



Silver Jubilee Year

The Bear of Rodborough Croquet Club

September 2009
Newsletter

Silver Jubilee Jolly. Llanfairfechan 2009

Sixteen Bears travelled to North Wales to meet The Dragons. We were not there for a tournament but for a fun visit where we could enjoy good croquet with lovely people in a beautiful part of the world. All boxes were ticked.

We also enjoyed a lot of weather!

Most of our games were played as doubles where we partnered the host club rather than playing against them and we learnt the delights of Short Croquet – which most of us had not previously encountered. It is true what they say – people from North Wales really are exceedingly friendly.



Robert presents “Roddy” to Llanfairfechan’s Chairman, Jack.



Ann and Michael travelled from their home in Ramsgate to be with us.



Don deciding if Richard’s handicap needs changing!



Richard Way and John keeping out of the rain.



Georgina organised our visit and introduced us to the delights of the club and the local hostelries. We are indebted to her for making the arrangements and for ensuring our visit was so special. Our thanks go to the club and all the Llanfairfechan members for making our visit so enjoyable. They are excellent hosts, have a superb club and we hope they will pay us a visit so that we can repay some of their hospitality.

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Congratulations

to Pat for winning the Cheltenham Challenge Cup after winning all six of her games;

to Don for being selected to play in The Eights (Spencer Ell Cup) - this is a highly prestigious event played by the country's top players and we wish him a steely nerve, a straight eye and superior tactics. He plays at Southport on 9th – 13th September.

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League matches.

This must be one of our most successful seasons in the club's history. As a whole, we won 76.9% of our matches.

The B League Team won 4 of its 5 matches and has reached the semi-final which should have been played against Bath at Swindon this Sunday 6th but due to an administrative error at HQ, the match has had to be deferred until a later date; the Intermediate Team won 3 of its 4 matches; and the Federation Team won 3 of its 4 matches.

The Intermediate Team feel a little aggrieved because there were three clubs tying for first place in our region and a complex mathematical formula was applied to decide which club should go through to the semi-finals. We missed selection by the smallest of margins. However, all teams played magnificently and we should all feel proud of a very successful season.

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The Golf Croquet Tournament

will be held on Sunday 27th September starting at 10.00a.m. It is hoped that everyone will be able to take part for at least some of the day. The tournament is organised in such a way that it is not necessary to be there all day but provided you have played a minimum of four games, you will be in with a chance of winning the trophy. It is *essential* that Don knows who will be playing and when so that he can accommodate all requests.

Club matches.

We have now reached the final few matches of the season.

The doubles final has already been played with Kate and Paul managing to beat Matthew and Rosemary as night fell with spectators speculating on which ball was where in the dark!

In the singles, Kate narrowly lost out to Richard Danby in the first semi-final and Keith meets Brian in the other semi-final on Tuesday.

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The Advanced Competition

has been reinstated this year and will take place on Saturday and Sunday 10th and 11th October. Don, Matthew, Peter, Richard and Robert will be chasing the cup this year but if you would like to find out more about advanced rules with a view to entering the competition next year, you will be most welcome to come and watch.

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Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held next month and formal notice will be sent to you shortly. You will be delighted to hear that this year's meeting should be considerably shorter than last year's marathon because having adopted the new constitution, the item which took up most of the time last year, will not appear on this year's agenda. However, if you have an item you would like included on the agenda, please let Rosemary or Robert know before 20th September.

As this will be the last formal event of our Silver Jubilee Year, we hope everyone will attend and that the meeting will be followed by much wine and food.

For the benefit of new members, the AGM is part formal meeting, part social event and a celebration of the club year. It is customary for everyone to bring to the AGM all trophies that they have won during the year for everyone to see, and there is a time given for members to say which tournaments they have entered during the season.

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2. Help! What do I do now?

The second in a series of features in which a point of law will be explained.

This article is printed on its own page in case you want to cut out and keep it.

My opponent is about to make an error. What do I do now?

Do you stop him or sit back and do nothing?

Interrupting your opponent is called *Forestalling* and there are laws covering each situation so although a generous player may be inclined to being helpful, the laws state that you should not. However, it is not that simple.

Croquet is a game in which both players are referees and there are occasions when, acting as a referee, you SHOULD forestall your opponent and occasions when you SHOULD NOT.

To simplify the matter, you *should not* forestall your opponent if he is about to make an error but you *should* forestall him if he *has* made an error or is about to play a questionable shot which may produce a fault and should therefore be watched.

How to forestall.

This may seem obvious but it is important not to forestall when the opponent is actually playing the shot but immediately afterwards. If you interrupted his shot, he would be entitled to replay it (and may not make a fault the second time around).

[Law 23d]

You must not forestall if your opponent is:

- About to run a wrong hoop;
 - About to play a wrong ball;
 - About to take croquet from a dead ball.
- [Law 23b] BUT.....

You must forestall immediately if your opponent:

- has* done any of the above;
- is playing when not entitled to do so;
- has committed a fault;
- is about to play a hampered shot (where there is insufficient room for a normal mallet swing);
- is about to attempt to run a hoop from close quarters (because he may “double tap”);
- if he wrongly thinks his turn has ended;
- if a clip is misplaced (which may give false information about the state of the game);
- a boundary is displaced. You may be puzzled by this one because at The Bear, we have white lines to show our boundary but some clubs have string which can be deflected.

[Law 23c]

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This shows the importance of giving full attention to your opponent's game.

Definitions.

Errors and Faults will be covered in more detail in a future edition of Help!

An **ERROR** is a mistake in play. (See Laws 22 – 28).

A **FAULT** is an error committed during the striking period (see Law 28). There are a lot of these but include such things as “shepherding” a ball through a hoop.

Further reading.

Don has written extensively on coaching. Look on our website for his “Helpful Hints”

News Flashes.

And don't forget...

The Golf Croquet Tournament

will be held on **Sunday 27th September** starting at 10.00a.m.

Let Don know of your availability.

The Advanced Competition

will take place on **Saturday and Sunday 10th and 11th October.**

Photos of Llanfairfechan.

Please send photos to Don so that he can put them on the website.

He is currently tied up with tournaments and other activities but soon, he will update the website and would like to include your photos.

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For more information:

Our Club Website-

<http://www.faydon.com/Bear/Bear.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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