

Bear of Rodborough Croquet

Newsletter - June 2013



EDITORIAL

'Tis the season to be jolly, fal la la la la, la la la la....' I know this is a Christmas song but actually the weather recently cannot be too dissimilar to that of winter! However despite what the weather brings, intrepid croquet players don their suncream, hat and dark glasses, or more often their vests and water-proofs, to brave the weather to play their favourite sport. Read on to find out what's been happening this month.

A **BIG** thank you to those Team Captains who have already contributed their match reports. To get the reports into print just email Keith or Kate.

Tuesday 14th May Parkstone League Div 2 away at Bristol

On 14th May, four Bears went to a soggy Bristol to play the first match of the season. The weather was appalling, it rained all day. However we did come away with a 4-3 win. Peter won both of his singles, Rob one of his and Don won his singles. A wet but satisfactory start to the season.

Bear team: Don, Peter, Rob and Richard W

The Inter-counties Championship 2013 at Southwick and Compton.

For those who do not know this event, it is a huge level-advanced doubles tournament played with teams of 6 (3 pairs) representing their county. It is the biggest event on the calendar with nearly 100 players involved. I have played in this for over 30 years, firstly for Eastern Counties and then for Gloucester, being on the winning team three times.

It is played over 4 days and our team had a great start winning all matches. We then slipped a bit, losing a couple of matches so that by the end of day 3 we were lying second. The weather, which had up to then been chilly but very sunny (I got sunburn!), turned for the worse and by day 4 it was pelting down. The morning game was a joke with floods making it impossible to get across the lawn. My partner (Louise Bradforth) and I managed to scrape a win by plus two on time (there's a book there somewhere!) but the other two pairs succumbed to the wet. By then play was impossible so the afternoon matches were declared void. The result was that Gloucester came a creditable second.

The Gloucester team consisted of: David Foulser and David Kibble, Louise and me, David Mundy and Jamie Mussi. By Don.

Tuesday 14th May 'B' LEAGUE v Broadwas (Home)

Well, we knew that this was going to be easy peasy. We know Broadwas can only play on sloping lawns and Plan A was to confuse them by swapping Nick for Crawford at lunchtime. That and triple banking in the afternoon. Sorted.

The weather wasn't too good, but was actually slightly better than the rain, hail, sleet, snow, hurricane, tornado and sub-Arctic temperatures that were predicted. So that was good news. I made myself a really nice packed lunch so that was good, too. Oh, and my coffee flask didn't leak over any of my clothes, so that was good, too. The other good news was that Ian won his singles in the afternoon.

The bad news is that the coffee stains haven't come out of my waterproofs (you were all dying to know, weren't you?) And, yes, I have tried Vanish. Still, coming second wasn't too bad a result. And now that I've realised that the object of the game is to go through the hoops who knows what will happen next time

Bear team: Carol, Ian, Nick (am), Crawford (pm)

Thursday 30th May - Parkstone League Div 2 v Cheltenham away.

Thursday morning saw four Bears travel to Cheltenham to take on their Parkstone team. Don babysat Keith in his first advanced match whilst Robert and Richard W played their singles. Both singles matches were won decisively whilst the doubles became a bit of walkover for Cheltenham until Keith got into his stride and managed to start hitting something. At last Don pegged us out much to his relief. In the afternoon three singles were won by the Bears and it was looking like a 7-0 result until Don accidentally pegged one of his balls out and left his opponent to finish the game. But a respectable finish with the Bears on top again.

Bear team: Don, Robert, Richard W and Keith

Sunday 2nd June - Parkstone League Div 2, Bristol at home.

What a joy it was to play in good weather! My thanks to Rob and Richard W for their sterling work in preparing the lawn. The morning started well with Rob and Richard winning a convincing doubles. Don, still smarting from his loss of minus status, stormed round in his first game.

The afternoon saw the usual Bear problem of fine weather – hordes of children. However, they were kept off the lawn by their parents and apart from the noise, were no problem. Richard was able to hit long shots but not to capitalise on them. Rob looked like getting his match but Marion in her last turn got two hoops ahead. Fortunately Don got his second match to give the Bears a 3-2 win.

Rob and Richard bt Marion Hilton and Eric Soakell +24 / Don bt Richard Williamson +24 and Eric +10
Rob lost to Marion -2T and Richard lost to Richard -7T

Bear team: Don, Robert and Richard W

Tuesday 4th June 'B' LEAGUE v LLANDAFF (HOME)

Well what a perfect day! At least the weather was perfect – bright sunshine, lovely and warm; we didn't even need our jumpers. It was the first match this year when the waterproofs and wellies stayed firmly in the bag, to be exchanged for sunglasses and sunhats.

It was Stephen's debut match in the 'B' league and he acquitted himself very creditably indeed. Though he now firmly believes that all 'B' league matches are played in brilliant sunshine. I'm looking forward to getting him to Broadwas next year!!

John stormed through his singles, as usual, beating the opposition to a pulp (even without Di in her ra-ra skirt on the boundary line urging him on). When I said at the beginning it was a perfect day I obviously didn't include the croquet. Still, we live to fight another day.

Bear team: Carol, John, Stephen

Saturday 8th June – Parkstone League div 2 v Bath.

What a joy it was to play in glorious sunshine! Don, Rob and Mathew travelled to Bath for the 4th match in this league. The morning was successful with Rob and Matthew convincingly winning the doubles. Don also got the singles in an exciting match v Peter Miles.

Peter was for 4 back and peg while Don was still 4 back and 5. Don hit the lift with his forward ball, went to peg and pegged Peter out. This left Don still for 5 and Peter with just 3 hoops to run. With what little is left of his skill and lots of low cunning, Don crept round hoop by hoop to win, conceding just one more hoop to Peter. Lunch was provided by Bath and terrific it was too. In the afternoon Rob and Matthew unfortunately lost, Matthew by just 1. Fortunately Don won in an awful game with blobbed hoops everywhere.

Result: Bears 3, Bath 2. The Bear has now won 4 out of 4 so far.

Bear team: Don, Rob, Mathew

Bath Doubles competition – W/E 15th/16th June



This year's Bath doubles competition was attended by three Bear couples, Kate and Keith (last year's winners), Caroline and Richard W and far country members Ann and Michael Poole.

Despite the weather being pretty poor, the play was good. Despite their best efforts Kate and Keith did not manage to retain the very nice Silver Coffee pots, but held high hopes for Caroline and Richard. They played very well but were beaten in the final. Congratulations to both for coming runners-up.

Bear of Rodborough BBQ

This annual event is being held at Sun Cottage, Scar Hill, Box on Friday 12th July. Richard has kindly put directions on the notice board together with instructions for parking.

Please sign up for this on the notice board in the club house ASAP or let Richard Way know that you are intending to come.

Don't forget to choose some delicious morsel to bring with you, salad/pudding/bread etc.

Again check the notice board or speak to Richard if you are unsure. Look forward to seeing everyone.



(EVEN MORE) URGENT REMINDER

It's that time of year again when our thoughts turn to Club competitions.

With the hotel filling in more dates, it is becoming even more important to arrange club matches without delay (Robert has the impression that the new events manager is being very efficient at marketing) as you would not want to get on the wrong side of the organiser, now would you.....

LAWN AVAILABILITY

The lawn will NOT be available for club play on Monday 1st July or Monday 8th August due to hotel commitments.

CONGRATUALIONS go to....

Caroline for winning the Cheltenham High Bisquers competition. Her plummeting handicap is now down to a 10. Well done ☺

Thought for the Month...

The important thing is not winning, it's making everyone else lose.

LEAGUE FIXTURE DATES 2013

B league (Carol)

A	Worcester Norton	Sat	11-May
H	Broadwas	Tues	14-May
H	Llandaff	Tues	04-Jun
A	Swindon	Thurs	27-Jun

Intermediate (Paul)

H	Dyffryn	Sun	12-May
A	Worcester Norton	Sun	19-May
A	Swindon	Sun	09-Jun
A	Cheltenham	Sat	22-Jun
H	Broadwas	Sun	30-Jun

Federation (Keith)

A	Kington Langley	Sun	28-Apr
H	Swindon	Sun	19-May
A	Cheltenham	Sun	02-Jun
H	Worcester Norton	Sun	23-Jun
H	Dyffryn	Sun	14-Jul
A	Nailsea North	Sun	21-Jul

Parkstone 2 (Don)

A	Bristol 2nd	Tues	14-May
A	Cheltenham 2nd	Thurs	30-May
H	Bristol 2nd	Sun	02-Jun
A	Bath	Sat	08-Jun
H	Cheltenham 2nd	Sat	22-Jun
H	Bath	Sun	11-Aug

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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