



Silver Jubilee Year

The Bear of Rodborough Croquet Club

May 2009
Newsletter

Souvenir edition.

Silver Jubilee Gala Dinner.

It was gratifying and gave enormous pleasure to have the company of so many friends and supporters at our Gala Dinner. The pictures speak for themselves but our thanks go to everyone who helped make the event so successful – as always, a team effort.



Our founding fathers (and Mother!), Nick Hurst, Rosemary Danby and Norman Gooch.



Professor Bernard Neal, our Guest of Honour, with The Bear's three chairmen.



Silver service!



Joan and John Munro with Kate Apperley.



Faith Gaunt talking to Kate Apperley and Peter and Pat Francis.



Kate and Keith Apperley.



Dave and Sue Nicholls.



Michael Poole, Shirley Buckley and Bob Whittaker.



Tim Blades who designed and made the silver bears presented to guests.



Nick Hurst and Paul Mills.



Norman and Christina Gooch, Matthew and Joy Jackson, Dave and Sue Nicholls, John and Angie Brudenell.



Graeme and Kathy Holland



John Brudenell, Don Gaunt and Nick Hurst



Liz Williams and Robert Moss



Stephen and Deidre Moss



Joy Jackson, Richard Danby and Matthew Jackson



Eileen Magee and Liz Neal



Tim and Jenny Danby



Marion Mills, Brian Pittaway, Angie Brudenell



Deidre Moss, Roger and Angela Martin, Nick Hurst



Robert Moss about to surprise everyone! Liz Williams was one of the few people who knew of the plan and had helped engineer the secrecy surrounding Rosemary's award.



Kathy Hurst, David and Eileen Magee, Keith Apperley



Rosemary with Bernard Neal.



Sheila and Roger Buckley

More pictures can be seen on our website and we are producing a DVD of photographs which will be available from Don, Rosemary or Robert for a modest price. Details will be posted on the website when it is ready.

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Paul Mills, Michael and Ann Poole.

A surprise for Rosemary.

Six months ago, Rosemary was awarded the Croquet Association's Diploma for "exceptional service to the sport". Normally, these awards are presented at the CA AGM in November followed by a report being printed in The Gazette. However, we asked that it be kept a closely guarded secret so that the CA President, Bernard Neal, could present it at our Gala Dinner. It was worth keeping it a secret just to see Rosemary's reaction!



The citation reads...

Nomination of ROSEMARY DANBY for a CA Diploma.

Rosemary is one of three founder members of The Bear of Rodborough Croquet Club which celebrates its Silver Jubilee on Saturday 25th April 2009.

For twenty-five years, Rosemary has been secretary and the main driving force of the club. Her loyalty, enthusiasm and dedication are second to none.

Although only just over twenty members, Rosemary annually organises league fixtures for Beginners, Intermediate, Federation and Parkstone Qualifier matches.

For twenty-five years, she has taken minutes of meetings and maintained the minutiae of club paper work.

She has arranged a programme of social events through winter months and an annual dinner.

The success of the club, indeed, its very existence, is due in no small part to Rosemary and our gratitude to her is immense.

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Gala weekend matches – The Bear v The Rest of the World.



Kevin Garrad and Janice Jackson

For guests who had travelled from far and wide, there were two days of matches and it was great fun to rekindle old friendships – and make a few new ones.



John Brudenell and Tim Danby

The History of The Bear of Rodborough Croquet Club.

After months of anticipation, Rosemary's book has now been launched. Many copies were purchased at the dinner but if you have not yet bought your copy, Rosemary has more available – it is a very good read!

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Coaching.

Don's three coaching sessions last month focussed on how knowledge of the laws can improve one's game. It was gratifying to see half of the club making use of his coaching expertise and we wait to see how this will now affect our games and handicaps.

Going to Ramsgate?

If you are playing in a tournament in Ramsgate, Michael and Ann have very kindly offered accommodation.

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Snooker Tournament.

Richard Way carried off the snooker trophy after a very exciting final match.



Richard Danby was runner-up and Richard Way also won the prize for the most improved handicap.

Your chairman would prefer it if you didn't ask how well he played!



Once again, Richard and Rosemary have been extraordinarily generous in hosting this tournament in their home over the winter months.

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Lawn Booking.

The success of last year's booking arrangement is to be continued. In the pavilion, you will find a year planner on which all hotel/lawn bookings have been written. When you arrange a match, please write it on this year-planner so that Nick knows when the lawn is free for him to work on it. He is a very busy man and it is frustrating if he turns up to cut the grass only to find the lawn in use.

Jubilee Jolly.

Llanfairfechan

28th – 30th August.

A large contingent of Bears have signed up to visit this club in North Wales over the August Bank Holiday weekend. We will be staying at a hotel in Dwygyfylchi and there will be a box in which fines will have to be placed for everyone who mispronounces its name! The Welsh club has just invested a huge amount of money in building a new club house so they obviously got wind of our planned trip.

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CA Golf Tournament 5th – 6th June.

Entries for this are now in and it is fully subscribed. As this is the first CA event we have organised, we are very keen to ensure it is both successful and enjoyable. Don needs a team of ball boys and ball girls who will be organised in shifts. As he needs four at all times, we are hoping every member of the club will offer their help for some of the time. If you have not already done so, please let Don know your availability. He assures us that it does not require knowledge or skill, full training will be given in advance, and it will be an excellent opportunity to see some very good players in action – it might even inspire some of us to play more GC.

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Have you considered joining the Croquet Association?

Currently, there are six Bears who are also individual members of the CA. Membership gives several advantages including the ability to play in tournaments. Their website is very good and will tell you all you want to know (address below).

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An opportunity for beginners.

We are teaming up with Worcester Norton club on the morning of Saturday 30th May for a relaxed and informal “introduction to matches” session. This is to be held at The Bear and is aimed at people who are new to the game in order to reassure them that matches are fun and encourage them to enter the Beginners League.

The programme is:

What to do when you arrive;

How games are organised;

Using bisques and Wharrad turns;

and an introduction to match play.

Worcester has several new members wanting to come and we are hoping several of our new or fairly new members will want to join in. It is a 9.30a.m. start and we will finish before lunchtime. There is no need to wear whites. Please let Robert know if you would like to join in.

Club nights.

A reminder that this year, we are having two club nights per week with Mondays primarily for coaching and Golf Croquet, and Wednesdays exclusively for Association Croquet.

New equipment.

We start our season with improved facilities. Our thanks to Richard Danby who has made new boundary boards and painted the ball carriers and clips.

Winter pub nights.

Our thanks go to Rosemary for organising seven pub nights through the winter. They have been popular with an increased number of folk enjoying meals and friendship through the cold months.

For more information:

Our Club Website-

<http://www.faydon.com/Bear/Bear.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 and Hotel Liaison:

Secretary:

Treasurer:

Handicapper and club competitions manager:

Lawn Manager:

Equipment Manager:

Webmaster:

Robert Moss

Rosemary Danby

Brian Pittaway

Don Gaunt

Nick Hurst

Richard Danby

Don Gaunt

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