



# The Bear of Rodborough Croquet Club

July 2010  
Newsletter

## Barbecue at Keith and Kate's



Many thanks go to Keith and Kate for hosting this year's barbecue.



The hottest June day for years, spectacular views and a lovely garden set the backdrop. Convivial hosts and ever hungry gastro-Bears ensured the supper was super and the evening was wizard.

More photos will appear on the website shortly.

## League matches

The Parkstone Qualifier team have been in action twice this month. They beat Cheltenham 4-3 and beat Sidmouth 6-1. With 4/4 wins, and only one more match to play, they are currently the league leaders.



Don, Richard D, Matthew and Robert wore down the opposition and played on glass-like lawns at Sidmouth in the most glorious sunshine.

The Intermediate (N) team played Swindon winning 4-0 with one game unfinished. Alex Spellman, in her match debut for the club, won her singles and the doubles matches in style with some spectacular hit ins.

## A noble effort but no silverware.

On the hottest week of the year, Don narrowly lost the Veteran's title, losing to Cliff Jones in the final. The lawns at Budleigh were treacherous with the slightest error (sometimes with no error at all!) being punished. At one stage Don's ball went to three inches in front of its hoop, stopped, then rolled sideways for nearly a foot!

## Club matches.

The first round has now been completed and second round matches are underway. These must be completed within the next four weeks and **by 26<sup>th</sup> July**.

The most spectacular moment in the first round came when Brian was stuck in the jaws of the final, golden hoop poised to win his golf knock-out match against Richard Danby with the scores level. Richard, was five feet in front of the hoop and, to the incredulity of spectators (and an unreported comment from Brian), Richard played a jump shot clearing Brian's ball, running the hoop and winning the match.

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## Bear Cubs.

It is now time to get your games underway. You will remember that you need to play at least four games by the end of September. As it is always difficult to arrange games in August, you may like to get a few under your belt this month.

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## Summer Jolly

14 Bears (plus Roddy) are packed and ready to jet off to Jersey at the end of July for this year's international match. Pictures and a full report will appear in the next newsletter. Expect a lot of pictures of Bears eating, having fun and possibly, playing croquet

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## CA Tournaments.

It is encouraging to see so many members entering CA tournaments this season. Twelve of our twenty-five members (48%) have played in tournaments this year. I wonder how many clubs can boast such a figure!

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## Handicap changes.

Richard D is now 1

Peter is now 1.5

Despite a malicious rumour, Robert is still 4.5!

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## NOT THE BEAR GOLF DOUBLES

As you all know, our CA Calendar event was cancelled this year because of Hotel commitments. Unfortunately, two people, Richard and Janet Jenkins from Hamptworth, had already booked accommodation in Stroud. They asked me if I could organise something for the Sunday only. Also, Elaine Morrison from Lansdown said she would like to play.

Fortunately Alex with Don, Richard W with Elaine, Kate with Keith and John with Joan were willing to play, so we had 5 pairs. I ran the event to the same format as the cancelled tournament, i.e. as best of three 13 point games, level play. The matches proved very even with nearly all going to a third game. There were no "winners" but it was a lovely day and everyone said they enjoyed it (and the cream tea from the hotel). Below is a very nice thank you email from Richard Jenkins.

Don

*Don,*

*Just a line to you, in order to thank you very much indeed for a well organised lovely days croquet at the Bear. We both enjoyed it very much indeed.*

*Please thank everyone involved for turning up to play.*

*Hope to see you again soon. Maybe at Hamptworth!?*

*Best Wishes*

*Richard and Janet*

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## Hotel news

- 1. Pavilion.** We are delighted to have the luxury of a refurbished pavilion and thank the hotel owners and staff for all the work they have done on it.
- 2. Dogs.** For those who have not heard, we were plagued by a loose dog running amok during matches a few weeks ago picking up balls and running off with them. The owner was tracked down to the auction rooms and has been asked to keep it under control. Should you encounter a young German Shepherd dog, that is where it belongs.

### 3. Change of club night

Due to a hotel booking on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> August, club night will be on THURSDAY 5<sup>th</sup> August

## Comments from the boundary.

On a balmy club night, triple-banked games of golf, one ball and association were being played. A hotel guest sauntered over to the pavilion and said “I am a bowls player and have been watching you for the last hour trying to work out what the rules are. I can’t make head nor tail of it. As far as I can see, everyone is just doing their own thing!”

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# 10. Help! What do I do now?

(Last in series)

**This article is attached to the email because it is in a different format.**

If, like me, you find the laws complex and you find it difficult to remember what to do when something goes wrong, you may like to print off and keep the attached sheet handy. Martin French compiled it and published it on the CA website. I find it a really useful aide memoire.

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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](http://www.croquet.org.uk)

South West Federation of Croquet Clubs (to which we are affiliated) – <http://www.swfcroquet.org.uk>

### The Bear of Rodborough Croquet Club.

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