



# The Bear of Rodborough Croquet Club

July 2011  
Newsletter

## New friends from down under



When Steve Thornton contacted us from his home in Australia, we were delighted to hear that he and his wife, Julie, were spending some time in the UK and would like to play with us while staying at The Bear. Just before their arrival, a Google search informed us that Steve was part of the Australian team playing in the World Golf Croquet Championships in July. Never to be intimidated, the Bears turned out on a cold, wet day to give Steve and Julie a sample of Bear hospitality.

Steve spent his early years living near Dursley and Julie originally came from Wales so they are spending several weeks visiting friends and relations before heading off for the World Championships.

They bought Bear polo shirts to take back with them and Steve says he will be wearing his at Surbiton.

It was a delight to meet them, we wish them a very happy stay in the UK and

we wish Steve every success in the tournament.



*Robert with Julie and Steve Thornton*

Steve and Julie have previously visited the manufacturer of Dawson Balls close to their home. Amazingly, this is a one-man-and-his-wife company. Mr Dawson makes the balls, mallets and hoops in his shed and his wife markets and posts them. Throughout the world, the rest of us enjoy the fruits of his labour but how many know that this world class product comes from such simple origins?

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## The Golf Croquet

**World Championships** are to be held in July. Entry for spectators is free to CA members if they pre-book and £5 for non-members (£10 on the day).

(see below).

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**2011** **bestinvest** GOLF CROQUET  
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

## *Golf Croquet World Championship 18—24 July 2011*

*Come and see the finest players in the world compete for the ninth Golf Croquet World Championship at the Hurlingham Club and Surbiton Club.*

### Timetable of Play

Date	Hurlingham	Surbiton
18 July 2011	Block Play	Block Play
19 July 2011	Block Play	Block Play
20 July 2011	Block Play	Block Play
21 July 2011	Block Play & Play Offs	Block Play & Play Offs
22 July 2011	Rounds 1 & 2 Knock Out	Plate
23 July 2011	Quarter finals & Semi Finals	Plate
24 July 2011	Final, Plate Final, 3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> Play Off	

### Spectator Details

Entry to Hurlingham is by ticket only. Spectators can pre-book tickets up to 13 July 2011, thereafter only limited numbers are available at the gate. The cost is £5 per day and £15 for three days or more. Individual CA Members are entitled to free access if they pre book tickets, by contacting the CA Office, quoting their membership number. Tickets for other spectators are available from the CA Shop. All proceeds from the sale of tickets will go towards the cost of staging the event. Tickets bought on the gate will be £10 per day or £30 for an event pass for all spectators, including CA Members. No tickets are needed for entry to Surbiton Croquet Club

*Further information from the CA Office on 01242 242318 or*

**[www.gcworlds2011.org](http://www.gcworlds2011.org)**

## League games round-up

The **B League** team continued to gain experience playing against Cheltenham and were close to winning but had to settle for 2-3. Much consternation was expressed by the Cheltenham team who arrived early to discover the hotel's wire hoops set out and assumed that was what we played with.

The B League continue their season by playing away to Worcester Norton on 26<sup>th</sup> June, Swindon on 3<sup>rd</sup> and home to Broadwas on 23<sup>rd</sup> July.

The **Intermediate (Central)** team scored a 5-0 victory over Bristol with Paul, Keith and Jean all playing well. Jean achieved her first singles win for the Bears and strengthened her position having been drip-fed cherries throughout the morning game and regular tea throughout the afternoon. The strategy worked because she came from a long way behind to beat Rashid +3t at the close of the day.

The **Intermediate (North)** team had an unexpected walk-over because Dyffryn were unable to raise a team.

Our intermediate teams have three matches each between now and the end of July.

The **Federation** team played away at Kington Langley and maintain their unbeaten record due to an outstanding performance by Keith. In his first singles game Keith made 5 hoops in his last turn on time to draw level and attacked the next hoop ending up in the jaws providing the perfect Golden Hoop opportunity. The Bears went to lunch 2-0 up, Tim and Richard W having won the doubles. Kington Langley levelled by winning two afternoon singles, leaving Keith to pull away from his opponent in the last 15 minutes in a close game.

They have their last two games in July.

The **Parkstone** team played Nailsea when Don, Richard D and Robert tried to avoid another whitewash. They almost achieved it! Richard, facing a minus 1.5 player in the morning and a minus 2 player in the afternoon, did well to get halfway round. Don and Robert in the doubles could have won if Robert hadn't attempted some bizarre moves but in the final game of the day, Robert was well in the lead having reached 22 when his opponent suddenly realised what he was supposed to be doing, pegged out one of Robert's balls and overtook him to win 26-22. Don faced Marcus Evans (-1.5) in his singles game and spent the afternoon sitting in the sun watching Marcus give an exhibition match.

The Parkstone team plays Bristol (away) on 26<sup>th</sup> June and has its final match against Dyffryn at the Bear on 31<sup>st</sup> July.

We wish all teams well for the remainder of the season.

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## Handicap changes

Pat is now 14

Carol is now 22

Richard Way is now 6

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## Hotel barbecues.

Hotel bookings are beginning to come in. Please can you help with the following:

Fri 8<sup>th</sup> July **awaiting details** Caroline helping  
Sun 10<sup>th</sup> July 4.00p.m 60 guests (not all playing) **2-3 helpers needed**

Sat 16<sup>th</sup> July 4.00p.m 15 guests **2 helpers needed**

Sun 7<sup>th</sup> Aug 2.00p.m. **? guests** Paul and Marion

Sat 13<sup>th</sup> Aug 2.30 p.m. 25 guests **2 helpers needed**

Sun 14<sup>th</sup> Aug **awaiting details** **? helpers needed**

Sun 28<sup>th</sup> Aug 2.00p.m. **? guests** Paul and Marion

Sun 4<sup>th</sup> Sept **awaiting details** **? helpers needed**

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## *Referee's Corner.*

### **Critical balls.**

Two separate incidents concerning critical balls have cropped up within the last few weeks.

**What is a Critical Ball?** As the name implies, it is a ball in a critical position where it may or may not be able to run a hoop, may or may not be wired from another ball, may or may not be in a playable position and is usually close to a hoop or the peg.

Recent problems which have occurred (and these are by no means rare) have been when other players have moved a critical ball during a double-banked game. Accepted practice is that you **never** move a critical ball but wait until the other game has played through and moved it themselves.

However, if this could be a long time and you really do need to move it, it is essential to seek the permission of both players from the other game, have the ball properly marked (preferably by a referee) and then ensure it is replaced in exactly the same position afterwards. The reason for all this emphasis is that a ball replaced just a

few millimetres from its original position may change the outcome of the next stroke and possibly the whole game.

A critical ball is often marked with three or four ball markers. It cannot accurately be marked with just one and never by picking up the ball and putting a marker where you think the centre of the ball should be.

One issue arose last weekend in a tournament where a critical ball was knocked out of position by a double-banked game player whose ball ricocheted off a roqueted ball into the critical ball, moving it.

Another issue was when a critical ball had been marked, moved and replaced but too casually and a dispute ensued when the opponent from the other game felt it had been replaced inaccurately.

Patience, seeking the approval of the other players and accuracy of marking is the correct sequence of events.

*Patience, Permission, Positioning.*

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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](http://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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