



The Bear of Rodborough Croquet Club

July 2012
Newsletter

Congratulations



Keith won the Nailsea Singles tournament and achieved another handicap drop in the process.

Congratulation, too, to Richard Way for winning his class at the Cheltenham Over Fifties Tournament.

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Match Round-up Secretary's Shield Quarter-Final match v Shrewsbury 6 – 1 win

Playing on the neutral venue of Cheltenham, the Bears took a 2-1 lead at lunchtime due to the reliable performance of Keith and Kate in the singles. In the doubles Robert had several attempts to beat hoop 5 to death --- the hoop survived but Robert and Richard W did not, losing 17-26.

In the afternoon singles, Kate won comfortably but at 3-1 another win was needed. Keith gave 9 bisques but looked to be easily overhauling his opponent but kept us guessing for a further 45 minutes while his opponent got both balls for peg. Finally a short roquet miss by the opponent let Keith back in to finish the game and secure the match. Meanwhile the arrival of Rosemary and Richard D (just passing !) caught Richard and Robert fluffing around in their singles. Both perked up after the spectators left and won their games pegging out.

Richard

Federation (North) v Swindon 3-2 win

Kate, Keith and Robert took themselves off to Swindon to do battle against their Federation North team. The opposition were, as usual, welcoming and friendly and if the croquet wasn't engaging enough, there was always the cricket match to watch. We assumed that it wasn't the thing to do to shout 'Howzat' every time a hoop was run so didn't bother.

Anyway, no cricket balls on the lawns, not like at a certain Worcester club! Kate and Keith played the doubles in the morning and won comfortably but Robert, having so low a handicap, was pitched against their player with loads of bisques.

Unfortunately his opponent used to play off 2 and obviously hadn't lost his touch, beating Robert to give a lunchtime one-all result. Suitably refreshed for the afternoon assault, Kate and Keith won their matches and Robert put in a sterling effort to only lose by 1 after time had been called. A good day's play, with The Bears 3-2 up and on one of the few sunny and fairly warm days to be had in May. *Keith.*

Federation (North) v Nailsea (N) 4 – 1 loss

The instruction to Nailsea was to bring three players and, oh! Could you bring a set of balls as well? Our black Barlow having gone missing was the reason for them to bring their own, but they were only too happy to oblige. Actually, we think that using their own balls gave them the advantage and that's why they eventually won the day!

Jean and Kate played the doubles and did their utmost but eventually succumbed to the play of Ryan Cabble who hit the ball so hard that the hoops were actually seen to pull themselves out of the ground and run for the hills! That's a champion golf player for you! Keith won the singles in the morning, plus one on time, by the chance misplay of his opponent who tried to run the wrong hoop after drawing level. That

mistake allowed Keith to run the Golden Hoop and breathe a sigh of relief. The afternoon was Nailsea's. Kate trailed Ryan for most of the match until she got in and sprinted around to nearly get to peg before him. He'd already pegged one ball out and Kate put him in a corner, safely out of the way, ready to run rover and to peg. But his long shot skills got the better of her and he pegged out from a ridiculous distance! Jean played steadily and confidently and was in sight of a good result when her tea infusion petered out and she had to let her opponent win. Keith just messed up and lost! So, a disappointing 4-1 loss for The Bear.

Keith

And from our flying observer/reporter:

"Turning up at 4pm to watch some croquet, it looked hopeless for Kate with Ryan Cabble (top flight golf croquet player) within a few hoops of a finish and Kate miles behind. One hour twenty minutes later with Kate for peg and rover and two balls well set at rover Ryan pegged out his second ball from beyond hoop 3 to win the game. An outstanding example of turning a lost cause into a dramatic close finish."

Anonymous

Federation (Central) v Nailsea (C) 2-3 Loss

With closely matched teams this match was in the balance throughout, although Bear had it all to do after lunch having lost both morning matches. Alex lead the way on a difficult, fast lawn at the Bear by winning a quick game to peg out at +10. Richard W followed, finishing with both balls for rover on time to win +5. In the last game on the lawn neither Matthew nor his opponent were making hoops and in a war of attrition it all depended on who got the first (and last !!) break – unfortunately it wasn't Matthew.

Richard

Federation (Central) v Bath 1-4 Loss

"Bear's bisques blown away at Bath." Due to player shortages Bath fielded a - 1/2, 0 and 2 , quite a rare combination in the Federation league. In extremely gusty conditions Brian, Tim and Richard W took to the lawns clutching loads of bisques. The only win came in the doubles, where Tim and Richard battled to keep the low

handicap opposition out of play while Tim made hoops. They were rewarded in a close finish after Tim was persuaded to go for corners on time. Still all to play for at lunch – but not for long after Brian and Tim succumbed fairly quickly. The homeward journey was delayed as Richard tried to salvage some honour by pegging out his opponent still with a bisque in hand. All to no avail as eventually the opponent hit in and finished with a three ball break. Obviously we need a winter refresher from Don on how to use bisques effectively!

Richard

Federation (Central) v East Dorset 5 – 2 Loss

After a very long drive to Poole, the Bears struggled against strong opposition. However, play was better than the result suggests. Matthew was the star of the day winning both of his matches. Brian, Richard Way and Tim all had some excellent moments though sadly not quite enough of them. Tim losing one match on the Golden Hoop.

Richard/Robert

Intermediate v Swindon 3 – 2 WIN

With manager, Paul, being away and deputy manager, Brian, being needed for a Federation match, deputy-deputy manager, Pat, stepped into the breach at very short notice and ably led her team to victory.

Pat won her singles game in the morning and Jean and John won the doubles to give the Bears a comfortable lunchtime 2-0 lead.

The afternoon games entertained the massed crowds of four Bear supporters with John pegging out (26-7) with an hour to spare. Jean, fortified by regular cups of tea, held her nerve despite facing one of Swindon's strong players and made at least one impressive five-hoop break, only losing by 3.

Pat was faced with an opponent who appeared to be able to hit in from long distances and although he had much difficulty getting through hoop 2, he eventually took charge to just win (+4t) after Pat made a late charge for home.

Robert

(continued)

Intermediate v Dyffryn

Match postponed due to 4" rain falling on Dyffryn's lawns. Match to be rearranged.

B League v Swindon

Match postponed due to illness. Rearranged for 7th July.

Handicap changes.

John is now 18

Kate is now 7

Keith is now 7

Robert is now 3

Club diary and lawn bookings

July

1 Intermediate v Cheltenham

B League Away to Llandaff

Parkstone Away to Cheltenham

2 Club day

3

4 Club day

5

6

7 B League v Swindon

8 Federation (N) v Cheltenham

9 Club day

10

11 Club day

12

13

14 Parkstone Away to Bath

Secretary's Shield Team away to

Surbiton – Semi-Final Match

15 B.League v Worcester

Federation (N) Away to Dyffryn

16 Club day

17

18 Club day

19

20 Wedding

21 Wedding

22 Federation V Kingston Maurward

Intermediate Away to Broadwas

23 Club day

24

25 Club day

26

27

28 Wedding

Parkstone Away to Nailsea

29 Federation (N) v Kingston Langley

30 Club day

31

Summer Jolly to Canterbury.

So far, eight Bears are decanting to Canterbury and we are immensely grateful to their members for inviting to host us in their homes.

Arrangements:

Michael and Ann have invited us all to their house for a party on the Sunday evening and our hosts will also be invited so you can either find your host's home first or go straight to Michael and Ann's and meet your hosts there (We need to let them know which).

Games will be arranged for Monday and Tuesday (mornings and afternoons) and can be Association or Golf games. If anyone would like time off for sightseeing/shopping, please let Don know so that games can be planned more easily.

A pub meal will be booked for the Monday evening (including our hosts) and Robert will make a speech.

Michael will send a menu nearer the time so we can order in advance.

Currently, it is understood that everyone is returning home after play on the Tuesday.

Robert has a map showing Michael and Ann's house and will issue copies before we go.

If anyone else would like to join us, please let Don know immediately as the Canterbury club is anxious to finalise arrangements.

Hotel news.

An exciting development sees the old barn building converted into a Wine Retail Outlet selling bin-ends at reduced prices. You will have noticed the planting of the vineyard in front of the barn: the first grapes from this should be ready for harvesting in three years' time and the plan is to make a sparkling wine from them.

Two invitations:

Dyffryn Croquet Club under the auspice of the Welsh Croquet Association is organising a B level Golf Croquet Competition open to those who have a golf handicap of 3 to 8.

It will take place on **Saturday 21 July**
Cost is £6

Play will start at 9:30 and it is planned for each contestant to have seven/eight games.

The competition is open to all.

I will accept entries initially up to Monday 2 July. Spaces will then be allocated on the basis of Rankings/handicap. 4 places will be reserved for Welsh players. Later entries will be on a first come first entered basis.

If interested send an email to kevin.ham@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk With details of ranking / handicap.

Entrance fee will be collected on the day.

Bristol Croquet Club is holding "The Latham Cup", a CA Handicap Tournament, on **11th and 12th August**. Players with handicaps of 20 and below can enter. This is a lovely tournament that Bears often enter and if you are not playing in a match that weekend, this tournament comes highly recommended. Several Bears have made this their first tournament experience and ALL have enjoyed it.

If you are not yet a CA member, you are allowed to enter one CA tournament before joining.

Further details from Robert.

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Today's profound thought.

"Hard work pays off in the future. Laziness pays off now."

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We look forward to seeing you all at the barbecue on Friday.

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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.

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
Webmaster:	Don Gaunt	0145382250

