



Silver Jubilee Year

The Bear of Rodborough Croquet Club

October 2009
Newsletter

Congratulations We are the Champions!



After a good season, excitement grew when the B League team reached the semi-final which was played in Swindon last week and where they beat Bath 3-2. Richard Way, Nick and Caroline represented the club and did us proud. It was quite amazing that Caroline had never played in a league match before so to be thrust into the joys of a semi-final was something of a baptism of fire!

Having won the semi-final, they then had to play the final against Sidmouth at Taunton on Sunday. Richard, Caroline and Ian saw off the opposition 3-2. Richard and Caroline played the doubles match with Richard peeling Caroline's balls twice and Caroline also making her first peel. Clearly she is not only enthusiastic and keen to learn but shows great promise of great things to come. In the afternoon, Richard won his singles game but Caroline was overpowered in hers. Ian lost his first game of the day but not only was honour satisfied, he made a spectacular finish to

the afternoon. His was the last game on the lawn, (the other two having finished), and unbeknown to Ian, the team score was 2-2. Ian was level in his game with about ten minutes left on the clock when partly due to a particularly lucky shot, he was able to pull ahead and secure victory for the Bears.

The cup was presented to our team by Roger Buckley, Chairman of the South West Federation of Croquet Clubs.

Golf Tournament.



Congratulations to Brian who won the club Golf Tournament on Sunday after winning all four of his games. Brian has had a good season this year and deserved his win after playing so well.



A beautiful and sunny day, a pristine lawn and Don's expert management combined to give a day of fun and enjoyment.

Silver Jubilee Year.

As our year of celebrations draw to a close, we reiterate our heartfelt thanks to Norman, Nick and Rosemary for founding the club; to everyone who has worked so hard to make the club's activities various and enjoyable; to the managers of league matches; to the clubs we have played against; to the owners and managers of the Bear of Rodborough Hotel for their support and patronage; to the local press for printing some of the pictures and articles we submit; to our hosts in Britain and across the continent for allowing us to invade their clubs on our summer jollies; and to all our members past and present for whom the club exists and without whom there would be no fun.

AGM.

You have received your notice of the AGM, the agenda, and the minutes of last year's meeting. These will not be available in printed format at the meeting so please bring yours with you if you are likely to need it.

You will have noticed that for this year only, the committee has agreed to us having a wine and cheese party after the meeting. Because this is such a special year, these refreshments will be paid for from club funds. If you ever needed an extra incentive to attend an AGM

You may also like to give some thought about venues for pub nights, the annual dinner and next summer's jolly.

Handicap change.

Richard Way is now 14.

Club matches.

All singles and doubles matches have now been played and congratulations go to Brian for winning the singles and to Kate and Paul for winning the doubles.

After thirteen years in abeyance, the advanced event has been resurrected with Don, Richard, Matthew, Peter and Robert battling it out for the cup. If you would like to find out more about advanced rules, come up to watch/support/heckle the competitors on Saturday 10th October and Sunday 11th October. Games start at 9.00 a.m. on both days. A beginner's guide to advanced play is printed below.

Snooker nights begin shortly after the AGM where further details will be confirmed. We thank Richard and Rosemary for their generous hospitality. Contributions to the bar are very welcome and you are invited to turn up at Belmont at 7.00 p.m. Richard will be giving players a handicap so that whatever your level of knowledge or ability, you will be able to enjoy the game. Last year, your chairman was the only person to start on the highest handicap and get worse! His aim this year is to retrieve some dignity – though that is unlikely! Richard Way is the current trophy holder and between us we have to topple him off the pedestal.

Pub nights have become increasingly popular and Rosemary will be emailing details soon. The first one is on Wednesday 18th November at The Ram, Woodchester. 7.00p.m.

3. Help! What do I do now?

This article is printed on its own page in case you want to cut out and keep it.

At the end of my turn, I carefully laid up both my balls by hoop 4 out of my opponent's way. When my opponent took to the court, he announced "Sorry, I should have put my clip on hoop 4 at the end of my last turn. I forgot."

You have been misled. Had you realised that his clip should have been on hoop 4 you may not have laid up there.

What happens now?

The first part is simple. You are entitled to a replay.

Now the problems begin because where does the replay start? In your turn you may have made some hoops and you would not relish the idea of having to start that turn all over again. Panic not! You do not have to.

The law says you are entitled to a replay from the point where your being misled influenced your decisions. Therefore, you have to unpick your turn to decide at which point you would have done things differently had you not been misled. The balls are then replaced in the positions they were in at that point, any points scored beyond that point are cancelled, any bisques taken beyond that point are restored and you then continue your turn.

If, in reality, you would have done nothing differently, then there is no problem. You agree to do nothing.

Your opponent cannot force you to a replay. The law states you are *entitled* to one.

But what if my opponent had started his turn, or even if it was spotted later in the game and he has made hoops before noticing the clip was misplaced?

The same answer applies. ALL play from the point at which YOU were misled is deemed not to have taken place so his points scored are cancelled, his bisques used are reinstated and the clips placed back where they should have been at the point of misleading. [Law 31]

But before you get too gung ho and think you can manipulate this situation to your advantage (not that you would!) Law 31e states that both players have a duty to ensure clips are correctly placed and must call attention immediately to any misplaced clip.

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To end the season on a light note (but still a law), anything you wear or carry on the court is considered a part of your body.

So if you are smoking a cigarette or wearing a hat and it falls off and touches a ball, that is a fault under Law 28a13 and your turn ends.

You may like to spend the cold winter nights seeing how far you can push that one! What about the ash from your cigarette? Or a button falling from your shirt?

A beginner's guide to advanced play.

Normal Association rules apply with the following additional rules:

When your ball makes one-back, it triggers a *lift* for your opponent at the start of his turn.

This happens again when your ball makes four-back.

Therefore, it is common to see a player get as far as three-back and end his turn after laying up with a *leave*. The classic leave is with your two balls together near one boundary, one of your opponent's balls at the peg and the other on the opposite boundary. (There are other leaves).

You then hope your opponent lifts one of his balls, plays it from a baulk and misses the roquet – end of his turn.

If your ball makes one-back **and** four-back in the same turn, this triggers a *contact lift* for your opponent. This means that, at the start of his turn, he can lift a ball and place it in contact with any other ball to take croquet.

Once your first ball has made one-back and you have therefore given a lift, your second ball (sometimes called *the backward ball*) triggers lifts as before when making one-back and four-back **but does not** trigger a contact lift if both are made in the same turn.

You can peg out your ball even if your other ball is not a **rover ball**.

Once you have pegged out a ball (either one of your own or of your opponent) you are no longer entitled to a lift when your opponent makes one-back or four-back.

And finally...

This is the last newsletter of the season. In case you fear you may suffer withdrawal symptoms, I am sure you will receive the occasional email to tide you over but, if you haven't looked at our website recently, this is the perfect opportunity to marvel at Don's webmasterly expertise and catch up on all the excitement and news. But rest assured, your trusty editor will be sending the first 2010 newsletter early in the new year.

STOP PRESS

Because we are enjoying such good weather, we are trying to squeeze another few club nights in before conditions put a stop to play. Mondays and Wednesdays starting at 5.00p.m. for those who can get there, until the cold and wet take over! Last night dark stopped play at 7.30p.m.

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

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