



The Bear of Rodborough Croquet Club

January 2010
Newsletter

Happy New Year to all my readers.

Congratulations

to Nick on being awarded the CA Diploma for services to croquet.



There can be few people in the game who have contributed as much as Nick. His commitment and reliability are remarkable and it is typical of him that he does not like a fuss made, but none of us has any doubt that without his dedication and attention to detail we would all be the poorer.

If you have not already seen them, both Nick's and Rosemary's citations for their CA Diplomas appear in the December issue of The Croquet Gazette.

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**Annual Dinner –
Saturday 30th January.
7.00 p.m. for 7.30 p.m.**

Please may we have the remaining menu choices and cheques as soon as possible. We need to confirm numbers and choices.

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Snooker is proving more popular than ever and again, your chairman is completely outclassed by everyone else in the club. If you haven't tried it yet, the next session is on Thursday 7th January at 7.00p.m.

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Annual Subscriptions are now due and should be sent to Brian at Cotswold House, Front Street, Nympsfield, Glos. GL10 3TY.

The subscription is unchanged at £25 for playing members and £12.50 for far-country members (those who live outside a 25 mile radius from the club). Subscriptions fall due on 1st January and should be paid by 31st January at the latest.

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Pub nights.

The first two pub nights have been well supported and we look forward to the next ones which are at

**The Half Way House,
Minchinhampton Common on 13th
January;**

**The Woolpack, Stonehouse on 10th
February;**

**The Britannia, Nailsworth on 10th
March.**

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Coaching

Don plans to run a short series of evening talks under the intriguing title of "It's at times like this that I wish I had listened to what Don told me". More information to follow.

League matches

We will be breaking new ground this season with four teams: *two* Intermediate Teams, a Federation Team and a Parkstone Qualifier Team.

Because we have so many members now able and keen to play at intermediate level, we have entered one team into the North Region (Broadwas, Worcester, Swindon, and Dyffryn, managed by Brian), and one team in the Central Region (Bath, Taunton, Wellington and Nailsea, managed by Paul). Shortly, we need to organise two pools of players – one for each region because you are not allowed to play in both.

We are unable to enter the B League this year because we do not have enough high handicap members at present but Don has organised something special for them (see below).

The Federation Team will be playing Cheltenham, Kington Langley, Nailsea, Swindon and Dyffryn. The Parkstone Team will be playing Nailsea, Budleigh Salterton, Sidmouth, Cheltenham and Bristol.

Rosemary is currently arranging fixture dates and hopes to have them ready in time for the February Newsletter. As soon as dates have been arranged, league managers will be asking you to confirm which dates you will be available to play. Please be as flexible as you can because we do not want to give any walkovers.

Bear Cubs.

You will have seen Don's email giving details for the new tournament for those with handicaps of 14 and over. Don will circulate the entry list later and I hope all those eligible will sign up.

Handicap changes.

Caroline is now 22, Richard Way is now 14 and Robert is now 5.

Summer Jolly

As agreed at the AGM, Don has contacted Jersey Croquet Club who have said that they would be delighted to see us. Don will send out details as they become available.

New Season

Last year, the weather was so good, we could have started playing earlier than usual so *provisionally*, we hope to start the new season on Monday 29th March (Golf Night) and Wednesday 31st March (Association Night). This is much earlier than in previous years, is after the clocks change and the week before Easter. The earlier dates are possible because the hotel (at the time of writing) is not planning a beer festival over Easter. However, the decision for this earlier date will have to be taken by Nick and will depend on the weather and lawn conditions. The final decision will be announced via email when the time comes.

Hotel news

We were sorry to hear that Rachel has moved on from her job as Events Coordinator at The Bear. We have enjoyed a superb working relationship with her and always found her supremely efficient and accommodating to the club's idiosyncrasies.

On a more reassuring note, though, we learn that the hotel has been taken off the market.

Have you considered joining the CA?

Individual membership costs £35 per year and entitles you to play in CA tournaments and to start collecting the merit badges!!. Full details can be found on the CA website (address below). Alternatively, Rosemary has the information on a leaflet.

4. Help! What do I do now?

This article is printed on its own page in case you want to cut it out and keep it.

The following are questions asked of me recently.

I have just run hoop 2 and my ball has ended up a few inches short of the boundary line. Do I bring it back to the yard line?

NO. The next shot is played from where it lies. You only bring your ball onto the yard line if it actually goes off the court.

Note. This is also the case with your ball after a croquet stroke. The croqueted ball, however, IS replaced immediately.

My opponent is about to run his hoop from a short distance. He uses his foot as a guide and slides his mallet head along his shoe. Is this allowed?

NO. It used to be but the laws changed in 2008 making this move illegal.

Law 28 a (1) stipulates this as a fault and you should forestall further play and ask your opponent either to leave the balls where they lie or replace them in the position they were in before the offending stroke was played. This is YOUR choice, not his. It is then the end of his turn.

Should you forestall BEFORE the stroke if you can clearly see what is going to happen? The laws are not entirely clear and the advice of the CA laws committee is being sought. Its response will be published in the next newsletter.

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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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| Chairman and Hotel Liaison: | Robert Moss | 01453 872386 |
| Secretary: | Rosemary Danby | 01453 872456 |
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