



# The Bear of Rodborough Croquet Club

June 2012  
Newsletter

## Congratulations



Keith and Kate won the Walter May Bath Doubles tournament winning 4/5 games getting their season off to a cracking start. Richard and Rosemary were close on their heels winning 3/5 of their games. One third of the competitors at this event were Bears.

## Handicap change

Richard Way is now 5

## Bears' Summer Barbecue



**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> June**

The list is now on the club notice board. Please sign up to indicate how many are coming and to show what food contribution you will be bringing.

## Congratulations.

Our Secretary's Shield team of Kate, Keith, Matthew and Richard Way (Capt.) have done us proud. **5 – 1**

**win.** Richard writes:

The Bears took a cruise from Southampton to Cowes on a gloriously sunny Saturday, arriving in time to take tea at the club and spend an hour playing on the lawns, which had been underwater earlier in the week. Matthew and Richard checked in at their seaside boarding house while Kate and Keith headed downtown to check in at the Kasbah with its vibrant Moroccan themed bar. We can recommend the Olivo to eat in Ryde. Allegedly all slept well.

On Sunday, Matthew and Richard fiddled around in the doubles to no great effect on the slow lawn while Kate and Keith sailed home ( Cowes--geddit?) to create a 2-1 lead at lunch. Richard rapidly polished off his opponent, who had shone in the doubles, to give a comfortable lead. The K duo performed as usual -- 5-1, we'd done it. Matthew had a titanic struggle but succumbed by 2 on time.

The Bears cruised home from Cowes in the sunshine quite contented.

PS The Ryde version of the match is on the CA website. For the avoidance of doubt we offered Sat and Sun, they chose !!!

The team will now meet Shrewsbury on **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June** at Cheltenham.

## Match round-up.

### Congratulations.

What a start to the season!

3 matches. 3 wins. Keep it up!

#### Parkstone League v Bath. 3 – 2 win

In a moment of astonishing generosity, the team captains agreed to there being no time limits as advanced games are usually swift. After five hours and ten minutes, the first game of doubles ended in the Bears favour with Don and Richard Danby beating the Bath duo. Robert tried not to be intimidated by Bath's captain (playing off a handicap of 0) but managed to maintain a little dignity by only losing 20 – 26. After tea (no lunch as it was so late) three games of singles gave the Bears the winning 3 – 2 victory shortly before 7.00 p.m.

#### Intermediate v Worcester. 3 – 2 win

On a very cold Sunday the Bears hosted Worcester Norton. It was so cold that one of the Worcester players almost froze to death. It was only due to the extra layers of clothing provided by the Bear players and a fan heater provided by Richard Danby that hypothermia did not set in. The cold did not affect the Bears that much winning 3-2 on the day with a sterling performance by Pat who won both her games. *Brian*

#### B League v Broadwas. 4 – 1 win

*Carol's first outing as team manager brought an excellent result. She writes:* We arrived at Broadwas just before 10 o'clock, rather later than intended as my alarm didn't go off (well how was I supposed to know there was a "p.m." setting as well as an "a.m." setting – it's always gone off in the morning before). This had necessitated me driving at mad,

reckless speeds down the motorway with John Ireland curled up in the back moaning "I'm going to die!" and Caroline somehow managing to clutch (albeit with white knuckles), the satnav, directions from Michelin route planner and the road map. We still turned up the wrong road (I blame Philippa, the satnav, not Caroline who wanted to switch Philippa off, but I find Philippa's "recalculating, recalculating" strangely comforting) and my fuel light coming on in the car as we were careering wildly down narrow country lanes hunting for the croquet club. Luckily a man in his front garden knew where it was and gave us some really good directions so we eventually arrived to be welcomed with coffee and biscuits. Whew!

We had lunch early, and then more tea and biscuits. The day got better as it went on. The sun started to shine later in the afternoon and we had a scrummy tea (including the most delicious home-made strawberry tarts and cream) before heading for the petrol station and home (at a slightly more sedate pace).

Oh, we played some croquet, too, and won 4-1. (Well, it would have been rude to win all the games after those magnificent strawberry tarts.) *Carol*

**Good luck to the two Federation teams who are in action this weekend.**

**Club matches.** You will notice that the hotel is increasingly successful at marketing weddings. This has the potential for making it very difficult for us to hold our internal matches so please do not delay in organising your games. Nearly all of these will need to be played on Tuesdays, Thursdays or Fridays (matches cannot be played on club nights).

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## Photo Competition.

### Announcing the first Bear Photo Competition

(**not** to be confused with “the first bare photo competition”!)

Get your cameras at the ready. Snap away and collectively, we can have some fun. Serious or humorous, creative or posed - everyone can enter: anyone could win.

#### *The rules...*

Any croquet related picture taken by a Bear in 2012;

B+W or colour **prints** admissible;

Photoshop manipulation allowed but this must be declared so the judge can make an informed opinion;

Print size 6"x 4" minimum, 10"x 8" maximum (*the larger the better as they will all be put on display*);

Any number of entries allowed;

Name of photographer to be written on the back of the print (and Photoshop description if used);

Entries submitted to Rosemary by **31<sup>st</sup> January 2013**;

Judging by an independent chappy;

Photos displayed and the winner announced at the Annual Dinner on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2013.



## Handicap Trigger points.

There may still be some uncertainty about handicap triggering and the following examples might help.

Consider the following trigger points for handicaps 6, 7 and 8 for which the corresponding index numbers are 1450, 1400 and 1350.

Fred is currently on an index of 1380 with a handicap of 8. He does well in a tournament and his index rises to 1410. He has passed a trigger point and his handicap drops to 7. He then loses two games and his index drops to 1390. His handicap does NOT go back to 8. He will only go back to 8 if he continues to lose and his index drops below 1350.

Freda has a handicap of 6 and an index of 1420. She loses some games and her index drops to 1390. Her handicap rises to 7 as she has passed a trigger point. She goes on a CA course and her game improves. Her index rises back to 1420. She does NOT go back to a 6. This will only happen if she continues to win and her index passes 1450.

Hope this helps.

Remember that handicaps DO NOT change in the middle of a match day or tournament but only change at the end of the day/tournament.

*Don*

## An invitation from Bristol CC.

### **12 to 22 Handicap Tournament**

**BRISTOL CROQUET CLUB**  
**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> & Thursday**  
**14<sup>th</sup> June 2012.**

Start at 9:30

B. Y. O. Lunch & Teas will be available.

Come and have a go on our three beautiful courts in Bristol.

Entrance Fee £12

To apply please send by **31st May**

Name, Address, Tel no, Club,  
Handicap to:

Mr Eric Soakell  
22 Benville Ave  
Bristol  
BS9 2RX

0117 9684153  
soakell@talktalk.net

## Hotel news.

We have received requests for a trainer on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> June and

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June (Times to be confirmed)

If you are able to help, please let Robert know ASAP.

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## Club diary and lawn bookings

### June

1

2

3

4 Club night

5

6 Club night

7 **Wedding**

8

9 **Wedding**

Intermediate Away to Dyffryn

10 B.League V Swindon

11 Club night

12

13 Club night

14

15 **BBQ party**

16 **Wedding**

Federation (C) Away to Bath

17 Federation(N) V Nailsea

18 Club night

19

20 Club night

21

22 **Wedding**

23

24 Intermediate v Swindon

Federation (C) Away to East Dorset

25 Club night

26

27 Club night

28

29 **Wedding**

**Club BBQ at Painswick**

30

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## Date for the diary.

Owing to illness, we had to postpone the Parkstone home match against Nailsea. This has now been rearranged for **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> August** and will be held at **Nailsea** because there are no free dates at The Bear.

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## Is it you?

The blue clip went missing about two weeks ago. It is most likely in someone's pocket and as two weeks ago it was still winter, the chances are that it is in a winter coat pocket. Please can everyone check their pockets and bags to find the missing item and please can everyone, when packing equipment away, count 4 balls and 4 clips are in the racks.

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## Today's profound thought.

"If you think nobody cares, try missing a couple of payments."

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## Congratulations.

Pat represented The Bear at the final of the national One-Ball competition and did well by winning 3/7 games in a very competitive field. She writes:

It was dry and sunny, the two lawns at Winchester looked immaculate and food and drink was on hand when required. This looked like the perfect tournament.

However all was not as it first seemed. As the 22 competitors gathered from all round the country it was evident that this tournament would be special. Many of them were dressed in PINK. The men especially had made great efforts, sporting pink shorts and tops. Pink socks were commonplace, plus an over-sized sun hat which never seemed to be worn by anyone.

Then there were the lawns. Lawn one in particular had a fiendish slope to one side making hoop approach shots very difficult. Time and time again we ran off to the side of the hoop.

On the Manager's table I noticed a list of previous winners – at the top for the first ever tournament was Don Gaunt. I began to worry about living up to such a role model. As it turned out I was right to be worried as my final result was a miserable three wins out of seven.

Nevertheless, it was an excellent day, run for a very good cause. Kevin Carter was a genial and able manager (as usual) and I hope the Bear enters the Tournament again next year to give us all an opportunity for another out-of-the-ordinary day.

NB The food and drink were good but the sun disappeared - and it stayed dry! Pat.

The following report was sent by Kevin Carter:

## Charity One-Ball Final 12th May 2012

*The nineteenth Charity One-ball Championship, at Winchester on 12th May, was won by Andrew Rutland, the qualifier from the Parsons Green heat, playing off a handicap of 24, having only started playing last year.*

**2012 Heats**  
Bear of Rodborough  
Blewbury  
Bowdon  
Bristol  
Caterham  
Cornwall  
Dulwich  
Exeter  
Guildford & Godalming  
Hamptworth/Winchester  
Huddersfield  
Hurlingham  
Kington Langley/Swindon  
Littleton  
Merton  
Nailsea  
Middlesbrough  
Northampton  
Nottingham  
Parsons Green  
Phyllis Court  
Reigate  
Sidmouth  
Southport  
Southwick  
Surbiton  
Tunbridge Wells/Medway  
Woking

22 players gathered at Winchester for the final, after 28 heats had been organised around the country during this very wet Spring. Fittingly the sun shone on the competitors' whites - all to some extent adorned with pink, in recognition of the chosen charity: the Breast Cancer Campaign. £2500 was raised from the 358 players who contested heats and after adding in Gift Aid the charity will benefit by more than £3000.

Handicaps ranged from -1.5 to +24 and for some this was a first ever tournament. Nonetheless we had a brisk start and were able to complete the fourth round of the swiss before lunch. At that point local player Keith Mackenzie-Ross (8) and John Knight (18) of Reigate (contesting his third final), were unbeaten, with eight others on just one loss - including two previous winners, Lionel Tibble (-1.5) and Roger Barnacle (now playing off 6, rather than the 18 of his 2010 victory).

During the afternoon the leaders were played off against one another but Keith retained his unbeaten status up to 7/7. Andrew Rutland, the Parsons Green

qualifier emerged as his last rival, on 6/7, while John Knight and Southwick's Robin Wootton (14) - both on 5/7 - fought for 3rd place.

In a thrilling final Keith played very precisely to build a lead but Andrew's five bisques allowed him to claw back the deficit. Andrew's ball was positioned four feet in front of Rover with Keith in front of Penult. Andrew's ball pinged through but what now? His inexperience showed when he stopped behind rover. Now all Keith had to do was run penult hard enough to go beyond Rover and pick him up. He caught a thick wire but still had a shot .... and missed. Andrew trickled up to the peg, Keith missed his last shot from the boundary and it was all over.

Prizes were presented by Michael Goodman, there to support his wife, Pat, who qualified from Dulwich. Michael recalled that the last time he was in Winchester was in the Crown Court. He hastened to add he was not in the dock; he was sitting on the bench, as judge! Engraved goblets were won by Robin Wootton, who was third, and Keith Mackenzie-Ross for his runner-up position. The winner, Andrew Rutland, collected an engraved lead crystal decanter for his magnificent win.

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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.**

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	01453 822507