

Bear of Rodborough Croquet

Newsletter - December 2012



EDITORIAL

Seasonal greeting everyone!

In this latest edition of the newsletter you will find information regarding competitions, tournaments and matches for the new season as well as coaching details.

Yes, you need to be thinking of those lovely sunny, summer days.... We know Christmas is just around the corner but it won't be long now!

Thanks to Stephen for taking the picture of our shiny new balls. These will make an excellent addition to our club equipment along with the new flags (picture next month).

Reminders for Snooker, Pub night and Competition are below.

And finally, we would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas!



CHAIRMAN'S COMMENT

In the last newsletter, I wrote under the headline of "No, no, no new members" for reasons that I hope everyone understands and will accept. I also mentioned that the committee will be meeting to decide on our response to anyone new asking about membership. Having met and discussed this at length, we reiterate that the club has as many members as the lawn can cope with and so club membership is full. If anyone asks you about joining, this should be the answer we give. However, if a budding star is really keen, they can apply to the committee who will make a decision based on the circumstances at that time but please don't give anyone false hope.

The new season will start as soon as possible after the clocks change though weather conditions and the effect they have on the lawn over the next few months will be the deciding factor on exactly when we are able to start playing. In the meantime, your committee is busy: the lawn has been aerated and fed and negotiations are taking place to improve the surrounds; Keith has made new corner flags; Richard is experimenting with new clips; we have purchased a new set of primary balls; the new season's fixtures are currently being organised and many more plans are afoot.

In the meantime, we look forward to keeping in touch through social events but in the meantime, I wish you a very happy Christmas and hope that 2013 brings you much joy, fun and a reduced handicap.

Robert.

COMMITTEE INFORMATION

Your various committees do not hibernate for the winter but are busy planning next season.

Coaching Courses

The South West Federation arranges several coaching courses. These include Improver's Coaching, Towards the Triple Peel and Development Course in Advanced Play but as these mostly happen before SWAN is published, they will be advertised on the SWF website within the next week or so or you can find them at the end of the newsletter. If you want to improve your game or become a coach or a referee, one of these courses may interest you.

2013 CA Tournaments

The tournaments fixture book will be sent to CA members early in January but if you want to start planning your year before then you will find a draft calendar on the CA website.

From the home page, click on Tournaments, then Fixtures Calendar. You then need to tick the Draft Entries box (which you will find under "Display Options") and then click on Choose Year / 2013 in the top left of the screen.

Simple!

Federation Matches

Richard will soon be planning match dates for the 2013 season. Team managers will need to know your availability for matches shortly afterwards so if you haven't already bought your diary

TOURNAMENTS

You may like to build these dates into your new 2013 diaries.

HIGH BISQUERS TOURNAMENT

Each year, there are a few tournaments aimed at those who have a handicap of between 12 and 24. They are an excellent way of discovering the delights of tournament play and designed for those who are new to the game to gain experience. If you have not yet tried one out, they are to be thoroughly recommended. The first to be advertised for the coming season so far is at Cheltenham on Tuesday 18 - Thursday 20 June. Details will be published in SWAN (the South West Area Newsletter) which you will receive in late March.

Cheltenham also hosts CA TOURNAMENTS and if you are not a member of the Croquet Association you are permitted to enter one CA tournament before you have to join. There are handicap tournaments (for those with a handicap of 20 or less) at Cheltenham on the Easter weekend - 29th March - 1st April; 25th - 27th May; 5th - 7th July; and 17th - 19th September. There is also a handicap doubles tournament on 16th - 18th August. Details from Robert.

If you have already had your "one permitted" CA tournament, perhaps now is the time for you to join the CA. You will then receive the Fixtures Book in January which details the hundreds of tournaments around the country ensuring you never have a dull moment next year. Details of how to join the CA are available on their website or from Robert. Subs for the first two years are subsidised (just £13.50 for the first year) rising to the normal rate of £46 p.a. in the third year.



Photo Competition.

Reminder of the first Bear Photo Competition

(not to be confused with "the first bare 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 2012
- 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 to be written on the back of the print (and Photoshop description if used)
- Entries submitted to Rosemary by **31st January 2013**

Judging by an independent chappy

Photos displayed and the winner announced at the **Annual Dinner on Friday 22nd March 2013.**

Snooker Nights

These are being held **every alternate Wednesday** at Rosemary and Richard's house, Moor Court Minchinhampton, starting Wednesday 7th November.

No previous snooker experience required!

Pub evenings 2013

23 Jan

20 Feb

22 Mar – Annual Dinner

Thought for the Month...

Consider this at Christmas time ...

Growing old is mandatory. Growing up is optional.



COACHING COURSE INFORMATION

South West Coaching courses for 2012 are as follows:

Mar 23-24	2-Day Course at Budleigh Salterton CC
Apr 2-3	2-Day Course at Budleigh Salterton CC
Apr 6-7	2-Day Course at Nailsea CC Bronze/Silver Level
Apr 12-14	Triple Peel Course at Croquet Academy, Southwick
Apr 15-17	Laws Course at the Croquet Academy, Southwick
Apr 19-21	Development Course in Advanced Play at Croquet Academy
Apr 23-24	Coaching for Coaches from other Countries WCF at the Academy
Apr 30-May 3	2 courses at various levels for Other Countries WCF at the Academy
May 4-5	WCF Coaching Tournament at the Croquet Academy
May 15-16	Development Course in Advanced Play at Sidmouth CC

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>

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The Bear of Rodborough Croquet Club.

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Secretary:	Richard Way	01453 833762
Treasurer:	Brian Pittaway	01453 860610
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