



BLEWBURY CROQUET CLUB

Newsletter 41

18 April 2005

Chairman's Message

As you will see, this is headed "Newsletter 41" (no longer "Chairman's Newsletter"). It is open to any club member to provide items for inclusion. All contributions will be welcomed by the joint editors Jim Bartlett and myself.

Winter Activities

The skittles evening at Upton was attended by 38 members (and friends). The Winter Party held in the Blewbury Village Hall was, coincidentally, also attended by 38 members (and friends), including our club president, Mr Patel. As usual, the evening included a quiz and the popular teddy bear racing. Both events were much enjoyed by all, and they raised £584 (including £55 donations) which will contribute towards the club's running costs.

John Munro and Jim Bartlett ran two association coaching evenings, using the green board and videos.

Development Programme

The automatic "pop-up" irrigation system is now fully installed and commissioned, although the contractors will return to fine tune the jets. The second water tank, installed by Ken Gotch and Jim Bartlett, enables a programmable twice nightly irrigation. The system includes a weather station (to be added when the building is extended), which should suppress automatic watering at times of heavy rainfall or strong winds. We will arrange demonstrations of the system shortly. The costs involved were met from the club development fund, from a £1000 donation from Invesco Perpetual (Stuart Parks' employer), from a £2000 grant from the CA, and from two other very generous and anonymous donors. We are immensely grateful to all the donors. The early availability of funds enabled us to have the system ready for the start of this season.

Regarding the building extension, the Development Project Team has examined many possibilities for a satisfactory solution, and it is very grateful to Neil Morrison for his professional drawings. An agreed final design has been reached. We now have to seek support from the Blewbury Parish Council (from whom we lease the land), planning consent (and building regulations approval) from The Vale of the White Horse District Council, and, of course, adequate funding.

The Sports Turf Research Institute Court Report (Very Brief Summary)

The STRI inspection found that the edges of the lawns were poorly covered, were infested with moss and damaged by rooks but the main body of the lawns, although temporarily suffering for some red thread damage, was otherwise densely covered, healthy and well rooted. (All signs of the infection should vanish after the spring feed.) STRI commented that Blewbury had done all the right things (at the right

times) to the lawns throughout the winter period, and for this the club is very grateful to Godfrey.

The STRI advice for lawn maintenance and treatments over the next 12 months is extremely important and the club receives very good value for the cost involved.

Rotas

Although there is no longer a need for help with irrigation, the lawns still require mowing. Would all members willing to help, however infrequently, please contact Jim Bartlett asap (preferably by email).

Use of Courts

The courts are generally for use as shown below, but there will be occasions when the courts are not available (e.g. unusual weather conditions, the need for urgent maintenance, reserving for special coaching, tournaments).

	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Monday	Maintenance	Coaching or Practice	
Tuesday	Practice	Golf Croquet Club Day	
Wednesday	Maintenance	Practice	League matches
Thursday	Practice	Association Croquet Club Day	
Friday	Maintenance	Coaching or Practice	
Saturday	Tournaments or free for members' use		
Sunday	Tournaments or free for members' use		Junior coaching

Programme for 2005

9 April	One Ball Tournament	Manager: John Spiers
16 Apr	Golf Doubles Tournament	Manager: John Munro
17 April	Golf Singles Tournament	Manager: Jim Bartlett
7 / 8 May	Advanced Rules Singles	Manager: Nick Butler
21 May	Church Fete competition at Hall Barn	
28 / 29 May	Golf Inter-Village (Teams of 4)	Manager: John Munro/Jim Bartlett
6 June	Golf League vs. Phyllis Court (A) Doubles	Manager: John Munro/Jim Bartlett

11 / 12 June	Association Speed Alternate Doubles	Manager: John Spiers
19 June	Roger Cambray Memorial - One Ball at Hall Barn	Manager: David Spear
20 June	Golf Friendly vs. Phyllis Court (A)	
9 / 10 July	Association Inter Village Doubles (Teams of 4)	Manager: Stuart Parks
16 July	Golf Doubles Tournament	Manager: Bernardine Shirley-Smith
23 / 24 July	Association All-England Handicap Heats	Manager: John Spiers
31 July	CA Golf Coaching Course	Contact: John Munro
6 / 7 August	Association High Bisquers Tournament Doubles	Manager: Nick Butler
20 August	Golf Icknield Cup S/F & Final (Best of 3)	Manager: Jim Bartlett
21 August	Prebendal Cup S/F & Final Handicap Singles	Manager: Jim Bartlett
22 August	Golf Friendly vs. Phyllis Court (H)	
27 / 28 / 29 August	Founders Cup (Advanced Rules Singles)	Manager: Jolyon Kay
4 September	Golf Foursomes (Teams of 4)	Manager: John Munro
10 / 11 September	Golf Scratch Cup, Level Play Singles	Manager: John Spiers
17 / 18 September	Association Autumn Doubles (Handicap)	Manager: Stuart Parks

Questionnaire

There was an 80% response to the Questionnaire which John Spiers sent to members in November 2004. Thanks to all who replied as the information obtained was very useful in producing the above programme which we hope includes something for everyone.

Handicaps

Association Croquet handicaps are either awarded by the joint Blewbury / Harwell handicap committee, consisting of Jolyon Kay, Mike Duck and John Munro, or changed by the Automatic Handicap System (AHS). The handicap committee usually awards first handicaps on the basis of watching play and seeing the results of games played in competition. The highest handicap that can be awarded is 30. When it comes down to 24 you are eligible to play in Southern League matches. As soon as you play in any match outside the Club you should obtain a handicap card and start recording all your games. Cards are obtainable from the Secretary or from any member of the handicap committee. The handicappers will look at your card from time to time and review your handicap in the light of your results. They may also ask you to do a 'handicap test'.

When you become a regular team player, or become a member of the Croquet Association, you join the Automatic Handicapping System. You now fill in your handicap card only for what are known as qualifying games. These are full-court

singles matches in a competition that is either a CA competition or a 'designated' club competition. You will see on the programme for 2004 above that some competitions are marked with an *. These are all competitions that have been designated as qualifying for AHS purposes. You now have to find out your index. This is a number that corresponds to your present handicap, and is read from a table on the handicap card. Then you add to, or subtract from, your total every time you win, or lose, a game. When your index reaches the next trigger point, your handicap automatically changes.

Members who are unsure of their golf croquet handicap should have a word with Gerald Mitchell or John Munro.

Prebendal Manor Cup (Club)

An association croquet handicap round robin competition played throughout the season with the semi-finals and final on Sunday 21 August. Entrants are arranged in groups and within each group, everyone plays everyone else in 26 point games at full bisque base 8. Entrants arrange their own games and send in the results. Entries using the form below should be sent to Jim, with the fee of £10 (cheques payable to Blewbury Croquet Club).
Manager: Jim Bartlett

Icknield Cup (Club)

A golf croquet round robin competition, for the Icknield Bowl, played throughout the early part of the season with the final on Saturday 20 August. We hope that all golf croquet players will enter. Each will play the others in his/her block, or all will play all, depending on the number of entrants, at mutually convenient times. Entries using the form below should be sent to Jim, with the fee of £8 (cheques payable to Blewbury Croquet Club).
Manager: Jim Bartlett

Founder's Cup (Club)

An invitation association croquet level play competition for lower handicap players. To be played on Saturday 27 & Sunday 28 August with the final on Monday 29 August.
Manager: Jolyon Kay

Roger Cambray Memorial Shield (Club)

An association croquet one ball handicap competition to be played on Sunday 19 June at Hall Barn, Westbrook Street, Blewbury with kind permission of our Vice Presidents Malcolm and Deirdre Cochrane.
Manager: David Spear

Inter Club Golf Croquet Championship (National)

A national golf croquet level play competition between member clubs with teams of four players. A match consists of one doubles and six singles. Two players play a doubles and one singles the other two playing two singles. Our opponent in the 1st Round is Colchester.

Longman Club Team Cup (National)

A national association croquet handicap competition between member clubs with the early rounds organised to involve geographically close clubs. Our first match this year will be against Harwell. 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. Blewbury is the current holder of the Longman Cup. Our opponent in the 1st Round this season is Harwell !

Mary Rose Inter Club Trophy (National)

A national association croquet handicap competition between member clubs with games played under advanced rules. No players with a handicap lower than 1 are eligible. A match consists of one doubles and six singles as in the Longman Cup but the two lowest handicapped players on each team play the doubles. Our opponent in the 1st Round is Sussex County.

Southern Croquet Federation (SCF) Leagues

The SCF member clubs are:

Southern Division	Northern Division
Basingstoke	Aldermaston
Hamptworth	Blewbury
Littleton	Eynsham
Reading	Harwell
Ryde	High Wycombe
Winchester	Oxford University

In the SCF association croquet handicap league, a match consists of two singles games at home and two away. Contact: Mike Duck

In the SCF golf croquet doubles level play league, 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: Jim or Norma Rayne, Thames Valley Croquet Club (tel: 01367 870215)

SCF Solstice Golf Croquet Challenge

A doubles competition level play with teams of two representing member clubs, best of three games, to be played at Ryde, Isle of Wight, on Sunday 26 June. There is no restriction on the number of pairs this year. Anyone interested should contact Jim as soon as possible.

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 / Sunday 23 / 24 July.

Manager: Jyon Kay

Referees and Coaches

The qualified coaches at Blewbury are:

Association Croquet Coaches Grade 1: Jolyon Kay and John Munro
Association Croquet Club Coaches: Jim Bartlett
Golf Croquet Coaches: Gerald Mitchell and John Munro

The qualified referees at Blewbury are:

Association Croquet Assistant Referees: Mike Duck and John Munro
Golf Croquet Referees: Gerald Mitchell and John Munro

Club Golf Coaching

We will be running a golf croquet coaching course, in response to the demand. Details will be issued shortly. Coaches : Gerald Mitchell and John Munro

Croquet Association Golf Coaching

A second golf croquet coaching course organised at Blewbury by the CA will be held on Sunday 31 July . Entry fee £10 (cheques payable to Blewbury Croquet Club). Details are available from the Course Manager – Jennet Blake, 10 Queens Lane, Eynsham,Witney, OX29 4HL (Tel 01865 882838) but anyone interested may like to have a word with John Munro first.

Hurlingham Club High Bisquers Tournament

This will be held on Tuesday 17 May and is open to anyone with a handicap of 10 or above. Those wishing to enter should contact the Sports Administration Office on 020 7471 8231 but please note that the entry closing date **28 April**. Jim has more details.

Sussex County Croquet Club (Southwick) High Bisquers Tournament

This will be held on 12, 13, 14 July and is open to anyone with a handicap of 12 or above. The entry fee is £12. For more details contact Jim.

Italian Golf Croquet Open Championships 2005

This is a championship with cash prizes for the winner and runner-up. It will take place at Busto Arsizio on 16 / 17 July. Jim has full details.

CA

The club generally receives great support from the CA. In particular, we have benefited substantially with financial support towards our development projects. All club members are encouraged to join the CA. Jim has a supply of application forms.

Prebendal Manor Cup Handicap Association Croquet Competition

I would like to enter the **Prebendal Manor Cup Handicap Association Croquet Competition**. I enclose a cheque for £10 made payable to Blewbury Croquet Club.

Name

Signature.....

Send to Jim Bartlett, 4 Elmcroft, Goring on Thames, Oxon RG8 9EU

Icknield Cup Golf Croquet Competition

I would like to enter the **Icknield Cup Golf Croquet Competition**.
I enclose a cheque for £8 made payable to Blewbury Croquet Club.

Name

Signature.....

Send to Jim Bartlett, 4 Elmcroft, Goring on Thames, Oxon RG8 9EU