

# The Bears Croquet Club

## March 2015 Newsletter

### Multi-Sport Bears

Richard Danby reports:

#### Inter-Club Snooker

The Bears Snooker Section were pleased to host their first inter-club snooker fixture. This being a home fixture against Bristol Croquet Club on 21<sup>st</sup> Feb at Belmont (Chez Danby)

Bristol fielded an impressive squad of four A-Class croquet players – so we hoped their snooker ability did not match their croquet prowess. We began to get concerned when they turned up not only with their own cues, but with their own spare cues too. To quote Celine Dion - this is getting serious.

The event was held as two sessions: In the first session, The Bears ended up 0-4 down. At this juncture I should point out that Bristol's aggregate croquet handicap was -6, and The Bears' was 31½ - not sure how relevant this is but I'm grasping at straws.

We adjourned for tea, and many thanks to Rosemary, Deidre and Robert for organising a fantastic tea for all of us. At this point we decided to deploy our secret offensive weapon: Robert's heavily laced home-made chocolate cake.

Resuming play for the second session, turbo-boosted by aforementioned cake, The Bears remembered how to play the game – taking the session 4-2. So Bristol won the day 6-4, With Bristol's Richard Smith taking the high break prize of 25.

In the sartorial elegance section. I think it's fair to so say that The Bears won convincingly.

#### Teams:

- The Bears CC: Richard Danby (capt), Stephen Moss, Richard Way, Matthew Jackson, Howard Spellman
- Bristol CC: Pete Trimmer, Richard Smith, David Goacher (capt), Robert Wilkinson,





### **Inter-Club Table Tennis**

**On 28<sup>th</sup> February, a team from the Bears' Snooker Section was invited back to Bristol CC for a Table Tennis Challenge.**

**The Bears' got off to a storming start, but clearly peaked way too early, with Bristol staging a strong comeback.**

**It fell to some of the Bears' stronger and more experienced players to arrest the slide – which they did admirably.**

**The Bears won the vent 8-6, and received the magnificent trophy shown below. The teams being:**

**The Bears CC: Richard Danby (capt), Rosemary Danby, Don Gaunt, Stephen Moss, Howard Spellman, Richard Way.**

**Bristol CC: David Goacher (capt), Joan Littlewood, Moyra McConnell, Richard Smith, Robert Wilkinson.**



# Special General Meeting to adopt revised constitution.

Prepare yourself for this event which we plan to announce as soon as the committee has fine-tuned the proposal.

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## Important changes to league matches.

The CA has now ruled on the following which will affect our leagues:

**B League matches will now score +/- 10 points on handicap cards.**

**Handicap doubles.** The new system of determining handicaps for doubles matches has now been adopted and so must be used.

**Effective handicaps in Golf Croquet** - the trial period has been accepted and should now be used where they apply.

**Team captains/managers** will need to download the latest version of the League Rules from the SWF website (including appendices) which details all the changes and you may consider it wise to take these to matches in case the other club is unaware of them and a dispute arises. There is also a table for calculating handicap pairings.

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**Handicap cards** - The Bears have been diligent with cards but this is not always the case with some other clubs. Although it has always been the expectation, it is now the rule that handicap cards must be taken to ALL matches and it is becoming more common to have them inspected. There is now a penalty for not taking your card to tournaments - if you cannot produce it, you cannot win the event. At a Cheltenham tournament last year, several entrants who had not brought their cards were sent home to collect them before being allowed to play! We have been warned!

If you need a new handicap card, Robert has a supply of them and he will try to remember to take a few to each club meal, snooker evening and club day.

For those who are new to the delights of keeping a handicap card, the CA advice poster is reproduced at the end of this newsletter.

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## The SWANs have landed.

I collected our supply of SWAN magazine (South West Area Newsletter) this afternoon when attending a Federation meeting in Weston. Apart from features and articles, it contains all the league match fixtures and contact details needed by team captains. There is one copy for each member (max. one copy per household). I shall take a supply of these to snooker nights for those attending. Otherwise, you can collect one from my home but please phone first to check I will be in.

*Rob*

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**THIS YEAR'S JOLLY.**

I am pleased to announce that I have been able to arrange a visit to Ipswich Croquet Club for the weekend 1-2 August.

Ipswich have a 1 day AC H/C club event on the Sat to which we are invited. This is the Lintorn Shield (which I played in years ago when I was in Ipswich)

On the Sunday, the lawns (2) will be available for friendlies.

I will be circulating an email later in the year to get definite numbers but if you are interested (without commitment at present) it would help me if you could send a short email to me to say so.

*Don*

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**Croquet on the Radio**

In case you don't listen to Radio 2 Drive Time, in last Friday's programme, Caroline was interviewed by Simon Mayo about what croquet is all about and her selection for this year's Ladies World Championships.

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**CA Constitutional Changes - Vote.**

Thank you to all who replied to the request in the last newsletter about how you wish the club to vote in the CA Ballot. Of those who responded, one person abstained on all three counts, all others voted in favour of the three motions and so the club vote reflected this.

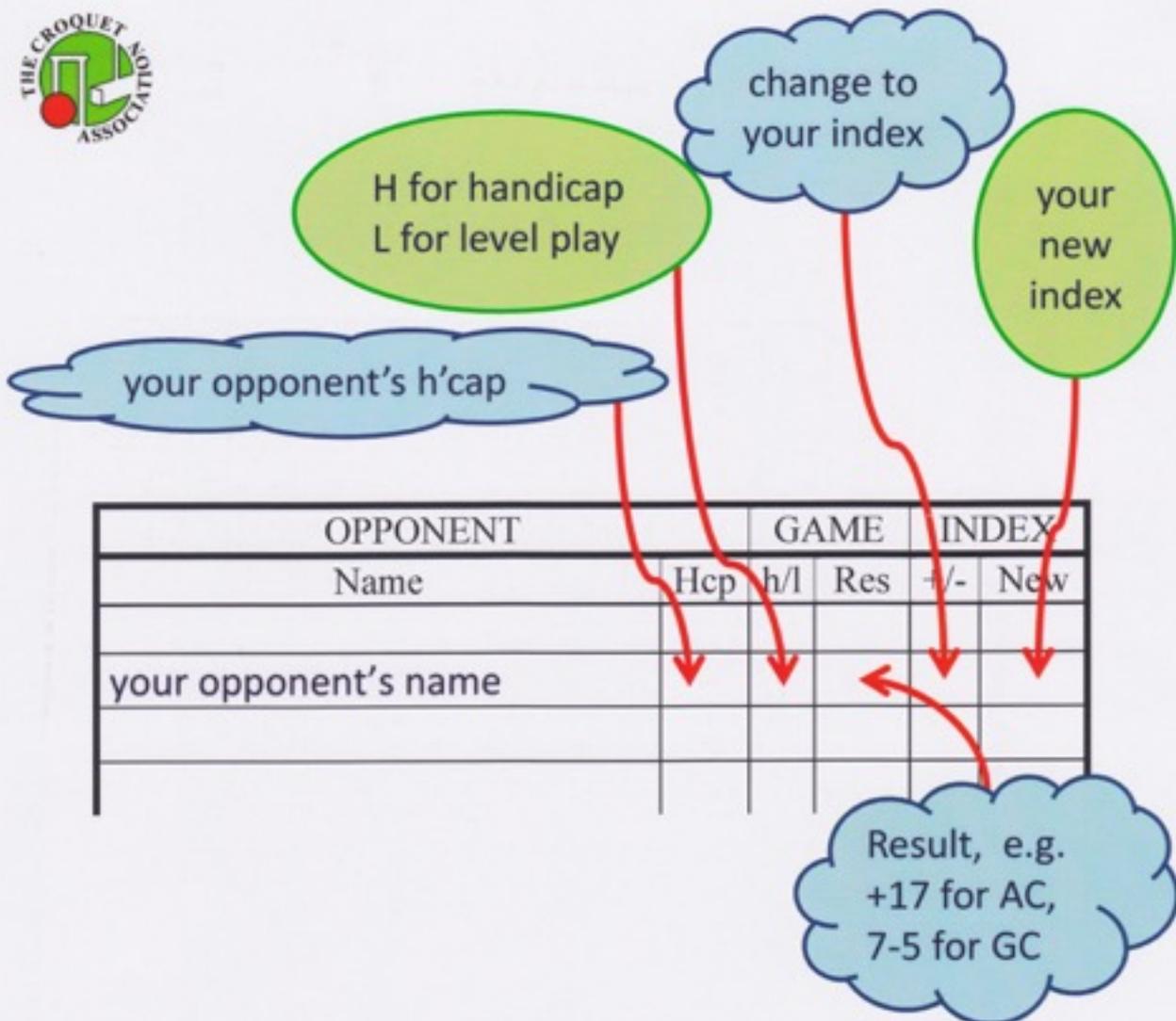
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**Reminder**

**Skittles evening at Stroud Conservative Club on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March at 7p.m.**  
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**“Great achievements never come from comfort zones.”**

# Fill out your handicap card!

The following applies to both GC and AC cards



**Avoid a common error:** when your index improves and you go through a trigger point, your handicap reduces by 1 step. If you then lose your next couple of games and go back below the same trigger point, your handicap doesn't increase again. This is because the trigger point you've gone through again is for the handicap you are already on – so you stay at the same handicap.

**Any questions?** Ask ..... *Don* ....., Club Handicapper