

BLEWBURY CROQUET CLUB

Chairman's Newsletter No 35

26 July 2003

Dear Croquet Player

AGM

This is formal notice of the Annual General Meeting of the Club, to be held at 8pm on Monday 22 September at 2 Westbrook Green. Our custom is to serve a delicious pudding to those who come, assuming they've already eaten a light supper main course. If you are able to come, please would you try and let the Secretary, Bernardine Shirley-Smith, know beforehand, so that she can cater accordingly.

Use of Courts

A very warm welcome to the many new players who have joined us since our open day. I hope you will take advantage of our courts and enjoy your games. This paragraph is for you.

You want to play croquet? The courts are available at any time as shown below. On Club Days, just turn up, around 2.30 pm onwards. There should be somebody there to make sure you get a game. At other times, arrange with another member to play with you. Ring up anyone on the members' list, below, ideally someone with a handicap not too far removed from your own, and arrange to meet. At practice times do go along and play by yourself.

For those who do not know, the key can be obtained by asking Jolyon Kay (850010), Godfrey Nehring (850311), Brian Simpson (851192), Bernardine Shirley-Smith (850186) or myself, John Munro (01491 651709). They can also tell you the combination of the padlock. Please do not tell non-members. The key to the toilets in the cricket pavilion is hanging just inside the shelter door.

There are four sets of hoops in boxes in the shelter which can be taken out on to the half courts. When using the full courts please respect the numbers written on the hoops, and put the hoops in the right holes.

The maintenance periods need volunteers for mowing, weeding, watering etc. Please contact Bernardine (850186) to put your name on the rota.

	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Monday	Maintenance	Practice	Prebendal Manor Cup matches
Tuesday	Practice	Association Croquet Club Day	
Wednesday	Prebendal Manor Cup matches	Free for members' use	
Thursday	Maintenance	Prebendal Manor Cup matches	Practice
Friday	Prebendal Manor Cup matches	Golf Croquet Club Day	
Saturday	Open to all	Tournaments or free for members' use	
Sunday	Tournaments or free for members' use		Junior coaching

2003 Season

The following events are still to be run in 2003.

Date	Event	Details
26/27 July	All England Handicap	Preliminary round finals at Harwell
16 August at 10.30 am	Fun Day	ALL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS WELCOME
29 August at 2.30 pm	Golf Croquet Tournament	For Golf Croquet handicap 3 and above
6/7 September at 10.00 am	Founder's Cup	Invitation level play Tournament. Two classes – A flight and B flight
7 September at 10 am	Prebendal Manor Cup Competition	Semi-finals and Finals
14 September at 10 am	High Bisquers Association Croquet Tournament	Association Croquet Handicap 18 and over, 14 point half-court singles.
20 September at 10 am	Match vs Harwell	Please let Jolyon know if you'd like to play in this local derby.
22 September at 8 pm.	AGM	2 Westbrook Green. Pudding for all.
27/28 September at 10.00 am	10 th Anniversary Competition	Handicap Doubles, to include the Autumn Doubles usually held then
4 October at 10 am	Weeding Day	Working party required

Inter-Village

The annual Inter-Village competition took place over the weekend of 5/6 July. The winners, overwhelmingly, were the Upton team led by Sidney Hardwick, and including Deirdre Cochrane (whose mother lived in Upton for many a year) and the pair of Spiers (father and son) whose own village, Clifton Hampden, are not yet sufficiently croquet-orientated to enter a team of their own.

Blewbury Festival

We have received a letter from the organiser of the Festival thanking us for taking part. The Club joined in the 'Have a Go' day and ran a Toequet competition (croquet with soccer balls) on Ticker's Folly Field for the opening on 18 June. Some most unlikely people displayed virtuoso soccer ball skills. There will be another opportunity to try your hand – sorry, feet – at this novel pastime during the Fun Day in August.

Fun Day

Everybody is welcome at the Fun Day on Saturday 16 August. Coffee and tea will be available, but bring your own picnic. It starts at 1030 am . Events include

- A Golf Croquet competition open to all members with a CA handicap of 18 or more, or to those who may have little knowledge of the game. Inexperienced players will be paired with those of greater experience. Preliminary rounds in the morning, semi-final and final in the afternoon.
- Ball control competitions
- Toequet.

Bring your own picnic lunch. Morning coffee and biscuits, and afternoon tea and cake, will be provided. Those attending are invited to make a donation to the Club's funds of £4. Please telephone Brian or Daphne Simpson (01235 851112) by 10th August if possible.

SOS

Rosemary Tilden came away from the Opening Ceremony with a camera not her own. The camera is a Minolta 125 Riva Zoom, number 31213617. The first ten pictures on it, of people she did not know, included two of 'Rectory Cottage'. The people were at a gathering at a house, and seemed to be going on to a function. Some wore labels, Colin Yates, John Page, Charles Sitch, May Penny Lavender. There were also pictures on it of the CPRE barge trip. If anyone has had a film developed of which the first pictures did not belong to them – including pictures of blue pots with pansies, and of the Croquet Club opening ceremony on 31 May, could they get in touch with Rosemary on 01235 850010, or 2 Grahame Close, Blewbury.

Gift Aid

We can now reclaim income tax on financial donations to the Club. But first we must set up the arrangements. If you pay income tax, please will you complete the standard Gift Aid form and send it to Brian Simpson. The address is on the form. We may, on future social and sporting occasions, invite you to make donations rather than charge a fee. The tax reclaimed will help to meet the Club's costs.

Roger Cambray

This competition was held on 22 June, if not under the glare of the arc lights, then under the sun and the television cameras. The competitors will, maybe, find themselves on the small screen during Gardener's World on September 5th. John Spiers was a convincing winner; his handicap suffered the traditional fate of such winners. It came down.

Juniors

We are training five junior players this year; two of them are going in for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. A session is reserved for them on Sunday evenings from 6.15 pm. Help from volunteers, handicap 24 or below, especially those with teaching experience, will be most welcome, addressed to Jolyon or me.. It lasts about an hour and a half, and is a combination of teaching basic skills and making sure they have a good time. Any prospective Junior Members are welcome to come along and have a try.

Southern Croquet Federation

The Armada Trophy for pairs, one high bisquer and one low bisquer, was won by Mike Duck and John Spiers, both members of the Blewbury Club. Mike has been an assistant coach for some time, and John has joined the ranks of those coaching the juniors on Sunday evenings. Congratulations.

Maintenance

There will be a working party on Saturday morning 4th October, starting at 10 am. This is an agreeable occasion when volunteers of all sexes and ages can find work to do within their capacities. There is weeding, patching and darning the court to be done, and those who can find time afterwards to visit the Red Lion for lunch will make it a doubly happy occasion.

Golf Croquet

There will be a Golf Croquet tournament on Friday August 29th at 2.30 pm for those who took part in the Golf Croquet Coaching Course and any others at a level of play of handicap 4 (ask one of the coaches to assess your handicap if you are doubtful). Please let me know beforehand (01491 651709) if you would like to take part.

In the Southern Croquet Federation Golf Croquet Inter Club League Competition we have played two matches to date. On 18th July we lost 1-3 to High Wycombe and on 24th July we lost, again 1-3, to Thames Valley.

Association Croquet Beginners Course

Congratulations to the 15 who made it to the end of the Beginners Course. There will be a further Intermediate Course in the spring to start where they have left off. And there will be another Beginners Course also. Dates will be announced nearer the time.

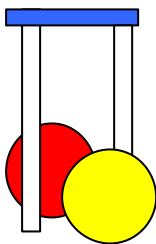
John Munro
Chairman

Blewbury Croquet Club Members and Handicaps

Email

	CA or Club Handicap	Golf Croquet Handicap	Telephone	Email address
Paul Heath	3 ½		07803130608	doc_heath@yahoo.co.uk
David Spear	7		510646	david.spear@palmano.com
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John Harrison	19		850260	
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Simon Jones			
Philippa Jones			
Junior Members			
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Timothy Jones			
Christabel Jones			
Lydia Field		01491 836275	robertdfield@aol.com
Katherine Rowe		813311	



BLEWBURY CROQUET CLUB

GIFT AID DECLARATION

I

(Full name in block capitals)

of

.....

.....*(post code)*

want Blewbury Croquet Club to treat all the donations I make after 20th June 2003 as Gift Aid Donations until I notify the club otherwise

Signed Date

NOTES

1. You must pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax that the club reclaims on your donations in the tax year. (Currently 28p for each £1 you give).
2. You can cancel this declaration at any time by notifying the club.
3. If in the future your circumstances change and you no longer pay tax on your income and capital gains equal to the tax the club reclaims, you can cancel your declaration. (See note 1).
4. If you pay tax at the higher rate you can claim further tax relief in your Self Assessment tax return.
5. If you are unsure whether your donations qualify for Gift Aid tax relief, ask the honorary treasurer. Or ask your local tax office for leaflet IR 65.
6. Please notify the club if you change your name or address.

***Please send this form, when completed, to the honorary treasurer,
Mr B R Simpson, Castell, Stream Road, Upton, Didcot. OX1***