



BLEWBURY CROQUET CLUB

Newsletter

2012/2

Surprise Christmas Issue

What better time to catch up on a few landmarks of the past croquet season, and look forward to the next, than the dark winter days of mid-December, when nobody has anything much to do – except a little shopping, cooking, carol-singing, card-sending, and putting up the decorations?

Winners

Everyone's a winner who plays croquet, of course, but apart from that, the main Club individual croquet competitions, with real trophies to be taken home, were nicely shared out. The first to be decided was the **Roger Cambray Shield**, for one-ball croquet, held as usual at Hall Barn on Sunday 17th June on the National Open Gardens weekend, where home advantage told, and *Deirdre Cochrane* beat *Robin Brown* in the final.



Deirdre



Isaac



Pancake

Studies in contrasting styles of play exhibited during the tournament.

The next to be played was the **Founder's Cup**, on Saturday 25th August. This is a non-handicap competition, association croquet, under advanced rules – a sort of bare-knuckle event for the seriously competitive player. This year it also required a degree of waterproofing.



In the preliminary rounds, there were no surprises, and *Nick Butler* and *Robin Brown* each cruised through to the final. Neither player can have felt that they did themselves full justice, but both *Robin*



and *Nick*



gave a good account

of themselves, with *Nick* pegging out to finish the game



and collect the Founder's tankard from *Deirdre* .

The Finals weekend in September saw the **Icknield** and **Prebendal Manor** Trophies both settled. The Icknield is the Club's golf croquet individual handicap competition, and the Prebendal the same but for association croquet.

This year's winners were *David Vincent*, for the **Icknield Trophy**, and *Mike Duck*, for the **Prebendal Manor Trophy**.



The other silverware won this season, by the Club, was the Southern Croquet Federation's **Advanced League Cup**, for association croquet. Our team consisted of the two Founder's Cup finalists, *Robin and Nick*, and they successfully retained the trophy that we won in 2010 and kept in 2011.

Photo – David Moren-Brown

Annual General Meeting - Hail and Farewell



Many thanks for past support are due to *Rustom Patel*, Club President for twelve years, who decided it was time for him to step down at this year's AGM in favour of someone closer to hand; the fickle finger of fate alighted on *Coral Richards*, a member

with her late husband *John* since the inception of the club, and who also brings exceptional ribbon-cutting skills to the post. We welcome Coral to her new role, and bid a kind and sorry farewell to Rustom.



Winter Frolics

Beetle and Bingo was most successfully managed by *Susan Tilbrook* with her band of cooks and other willing helpers on 1st December in the Melland Room; Susan showed rare talent as coleopterist and bingo-caller. Many prizes were won. The next event is scheduled for 2nd March, so there's the first of several dates for your diary (read on).

Pub Tuesdays began last month, when ten club members all turned up at the same time to have lunch in the Red Lion, Blewbury, and talk of hoops and hops, of pass rolls and bread rolls. We've fixed repeat engagements on the third Tuesday of every month this winter. It might be useful to let *Paul or June Wolff* know in advance if you plan to come, so we can warn the pub if numbers look high, but it's an open pub, so turn up at the last minute if you like. From 12.30; next is this Tuesday 18th December, then 15th January and 19th February.

Winter Croquet

The lawns at Blewbury are closed, while *David Seed* – who recently went on a sports ground care course – and other club members and professional hired helps look after winter maintenance. Until we re-open in April, Blewbury club members have an invitation to play on Harwell's new winter court, thanks to *Mike Duck*, who is chairman of the Harwell club as well as a Blewbury founder member. You'll need to liaise with Mike to fix times and dates. Further afield, informal monthly winter tournaments are arranged by Winchester (one-ball) and Hamptworth (both golf croquet and association). Ask *Paul* if you want to know dates.

Summer Croquet Preview

We've already started booking events for the 2013 season – diaries out again! Following the experimental inaugural Blewbury and Harwell Weekend Handicap (AC) last summer, we have taken the plunge and gone national with it – and added another, a Midweek Handicap jointly with Phyllis Court, at PC's request. The Croquet Association Fixture Calendar for 2013 will contain these two tournaments, details as attached to this newsletter. The entry fee for the Midweek includes lunches on both days, because Phyllis Court don't permit DIY sarnies! **Dates.** Midweek, 26th June in Henley, 27th at Blewbury. Weekend, 10th-11th August.

Watford's touring team will play Blewbury (AC again) on 29th July. Reserve the dates if you can. More will be added after the Croquet Sub-Committee planning meeting on 7th January, and keep an eye on the **Web Pages**. All known dates are currently on the web calendar (the "Programme" tab). Any complaints about the [New Look](#) to me (*Paul*).

A Happy Christmas and New Year to you all, and thanks to all contributors

Blewbury Croquet Club

Boham's Road, Blewbury, Didcot, Oxon, OX11 9HB. www.blewburycroquetclub.org.uk

Exceptions and additions to the Tournament Regulations:

1. Entry by email is preferred.
2. Entrants by email will be advised of receipt of their entry, their acceptance, and full list of participants. Postal entrants should send an s.a.e. for confirmation of acceptance.
3. Note different lunch arrangements for each tournament.
4. Tea, coffee and squash to drink provided free in all tournaments.
5. Car park entrance is marked on the left hand side along Boham's Road, Blewbury.

1. AC: Midweek Handicap Tournament (joint hosting with Phyllis Court CC)

Dates: 26-27 June 2013 (Wednesday & Thursday)
Manager: Paul Wolff (Blewbury) / Christopher Roberts (Phyllis Court)
Secretary: Christopher Roberts, 49 Ancastle Green, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, RG9 1TS
Tel: Mobile only 079 7378 7710, E-mail: info@kickphoto.co.uk
Entry Dates: Allocation: May 1
Trophy: TBC
Holder: Inaugural year
Format: AMD - AC (handicap)
Entry Fee: £35.00 (includes sandwich lunch on both days and court side tea & coffee)

Exceptions and Additions to the Tournament Regulations as above, plus:

- . Note, this is a TWO day tournament.
Day 1 at Phyllis Court & Day 2 at Blewbury (see also separate Phyllis Court CC entry).
- . Maximum 8 players.
- . 6 games per player expected over the two days – entry numbers depending.
- . Players must be prepared to play until dusk.
- . Double banking will be employed.
- . Possible Players Dinner on the Wednesday evening if there is sufficient interest.
- . Cheques payable to Phyllis Court Croquet (for this jointly hosted event only).

2. AC: Blewbury and Harwell Weekend Handicap (joint hosting with Harwell CC)

Dates: 10-11 August 2013 (Saturday & Sunday)
Manager: Nick Butler
Secretary: Paul Wolff, Pound House, Church Road, Blewbury, Didcot OX11 9PY
Tel. 01235 851567 Mob. 07710 348952 paul.wolff@blewburycroquetclub.org.uk
Entry Dates: Allocation: May 1. Closing: July 31.
Holder: Deirdre Cochrane
Format: AMD - AC (handicap). Handicaps 18-.
Entry Fee: £16.00 (club members £12.00)

Exceptions and Additions to the Tournament Regulations as above, plus:

- . Players will be drawn to play either at Blewbury or at Harwell on day 1: according to first day results, locations will be re-assigned for day 2. The two clubs are only 8 minutes apart by car.
- . Harwell Croquet Club is at Harwell Science & Innovation Campus, Harwell, Didcot OX11 0RA.
See also <http://www.harwellcroquet.org.uk/>
- . Maximum 16 players.
- . Players must be prepared to play three full games on the Saturday.
- . If lunch required, please indicate on entry form.
- . Cheques payable to Blewbury Croquet Club.