



BLEWBURY CROQUET CLUB

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Chairman's Newsletter No 38

14 May 2004

ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND (29 to 31 May)

Blewbury CC will be celebrating the first anniversary of the opening of our new courts in a dramatic way, by engaging in an international match against the Croquet Club Bayeusain. We are sure that no such impressive expeditionary force has set sail from Bayeux to England since the days of the Bayeux Tapestry. There will be doubles matches on the mornings of Saturday 29 and Sunday 30 May. In the afternoons of those days there will be singles, doubled banked, on the west court, at the same time as the High Bisquers' Tournament is taking place on the east court. The players in that competition will have plenty to watch. The high spot will be in the late afternoon of Sunday 30 May, when top ranked players will be playing - a marvellous opportunity to see class play in action. As an additional incentive, we shall be offering spectators a glass of wine at around 6pm.

The High Bisquers' Tournament is for members with handicaps of 16 and above. I hope that all our new members, especially those who have attended the coaching courses will enter. This will be the first Blewbury tournament that Miren Tong will be managing – please let her know if you wish to enter.

The programme for the weekend is:

Saturday 29 May	10 a.m.	Blewbury vs Bayeaux	Handicap doubles
	1 p.m.	Break for lunch	
	2:30 p.m.	Blewbury vs Bayeaux	Handicap singles
	2:30 p.m.	High Bisquers' Tournament	
Sunday 30 May	10 a.m.	Blewbury vs Bayeaux	Handicap doubles
	1 p.m.	Break for lunch	
	2 p.m.	Blewbury vs Bayeaux	Handicap singles
	2 p.m.	High Bisquers' Tournament	
Monday 31 May	2 - 7 p.m.	OPEN DAY All are welcome to come and have a go. Bring your friends. Try our exciting Croquathlon Competition and play the great sport of Toequet, new from America.	

CLUB COMPETITIONS

For the benefit of new members, details of the various competitions are:

Prebendal Manor Cup

An association croquet handicap round robin competition played throughout the season with the final on Monday 30th August. Manager: Jim Bartlett

Icknield Cup

A golf croquet handicap round robin competition played throughout the season with the final on Monday 30th August. Manager: Mike Collins

Founder's Cup

An invitation association croquet level play competition for lower handicap players. To be played on Saturday 28th & Sunday 29th August with the final on Monday 30th August. Manager: Jolyon Kay

Roger Cambray Memorial Shield

An association croquet one ball handicap competition to be played on Sunday 27th June at Hall Barn, Westbrook Street, Blewbury with kind permission of our Vice Presidents Malcolm and Deirdre Cochrane. Manager: John Munro

NATIONAL & AREA COMPETITIONS

Longman Cup

A national association croquet handicap competition between member clubs with the early rounds organised to involve geographically close clubs. A match consists of one doubles and six singles games between teams of four players. Two players play a doubles and one singles, the other two playing two singles. Players must be CA members handicap 3½ or higher and the team's aggregate handicap at least 24.

Southern Croquet Federation (SCF) Leagues

An association croquet handicap league involving all full members of the SCF. A match consists of two singles games at home and two away.

The SCF member clubs involved are:

Aldermaston	Littleton (near Winchester)
Basingstoke	Oxford University
Blewbury	Reading
Hamptworth (near Salisbury)	Ryde (Isle of Wight)
Harwell	Winchester
High Wycombe	

Contact: Mike Duck

A golf croquet doubles level play league involving certain SCF member clubs. A match consists of two doubles pairs each playing the opposing pairs best of three games. Matches are arranged home or away as agreed by the clubs.

Contact: Norma Rayne, Thames Valley Croquet Club (tel: 01367 870215)

SCF Solstice Golf Croquet Challenge

A doubles competition level play with two teams representing a member club best of three games to be played at Blewbury Croquet Club on Sunday 11th July. Manager: Norma Rayne, Thames Valley Croquet Club (tel: 01367 870215)

All England Handicap

A national association croquet handicap competition (Entry fee £3), the preliminary stage of which is to be held jointly with Harwell on Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 July. Manager: Jolyon Kay

WEB SITE

Members will be interested to learn that the club now has a web site, namely "www.blewburycroquet.org". Our thanks are due to John Spiers for his work in setting up this excellent site and agreeing to act as Webmaster.

QUALIFICATIONS

As the club had no qualified referees it was decided that Mike Duck and I should attend a Referees Course held at Cheltenham in March. We were both successful in passing a written examination and a two hour "on the lawn" session so we now have two qualified Assistant Referees on the books.

Jim Bartlett is to be congratulated on qualifying as a CA Club Coach following his attendance at a two-day course at Hurlingham in April. This is a commendable effort as he only took up croquet seriously when he joined the club last year. This means that we now have the following qualified CA coaches:

Association Croquet Coach Grade 1: Jolyon Kay

Association Croquet Club Coaches: Jim Bartlett and myself.

Golf Croquet Coaches: Gerald Mitchell and myself.

COACHING COURSES (a reminder)

Mondays 17th & 24th May

Golf croquet refresher course (mainly for beginners from 2003) but new members will be welcomed. Manager: Gerald Mitchell

June 7th – 25th Monday and Friday afternoons and evenings

Association croquet improvers course (mainly beginners from 2003).

Manager: Jolyon Kay

Sunday 4th July

A golf croquet coaching course organised by the Croquet Association is to be held at Blewbury. Entry fee £8 (cheques payable to Blewbury Croquet Club). Full details available from the Course Manager – Jennet Blake, 10 Queens Lane, Eynsham, Witney, OX29 4HL (Tel 01865 882838). This is an ideal opportunity for new and improving golf croquet players to benefit from a day of intensive coaching on our own courts, including tactics and how to use bisques. Anyone interested may like to have a word with me before contacting Jennet.

July 5th – 23rd Monday and Friday afternoons and evenings over 3 weeks

Association croquet beginners course. Manager: John Munro

2004 RESULTS TO DATE

Date	Event	Result
April 29th	Friendly vs. Swindon	<p>Blewbury whitewashed Swindon at home on 29 April on a cold, wet day. Stars of the occasion were the courts which, while still slow, remained playable despite the continuous rain.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jolyon Kay and Jim Bartlett beat John Airey and Diana Trott +6 on time. • Nick Butler and John Munro beat Cliff Cardis and Ian Megew +3 on time. • Nick Butler beat Ian Magew 26 - 0. • Jolyon Kay beat Cliff Cardis 16 - 15 on time. • Gerald Mitchell beat John Airey 18 - 13 on time. • Jim Bartlett beat Diana Trott 15 - 7 on time
May 2nd	Low Bisquers' Tournament	<p>Only three people finally made it to the Low Bisquers' Tournament on May 2nd, played to advanced rules, level play. The results were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gerald Mitchell beat Nick Butler 26 - 6 • Nick Butler beat Jolyon Kay 26 - 3 • Jolyon Kay beat Gerald Mitchell 26 - 24 <p>Interestingly, Gerald won the competition, but his handicap index will have fallen, Nick's will have risen and Jolyon's stayed stationary.</p>
May 9th	Friendly vs. Harwell	<p>On another damp day, Blewbury beat Harwell 6-1 at home. Specific results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nick Balshaw beat Mike Duck 26-19 • Christopher Balshaw beat Peter Mansfield 26-19 • Nick Butler & John Spiers beat Roy Platon & Steve Fisher 26 - 13 • Nick Butler beat Mike Duck 26 - 3 • John Spiers beat Gerald Mitchell 26 - 4 • John Munro beat Roy Platon 22-15 on time • John Richards lost to Steve Fisher 10-26

NEW CLUB SECRETARY

Jim Bartlett has taken on the role of Club Secretary from Bernardine. I would like to thank Bernardine for all her work as Club Secretary and generally for her huge contribution to the club over 11 years. Bernardine retains her role as Membership Secretary.

WESSEX CROQUETFEST

Hamptworth, Littleton and Winchester Croquet Clubs are hosting a 3-day competition open to all players, of handicap 16 and over, on September 10, 11 and 12. Details can be seen on the poster in the club shelter, or contact Jim.

ARCHIVES

In the last Newsletter it was reported that Dorrie Warren has kindly agreed to act as the Club Archivist. Dorrie is waiting to receive press cuttings, photographs and any other items relating to the club's ten-year history. Anyone with any material please get in touch with Dorrie on 01235 768032 (email Donovan.w@virgin.net)

CA MEMBERSHIP

Last year there were more new members of the Croquet Association from Blewbury than any other club. The club receives great support from the CA and I would encourage all members who have not yet joined to do so. Jim Bartlett has a supply of application forms.

It would be helpful if we knew which of our club members are already CA members. As we have no other way of finding out, would you please let Jim know.

John Munro
Chairman