



The Bear of Rodborough Croquet Club

October 2012
Newsletter

Good luck for the final of the Secretary's Shield.

September 29th is the biggest day in the calendar for four of our intrepid members. Having beaten the opposition in all preceding rounds, they now face Nottingham in the final of this national competition which is to be held on neutral ground at Cheltenham.

Richard Way (Captain), Kate, Keith and Robert will be flying the flag for the Bears and not in the slightest overawed by the fact that Nottingham is a huge club, nor by the fact that it is one of the best in the country, nor by the fact that they beat us in the first round last year, nor by the fact that they are the reigning champions. This year, the mighty may fall! The pressure is on them!

We have already beaten Shrewsbury 6-1, Ryde 5-1 and Surbiton 4-3 so just need to hold our nerve and hope that luck and good breaks are on our side.

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Bears encounter panther.

Brian, Carol and Caroline entered an alternate-strokes, doubles tournament at East Dorset CC where they met "The Panther" (otherwise known as David Harrison-Wood) who managed the weekend. They return with stories to tell but congratulations to Brian and Carol, each of whom was runner-up in their respective blocks. They discovered that being runner-up is better than winning because the winners get a silver trophy which they have to clean and return whereas the runners-up get a bottle of wine.

AGM.

Rosemary will be sending out AGM notices in a few days' time which will be held

On **Wednesday 17th October.**

If you have any items for the agenda, please let her know immediately.

Trophies will be presented to this year's winners at the AGM and need to be engraved before the meeting so **please can all trophy holders return them (cleaned) to Robert a.s.a.p so that he can get them engraved.** Clearly, all matches including the finals need to be played first.

Tournament entries and successes are something we always like to celebrate but because so many members are now entering so many tournaments, we are repeating last year's method of compiling a list of these which will be distributed at the AGM rather than being reported verbally. Therefore, please send to Robert a list of all your tournaments entered and any interesting comment that applies. He would like this by the **end of September**, please.

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South West Federation AGM is on Sunday 25th November at Weston-super-Mare. The like a few members from each club to attend so if you would like to go, make a note of the date and let Robert know.

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Hotel news.

The hotel's croquet equipment is being assessed with a view to enhancing the provision and storage for next season.

End of season de-cluttering.

Over the years, the pavilion has become overcrowded with members very thoughtfully and generously donating equipment to the club. The hotel has also stored things and then forgotten about them. The result is that we are now overwhelmed and we want to reorganise the storage space to make it more efficient and pleasant to use and that taking a chair out does not cause an avalanche of objects falling on your head. It is also important that Nick can get the mower out without having to create a pathway first.

For the first stage, please can everyone who has anything they own, remove it or put it on the skip **a.s.a.p.**

We are suggesting that two or three small chairs only remain and that additional seating could be the hotel's arm chairs.

The storage is to be reassessed and the cupboard may be altered but we need more space first in order to achieve this.

Diary dates.

The Annual Dinner at The Bear will be on **Friday 22nd March 2013.**

A display of photographs and other memorabilia will be on show and the result of the photographic competition announced.

If you haven't yet sorted your entry for the photographic competition, now is the time to do so!

Things to do now!

- Complete matches
 - Return trophies
 - Send list of tournaments to Robert
 - Take photos for competition
 - Put AGM and Dinner dates in diary
 - Help de-clutter pavilion
-

Club diary and lawn bookings

October

1 Club day

2

3 Club day

4

5

6 **Wedding**

7

8 Club day

9

10 Club day

11

12

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14

15 Club day

16

17 **AGM 7.00p.m.**

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22 Club day

23

24 Club day

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28 **GMT (End of season)**

29

30

31

Thank you to all my readers.

The editor is about to take a well-earned break and so signs off for the end of the season.

Thanks to all who have contributed, apologies to all who have been insulted and congratulations to all who have enjoyed the club this year.

He is already looking forward to next season and hopes you are, too.

Today's profound thought.

"He who laughs last, thinks slowest."



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.

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| Secretary: | Rosemary Danby | 01453 872456 |
| Treasurer: | Brian Pittaway | 01453 860610 |
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| Lawn Manager: | Nick Hurst | 01453 882960 |
| Equipment Manager: | Richard Danby | 01453 872456 |
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STOP PRESS The Secretarys Shield Final

Match Report by Richard Way

Bears miss out by a whisker.

Bears 3 Nottingham 4

A sunny day at Cheltenham provided fine conditions for the Secretary's Shield final against Nottingham. With spare lawns available all games were played on their own lawn so we were unable to confuse Nottingham with triple banking. The format of player matching is pre-determined by handicap order so no crafty line up of opponents possible either.

The morning games left the Bears looking at a mountain to climb from 0-3 down -- Robert and Richard W never got into their doubles although both Keith and Kate looked like winners until the last moments of their games.

Obviously the team decided this was not correct and as the Bear spectators trickled in for the afternoon things perked up. Keith and Kate, having swapped opponents, delivered comprehensive wins leaving Robert and Richard, who were playing their doubles opponents, to fight it out for the match.

Both games moved to the final stage with all clips on the last few hoops. With one ball for rover and one for peg Richard pegged out his opponent but left a ball too exposed to a hit in so lost by 3. In the last match to finish, Robert with two balls on peg, had one ball pegged out by his opponent but got several shots at peg. Finally, his opponent, on peg and rover laid up by rover to finish the game but forgot to check the wiring. Robert got a lift, hit in and finished, winning by 3.

Its a long haul to get to the final over two seasons so the team are obviously disappointed not to win but can be proud of the fighting spirit that turned a bleak outlook at lunchtime into a keenly contested match and the closest result possible.

