

The Bears Croquet Club

at the RAU, Cirencester

bearsCroquet.btck.co.uk

July 2017 Newsletter

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.

Many thanks to Jo and his team at GFresh for producing an exceptional indoor/outdoor summer barbecue and to Joan for so kindly bring wine for us to enjoy. Feedback suggests that we should hold our winter "Christmas" meal there. For the benefit of new members, our Christmas meal can be any time between December and March.

Increasing your knowledge - Spectators welcome.

If you want to see what advanced croquet looks like, our "advanced" team is playing on Saturday 15th July at home against Nailsea. The match starts at the RAU at 10.00 a.m. and will end at about 4.30 p.m. with a break for lunch at about 1.00 p.m.

The league is generally known as The Parkstone League but its official title is The League for Advanced Play and is subdivided into three divisions. In years gone by, we once reached the dizzying heights of Division 1 but without a home ground for two years and the absence of practice, we are currently playing in Division 3.

There is one major difference between the association game and the advanced version. This is because with advanced players, it was not unusual for them to take a ball through all twelve hoops in one turn while the opponent looked on and did nothing. To make it a more interactive, sporting challenge, the advanced rules introduced "trigger points" at hoops 1 back and 4 back (hoops 7 and 10) so that when a player goes through one of these, the opponent is entitled to "a lift" at the start of their next turn. This means they can pick up either of their balls and play it from the Baulk Line if they wish. The implications of this is that players need to create more ingenious ways of ensuring that they remain in a commanding position.

There is also now an even more complex version called "Super-Advanced Rules" but I will leave that for another day as you will not see that played this year.

It would take a particularly dedicated person to want to be a spectator for the whole day but please feel free to pop in for half an hour if you have nothing better to do.

Our final match of this season is against Cheltenham (Away) on Saturday 29th July. Spectators will also be welcome there and seeing the delights of one of the top clubs in the world may inspire you further. If you would like to see what a tournament at the Cheltenham club is like, take a look at this short video made a few weeks ago.

<https://vimeo.com/220201483>

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.

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
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Lawn preparation.

Many thanks to all those who have helped with mowing the court this year. The rota is attached and it would be appreciated if we could have volunteers for the next few months.

Mowing rota

Advice.

Any day during “your” week that the weather permits is fine.

A cut takes 45 minutes in total so it may be convenient to turn up an hour before you are intending to play and then enjoying the fruits of your labour afterwards.

The mower will be topped up with petrol ready for you.

It saves a huge amount of time if you collect the smallest trailer from behind the tennis court and wheel it to the edge of the croquet court so grass clippings can be dumped straight into it. The groundsman will empty the trailer for us. He also does the white boundary line.

w/c

March 28 Richard Danby

April 3

10 Andy

17 Richard Way

24

May 1 Jon

8 Andy

15 -

22 Andy

29 Robert

June 5 Richard

12 Robert

19 Andy

26 Jon

July 3

10 (Friday 14th Match prep and hoop move/setting) Robert

17

24

31

August 7

14

21

28

Sept 4

11

18

25

Oct 2

9