



The Bear of Rodborough Croquet Club

August 2010
Newsletter

A SPECTACULAR SEASON!

Congratulations to everyone who has played in league matches this season. The club has never been in a stronger position with three of our four teams currently in top position in the South-West (though with some other clubs still to play their final games, there is time for this to change!). Collectively, our teams have won 15 out of their 19 league matches.

This month...

The Intermediate (North) team beat Dyffryn 3-2.

The Intermediate (Central) team played at Wellington but lost 3-0 after a frustrating match where the home team was unable to field a full team for the whole day. This is the first time Wellington has entered the Intermediate League and although it is "legal" for them to play just one doubles game in the morning, plus one doubles and one singles game in the afternoon, we have made it known that we think it a discourtesy to expect three of us to travel all that way and for one member to sit out for the whole morning.

The Intermediate (Central) team had better luck when they played Taunton at home winning 3 – 2.

The Federation team continued their successful season beating Kington Langley 4-1 and played at Dyffryn winning 5 – 2.

The current position

BEARS ARE LEAGUE LEADERS

All our league matches have now been played with the **Intermediate (North) Team** currently in poll position. Unless another team overtakes them, they will be playing in the semi-finals at Cheltenham on 4th September.

The **Intermediate (Central) Team** enjoyed their first season in this league winning 3 of their 5 games. Taunton, having won 4/5 games, go into the semi-final which maybe, just maybe against our Intermediate (North) team.

Our Federation Team has won the north area of the league and now face a play-off at Bristol on 12th September for a place in the final at the East Dorset club on 3rd October.

The **Parkstone Qualifier Team** has won all of its matches putting them at the top of the league and **ensuring** they will be promoted to The Parkstone League next season where they will meet "the big boys"!!

Full details of all results and the league positions can be found on the South West Federation website -

<http://www.swfcroquet.org.uk>

Congratulations - 2,

Congratulations too, to Richard Way on achieving his CA Silver Award in the Nottingham Tournament.

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Handicap changes.

Richard Way is now 8.

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New arrangements for club nights.

As a reminder, Club Nights on Mondays and Wednesdays no longer start at 6.00 p.m. For those who are able to play in the afternoon, they are welcome to start playing in the afternoon while other (mostly working) members turning up to play as soon as they are able.

The two important points which I wish to remind you of are:

1. The hotel holds conferences in the rooms immediately next to the lawns regularly and we must ensure we do not disturb them in any way.
2. We are jealous of our special ethos within the club and do not want to create a two-tier club of afternoon players and evening players so we hope afternoon players will time their games so that they spend at least some social time with the members who are unable to play early.

We leave it to those wishing to play in the afternoons to arrange with others a mutually agreeable start time.

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Bear Cubs have gone into hibernation until further notice.

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By the time you read

this...fourteen members will be packing their bags and on their way to Jersey for the International visit.

The Bear Hotel has several croquet/barbecue functions during this period and thanks go to those who are able to run these for the hotel. This is the first time the hotel has needed help while we have been away but the excellent marketing combined with such a good summer has brought a record number of lettings.

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Rob playing at club night in July in a downpour. Where are the others? And you wonder why we go abroad!

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We welcome Crawford and Jean Alexander to The Bear. Members were sent an email a few weeks ago explaining that they have been on our waiting list for some time and the committee proposed making them “pending members” until such time as spaces become available or the next AGM (whichever comes sooner) to enable them to play when there is free space available on the lawn.

Crawford currently plays off a handicap of 16 and Jean off 9.

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When was the last time you looked at the club website?

<http://www.faydon.com/Bear/Bear.html>

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Croquet Association Club Handbook.

Each year, the CA updates its handbook which contains information about the organisation and workings of the CA. Possibly of more interest to Bear members – whether CA members or not, are the pages at the back of the booklet which deal with such topics as etiquette, entering tournaments and customs. As you all like to be well informed, it has been placed in the folder in the pavilion together with all the other club information for your use.

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SWF – AGM.

Advance notice of the AGM of the South West Federation of Croquet Clubs which is to be held at The Batch Country Hotel, Lympsham (near Weston-S-M) on Sunday 21st November at 10.30 a.m. A good lunch and bar are available. Robert will have spaces in his car if anyone would like a lift.

Roger Buckley (Chairman) is standing down after 3 years (the maximum allowed). They ask for nominations for this post by 18th September together with any items for the agenda. Please let Rosemary know if you have any agenda items or wish to attend.

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STOP PRESS.

Change of time for club night.

For one night only, on **Wednesday 25th August**, club night will begin at 6.00 p.m. owing to a letting (i.e. no afternoon play).

Also, a reminder that club night has been changed from **Wednesday 4th August to Thursday 5th August.**

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HIPPIES at BRIGHTON

Don had no great success in the Senior's Championship although he did get to the final of the handicap event.

However, the tournament dinner was a great success, having a 60s theme.



Don and Faith dressed up for the occasion - peace man!

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Coaching Corner.

The wrong ball law in Golf Croquet is very confusing. Bill Arliss wrote an "Idiots Guide" (*his words*) in an attempt to make life easier. A copy has been put on the club notice board but it is reproduced below as you may like to print one off for your own use.

The Idiot's Guide to the Wrong Ball Law (version 3)

Most players when first reading the new GC Laws book will be very mystified when they read the provisions for wrong ball play and it will make problem solution at club level extremely difficult. There is however a very simple way to resolve such issues.

- It is a matter of application of the law that you can play as many wrong balls as you like and not a single thing will happen until a player or referee says “**Stop, someone has played a wrong ball**” (NOTE *Spectators should keep quiet*)
- Don't bother to go through the process of working out when things went wrong, the law does not require this. Just start at who played which ball just before the game was stopped.

There are only three possible solutions for any wrong ball situation.

Full Penalty (FP) – The opponent of the player of the last ball chooses whether all balls moved in the last stroke are left where they lie or replaced where they were before the stroke was played and any points scored in that stroke are cancelled. The same opponent can then choose which of his own balls he wants to play to continue the game.

Reset and Replay (RAR)– All balls moved in the last stroke are replaced where they were before the stroke was played and any points scored in that stroke are cancelled. The stroke is then replayed with the correct ball.

Carry On Play (COP) – The player who played the last stroke has played a correct ball and condoned all previous errors. Play continues in the sequence set by the last ball and all points scored in previous strokes count.

THE WAY TO DECIDE WHICH SOLUTION APPLIES	
If the last shot was played by:	
SINGLES	DOUBLES
a player who is entitled to play but plays a shot with an opponent's ball, FP applies.	the player whose turn it is to play, as defined by the colour sequence from the previous ball played, but who plays with either his partner's or opponent's ball, FP applies
the same player who played the previous shot, FP applies	a player from a side not entitled to play, FP applies
a player who plays one of his own balls after his opponent has played a ball which does not belong to him, FP applies. <i>(Seems rather unfair that he should be penalised in this matter but that's what the law says)</i>	a player playing a ball he is allowed to play from the side whose turn it is to play but plays a ball that does not follow the colour sequence of the previous ball played, FP applies unless the previous stroke was a wrong ball in which case COP applies
a player who plays one of his own balls out of sequence with the previous ball played but commits a striking fault, FP applies	a player who plays his own ball after the opposing side have played the previous stroke unlawfully in any way. COP applies and the sequence is reset to the last stroke played
a player who is entitled to play and plays a ball he is entitled to play but out of sequence with the previous colour played, RAR applies	all other cases COP applies

NOTE *You never have to go back more than one stroke prior to the last stroke except in doubles where it is necessary to check the legality of the penultimate stroke.*

Reproduced with thanks to Bill Arliss.

[So that's all clear now! \(Rob\)](#)

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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>

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The Bear of Rodborough Croquet Club.

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