

**Bears triumph in Bristol.**

Keith, Kate, Robert, Rosemary and Richard entered The Latham Cup tournament at Bristol in May. This is a Croquet Association tournament and was the one which, in previous years, Richard and Robert made their CA debuts. Keith and Kate, being new to the game, have not entered any CA tournaments before so it was fitting that this should be the first that they entered and so have upheld the club's tradition of using Bristol as a launch pad to major tournaments. Both Richard and Robert got through to the semi-finals and Robert eventually won the Trophy. Keith, Kate and Rosemary won more games than they lost so also came away with their reputations (and pride) intact.

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**South West Federation League matches**

In the Federation League, Swindon put up a very strong team defeating The Bears 3-2. Robert, Bruno and Matthew put up a brave fight but clearly need either more practice or extra coaching! In their second match against Broadwas, with Don, Matthew and Tim playing, the result was the same but as the third game was only lost by one hoop, it was the closest to a draw that you can get in croquet.

The Intermediate team got off to a good start beating Worcester 4-1. Keith (Capt), Rosemary and Robert almost completely overpowered the opposition with just Robert preventing it being a whitewash!

The Parkstone and Beginners teams have yet to play.

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**Coaching.**

Last Year it was 'I Believe' This year it is 'Assess the Situation'. We all know and chant Don's mantras with fondness and regularity but the psychology behind our play and the knowledge and skills that Don's tutorage gives has meant increasing success and confidence by all he helps. More than 60% of the club attended Don's coaching sessions in April and the benefit will be seen in this year's play. The powerful message behind his coaching was that through assessing the situation and employing the right tactics, a player's handicap could reduce by four points even without any improvement in playing accuracy.

Don had put a huge amount of time into preparing the sessions and used a new croquet computer program to illustrate his talks. Having Don as one of our members is something many other clubs envy – indeed, he now coaches internationally (see Vienna 2008).

We offer many thanks to Richard for hosting us at RDS and for supplying excellent coffee and luxury chocolate biscuits.

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**Club Matches.**

First round matches in both singles and doubles are now well underway. If you have not yet played yours, please arrange it soon so that we avoid the problems of summer holidays preventing fixtures.

Are you remembering to book your matches on the Year Planner in the club house?

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**New Members.**

We extend a very warm welcome to Bernice Boss, Angela Palmer, Patricia and Graham Mountjoy. They are currently learning the ropes at the Monday training sessions.

With membership at an all-time high, the committee has decided to close membership in order to prevent club nights from becoming too congested. Now we will add the names of interested people to a waiting list.

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**New Trophy.**

Ann and Michael Poole have very generously purchased a trophy which they are donating to the club. They had long felt that the doubles competition should have two trophies so that each winning player received one. They have tracked down a cup which will give us a matching pair and we are indebted to them.

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**The Bear joins The Croquet Association.**

A committee meeting was called earlier this month to consider joining The Croquet Association. The unanimous decision was to join and this provides us with a range of benefits including Public Liability Insurance (considered essential in the current climate!) For the first three years, The CA subsidise fees - £50 in Year 1, £75 in Year 2, and £100 in Year 3. After that, there is a per capita charge – currently £6.70 per playing member. As there is no levy on members for the first year, it was not necessary to consult all members. However, continued CA membership after this year will depend on a resolution being approved at the next AGM. Had we taken out our own insurance, the cost would have been considerably higher!

**Beer Festival.**

The club would like to offer heartfelt thanks to the Manager and staff of The Bear of Rodborough Hotel who worked fastidiously to protect the croquet lawn during the Easter Beer Festival. With so many visitors and so much large equipment, the playing surface could have suffered badly – particularly as the ground was so wet and soft. However, there was virtually no damage afterwards and this is due entirely to the care and effort of Tony and his team and our gratitude to them is immense.

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**Club Barbecue.**

We thank Nick and Kathy for hosting the barbecue this year which will be on Friday 27th June from 7.00p.m.. Please sign up on the sheet in the club house indicating if you will be attending and what food contribution you will be bringing. Please also bring a bottle for the bar.

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**Vienna 2008.**

The number visiting Vienna continues to rise. Ten Bears are now packing ready for the International Challenge, the hotel and flights have been booked and the prospect of good food, good wine, good hospitality and a modicum of croquet are leading to heightened anticipation and excitement. Robert forms the advance party and travels out on 19<sup>th</sup> August, Don and Faith are driving and will arrive shortly afterwards. The main festivities are from Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> – Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> August but Don, Faith and Robert are staying on because Don is giving the Austrian’s a coaching session on the Monday with Robert being his willing little helper. Don is then staying in Austria because he has been invited to play in the Austrian Open Tournament. We wish him well.

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**History of the club.**

Rosemary is currently compiling information prior to writing a three volume, limited edition, leather bound history of the club. She would like to hear from you if you have any information, photographs or amusing stories which could be included.

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**Silver Jubilee Year.**

It is twenty-five years ago that Norman, Rosemary and Nick were investigating the possibility of starting a croquet club and on 29<sup>th</sup> April 1984, the Bear of Rodborough Croquet Club was born. As 2009 will be our Silver Jubilee Year, we are planning a series of special events and celebrations. Full details will be published at the AGM but in the meantime, we would like your help and suggestions. What type of events would you enjoy? Would you like to get involved in either organising an event or in helping ? What dates should we avoid?

We would like to get in touch with past members so please will you let Rosemary know if you have any contact details.

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**Club Golf Croquet Tournament.**

Sunday 14th September 10.00a.m.

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**The Bear of Rodborough Croquet Club.**

Chairman and Hotel Liaison:	Robert Moss	01453 872386
Secretary:	Rosemary Danby	01453 872456
Treasurer:	Brian Pittaway	01453 860610
Handicapper and club competitions manager:	Don Gaunt	01453 822507
Lawn Manager:	Nick Hurst	01453 882960
Equipment Manager:	Richard Danby	01453 872456

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**Golf Croquet Handicap Cards.**

Don is issuing all members with a new handicap card covering the revised Golf handicaps. We are also investigating ways of developing Golf Croquet in the club but without affecting the Wednesday night Association club night. Details to follow.

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**AGM** – You may have noticed that the provisional date for the AGM does not exist! It should have read Wednesday 22nd October 2008 and will be held at RDS at 7.30p.m.

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**For more information:**

Our Club Website-  
<http://www.faydon.com/Bear/Bear.html>  
Please keep a regular watch on this site as Don will be keeping it up to date.

Croquet Association -  
[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>