



The Bear of Rodborough Croquet Club

June 2011
Newsletter

Reminder - Next week.

Our new Australian Friends, Steve and Julie Thornton, visit on **Monday 30th May**. You may like to wear club shirts for this night as they have bought some to take back to Australia and will undoubtedly like some photos.

Secretary's Shield



Matthew, Richard Way, Robert and Brian travelled to Nottingham to play in the first round of this national competition which is only open to clubs who won the previous season's area Federation League tournaments. Brian saved the Bears' reputation by winning his first match +3t and Richard won his afternoon match after a peg-out. The others enjoyed excellent hospitality in a glorious setting but were outclassed. The end result was a 5-2 loss for the Bears.

Handicap change.

Kate is now 12.

Club matches

1. The final results of the 2010 club matches are now in with Keith beating Robert in the Golf final.



The doubles final was won by Peter Francis and Caroline Denny.

Presentations will take place at the club barbecue on 1st July.

2. The new season's internal matches have started well but we wish to alert you to the fact that the wedding season is about to get underway and so it will get increasingly difficult to get lawn time, particularly at weekends, so it is strongly advised to arrange your matches as soon as possible.

Austria 2011.

Twelve Bears have signed up for the trip to Wolkesdorf, near Vienna, driving or flying out on 19th August. Some are returning on the following Tuesday while others are extending their visit through the next weekend for the Austrian Opens.

The excitement mounts as we look forward to revisiting this excellent club and trying out their newly laid courts. In his latest email, Heinz, our host, writes:

"I am looking forward to seeing you again - and to some exciting croquet and enjoyable days.

Please pass my best wishes to the Bears.

*All the very best from Austria
Heinz"*

League match update

The B League played its first game against Llandaff producing some very creditable play holding Llandaff to 2-3. Nick (his first time as captain), Ian, Faith (in her first match in living memory), and Deirdre (in her first match ever), were only expected to treat this as a learning experience (though we didn't tell them that!) but they exceeded expectations. Faith ran all six hoops and pegged out in one game.

All was square at lunch with the 2 morning doubles being shared. In the afternoon Nick won a singles, and Faith came a very creditable second in her game. Captain Nick says *"the B League has always been about getting match practice and confidence building, and is an essential building block to improving and developing ones game. We could have put out a team of lower handicap players and won, but that proves nothing. This was Deirdre's first outing and she found the challenge interesting, and I hope valuable. Faith made some great shots, but was facing an Aunt Emma. She is definitely up for some more B League singles."*

We all remember the nerve-racking experience of those first games but they do give invaluable experience and we are proud of our intrepid B team players.

The Intermediate (North) team have got off to an excellent start by beating Worcester 4-1. We were given the opportunity to postpone the match due to bad weather, but opted to play the match. The weather was rather wet during the morning session but this did not prevent the Bears from taking a two-nil lead at half time. Pat was on brilliant form and won both her singles matches against strong opposition.

The Intermediate (Central) team battled nobly against a superior team

from Weston-S-M and although losing 2-3 displayed much resolve and clever play but faced players who seemed to be able to hit in from anywhere on the court. It was good to see Jean playing her first game for The Bears and she was so determined to do all she could to outwit her opponent, at one stage rushing over to Crawford and instructed "Get me tea. URGENTLY. I need caffeine." before retuning to her game. Had the tea arrived earlier and in greater quantity, the result may have been different!

The Federation League started well with Richard Way, Keith and Kate beating Dyffryn 5-0. Both Keith and Kate achieved neat peg-outs in their afternoon games with Kate qualifying for a handicap change in the process. Richard qualified for "the-most-agonising-peg-out-of-the-year-award" after watching his 20 hoop lead being almost obliterated with all his bisques used. He eventually won the match by pegging out his last ball from the boundary.

The second Federation match against Swindon was played by Richard, Alex and Tim and resulted in a 4-1 victory. All played creditably but Richard's was the last game on the lawn and again he finished with a spectacular peg-out from about 9-10 yards.

At the end of last season, when our Parkstone Qualifier League team was promoted to the **Parkstone League**, we knew we had a battle on our hands because almost all Parkstone League players are A class. In our first game against Poole, they fielded three players with handicaps of 0, -1.5 and -1.5 against Don (-1), Richard (1) and Robert (3). Although a pleasant day and good camaraderie between the two clubs, we suffered our first whitewash (0-5).

(cont.)

In the morning, Robert, playing David Harrison-Wood, managed to get 7 hoops before David took his second ball around, triple-peeling his first to win 26-7. In the afternoon, Robert lost 26-1 to William Ormerod who later gently pointed out that he had represented Britain in the MacRobinson on four occasions.

Don and Richard faired much better and came to within a hair's breadth of winning their games.

They then faced Cheltenham. Thanks go to Peter for winning his game and preventing another whitewash. Enough said!

Club Barbecue

Friday 1st July

The planning sheet is now on the club notice board waiting for you to write details of whether you are able to attend and what food contribution you would like to bring.

We thank Brian and Carol for kindly hosting the barbecue this year and look forward to fine weather and lots of fun. A map will be issued nearer the time for those who need it.

Risk Assessment

In line with other organisations, we now have a risk assessment in place. Keith has put in a huge amount of work in preparing this most professional of documents which has been discussed in depth by both your committee and the Cotswold Inns and Hotels Head Office to ensure it is complimentary to, and compatible with the hotel's policy.

The policy is displayed on the pavilion notice board and we ask all members to read it and to appreciate what each of us needs to do to ensure our own safety and the safety of others.

Hotel News.

1. Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Horton and the Cotswold Inns and Hotels Group for winning yet another prestigious award. The Bay Tree Hotel at Burford has been awarded "Best Small Hotel of the Year" at the English tourism 'Oscars'.

2. With the improvements to the outside area of The Bear nearly complete, work has now begun refurbishing the bars.

Monday 20th June.

Club Night cancelled due to a hotel booking.

Hotel/Lawn Bookings

At time of going to press

June

| Lawn | Away matches |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 1 Club Night | |
| 2 | |
| 3 | |
| 4 Inter'C v Bristol | |
| 5 Inter'N v Dyffryn | |
| 6 Club Night | |
| 7 | |
| 8 Club Night | |
| 9 | |
| 10 | |
| 11 Wedd. All day | Park v Nailsea |
| 12 B v Cheltenham | |
| 13 Club Night | |
| 14 | |
| 15 Club Night | |
| 16 | |
| 17 Wedd. vacate @ 12pm | |
| 18 Wedd.vacate @ 12pm | Fed v Kington L |
| 19 | |
| 20 Hotel BBQ booking from 6.00 | |
| 21 | |
| 22 Club Night | |
| 23 | |
| 24 | |
| 25 Wedd. All Day. | Int (N) v Kington L |
| 26 Party - vacate @ 12pm | B v Worcester Int (C) v Bath Park v Bristol |
| 27 Club Night | |
| 28 | |
| 29 Club Night | |
| 30 | |

Referee's Corner.

“It didn't move”

Probably the most common grumble I hear is from people saying their opponent did not make the croqueted ball move in croquet shots.

This is, of course, a fault under Law 28/14 and must be challenged.

If it is agreed that the croqueted ball did not move, the solution is simple – the balls are replaced and the turn ends.

However, it can often be a sensitive issue because with very fine take off shots, the croqueted ball may only shake slightly and you may not see this from some distance away. A slight shake is legally acceptable – the ball does not have to move though it almost always does.

As we know, in croquet, both players are referees in their game and the striker is closer than anyone so should be in the best position to judge whether the ball moves or not. If he keeps his head down (as we all should) he will not be in any doubt but if he takes his eye off the ball, he cannot know for sure. No-one would want to win a game dishonourably so if you are in doubt, question it.

It would be unwise to be overly assertive at first but the following course of action could be considered:

1st time you suspect an offence has occurred ask your opponent if he is sure the ball moved;

2nd time, express concern and say you are sure it didn't from where you stand;

If it continues, you are within your rights to ask to have further croquet shots umpired or, in extreme cases, ask a referee to take charge of your game (that would make you popular!)

When you are playing, remember that by law, you **must** make the croqueted ball “move or shake” and **must** play into the ball to achieve this. You must also immediately declare a fault if it does not.

As a little aside, on an uneven lawn, a ball from which you are about to take croquet may be leaning against the ball you are playing, so even if you play away from the CB, it may move towards you. This is still a fault because the law states you must not play away from the CB. Good luck with that one!



Coaching corner.

Our thanks to Don for his coaching sessions on better use of Extra Turns in Golf Croquet. His advice is reprinted below. (For those who collected a sheet at the coaching session, please note that what is printed here is an amended, new and improved version.)

TAKING EXTRA TURNS IN GOLF CROQUET

Introduction

This is a simple guide for a constructive approach to extra turn (bisque) taking in golf croquet. As with association play, good use of your extra turns can significantly improve your game.

General principles

In association play, well used bisques, can be a dominant factor in winning a game. In golf play however, normally only one hoop can be gained from an extra turn and that is not a certainty. To that end, defensive extra turns play a larger part in their usage than in association. The lists below show some examples of defensive and aggressive extra turn usage. Note that in certain cases an extra turn can be both. Because an extra turn rarely results in more than the gain of 1 hoop, there is not normally any advantage in hanging on to your extra turns or in using them early. This does not mean squandering them, it means looking out for the right opportunity at every hoop. Having 3 extra turns left when your opponent only has to make one more hoop to win is not a good ploy!

Remember that stopping your oppo from making a guaranteed hoop is nearly as good as making it yourself (but not quite!).

Defensive

- *Oppo is in the hoop and you have no shot available to move him.* Send your ball beyond the hoop, take a extra turn and clear oppo.
- *Going for next hoop, oppo gets perfect position.* Send your ball next to oppo and clear his/her ball. If you clear with a stop shot you may also be able to end up in front of the hoop yourself. NB. Try to get a position where you can clear oppo a long way away from the next hoop.
- *After a hoop has been made, you are hampered approaching next hoop.* Take your shot to give yourself a clear view of the next hoop then use an extra turn to approach that hoop. It will not be worth taking that option if oppo has already got perfect hoop running position.

Aggressive

- *You are already in the position described in the first defensive situation above.* Clear oppo's ball, and then use an extra turn to take perfect position in front of your hoop. Make sure that your other ball can clear or block the oppo's other ball.

- *Your approach shot ends up perfectly in front of your hoop. You cannot make the hoop with an extra turn but you are allowed to jaws it (stick it in the hoop). It is worth practising jawsing a ball, it is very useful in this game.*
- *You have the chance to clear oppo's next ball. Do so, then take a extra turn to get good position for yourself. Make sure that your other ball can clear or block the oppo's other ball.*
- *You have the first shot for the next hoop. Take that shot then use an extra turn to get perfect position.*

| Similarities and differences between golf and association croquet | |
|---|---|
| Similarities | Differences |
| Extra turns may be taken in sequence | Hoops may not be made by using a extra turn |
| An extra turn may be used after a fault (balls are replaced and the same ball must be used) | In doubles, extra turns are individual, not per side. See example below |
| Extra turns may be defensive or aggressive | Half bisques (extra turns) do not exist |
| Rush peeling your opponent's ball through its hoop with an extra turn scores that hoop | Rush peeling your partner ball through its hoop with an extra turn does not score that hoop |

Example of extra turns in doubles.

Pair A has H/Cs 2 and 6. Pair B has H/Cs 1 and 9.

The 6 and the 9 are the higher H/C players and the B team player gets half his/her extra turn difference ie $3 \text{ halved} = 1.5$, rounded up to 2.

The 2 and the 1 are the lower H/C players and the A team player gets half his/her extra turn difference ie $1 \text{ halved} = 0.5$, rounded up to 1.



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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