

# Bear of Rodborough Croquet

Newsletter - April 2013



## EDITORIAL

People ask me what I do in winter when there is no croquet. I'll tell you what I do. I stare out of the window and wait for spring.

Our congratulations to Stephen and Caroline for both being winners, snooker and photo competitions respectively, more details are in the newsletter.

As you are aware the new season is now upon us with the first official club night for 2013 being on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April. Unfortunately unlike those of you who braved the Cheltenham Easter competition, Keith and I are going to have to drag the mallets out of the cupboard and dust them off before being able to brave the still slight chill in the air to play next week. See you all soon.

## CHAIRMAN'S COMMENT

### New Season

I wish all members a very happy and successful season. With more members entering federation matches and national tournaments, the club continues to grow in stature but whether you enjoy playing competitively or just recreationally, I hope that you will have many happy hours at the club and that the sun will shine on you.

Please be enthusiastic in arranging club matches so that these can get underway immediately and please remember to inform Richard Way of any handicap changes as and when they are triggered.

### Advance notice

The date for the next Bear of Rodborough Croquet dinner is 28 March 2014

### Club kit reminder

If you need new polo or sweat shirts, let John know so that they arrive before your first match.

*to be continued...*

cont...

### **Charity one-ball competition**

A reminder that we are having our heat on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May starting at 10.00 a.m. and we hope that as many of you as possible will enter (you do not need to be there all day unless you so choose). The charitable donation of £5 per head will be added to those from the other 25+ clubs entering and given to Prostate Cancer UK. The winner from the Bear's heat will then be invited to play in the national final at Winchester on 12<sup>th</sup> May.

### **New equipment**

When you play this year, you will notice we have new primary balls, "new" stripy balls, new corner flags, new clips and a rearranged, tidier store shed. A set of four new balls cost £360 so please be diligent about ensuring everything is put away securely at the end of each session.

*Robert*

### **Snooker evenings – Winner**



What better way is there to spend a few cold winter evenings than in Richard and Rosemary's home playing snooker, putting the world to rights and having a glass of a little something of your choice. A BIG thank you to them both, especially to Rosemary for the delicious nibbles she conjures up for us.

The snooker is of course 'the main event' and dare I say our raison d'être over this year's long and cold winter. The group of players were the usual suspects, but we did welcome this year Melissa who, with Caroline certainly had a good eye and put one or two of us who thought we could play, to shame! We missed John and Joan, Joan for her lovely company and John for his skills on the table, learned we suspect from years of playing billiards.

The tournament began with the shock announcement of the handicap revisions and many gasps and mutterings but they were all ill-founded as throughout the tournament the games were often close, many being decided on the black.

Towards the end of the season it became apparent (Richard did the calculations as he was the only one to fully understand them) that three players were in the running for this year's trophy. Howard until the very last was favourite to win, with Richard W and Stephen close on his heels. In the final analysis Stephen took the trophy. There was a small final ceremony when the mandatory photos were taken. Next year Richard promises once more to open his 'snooker hall' doors and both he and Rosemary welcome all Bears to come along to what are always very convivial winter evenings.

*Stephen Moss*

### **Bear Photo competition**

Congratulations to all who submitted photographs for our first competition and especially to Caroline who took the winning shot of John Ireland lining up for a peg-out.

The variety of subject, the thought that had gone into composing your entries and the quality of prints were truly impressive. Being a new venture, we had no idea how enthusiastically it would have been embraced but feedback suggests that we should run it again and so the 2nd Bear Photographic Competition is now launched and details can be found at the end of the newsletter.



### **Croquet Gazette - photographs needed**

CA members will know that Chris Roberts has just taken over as editor of the Croquet Gazette. Chris is keen to develop the Gazette and make it much more interesting for the average reader. As part of this quest he wants to build up a bank of photographs of members throughout the country and of people playing croquet so that he can draw on these to illustrate future articles. He wants photographs covering all aspects of the game and members from all clubs and from across the handicap spectrum.

You are invited to send any photographs you take or are happy to have taken of you to Robert for forwarding to Chris. Clearly, there is no guarantee you will see them in print but you never know!

## 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

### **Thought for the Month...**

It's not over when you are losing terribly... it's over when you quit.

**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](http://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:	Robert Moss	01453 872386
Secretary:	Richard Way	01453 833762
Treasurer:	Brian Pittaway	01453 860610
Handicapper and club competitions manager:	Don Gaunt	01453 822507
Lawn Manager and Hotel Liaison:	Nick Hurst	01453 882960
Equipment Manager:	Richard Danby	01453 872456
Webmaster:	Don Gaunt	01453 822507



## 2013 Photo Competition.

Get your cameras at the ready. Snap away and collectively, we can have some fun. Serious or humorous, creative or posed - everyone can enter: anyone could win.

*The rules...*

- Any croquet related picture taken by a Bear in 2013
- B+W or colour **prints** admissible
- Photoshop manipulation allowed but this must be declared so the judge can make an informed opinion
- Print size 6"x 4" minimum, 10"x 8" maximum (*the larger the better as they will all be put on display*)
- Any number of entries allowed
- Name of photographer and subject title to be written on the back of the print (and Photoshop description if used)
- Entries submitted to Robert by **31<sup>st</sup> January 2014**

Judging by an independent chappy

Photos displayed and the winner announced at the 2014 **Annual Dinner**

