern Federation this year. He well deserves his work to be recognized with a CA Diploma.

Pub Nights

Wednesday 18th January at Egypt Mill, Nailsworth

Wednesday 15th February at the Half Way House, Box

Wednesday 14th March at Tippits, just outside Nailsworth (about a mile south of Nailsworth heading towards Bath on the A46.

You can either eat at 7 p.m. or just come along for a drink a bit later.

Annual Dinner

Saturday 31st March at the Bear of Rodborough Hotel.

Details and menus will be sent by email shortly.

Annual subs are now due.

Subs are due on 1st January and must be paid by 31st January.

Please send your cheque - made payable to "The Bear of Rodborough Croquet Club" (£25 per person) to: Brian Pittaway, Cotswold House, Front Street, Nympsfield, GL10 3TY.

Something to keep your mind active in those long winter evenings:

There is a huge amount of advice on the internet if you know where to look. Whether it is just finding out what those curious abbreviations mean or whether you want coaching advice, whether you would like to enjoy some trivia, view some nostalgic photos or learn some of the complexities of the advanced game, there is a wealth of help, advice and information available.

On our own website

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

you will find much to entertain and inform. Don has written papers on coaching and Robert has written features on the laws. Don's articles can be found by clicking on "Don's Documents" on the home page and Robert's features by clicking on "Polar Express" and looking at the archived newsletters.

On the CA website

www.croquet.org.uk, click on Tournaments, Association Croquet or Golf Croquet and explore what is on offer.

But the most comprehensive website of all is Oxford Croquet

<http://www.oxfordcroquet.com>. This superb site contains everything you want to know and everything you need to know whether you are an absolute beginner or a world-class player.

Advance Notices

Alternate Strokes Doubles

This is a new initiative and is aimed at helping high handicap players learn more quickly. The idea is to pair up a high handicap player with someone who has confidence, experience and patience and is a good teacher. They then play a doubles game taking alternate strokes.

Provisionally, we are suggesting pairs of players from the Bear playing against pairs from Cheltenham. This will give participants a good insight into what happens in matches. It is both a very good learning experience and good fun.

More details when a date is fixed – probably around late March/early April.

Charity One-Ball Event

We have been invited to join in with this national croquet event. Clubs have a "heat" to select one player who then represents that club in the national final in May. The money raised will be given to Breakthrough, the breast cancer support charity.

One Ball is the same as Association Croquet but each player only has one ball instead of two. Tactics are "interesting" and games are fast and encourage bold play. For those who have never tried it, it is good fun and attracts both Golf and Association players. Instruction will be given on the day. Participants are invited to dress in pink if they wish.

More details nearer the time.

Hotel news.

We welcome Laura Bremer, the Bear's new Wedding and Event Coordinator, and look forward to working with her.

The Bear has updated its website following its refurbishment. It is most impressive – click the link to take a tour.

http://www.cotswold-inns-hotels.co.uk/property/the_bear_of_rodborough

Raise your game in 2012?

Is this the year you would like to become a qualified coach?

Or a qualified referee?

Or attend a coaching course?

Is this the year you join the Croquet Association as a playing member?

How about entering your first tournament this year?

There are plenty of people eager to help and encourage you. There are hundreds of opportunities. Will 2012 be the year you move up to the next level?

Whatever your ambitions or intentions, I wish all my readers a very happy and enjoyable 2012

Stop press.

CA Survey.

Every five years, the Croquet Association conducts a survey to help it improve its service to member clubs and individual members. The Bear of Rodborough CC is a member club and we also have 13 individual members so we are all being asked to complete and return the survey when it arrives shortly.

The individual members will receive their survey forms with their January mailing direct from the CA but the rest of our members will receive their forms from Rosemary in due course (probably via pub nights). Surveys can be completed on paper or electronically and details will be given as we learn them.

The CA states that survey results are a valuable planning aid and in particular they have helped the CA to:

1. Take into account more easily and fully the needs and desires of members.
2. Promote croquet more effectively and increase recruitment.
3. Obtain financial backing more easily; for instance, lottery grants.
4. Obtain an increased level of sponsorship.

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For more information:

Our Club Website- <http://www.faydon.com/Bear/Bear.html>

Archived newsletters and coaching hints - <http://www.faydon.com/Bear/News.html>

Croquet Association (of which the club is a member) - www.croquet.org.uk

South West Federation of Croquet Clubs (to which we are affiliated) – <http://www.swfcroquet.org>

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The Bear of Rodborough Croquet Club.

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