

Bear of Rodborough Croquet

Newsletter - March 2013



EDITORIAL

Here we are at the beginning of spring time, with the weather doing its best to get warmer and sunnier, so our thoughts turn to the croquet season once again. In this month's newsletter look out for information about the Charity One Ball competition, as well as a reminder of all this season's match dates. There is also news about the start of the season, weather permitting. Finally don't forget to unpack all the 'whites', check for moths and consider ordering a nice, new set of whites, details from John.

Finally for aspiring coaches there are some courses available – see the email from Ros Key-Pugh.

Keith and I are looking forward to seeing everyone at the Croquet Dinner in a few weeks.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENT

If, like me, you are suffering serious withdrawal symptoms through not being able to get onto the lawn recently, I have something to entertain and inspire. This is the time of year when we can dream of the perfect shot, determine to practise more, rid ourselves of previous bogies, and prepare to enjoy a sublime season.

To get you in the mood for all this, I invite you to watch a television programme. You will need to use the link below to watch it on your computer because it is a half-hour programme from South African television featuring last month's World Croquet Championships in Johannesburg. It is astounding for several reasons: Can you foresee the BBC covering croquet as part of its sports coverage?; How often are you able to see the inspirational play of the world's best players close up?; We sometimes complain if hoops are too tight but these guys have hoops set to one millimetre's tolerance and have the confidence to run hoops from distances which may make you wonder why you feel nervous if just six feet away!; and finally, I challenge everyone to watch this and then say "Golf Croquet is not an exciting game". Beware! Prejudice and preconceived opinions may be challenged!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QJqAfUaqwtM&feature=youtu.be>

If, occasionally, you see an odd body on the court it is simply the referee who is on court throughout games at this level.

Robert

Snooker evenings



As we can see the winter snooker evenings have gone really well again this year. We are now waiting with bated breath to find out who has won the trophy this year. Thanks to Rosemary who supplied the pictures.

Start of New Season

We are all eager to start playing following the eighteen month winter that we have endured but the actual starting date will be wholly dependent on the condition of the lawn and when it is dry enough for Nick to get it into shape. We hope to be able to announce the starting date at the annual dinner but unless we have a decent dry spell before then, we may need to be patient. However, you may like to pencil two dates in your diary.

Sunday 24th March and Sunday 7th April are provisional dates for elementary coaching with a 10.00 a.m. start. This will be focused on those who want to develop the basics and prepare for their first match.

Please let Robert know if you are interested and the coaching will be tailored to your specific needs.

SWAN publication

On Wednesday 6th March, Robert collected our copies of SWAN when he went to Weston for a federation committee meeting. He is intending to take them to snooker and the annual dinner for people to collect their copy. Any remaining copies will be available from the pavilion when the new season starts.

In order to keep costs down, there will be one copy per family rather than one per member.

Charity One-Ball Championship

Last year the competition had 28 heats and 414 players in them and raised £3085 for the Breast Cancer Campaign.

This year's charity for the 2013 (and 20th year of the) One-Ball Championship is **Prostate Cancer UK** (see <http://prostatecanceruk.org>), which does not have such a high profile but does equally sterling work raising awareness, providing information and giving vital support, such as specialist nursing. Neither does this charity have such a strong colour orientation as Breast Cancer Campaign's 'Wear something pink'; however, it uses blue a lot in its publicity and, as a result, the organisers are suggesting that organisers of heats adopt a 'Wear something blue' theme.

The organisation will be much as in previous years. Each heat should raise a minimum of £50 and then you the winner qualifies for the final, which this year is being held at Winchester on Sunday 12th May.

The Bear of Rodborough CC has arranged for its heat to be played on **Sunday 5th May** with Don Gaunt in charge so that we will be kept in order. If you want to play in the heat being held at the Bear please let Don know asap.

FACTOID

It is very appropriate that Don should be managing our heat in the year of the 20th Winchester One-ball Championship, as he won the first, when he was just a lad!

Club shirts and sweatshirts

Please let John Monroe know of any requests for new Bear shirts or sweatshirts.

There is a choice of shirt, unisex and ladies, both with embroidered logo.

The unisex shirt has a blue collar, comes in sizes S, M, L and XL and costs £13.00

The ladies shirt has a white collar, and is a more flattering and comfortable fit according to Rosemary, comes in women's sizing and costs £14.90

Sweatshirts are unisex only, come in sizes S, M, L and XL and costs £15.60

If you are unsure about sizes, ask John for advice or grab someone of a similar size (not literally) and ask them.

PROVISIONAL TOURNAMENT DATES 2013

Thanks to Richard Way for taking the time to organise these for us.

B league (Carol)

A	Worcester Norton	Sat	11-May
H	Broadwas	Tues	14-May
H	Llandaff	Tues	04-Jun
A	Swindon	Thurs	27-Jun

Intermediate (Paul)

H	Dyffryn	Sun	12-May
A	Worcester Norton	Sun	19-May
A	Swindon	Sun	09-Jun
A	Cheltenham	Sat	22-Jun
H	Broadwas	Sun	30-Jun

Federation (Keith)

A	Kington Langley	Sun	28-Apr
H	Swindon	Sun	19-May
A	Cheltenham	Sun	02-Jun
H	Worcester Norton	Sun	23-Jun
H	Dyffryn	Sun	14-Jul
A	Nailsea North	Sun	21-Jul

Parkstone 2 (Don)

A	Bristol 2nd	Tues	14-May
H	Cheltenham 2nd	Thurs	30-May
H	Bristol 2nd	Sun	02-Jun
A	Bath	Sat	08-Jun
A	Cheltenham 2nd	Sat	22-Jun
H	Bath	Sun	11-Aug

Thought for the Month...

Don't practice until you get it right. Practice until you can't get it wrong.

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.uk>

.....

The Bear of Rodborough Croquet Club.

Chairman:	Robert Moss	01453 872386
Secretary:	Richard Way	01453 833762
Treasurer:	Brian Pittaway	01453 860610
Handicapper and club competitions manager:	Don Gaunt	01453 822507
Lawn Manager and Hotel Liaison:	Nick Hurst	01453 882960
Equipment Manager:	Richard Danby	01453 872456
Webmaster:	Don Gaunt	01453 822507

Email from Ros Key-Pugh

A message for all club members

As your new editions of SWAN will not reach most of you before the beginning of April I just wanted to encourage you to consider whether you have anyone in your club who would like to try to qualify as a Club Coach or if they are already more experienced would like to improve their grade of coaching. You can never have too many ready and willing to assist improving your general standard of Club Play in both codes.

Cliff Jones and I are looking forward to two days in March (19th and 20th) when we shall be holding a Coaches Qualification Course at Camerton and Peasedown Club - see address below. This is a course for both Golf Croquet and Association Croquet players. It is intended to help members learn what is involved in planning and running coaching sessions for other members both within their club and outside their own club - anywhere where we can spread the love of croquet and involve more people in the game we all enjoy. We need to have at least 8 people wanting to come.

For those of you unfamiliar with the format of such a course, each day will have a morning session indoors with group work - and coffee. In the afternoons we will hope to get out on the lawns to put into practice some of the aspects we have been talking about. Members will be given a course booklet at the end which will summarise the essential elements of the course. On the second day there will be some assessment of individual's coaching abilities on lawn.

As it is early in the year whites are not essential though of course may be worn if wished - the imperative is to have warm, comfortable and waterproof clothing.

CPC may be new to most clubs. It has a comfortable, warm teaching area in the Main Cricket Clubhouse where we shall take our light lunch each day. Toilets are available at this part of the site. The main lawns are down a steep set of steps but can also be accessed by car down a separate access lane. We hope weather permitting to be playing there but have in reserve some half lawns on the cricket ground which remain dryer and are where we have been playing all winter to give our new lawns a complete 6 months to develop.

The details of the course are on the SWF website but I have copied them below so you have them to hand.

Croquet Coaches Qualification Course (for Association and/or Golf Croquet) - facilitators Cliff Jones assisted by RosKey-Pugh and Mo Boys **Tuesday March 19th and Wednesday March 20th 10 - 5.00** at Camerton and Peasedown Croquet Club.

Directions: On A367 from Bath take the Peasedown by-pass. After approx 1 mile on passing a 50mph sign take the right hand turn back into Peasedown. Take first left (Whitebrook Lane) and in 50 yards turn left into the Cricket Club. Park at the end of the lane behind the Main Clubhouse.

Cost: £15 for the course to include your training booklet. A hot soup and roll lunch will be available at an additional cost of £2.50 per day.

Please book for the course and lunches through Cliff Jones or Ros Key-Pugh (Tel 01225 427525 email: RosKeyPugh@ic24.net) Cheques payable to Camerton and Peasedown Croquet Club please. Send to Ros KeyPugh, 8 The Linleys, Bath BA1 2XE.

I can suggest some possible overnight venues if people contact me by email or telephone.

I look forward to hearing from some of you with keen members you have encouraged to become qualified. Thank you for your help.

Best wishes

Ros Key-Pugh (SWF Golf Croquet Advisor)