



The Bear of Rodborough Croquet Club

October 2011
Newsletter

The season's climax!

Intermediate (North)

Semi-final

Brian writes:

In a very tight match the Bear came out top beating Taunton 4-3.

In the morning session Taunton were 2-1 ahead. Pat and Crawford unfortunately lost their doubles match on the golden hoop. Brian looked dead and buried being 5 hoops down, time called and one shot left. He hit in from the opposite corner and proceeded to run 7 hoops. In the afternoon session Kate and Brian won their matches and had a long 30 minute wait whilst Pat's game finished. Pat came out on top by one hoop. They now face Abbey of Glastonbury. What a game!

Intermediate (North)

FINAL

Brian writes again:

The final against Abbey of Glastonbury was played at Nailsea. Both teams put up 5 players which was a first for an Intermediate final. The Bear team who won the day 4-3 consisted of Brian, Kate, Pat, Crawford and Alex. The morning session ended 2-1 to the Bears. In the afternoon Kate gave away 5 bisques against a very good player but triumphed in the end, pegging out. Half way through the afternoon the heavens opened and play had to be abandoned due to standing water on the lawn. An early tea was arranged but the water was not disappearing fast enough, so with the help of Bear supporters the water was swept off the lawn allowing play to continue. All matches were strongly contested and the Bear team played extremely well against very good opposition giving away bisques in every match. The added support of Carol, Keith and Richard helped us hold our nerves at the end.

CONGRATULATIONS



The winning team of Kate, Alex, Brian (Capt), Pat and Crawford.

Semi-final

Federation

Robert writes:

Astonishing Apperleys save the day!

Once again the dynamic duo came to the rescue ensuring The Bears won the semi-final, beating Plymouth 3 – 2. Kate shone throughout the day winning both games convincingly and achieved the only peg-out of the day. This triggered a second handicap change for her in as many months. Hubby Keith shone but not so brightly. He and Richard (W) barely glowed in the morning but Keith was reignited by lunch and whizzed around to peg and rover before his opponent got started and then we all watched with horror as the opponent took his first ball to 4-back and then his second to rover. Keith appeared not to notice, he was so outwardly calm, and after time was called, he used his last turn to tease his opponent and the onlookers by ignoring the fact that he could easily have run rover and peg out preferring to scatter the balls in all directions in the hope that his opponent would miss the roquet in his final turn. A collective Bear sigh greeted the last missing shot of the day signifying Bear victory.

Richard's Way was bumpy and his star was extinguished by a luckier Plymouthian.

Robert was kept very busy as referee.

So then we went on to the

FINAL

Federation

CONGRATULATIONS



*Federation Final: Bears v Nailsea.
Robert Bear (3), Pat (2.5), Keith Bear (9), Peter(5 + Nailsea Capt), Kate Bear (9), David (0), Richard Bear (6 + Capt), and Brian(8).*

Nailsea mauled by Bears.

For the second year running, The Bear of Rodborough has won the Federation League beating Nailsea 6-1. However, individual results were not as dramatic as at first appears though both competitors and spectators found some games tense. Bears, Richard Way and Robert Moss wrestled Nailsea's David Richards and Pat Long in the doubles in a long-winded encounter between two equally matched sides (by the time bisques had been taken into account) ending up with The Bears winning +2t. With Kate Apperley beating Brian McCausland (+4t) and Keith Apperley beating Peter Dyke (26-14), the Bears went for lunch 3-0 up.

In the afternoon, a refreshed and determined Peter Dyke retaliated beating Kate (26-11) but Richard held his own against David (a scratch player) winning 26-11. Keith in his idiosyncratic style, was winning against Pat 24-5 but clearly didn't want the game to finish because he took what felt like half an hour to peg out his first ball and then an eternity to peg

out his second but not before being kind to Pat by frequently putting her balls together and his own beyond useful range.

Robert was no better! Playing Brian McCausland, he reached peg and 4-back with Brian on peg and 5 when he appeared to lose his mind (or the plot) which allowed Brian to run rover and peg out one of Robert's balls. Robert limped through 4-back, penult and rover while Brian took his second ball to 3-back where he broke down allowing Robert to hit in and peg out. This was the last game on the lawn and finished at 6.00p.m.

Darkness was falling before the teams reached home.

Taunton was the host club and provided excellent lawns and a superb lunch. Bob Whittaker was kept busy as referee and Roger Buckley presented the trophy.

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Something to think about.

For the last two years, we have run two intermediate teams in order to give all those wanting to take part, the opportunity to do so. However, Keith, Kate and Brian are within a short roquet's distance of dropping to an 8 handicap which would bar them from intermediate play. Instantly, if this were to happen, we would not be able to field two intermediate teams.

At the AGM next month, we will discuss what teams to enter next year and there is a suggestion of entering:

- One B League team;
- One Intermediate team;
- TWO Federation teams (which have no handicap restriction);
- A Parkstone League team.

I have put this here in order to give everyone chance to consider and discuss the issues before the AGM rather than just springing it on you at the meeting.

Handicap change.

Kate is now 9.

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Hotel news.



With the fantastic refurbishment continuing, we have been delighted to make use of the new floodlights now that the evenings are drawing in. They are vastly superior to the old lights and play can now continue sensibly after dark. We think we are the only club on the circuit that enjoys such luxury.

Rosie leaves her job at The Bear this month to take up a new post in County Durham. We thank her for her support and for accommodating our needs and we wish her every success and happiness.

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Advance notice.

Early next season, we are planning a day of Alternate Stroke Doubles games. Currently, plans are for this to be a friendly day with Cheltenham as a pre-season warm-up. Not only is this fun, it is an excellent way to introduce new players to match play and to help them learn the rules and how to use bisques effectively. A high handicapped player is paired with a low handicap player and you are guaranteed to learn a lot while having a very enjoyable day. If this proves as popular as we expect, it could develop into something bigger!
Look out for further details in the new year.

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Quote from The Telegraph QI section (found by Nick):

“The ubiquitous trainer has only been around since 1868 when they were sold as “croquet sandals”, a luxury for the mallet wielding rich.

Ninety per cent of the people who buy sports shoes now buy them for casual rather than for sport”

Comment: “Not in my house” – Ed.
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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.

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Treasurer:	Brian Pittaway	01453 860610
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Want better photos?

For those of you who receive the newsletter electronically, if you enlarge the page to 500%, you will see the photos as they should be. The difference is remarkable.
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Last newsletter of the year.

Your editor is taking a break now and this is the last newsletter for 2011. The first one of 2012 will be with you early in the new year but until then, further messages will simply be sent by email.
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Looking forward to seeing you all at the AGM on THURSDAY 13th October at 7.00 p.m. in The Tower Room at The Bear.