

Bear of Rodborough Croquet

Newsletter - May 2013



EDITORIAL

Hello everyone, it would seem that mallets have been taken from cupboards and dusted off as the croquet season has leapt upon us with a vengeance. Congratulations go to Caroline for her win and subsequent handicap change, to Rosemary for actually daring to take on one of croquet's champions Robert Fulford, and to Keith for braving the sea of bisques in the Winchester one-ball competition.

Read on for the delights of competition play and a reminder about organising your own club competitions.

Thank you to those Team Captains who have already contributed their match reports. To get the reports into print just email Keith or Kate.

Congratulations Caroline

Congratulations go to Caroline, who is delighted to have won the high bisquers event at Budleigh in April and as a result her handicap was reduced to 18.



However, even more congratulations to Caroline, this time for winning The Latham Cup at Bristol. She won all of her games to reach the final where she challenged the Bristol Manager, Bob Scott (h/c 7 but much better!) and kept the assembled onlookers enthralled with a very exciting game - experience and cunning versus youthful enthusiasm. Caroline had used all but two of her bisques to reach 4back and rover and Bob was closing fast on her but a mistake allowed Caroline to get back in and, holding her nerve, she executed a rover peel one turn and in the following turn, pegged out to lift the trophy. In the process, her handicap was reduced to 16 and she is fast approaching 14.

Charity One Ball- Winchester

The heat for this competition was held at the Bear on a bright, dry Sunday morning. One-ball 'is exactly as it says on the tin' a one-ball Association game of croquet. Although competitors had not played much previously, a quick talk on tactics by manager Don, helped everyone on their way. The heat was fiercely contended with Keith coming out as the eventual winner and the Bears representative at the finals held in Winchester.

The day of the final dawned brightly as Keith and Kate made the two hour journey to Winchester together with sandwiches, fruit, drinks, more sandwiches and yogurt to keep Keith going throughout the day. A nice, bright sunny day for the most part saw Keith play against 'seas of bisques' as he was one of the lowest handicap players to have reached the finals. Not deterred he won 4 out of his 6 matches. Keith said "it was an enjoyable day out, and playing one-ball really helps with getting your eye in at the beginning of the season".



Winners were Libby Howard-Blood from Nailsea, here on the left with runners-up Anne Wilkinson and John Weyling.

Match reports

Sunday 28th April Federation away at Kington Langley

Once upon a time there were three bears who decided to take a trip in a motorised vehicle. They chose a Sunday morning but did not realise that the weather was not going to be too nice, or they would have stayed in bed with Goldilocks. Having driven for miles and miles and miles, they decided that a park with children playing looked a good place to stop and eat lunch, have tea and talk. The weather got worse and worse (a bit like the croquet) and they decided to return home. To cut a long (fairy) story short, we lost 0-5....

Bear team: Keith, Kate and Matthew

Saturday 11th May 'B' LEAGUE v WORCESTER NORTON (AWAY)

We had a fine start to our match, then the wind got up and the rain came and then the sun shone and then it rained and then the sun shone, so it really didn't get fine again all day. I looked very fetching in my mottled brown waterproofs (my coffee flask had leaked in my bag all over my waterproofs, socks, and down me as I tried to sort it out). Funny how coffee stains show up on white clothes – I looked more like a brown Bear than a polar Bear. Will I ever get my whites clean again? Watch this space for further news. Or turn up at the next home match to support us and you'll be able to see for yourself if you can't bear the tension. Yawn.....

We were slightly thrown (but only momentarily as we Bears are made of stern stuff) to find they had divided their two lawns in half so nobody had to double-bank in the afternoon. As if we couldn't cope with double-banking – triple bankers like us - huh!

Anyway, off we went – quite often really, as the boundaries were so close - but we soon got used to it, winning the singles and losing the doubles in the morning. The sun came out as we were having lunch and so did the cricketers over the hedge so we all donned hard hats in case of flying cricket balls.

After lunch we won one and lost two singles, all of which were very close and hotly contested. The flying cricket balls didn't start until we were having tea (which was excellent, by the way). So although we didn't win overall, the good news is that nobody was killed by an enthusiastic cricketer scoring a six so we live to fight again.

Bear Team: Carol, Crawford, John

Sunday 13th May Intermediate at home against Dyffryn.

Dyffryn arrived by a circuitous route via Dursley. Our ploy to close Nailsworth (Sunday closures for road resurfacing) did not fool them or work for us. So plan B.....

We arrived to find Richard Way re-setting our hoops – and we thought this would make our life easier! How wrong could we be! Plan C.....

Sue McKay was keen to remind us of our match from about 20 years ago when she ran onto the lawn shouting at me that a tree was about to fall on the lawn where I was playing! Was she nervous and unable to play we asked ourselves? What tactics was she working on this time?

At lunchtime the score was 1-1 so all to play for and we asked to eat inside to dry off and thaw out!

Warm and full of sherry we triple banked in the afternoon on a very wet, cold and windy afternoon.

Dyffryn put out a strong team and managed to just win the day 3-2.

Bear team: Alex, Brian and Rosemary.

Sunday 19th May Federation at home against Swindon

One a really nice, bright sunny morning the Bears took on Swindon at home. Keith decided not to hang around and quickly dispatched his singles partner in the morning, giving Matthew and Kate encouragement to fight hard for the doubles. Unfortunately John and Di were too strong, not really needing the 3½ bisques they had. One all at the start of lunch then, so battle lines were drawn. Keith battled with John but succumbed to a -10 loss, Kate had to give 5 bisques to Di, who played well, not letting Kate onto the lawn (good tactics) until it was nearly too late, a -10 loss. Matthew fought on bravely and beat Neil in a close match +7. So nearly a win, Bears lost 2-3.

Bear team: Keith, Kate and Matthew

Delayed 2012 Bear Doubles final - May 16th

Rosemary and Richard Danby took on Kate and Crawford on a cold, but mainly dry May evening in front of a small (tiny?,) but enthusiastic crowd. The first hour of the match consisted of a bitterly fought contest to see who could be first through hoop 2. Eventually Richard reminded the crowd of the skills of the game by running to penult and setting up Rosemary. Their lead continued to build until Crawford had a well-controlled turn, kept the innings and then ended on 2 back. The battle switched to Rosemary and Kate making hoops one at a time. After 3 hours the game came alive with Kate hitting in long distance several times making some hoops and finally setting up Crawford for 2 back in their last turn, with three hoops needed to draw level... were we heading for golden hoop? Crawford made 4 back and penult but it was all over as he missed the return roquet .

2012 champions are Rosemary and Richard by +1 T.



URGENT REMINDER

It's that time of year again when our thoughts turn to Club competitions.

With the hotel filling in more dates, it is becoming even more important to arrange club matches without delay (Robert has the impression that the new events manager is being very efficient at marketing) as you would not want to get on the wrong side of the organiser, now would you.....

Thought for the Month...

The game of golf would lose a great deal if croquet mallets and billiard cues were allowed on the putting green.

[Ernest Hemingway](#)

LEAGUE FIXTURE DATES 2013

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

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>

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The Bear of Rodborough Croquet Club.

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