

The Bears Croquet Club at the RAU, Cirencester

April 2017 Newsletter

COMING SOON - to a computer near you...

Our new website is about to be launched. Richard Danby has been beaver away developing it and it will be available once the information has been installed.

... and not to be outdone ...

the Federation is also developing a new website which will reflect the development that has taken place in technology since the existing website was designed in the last century.

Reminder: our OPEN DAY is on Sunday 2nd April from 10.30 - 16.30.

All available hands on deck, please. (Setting up from 10.00).

The event has been advertised in the local press and in village magazines. Enquiries have started coming in and several people have already said they will be joining us. Warm, dry clothing is more important than whites and remember to bring your lunch and hot drinks.

Coaching and Courses.

There have been two developments since the last newsletter: because there is a shortage of coaches and referees, the CA is offering to pay £25 towards the cost of course fees and in addition, the SWF is offering to reimburse 50% of travelling expenses incurred in attending such a course provided the members successfully complete the course and qualify. The initial application should be via the clubs who are asked to coordinate applications in order to ensure the number is balanced and reflects the club's needs.

Club coaching.

You will notice from the diary that the four club days in April offer coaching for those who want it - both for new and existing members. We will split the court into two half-courts with coaching on one and the other available for those just wanting to play. Subject to change depending on demand.

Remember that if you wish to play at other times (except Wednesdays which are student days) you can do so. Just check availability on the on-line booking sheet.

Club Competition Day - Sunday 23rd April from 10.30 - 16.30

Following the success of last year's competition day, we are holding two similar days this year in April and September. The format of the day will remain the same as last year with variety and lots of short games being arranged. Singles, doubles, alternate stroke doubles, One Ball, Association, Golf, Short Croquet - play whatever you like, try out something new, and play as many or as few games as you wish.

The format and some advice will be emailed to you a few days before the event.

The idea is fast, fun but definitely not furious!

All welcome. Bring plenty of food and drinks.

More specific information is printed below - pages 4 and 5.

SWANs and Cygnets have landed.

The SWAN is the South West Area Newsletter and is published annually by the SW Federation. For those who have not already received their copy, yours awaits collection at the next club day (One copy per family).

Additionally, the SWF is now sending more regular e-newsletters (called The Cygnet) which will be sent to you about 3-4 times per year and the first one is attached to this mailing.

South West Federation.

At the next SWF AGM in November, they will be looking for a new chairman, a new treasurer and an Association Croquet Adviser. The chairman's role is limited to a maximum of three years.

If you (or anyone you know) may be interested in any of these positions, please let Robert know.

Lawn care.

We hinted that the RAU may ask us to help with the mowing of the grass. Following a meeting with the head groundsman, we were asked if we could help by taking over the weekly close cut during the playing season. The grounds staff will continue to give a general cut with the gang mower so it will just fall to us to use our club mower to turn average grass into the fine playing sward that we all enjoy. From experience, this takes 45 minutes per week and we need to devise a rota of helpers to ensure it does not fall on any one person too often. No-one would want to commit themselves to every week but perhaps once a month would not be too onerous, particularly if it was done at 1.00 p.m on a Tuesday when you were planning on playing that afternoon anyway, though any day you can manage would be appreciated.

The RAU grounds staff have been magnificent in the work they have done through the winter to create this court and weed, feed, aerate, mark out and cut it but through the summer they are stretched to achieve all they need to and it would be unreasonable of us to expect more.

If you can help, please let Robert know. Training will be given and takes five minutes.

The Bears just miss out on receiving a club award from the CA.

The following is an extract from the CA's website:

The CA is delighted to announce the winners of this years Club awards. All the nominations were of a very high quality and are to be congratulated on their strong development and the Club members who have worked so hard to achieve it. The winners will receive their trophies at the CA AGM in October.

Townsend Award - a shortlist of *The Bears*, *Bishop Monkton* and *Cheam* from the many excellent nominations received. *The Bears* impressed because of its sheer determination to continue in existence after losing its ground over two years including fielding league teams during this period. *Bishop Monkton* impressed because of its vigorous, far-sighted and energetic leadership and its commitment to continuous development. *Cheam* was seen as a remarkable success story for a one-lawn Club, with 75 members and a significant amount of self-help on lawn and Clubhouse improvement.

Handicap cards. A reminder to bring your cards to get them signed before your first match of the season.

Diary dates Please note additions

Play on Club Days is from 2.00 p.m. until dusk. There is usually an afternoon game for those who wish followed by an early evening game for those who play after work.

MARCH

Thursday 23rd Pub Night - The Bell, Selsely
Friday 24th RAU term ends
Saturday 25th Golf Croquet Laws session at Peasedown St John. 1.30 p.m.
Tuesday 28th Club Day

APRIL

Sunday 2nd Open Day 10.30 - 16.30
Tuesday 4th Club Day - including coaching
Tuesday 11th Club Day - including coaching
Sunday 16th Easter Day
Tuesday 18th Club Day - including coaching
Sunday 23rd Club competition day
Monday 24th RAU Summer term begins
Tuesday 25th Club Day - including coaching

MAY

Tuesday 2nd Club Day
Tuesday 9th Club Day
Tuesday 16th Club Day
Saturday 20th Parkstone match v Bristol - Away
Tuesday 23rd Club Day
*Sunday 28th Parkstone match
v Sidmouth - Away*
Tuesday 30th Club Day
* This is a "Home" match but we shall be playing it at Sidmouth.

JUNE

Sunday 4th National Croquet Day
Tuesday 6th Club Day
Tuesday 13th Club Day
Tuesday 20th Club Day
Thursday 22nd Summer barbecue (provisional)
Friday 23rd RAU term ends
Tuesday 27th Club Day

JULY

Tuesday 4th Club Day
Tuesday 11th Club Day
Saturday 15th Parkstone match
v Nailsea - Home
Tuesday 18th Club Day
Tuesday 25th Club Day
Saturday 29th Parkstone match
v Cheltenham - Away

AUGUST

Tuesday 1st Club Day
Tuesday 8th Club Day
Tuesday 15th Club Day
Tuesday 22nd Club Day
Tuesday 29th Club Day

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday 5th Club Day
Tuesday 12th Club Day
Friday 15th RAU International students
orientation croquet activity
Sunday 17th Club competition day
Tuesday 19th Club Day
Monday 25th - 29th RAU student registration week
Tuesday 26th Club Day

OCTOBER

Tuesday 3rd RAU term begins
Tuesday 3rd Club Day
Tuesday 10th Club Day
Tuesday 17th Club Day
Tuesday 24th Club Day
Monday 30th AGM (provisional date)

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

Friday 8th RAU term ends

Handicap cards. A reminder to bring your cards to get them signed before your first match of the season.

Competition Day general information.

This event is being held again by popular demand and replaces our more traditional internal club matches for this year.

The event starts at 10.30 a.m. and will finish at 4.30 pm. but you are welcome to turn up at any time and stay for as long as you wish. The only stipulation is that to be in with a chance of winning the trophy, you have to play a minimum of three games.

This will be a full and varied day but the emphasis is on everyone enjoying playing as much or as little as they wish in any format that appeals - Short Croquet, 14 point handicap, 14 point level, 14 point level advanced, one ball or golf. You can play singles, doubles, or alternate stroke doubles and try out any format that may be new to you. Choose your opponent/s and choose your game. The only aim is to enjoy yourselves unless, of course, you want to get your hands on the trophy.

All games will have a time limit of 1 hour per game so please bring your timer.

There will be **two half-size courts** so bisques and GC Extra Turns will be adjusted to compensate for this. A Bisque/Extra Turn Adjustment Table will be displayed on the day.

For scoring, everyone starts with 50 points and gains/loses 10 points per singles game, 5 points each for doubles games. The winner will be the person who has the highest score at the close of play. In the event of a draw, there will be a penalty shoot out.

These games will NOT count for your handicap cards.

The most important point of all is to remember to bring your own picnic/drinks.

We only have 6 chairs so you may want to bring your own picnic chair.

FORMATS. Choice of Singles, Doubles or Alternate Strokes Doubles (except for One Ball which is just singles).

Short Croquet - as AC but one extra rule - explained on the day. Also, Bisque Adjustment.

A/C 14 point handicap - Bisque Adjustment

A/C 14 point level - no bisques. No Lifts.

A/C 14 point level advanced - no bisques. Lifts after hoops 3 and 4.

A/C One Ball (singles only). Bisque Adjustment

Golf Croquet. Extra Turn adjustment

Competition Day. FORMATS / Rules

No game to last longer than 60 minutes - "Guillotine" ending (i.e. instant finish when timer sounds).

Golf Croquet - 13 pt games recommended but you could play 7 point games and have best of 3
Singles - The weaker player is allowed a number of extra turns based on h/c difference (see table).

Doubles - Extra turns are given to a player - NOT a side. Extra turns are given to the higher of the two lower h/c players and also to the higher of the two higher h/c players.

NO HOOPS CAN BE SCORED IN AN EXTRA TURN.

The opponent must wait until the striker has decided whether or not to take an extra turn before playing.

Special GC rule for today - If your ball goes off the court by hitting a boundary board (or ends up too close to allow a normal swing) it is replaced on the yard line FOR THAT BOUNDARY ONLY - otherwise, it is played from the line.

Short Croquet - Singles only and to be played as 14 point games

Both players receive bisques according to the table.

Normal AC handicap rules apply but with **one additional rule** - If at the start of your turn your own balls are wired from each other and this situation has been created by your opponent, you have the option of a lift to baulk - regardless of whether you can see other balls.

One Ball - to be played as a 26 point game

Singles - normal AC rules apply (roquets, croquets, faults, etc) including wiring lifts which happen much more often than in two-ball games.

Association Croquet - 14 point games

Singles -	}
Doubles -	}
Alternate Stroke Doubles -	}

Scoring -

+/- 10 points per singles game (5 points per game if you play 7 point GC)

+/- 5 points each per doubles game

These games do not qualify for points on your handicap cards.

No need to print of any of this, it will be displayed court-side.

Wer ist das?

Where have I seen this man before?

Croquet Schnuppertag 22. April

ab 14 Uhr

Kirschenallee 4

2120 Wolkersdorf

Was ist CROQUET?

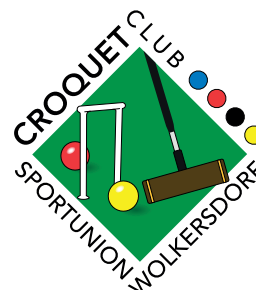
So gemütlich wie ein Spaziergang im Grünen
- aber doch sportlich. Englisches Flair gepaart
mit Taktik und Strategie, Ballgefühl und
Geschicklichkeit - aber auch Geselligkeit.
Und überraschend spannend.

Wir laden Sie ein: Probieren Sie es aus.

Anmeldung erforderlich: croquet.wolkersdorf@gmail.com

Achtung: Beschränkte Teilnehmerzahl!

kostenfrei



Ein Zweigverein der Sportunion Wolkersdorf



UNION