



# The Bear of Rodborough Croquet Club

August 2011 Newsletter

## Happy Birthday, Rosemary.



## 2011 Barbecue



Many thanks to Brian and Carol for hosting this year's barbecue and to everyone who brought such super food and wine contributions. A dry, calm and mild evening with convivial company ensured another fab night.



## 2010 trophy winners.

While everyone was present at the barbecue, the opportunity was seized to present the 2010 club trophies. Caroline and Peter (doubles), Keith (Golf), Richard (Advanced and Snooker), Robert (Singles).

## Are these national records?

On 22<sup>nd</sup> June we had a 65.5 % turnout of members for club night. If this were to continue, we would need quadruple banking. Any suggestions for ball colours?

On the weekend of June 26/27<sup>th</sup>, almost 50% of our membership was competing in Federation matches.

52% of Bear members are also CA individual members.

And at the club barbecue, 79.3% of members were present and all those who were unable to come had very good reasons (except for Don and Faith who booked a holiday in order to avoid us).

## Handicap changes

Keith is now 10  
Ian is now 16

## League match roundup

*B League manager Nick writes:*

**The B League** team maintained consistency going down 3-2 to Worcester Norton but the actual hoop count showed the narrowest of margins at 21-19. However the sun shone, and the local Community organisation had laid on a party in the field next door, complete with a p.a. system of Glastonbury proportions. For your interest the ladies tug of war was won I think by "The Big Girls", but a thick hedge prevented our confirming how far they lived up to their self description. It made a change from ducking cricket balls (the usual Worcester entertainment).

Their next match proved that the previous training had been invaluable. The Beleaguers travelled to Swindon where their club house is a converted container designed to make any illegal immigrant feel right at home. This was John Ireland's first outing for the Club, and he did not disappoint, being in successful doubles matches both in the morning and afternoon. The day ended 4-1 in our favour marking the first win of the season. The B's final match against Broadwas saw the Bear as 5-0 winners. John Ireland played his first singles match and again excelled, beating Gill Brookes 14-4. Clearly playing on a flat lawn gave us a distinct home advantage. Team: Nick, Ian, and John.

Our **Intermediate (Central)** team beat Bath 5-2. Jean/John won the doubles on a golden hoop. Keith won his singles and after an excellent lunch Jean, Keith and Paul won their singles. The next match against Taunton was less spectacular clocking up a 2-3 loss and their final game against Nailsea also ended in a 2-3 loss but it was soooo close because we lost one game by only one hoop.

The Intermediate (Central) team have now played all their matches and although in the league tables they won two out of five matches, they can be proud that overall they won 16 games and lost only 11. In this instance, PR would have been better than "first past the post".

Meanwhile, the **Intermediate (North)** team beat Kington Langley 3-2 on an "interesting" lawn but we have since heard that this match has been declared void because Kington Langley have been unable to raise a team for any of its other matches and so have had to pull out of the league.

*Rosemary's report of the Swindon and Broadwas matches.*

We beat up Swindon 4-1!

It was a good day and some good matches were played. In the morning Kate and I played the doubles and won with the Swindon boys only scoring several hoops and we even had an hour to spare! Crawford won his singles convincingly. In the afternoon Kate had a close game but held it together at the end making several hoops in the last few minutes to win her game. Crawford played very well and the other guy never really stood a chance. Their best player was out for revenge and beat me up but I made him work for his win for 2 hours and 25 mins! (I did run 16 hoops).

The final match was against Broadwas.

On a very hot day the girls showed the boys how to play in the morning! Kate played the singles and Rosemary and Pat played doubles. We won both. (One of their team, John, had played all day at The Bear the day before in the Beginner's and they lost 5-0 to the Bear).

In the afternoon our fortunes changed! Kate was driven slowly mad by the slow play by John and I am sure she lost her match to the clock. Pat lost her match to another John. Rosemary was so cross as she lost her match by one hoop on time and had left a bisque standing!!! Sorry everyone.

The **Federation League** beat Cheltenham 4-3 with Keith using his 10.5 bisques to beat a 0.5 handicap player who had pegged out one of Keith's balls and Matthew making a spectacular 12 hoop break to overtake and beat his oppo. A low-level flypast by the Red Arrows heralded the start of the match encouraging the team's spirits to soar and Keith's handicap to plummet.

The Fed's final game is against Nailsea on 31<sup>st</sup> July but with 4/4 wins already under their belt, we are poised to take the crown for a second successive year.

The **Parkstone League's** match against Bristol followed what has become the norm with Richard Danby winning the only game of the day to record a final result of 1-8.

Much relief will be expressed after their final match against Dyffryn on 31<sup>st</sup> July.

*A message from Gill Brooks, Broadwas.*

*Hi Nick - It occurred to me when my head hit the pillow on Saturday night that I had not "formally" thanked you, Ian and John for the way in which you made Broadwas so welcome. The results could have been better from our point of view **but** it was a delight to play under such friendly, relaxing conditions. The lawn was excellent - something which cannot be achieved without lots of work which I know is mainly down to you. Finally, the icing on the cake ( or scones) was the tea provided by the Hotel.*

## STOP PRESS

**2 Helpers needed to run a hotel barbecue/croquet event on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> August - 3.00 p.m. start - 20-25 guests.**

**Also, one more to help Richard Way on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> August from 5.00 p.m.**

### Lawn bookings

#### July

25 Club Night

26

27 Club Night

28

29 Wedding. All Day.

30 Wedding All Day.

31 Park v Dyffryn

Away matches

Fed v Nailsea

#### August

1 Club Night

2

3 Club Night

4

5

6 Hotel from 3.00 p.m.

7 Hotel

8 Club Night

9

10 Club Night

11

12

13 Hotel BBQ

14 Hotel from 5.00 p.m

15 Club Night

16

17 Club Night

18

19

20 Wedd. All Day.

21

22 Club Night

23

24 Club Night

25

26

27 Wedd.

28

29 Club Night

30

31 Club Night

Vienna

Vienna Bears

Vienna Bears

Vienna

Vienna

Vienna

Vienna

Vienna Don+Rob

Vienna Don+Rob

Vienna Don+Rob

Vienna

## *Referee's Corner.*

### **Am I allowed to practise before a match?**

Several members have asked for clarification about practicing before a match because conflicting information is being given. Until a few years ago, NO practice was allowed but the position has now changed and the norm is for five minutes practice to be allowed on the same court as your first game. There is nothing to say you cannot run hoops during this time and my advice is that you should try a few to gauge their ease of running. However, some clubs may be unaware of the new regulations and a severe manager may have his own ideas so before you get into an argument, I reprint the following official guidelines.

The CA Tournament Regulations state: *Regulation P4(e) PRACTICE. Unless otherwise informed by the Manager, players may assume that they may practise during the five minutes prior to the advertised start of play on the court allocated for their first match, taking care not to loosen the hoops.*

Duties of the manager state s/he is *to decide when players may practise on*

*the courts and to inform them if they are not permitted to practise in accordance with Regulation P4(e)*

The Oxford Croquet website states: *You may only practise before the match with the manager's/organiser's permission.*

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Before a match, I now adopt Cliff Jones' advice for practice rather than just rush around the court. (Cliff is a senior figure within the CA and the South West Coaching Officer). Cliff's advice is:

After determining the flatness of the four boundaries, set up one ball a foot in front of a hoop and place a second ball on the yard line about four feet behind the hoop. Then:

1. run the hoop under control,
2. roquet the yard line ball,
3. take off from it to get the perfect position to run the hoop again.
4. repeat stages 1-3 until you miss/break down.

**Remember to stalk the ball for every one of the shots.**

I find this is excellent practice because it focuses on the three most important shots while also giving you a feel for the lawn speed.



#### **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>

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#### **The Bear of Rodborough Croquet Club.**

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