

# The Bears Croquet Club

## at the RAU, Cirencester

[bearsCroquet.btck.co.uk](http://bearsCroquet.btck.co.uk)

### August 2017 Newsletter

#### Parkstone League match results.

The final two league matches of our season ended with The Bears achieving an overall score of 75% wins. Other clubs have yet to complete all their matches so it will be a few weeks before the final rankings are known but currently, The Bears are in the lead. However, Nailsea could equal 75% wins and there will then be a Play-Off match to determine which club is promoted to Division 2.

Our pen-ultimate match was against Nailsea and played at the RAU.

In the morning, battling persistent rain, Keith and Kate won the doubles (against Robert Upton and Jim Gregory) but Robert was unable to overpower an on-form Andrew Wimshurst. Robert also had a disappointing afternoon against Robert Upton who, despite having a hip replacement operation only two weeks previously, still managed to play very well and win +3t. In the afternoon, Kate won her match against Jim on time while Keith achieved what Robert had been unable to do in the morning and beat Andrew with the only game to go to "Peg Out". All other games were "on time" indicating challenging playing conditions. Playing on very dry ground with its uneven surface is always somewhat entertaining. Firm shots generally worked but gentle shots invariably followed the lie of the land and veered off making gentle roquets and careful hoop approaches interesting.



*Man of the match, Keith.*

*Robert was bemused by the brown ball levitating and wondering whether the RAU should be renamed "Hogwarts"!*



The final match was played at Cheltenham where Richard Danby, Keith, Matthew and Robert took on Cheltenham's Robin Burnell, Alwen Bowker, Peter Stone and Alan Slater.

In the morning session, Matthew and Robert won the doubles, Richard won his singles game but Keith was below his normal standard and lost his singles game. However, team morale was high with a lunchtime score of 2 - 1 in our favour and with four singles games in the afternoon still to play, anything could happen. Lunch fortified Keith who found his normal form and was the first to peg out so the remaining three of us only needed to win one game to secure the match. Richard pegged out ensuring our success but Matthew and Robert were only able to admire perfect play by their opponents though it was agreed that it would have been unkind to have walked away with a 6-1 win after Cheltenham had provided such excellent facilities and a stupendous lunch and tea. We were content with a 4-3 result even though Robert's handicap went back up a point following his defeat at the hands of Robin Burnell who played a near perfect game and deserved to win it.

Man of the match was Richard Danby who not only won both his games but was in a commanding position throughout.

**New member**, Andy Smith, has taken to the game and is improving fast. He entered the Sidmouth High Bisquers' tournament (pictured) followed a few days later by another at Poole and by the time you read this will have played in a Short Croquet tournament at Bath.



*Andy at Sidmouth.*

*Photo courtesy of Peter Nelson, Sidmouth CC.*

## **REMINDER.**

### **Croquet at the Countryfile Live event at Blenheim Palace. 3rd-6th August.**

The CA has been invited to offer the croquet experience at this event and have invited members to help run the croquet activities. Details from Robert or pop along to enjoy a good day out. Failing that, just watch it on television.

**Increasing your knowledge** - Do you want to know where croquet is played around the world? This link shows every registered club in the world. It may keep you entertained for some time.

[www.oxfordcroquet.com/clubs/google/world.asp](http://www.oxfordcroquet.com/clubs/google/world.asp)

## Diary dates

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.

### 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
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**Remember to keep Sunday 17th free for the next club competition day. The last two have been so enjoyable that we look forward to a special day as we approach the end of the season.**

And finally, two invitations -

**An invitation** from the Peasedown and St John Club (south of Bath). (*Robert has the entry form*)



**Camerton & PeasedownCroquet Club**

[www.camertonpeasedowncroquet.co.uk](http://www.camertonpeasedowncroquet.co.uk)



# The 64 GC Progressive Doubles Challenge

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2017**  
**10.00 – 4.30**

**£12 including lunch & soft drinks. Bar available.**

You do not need a partner to enter this event!

The play will be fun, fast and furious and the Lunch delicious.

Entry forms below – you can enter several people on one form,  
email me or send to [Mo Boys \[moboys@talktalk.net\]\(mailto:MoBoys@talktalk.net\)](mailto:MoBoys@talktalk.net) or  
71E School Lane, Shaw, Melksham, Wilts SN12 8EJ Tel 01225 708540

*Note from Robert - Golf Croquet handicaps are not the same as Association Croquet handicaps so new members will need to be assessed and given a handicap before entering this competition at Dyffryn.*

**An invitation** from



## B Level golf croquet competition

Dyffryn Croquet Club  
under the auspices of the  
Welsh Croquet Association.  
Will hold a B class competition  
for players of handicap 2 to 8.  
The competition will be on  
Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September.  
Limited to 12 players.  
Format dependent on entry.

Please send your entry to Kevin Ham at,  
[K6ham@icloud.com](mailto:K6ham@icloud.com). 020 2076 2407  
Entry fee of £8 collected on the day.