

Bear of Rodborough Croquet Club



Newsletter – January 2014

A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR TO BEARS EVERYWHERE

Roddy's Progress.

Coaching session 1 – “Stalk the ball”



ANNUAL SUBS NOW DUE

Please send your subs to Brian either by electronic transfer or cheque before the

31st January deadline.

Full membership £30,

Far distant country membership £15.

Bank transfer details:

Sort Code 09 06 66

A/C 41503328

A/C name “Bear of Rodborough CC”

Brian asks that if you pay by this method, please also send him an email to tell him you have done so.

Otherwise, send your cheque to him at Cotswold House, Front Street, Nympsfield, GL10 3TY

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Pub Night Dates.

WEDNESDAY 15th January,
The Amberley Inn. 7.00 p.m for 7.30 p.m

(See Menu below)

WEDNESDAY 12th February,
The Ragged Cot 7.00 p.m for 7.30 p.m

FRIDAY 28th March,
our 30th ANNUAL DINNER,
The Bear, 7.30 p.m for 8.00 p.m

Snooker Dates

January 9th, 23rd

February 6th, 20th

March 6th, 20th

Chairman's Comments

To update you on progress at Federation level, I attended the South West Federation AGM at the end of November where most of the proposals went the way we wanted. The only one which did not go the way we preferred was Proposal B concerning the Parkstone League. The finally worded change which was passed now reads *"However, the Committee may vary the number of teams promoted or relegated but the winning team **may not decline promotion.**"*

If you want more information or to see a more detailed report of this meeting, you will find it on the SWF website under "News".

You may be interest to know that last season, 609 different players from 26 clubs fielding 113 teams played in South West league matches. Entries for 2014 suggest these numbers will increase. This is a quite remarkable level of participation and we should acknowledge the enormous amount of work that John Grimshaw, the League Secretary, puts into arranging all this competition for us.



I was presented with this plaque on behalf of our Parkstone League Team who won Division 2 last season and who will now be promoted to Division 1.

Following the SWF AGM, the meeting hosted by the CA top brass explained the current suggestions and asked for views. This led to a healthy and sometimes excited debate. Over the next twelve months, you will be made aware how this consultation period progresses but for now all I will say is that the CA are emphatic that this year is for consultation only. They will then use the feedback gained to develop a set of proposals which may or may not reflect some or all of the current suggestions. They are clear that no changes can be imposed on federations by the CA and that any change will follow voting from each club. The rationale behind the current debate is that the status quo is unsustainable. I represented your views at that meeting and you have already seen the letter I sent to the CA chairman. At January's SWF committee meeting, we will be discussing how the federation will respond.

The debate has only just begun.

Robert

On-Line Booking

Richard Way has been working extensively on getting the on-line lawn booking system ready. We are currently finalising details with the hotel and arranging fixtures with our opponents. When all this is entered onto the system, we will be ready to launch it (hopefully in February) and at that time we will send you an advice sheet explaining how it works.

We will run it as a trial throughout 2014 but if anyone encounters any problems, just contact Richard.

Photo Competition

Entries are now coming in but remember the final date for entries is **January 31st** so if you haven't submitted yours yet, you only have a few weeks left.

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Tournament news

Budleigh Salterton in winter

We have an invitation from Budleigh to take part in one or both of their Winter Doubles Days on Sunday 20th January and Sunday 16th February. We would need to leave Stroud at 7.30 a.m. for a 9.30 start.

- 3 x 18pt games of 1h 50m each
- own lunch,
- bar open for whisky Macs,
- tea before departure,
- home by 7.30 p.m
- (£7.50 per head).

Let Robert know if you are interested.

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High Bisquers Tournaments (for handicaps of 12 or more) are excellent ways to gain experience. Coaches and referees are on hand to give advice and support when needed. Two already in the pipe-line are:

Budleigh Salterton High Bisquers Tournament which is on TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY 15TH AND 16TH APRIL. Full details are expected later this month.

Cheltenham High Bisquers Tournament is on Tuesday 17th – Thursday 19th June.

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Old Christmas and birthday cards.

Faith is collecting our old cards to give to a friend who recycles them into new cards which are then sold to raise money for the charity *Riding for the Disabled*. Faith would be delighted to accept your contributions at any time throughout the year.

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And now, some words of wisdom from our esteemed coach, handicapper, foreign secretary, and club competition general manager, Don.



Your High Bisque Partner

A fair number of Bears, I am delighted to say, have improved to the extent that they can now be considered experienced players. Because of this, they will now often find themselves partnered in handicap doubles with high bisque partners (hbps)

As an experienced player, you have the responsibility to get the best from your doubles partner when he or she has less ability than you do. Over my croquet career I can say, without bragging, that I have had considerable success with hbps, winning or runner-up in quite a number of events. Here are a few tips that I have discovered over the years.

1. Just because you find a particular shot easy, do not expect the same from your hbp. A 5 yard roquet may be trivial to you but it can be terrifying to your hbp.
2. If such a shot must be taken, guide your hbp through it (stalking, eye on the ball, smooth swing etc). Such guidance has to be based on your knowledge of the hbp's skills. Don't forget to indicate how hard the shot should be played. Remember that you can place balls and indicate directions for your partner
3. If such a shot is then missed DO NOT sigh and walk away. If you can see what went wrong, give helpful advice when off the lawn.
4. Be encouraging but not OTT. Too much "Oh great shot" when it wasn't will diminish the praise.
5. NEVER say "what did you do that for". If the hbp makes a silly shot, you should be looking out for it, so it's YOUR fault. OK, occasionally the hbp does something completely wild – just let it go and explain what you really wanted.
6. Be patient. I know this is difficult after the third set up and the third clang but do your best.
7. Know, or quickly find out, how well your hbp can rush. This will determine how near to the hbp's hoop, you lay a rush. Very hbps will normally be poor at rushing so you need to set up dolly rushes near their hoop. However, see 8.
8. If your hbp's hoop is also your opponent's and they have bisques of are close by, take both balls to a corner nearby and leave a VERY dolly rush to the hoop. That way if the oppo uses a bisque or hits in, only one ball can normally be brought into the lawn.
9. Receiving bisques. You must use your experience here. Likely reasons to take a bisque are; your hbp has stuck in oppo's hoop; has a good chance of at least two hoops; can finish the game. Likely reasons not to are; tricky hoops or roquets. Remember that taking a bisque yourself is sometimes tactically correct.
10. Giving bisques. The pressure is on you! Sometimes, however, you just have to take a chance. If your oppo are also a high/low pairing judge what each can do.
11. Listen to your hbp. He or she might well have a good idea, if not, you can explain why.

Don Gaunt

The Amberley Inn Pub Night details:

The menu is printed below. Please let Robert have your choices no later than **THURSDAY 9th January.**

Meet in the Lounge Bar at 7.00 for a 7.30 p.m. meal.

Please buy and pay for drinks/wine at the bar.

Note there is a surcharge if paying by credit card.

The Bears at The Amberley Inn - Wednesday 15th January

To Start

French onion soup with cheese croutons £4.95 *GF*

Breaded Whitebait and tartar sauce £5.95

Warm Goats cheese, asparagus and walnut salad £6.95 *VGF*

Wild mushrooms, served on toasted bread £5.95 *V GF* Option available

To Follow

Gourmet Fish pie, with white fish, smoked fish and king prawns in a cheese sauce £12.95 *GF*

Game casserole, horseradish mash & parsnip crisps £12.95 *GF*

Local rump of lamb marinated in rosemary & garlic served with Dauphinoise potatoes £14.95 *GF*

Winter vegetable hotpot with rosti potato topping £11.95 *V GF*

Stowford Press Battered Cod and Hand cut Chips £13.95 *GF*

SIDE ORDERS: Chips/ Green salad/ new potatoes/ Dauphinoise/ Seasonal buttered vegetables £2.95
GF - Gluten Free V- Vegetarian

Desserts

All our desserts are homemade to order. £5.95 each

Sticky Toffee Pudding *GF*

Vanilla Pannacota

Rhubarb and Ginger Crumble *GF*

Treacle Tart

All our ingredients are, wherever possible, locally sourced. Our meat comes from Taylors of Minchinhampton, our dairy products from the local farm, our veg from several local growers.

All delivered fresh every day and cooked to order.

If you have any specific requests or requirements, please let Robert know when booking.

Should you choose to pay by credit card, please note that American Express is subject to a 3.5% surcharge and Visa/MasterCard 1.8% sorry for any inconvenience caused. Debit card transactions are free of charge.

Courses to be held at the Croquet Academy in Southwick have been announced. If you are interested in attending any of these, full details can be found on the Croquet Academy website www.the-croquetacademy.com

The Croquet Academy Courses 2014

Dates	Course	Ideal Hcp	Course Leader
8 th – 10 th April	Managing Croquet Tournaments	n/a	Cliff Jones
9 th April	GC Improvers Course	4+	Daphne Gaitley
12 th – 13 th April	AC & GC Coaches Qualification Course	n/a	Cliff Jones
12 th – 13 th April	AC Development Course in Handicap Play	12 -18	Jonathan Isaacs
15 th - 16 th April	AC Beginners Course	n/a	Pat Jackson
15 th – 16 th April	AC Improvers Course	18+	Frances Low
23 rd – 24 th April	AC Development Course in Advanced Play	6 – 10	Cliff Jones
26 th – 28 th April	AC Triple Peel Course	4 or less	Cliff Jones
26 th – 27 th April	AC Introduction to Advanced Play Course	8 - 14	Nigel Polhill
7 th May	GC Improvers Course	4+	Daphne Gaitley
14 th – 15 th August	AC Supervised High Bisque Tournament	14+	Frances Low

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For more information:

Our Club Website- www.faydon.com/Bear/Bear

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

Croquet Association - www.croquet.org.uk

South West Federation of Croquet Clubs – www.swfcroquet.org.uk

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The Bear of Rodborough Croquet Club.

Chairman / Hotel Liaison: Robert Moss 01453 872386
 Treasurer: Brian Pittaway 01453 860610
 Lawn Manager: Nick Hurst 01453 882960
 Webmaster: Don Gaunt 01453 822507

Secretary: Richard Way 01453 833762
 Handicapper and club competitions manager: Don Gaunt 01453 822507
 Equipment Manager: Richard Danby 01453 872456