



The Bear of Rodborough Croquet Club

May 2012
Newsletter

Snooker Champion.



Stephen has taken the title again after displaying some very skilled play and frequently wowing the crowd with near exhibition-standard strokes. Howard and Matthew both came hard on his heels with Howard just edging ahead of Matthew to take second place.

It is always with gratitude that we thank Richard and Rosemary for being so generous and hosting the snooker tournament over the winter, giving so many people so much pleasure and we send our heartfelt thanks to them both.

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Good Luck.

Our Federation Team is off to Ryde on the Isle of Wight to do battle for the Secretary's Shield. Having won the South West League last year, they qualified to enter this national knock-out event this year and Ryde is their first round match. We wish Richard, Matthew, Keith and Kate well for this prestigious game on 12th May.

Charity One-Ball event



£50 was raised by the nine Bears who entered this tournament, which will be sent to Breakthrough, the cancer charity. Pat won all five games to take the Bear title and this wins her a place in the final which will be played at Winchester on 12th May. We wish her good luck as she represents the Bears in this national event.

It was such an enjoyable day that it has been suggested that this becomes an annual event – very sociable with eight people on the lawn simultaneously there is very little sitting out and waiting to play and it is a good, fun way of blowing away the winter cobwebs.

Our thanks go to Don for running the tournament with his usual professionalism and good humour.

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Club matches

The lists for club matches are posted in the pavilion and we urge everyone to arrange their games promptly. We want to avoid the problems of games not being able to take place in the summer holiday period and it is surprising how quickly that comes around. Please be enthusiastic and get your matches booked now, remembering to write the dates on the year planner in the pavilion so that Nick knows when to cut the lawn.

Club diary and lawn booking

Please note there is no club night on Wednesday 2nd May owing to a hotel booking. It has been rescheduled for THURSDAY 3rd May.

May

- 1
- 2 **Hotel Conference (No Club night)**
- 3 changed Club night
- 4
- 5
- 6 **Hotel Croquet Party**
- 7 Club night
- 8
- 9 Club night
- 10
- 11
- 12 **Wedding**
- 13 **Christening party**
- 14 Club night
- 15
- 16 Club night
- 17
- 18
- 19 **Parkstone Team V Bath**
- 20 **Intermediate Team V Worcester**
B.League Away to Broadwas
- 21 Club night
- 22
- 23 Club night
- 24 **Hotel croquet party 2.00 – 6.00**
- 25
- 26 **Wedding**
Federation (N) Away to Swindon
- 27 **Federation (C) Team V Nailsea**
- 28 Club night
- 29
- 30 Club night
- 31

Hotel news.

We welcome Anne Hutchinson, the new General Manager, and we look forward to working with her and hope that she enjoys a long and happy time in her new post.

Helpers needed.

Thursday 24th May – 2.00 – 6.00p.m
One more helper is needed to join Robert in running an event for Norman Gooch's Probus Group.

Are you coming to Canterbury?

This year's jolly is to Canterbury CC on **26th – 28th August** where Michael and Ann Poole are members and will be our hosts. Some Canterbury members have very kindly offered to put us up in their homes. If anyone would like to take up this offer, let Don know as he is liaising with Michael. Otherwise, it will be for everyone to make their own accommodation arrangements.

We will travel up on Sunday 26th ready for a party on Sunday evening and for play on Monday 27th and Tuesday 28th. Ann and Michael live at Manston, near Ramsgate, and the Sunday and Monday evenings are likely to be spent on the eastern side of Canterbury. If you are arranging your own accommodation, you may like to bear this in mind because it is about 13 miles from the club to their house.

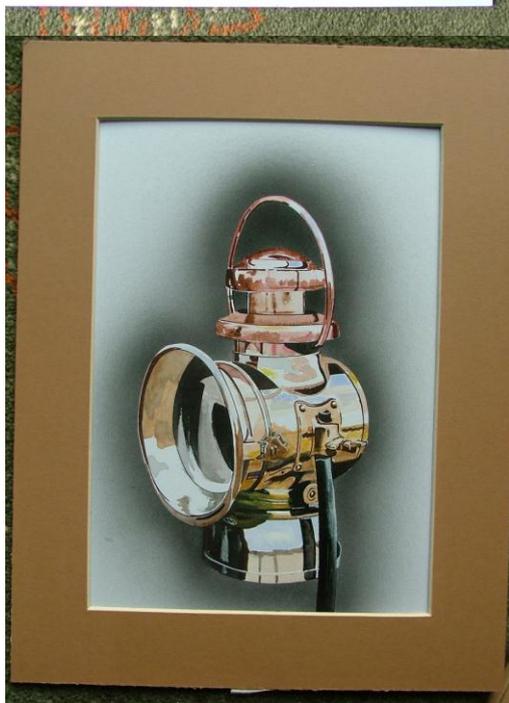
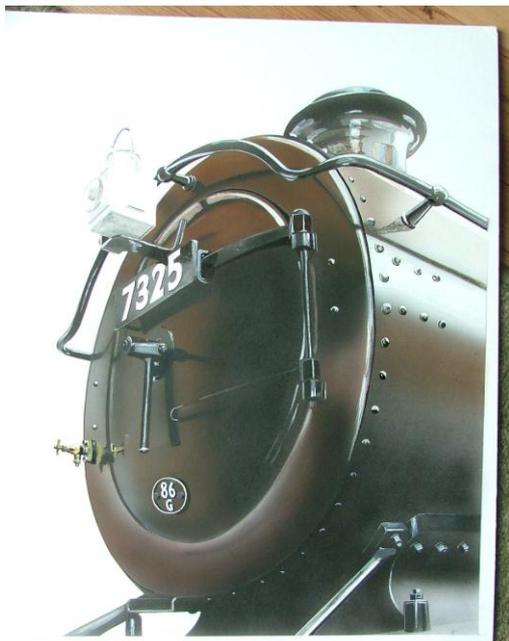
If you wish to join us but haven't already done so, please register your interest with Don, our International Secretary, urgently.

Handicap change.

Robert is now 2.5

Congratulations Keith.

Keith Apperley has been accepted as an associate member of the Guild of Railway Artists. We have been aware of his talent for some time and are delighted that his work is now recognised by this professional body. The images below are photographs of Keith's artwork.



An invitation from Cheltenham Croquet Club.

“Cheltenham Croquet Club is again running a Tournament for High Bisque Players from Tuesday to Thursday, **12th – 14th June 2012.**”

This is a relaxed and friendly tournament and is, for many, their first attempt at playing away from home, so we try to make it an enjoyable experience. In addition, there will be a Referee on hand to umpire, referee and clarify points of Law.”

Cheltenham Croquet Club
HIGH BISQUE TOURNAMENT

12th - 14th June 2012

Open to Handicaps 12 - 24;
Full Bisque Games Base 12;
Played as a “Hands Ladder”

Play starts at 10:00am for everyone

18 point games - Double banking will be used

Bring your own lunches

Two games a day guaranteed

Teas will be available

Time limits will be used

Entry fee of £18, payable on arrival.

If you are interested there is an application form for you to sign on our noticeboard and applications must be submitted by **30th May.**

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“Bears seen all across Europe”.

Don's article about our summer jollies appears in the April edition of The Croquet Gazette. All CA members will have received a copy but non-members can see it on the club notice board.

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Croquet is a game of skill, tactics and intellectual challenge. It can be played by young and old, men and women and all on equal terms because of the automatic handicapping system.

Enthusiastic players can compete in some fabulous locations all across the world and invariably, you meet lovely, like-minded people in the process.

Younger players are actively encouraged because within the sport, we want to redress the age profile balance.

The image that croquet is only for old people still persists in some quarters but we should all try to champion younger players and take every opportunity to encourage young people to try our sport. The growing number of very successful young players, competing nationally and internationally is very encouraging: Oxford University had 650 students at their last croquet taster day. We should all be doing our bit to encourage more young people to try the game and by being positive and sowing the seeds of interest, we will find the future of croquet is healthy.

When people say "*Croquet. That is a vicious game.*" My response is to laugh and say "Yes. It is as vicious as snooker!"

We have some way to go to educate the masses but we hope that everyone can play their part in correcting false assumptions.

All you need to know.

Whenever you need information, forms or a new handicap card, you will find everything you need in a file in the club cupboard. Rosemary has created a comprehensive file of information and keeps it up to date and it is there for your use. An index of contents is posted on the club notice board.

Another change of manager.

Owing to pressure of work, Nick has asked for help with managing the B League. The Bears are never slow to offer help and Carol is taking over as manager for the first two matches and Ian for the last two. We thank them for their enthusiastic support and hope they find the experience enjoyable.

Did you see...

Don's photograph has been included in the CA's website under "Archives"? He is one of a very small and elite group of people to have been awarded the CA Council Medal – the highest accolade the CA can bestow.

Newer members may not know that Don was Chairman of the CA for several years and is the man behind creating The Fixtures Book in the format that we now enjoy.

Today's profound thought.

"The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese in the trap."

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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>

