



The Bear of Rodborough Croquet Club

February 2011
Newsletter

Annual Dinner at The Bear.

Friday 1st April 7.00 for 7.30 p.m.

Please let Rosemary know as soon as possible if you are able to join us for our annual dinner and also, please return your menu choices and cheques to her.

Moving the date away from darkest winter was clearly a good decision this year.

Pub Nights.

The last two pub nights of this winter are on:

Thursday 10th February at the Weighbridge and

Wednesday 9th March at the Britannia.

Please let Rosemary know if you will be eating so that the table can be booked.

Match Fixtures.

The dates for matches have now been finalised and your team managers will shortly be asking for your availability. There are over 300 matches being played in our area this season and massive thanks must go to John Grimshaw, the South West League Secretary, for the astonishing amount of work he has put into coordinating this and also to Rosemary who has worked within the tight constraints of lawn availability in arranging our fixtures.

A complete list of Bear fixtures will appear in the March Newsletter.

A visit from down under.

We received an email from Steve and Julie Thornton from Australia who will be staying at The Bear in late May/early June and are keen to join us either for club nights and/or a game or two in the day. With these two from Australia and Richard Way currently in New Zealand, we only need someone from the USA in order to create a Bear MacRob!

Hotel News

The hotel is currently embarking on a refurbishment programme and the first thing you will notice are new paths alongside the lawn. Disabled access is being created from the car park gate to the hotel, the existing path from the lower car park is being renewed because it was becoming unsafe, and a series of hard-standing areas are being installed under the picnic tables. These changes should enhance the lawn because tables will not now be sited under the trees and the tables on the "south boundary" will be less likely to be moved by guests with the resulting damage to the lawn that we have previously experienced.

If you didn't see it, there was a very nice article about Mr and Mrs Horton, owners of Cotswold Inns and Hotels, in the January issue of Cotswold Life. The company won several prestigious awards for their hotels, and the quality of their establishments and the service provided by the staff is now held in high acclaim within the industry.

Snooker.

With just five remaining snooker nights, there is all to play for. The next one is **Thursday 17th February**.

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Referees corner.

A number of members have shown an interest in becoming referees. To do this, you will need to register for one of the Laws Courses advertised in the Fixtures Book and the next one is in March in Cheshire. Whether or not you want to qualify as a referee, these courses are hugely valuable for increasing knowledge of the game, and following on from Don's course last year, knowing the laws can improve your own game. Croquet is unusual inasmuch as every competitor is their own referee. However, there is plenty of room for confusion and debate even if you are well informed.

The Laws Book does not cover every eventuality so referees have at their disposal *The Official Rulings of the Laws of Croquet*. This is the equivalent of case law. If you would like to explore this, you will find it on the CA website. Click on *Association Croquet* then on *Laws and Rulings* and finally on *Official Rulings*.

A little quiz.

In the following situations, which are problems and what should be done about it, if anything?

There is a cluster of balls very close to a hoop and you are about to attempt a hoop run.

- 1. The ball bounces off the wire and rebounds onto your mallet.*
- 2. The ball bounces off the wire and just touches the side of your shoe.*
- 3. The ball bounces off the wire. You notice it is about to hit your foot so you jump out of the way but in so doing kick another ball.*
- 4. The ball bounces off the wire, you move your mallet head out of the way and just touch another ball in doing so.*
- 5. The ball bounces off the wire and is heading for your foot. In order to avoid it you lose balance, fall over the hoop altering the angle of it and end up lying prostrate on the lawn.*

(Answers available at the next pub night).

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STOP PRESS

A gentle reminder!

If you have not yet paid your annual subscription, it is overdue.

("Subscriptions are due on 1st January and must be paid by 31st January.")

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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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| 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 |
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