



# BLEWBURY CROQUET CLUB

## Newsletter 42

24 July 2005

### **Gerald Mitchell**

As several members already know Gerald was admitted to the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford on the evening of 30th June after suffering an aneurysm. He is still in the Intensive Care Unit and the latest news we have is that he is making slow progress. Ana and Gerald are very much in our thoughts and we all wish him a speedy recovery.

### **Committee Change**

John Spiers recently expressed the wish to step down as Captain of Croquet mainly due to pressures on his time, and recommended that Nick Butler succeed him. Nick agreed to take on this role with immediate effect and attended his first committee meeting last week.

John's success in selecting and captaining the team in external events speaks for itself in terms of the results achieved, with winning the Longman Cup last year the cherry on the cake. He certainly put Blewbury on the croquet map and the club owes him much gratitude for all his hard work. John continues to manage the club's web-site.

### **Weekly Digest**

There has been an unfortunate breakdown in communication with members recently. In an effort to remedy this Nick Butler has kindly offered to issue a weekly news-sheet giving details of all events taking place each week with results of matches completed. It is hoped that all members will find this useful. In addition, information can also be obtained from the website [www.blewburycroquet.org.uk](http://www.blewburycroquet.org.uk)

### **Results 2005 Season - Club Tournaments**

- One-ball: winner Henley Spiers
- Advanced Rules: winner John Spiers (runner-up Nick Butler)
- Roger Cambray Memorial Shield: winner Benson Spiers (runner-up Nick Butler)
- Inter-Village Handicap Doubles: winners the Hagbournes
- Golf Doubles: winners Ian & Barbara Anderson
- Golf Singles: winner Benson Spiers (runner up John Spiers)

## Results 2005 Season – External Competitions

The club has had a very successful season to date.

### Association Croquet

- Longman Cup: We commenced our defence against our near neighbours Harwell with a 7 - 0 win.
- Mary Rose Inter-Club Trophy: We entered this advanced rules competition for the first time this year and in the first round we faced Sussex County, one of the strongest clubs in the south, and ran out the winners 5 - 2.
- Southern Croquet Federation Association Croquet League: The club is unbeaten to date with one match remaining in the northern section. The results so far:
  - Aldermaston: won 4 - 0
  - Oxford University: won 4 - 0
  - High Wycombe: won 3 - 1
  - Eynsham: won 3 - 1
- In a friendly match against Hurlingham we won 5 - 1
- All England Handicap (Association): 4 players took part – Stuart Parks goes forward to the Area Finals. During this CA event, Stuart made a break of twelve hoops without bisques, which hopefully qualifies him for a CA Silver Award.

### Golf Croquet

- The club entered the Inter-Club Championship for the first time and faced the holders Colchester and won a very tight match 4 - 3. In the next round we travelled to Surbiton where we went down 3 - 4.
- Southern Federation Golf Croquet League: We are now at the halfway stage and, like the Association League, are yet to be beaten. The results so far:
  - Phyllis Court: drew 2 - 2
  - High Wycombe: won 4 - 0
  - Winslow: won: 3.5 - 0.5
- All England Golf Handicap: 9 players took part - Benson Spiers and Nick Butler go forward to the Area Finals.

### Forthcoming Events

- C.A. Golf Croquet Coaching Course at Blewbury on Sunday July 31st. Participation in this includes several Blewbury members.
- Grass Roots Golf Croquet Regional Finals on Sunday August 7th (afternoon). This will take place at Blewbury with players from Eynsham and Reigate Manor participating.

## **Prebendal Manor Cup and Icknield Cup Finals – Date Change**

The semi-finals and finals for both tournaments will now be held on just one day, and please note that the date has changed to **September 3rd**.

## **Irrigation System**

The automatic “pop-up” irrigation system continues to work well – the hoses haven’t been needed at all this year. The contractors will be returning to make some minor changes to two of the “pop-ups”. The integrated weather station has been added – its role is to suppress automatic watering at times of heavy rainfall or strong winds, and it is yet to be fully tested. Don’t be concerned that the “anemometer” component remains static in windy weather – it isn’t meant to spin. Mike Elliott (primarily), John Munro and Jim Bartlett have learned how to intervene with the control programme when Godfrey is unavailable. Other members are requested to not touch the system.

## **Building Extension**

We now have full support from our landlord, the Blewbury Parish Council, to proceed with this project. That hurdle over, we now have to gain planning consent (and building regulations approval) from the Vale District Council, which will consult the Blewbury Parish Council (and, of course, BPC can be expected to give its approval). Any members wishing to see the plans or to offer design advice should contact Jim Bartlett asap. After some preliminary discussion with a Vale planning officer we will be asking for firm quotations from the various builders on our shortlist. Planning consent still remains a hurdle to overcome, but the Project Team sees no reason to feel anything other than optimistic about the outcome. Finding the money for the extension, however, might not be easy.

## **Celebration Summer Party - July 29th**

Thirty five people (members and friends) have accepted the party invitation so far. It isn’t too late for others to join us but please let Jim know asap. Rosemary is co-ordinating the food arrangements. Our President, Mr Rustom Patel will be joining us.

## **AGM Date**

Please note that our 2005 AGM will be on **September 30th**.

## **Handicaps**

The table below lists all Blewbury Croquet Club member handicaps known to the Joint Handicap Committee of the Blewbury and Harwell Croquet Clubs. If your Association Croquet handicap is 18 or less, or if you have a Golf Croquet handicap, you should be filling in record cards, obtainable from Jim Bartlett. Your handicap will change automatically. If you find that your handicap is not included, or if you think the assessment is either too high or too low, please let one of the members of the Joint Committee know. They are John Munro, Jolyon Kay and Mike Duck.

Associate Members of the Croquet Association are marked with an asterisk \*. If you are a member and not asterisked, or if you are not a member and are asterisked, please let us know. If you are not a CA member, then please consider joining. A high proportion of membership brings tangible benefits to our club.

## Table of Members' Handicaps

Member	CA or Club Handicap	Golf Croquet Handicap	Telephone	Email Address
Kit Jackson	2½	0	01865 244665.	mail@kitjackson.co.uk
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