

# The Bears Croquet Club

## November 2016 Newsletter

### Etiquette when playing croquet

No-one will need telling that when learning to play a new game or when teaching or coaching it, one should always introduce rules and etiquette from the outset. As it looks probable that the students will be entering inter-university matches by next spring, it is time to start preparing them.

Most points are obvious but some may come as a surprise.

The following are extracts taken from the official rules of Golf Croquet. For a fuller description, refer to the Rule Book or look it up on the CA website.

#### *RULE 14. Etiquette.*

*Players are responsible for maintaining good standards of behaviour towards other players, equipment, courts and spectators. Examples of unacceptable behaviour for which players may be penalised include, but are not limited to, cases where a player:*

- leaves the vicinity of the court during a match without permission from the opponent, referee or the manager.*
- physically abuses their mallet or other equipment*
- disturbs other players during the match by talking, making noises, standing or moving in front of the striker, except as permitted or required by the rules.*
- argues aggressively or continuously with or is aggressive towards another player.*
- fails to accept a decision of a referee on a matter of fact or shows lack of respect for a referee.*
- wastes time. Players are to play with reasonable dispatch. The striker is to play within 1 minute of the last turn ending, except where the game is held up while a ball is retrieved or a referee called.*
- plays after the opponent has clearly asked that play is stopped to enable an action to be investigated or a ball to be placed.*
- places a mark or marker to assist the striker in gauging the strength or direction of a stroke.*
- except with the permission of an opponent or referee, attempts to perform a physical test to determine whether a point has been scored or may be scored.*
- provides wrong information to an opponent when asked.*
- smokes or drinks alcohol during a game.*

.....  
**Congratulations** to Brian Shorney who has been elected to serve as Chairman of the Croquet Association's council. Brian has been the South West Federation's representative on council for many years and has also chaired several of the CA's major committees. He is one of the most respected and admired people in our sport and we can be confident that his wisdom and diplomatic skills will ensure that the changes in the CA's structure currently under discussion, will benefit from his considerable expertise.  
.....

### The Bears' Annual General Meeting.

We are still waiting for a meeting with the university administration to discuss the terms and conditions under which we may be invited to continue there. It is hoped that this meeting will take place within the next two weeks and then we will be able to confirm our AGM arrangements.

**Further information on CA changes** - As mentioned in last month's newsletter, the CA is keen to hear from anyone who has an opinion or a suggestion about any of the proposed changes to the way the CA is run. We have been asked to tell them what we think - both positive or negative - so what is happening?

The direct impact that we will see immediately is that ALL members of CA affiliated clubs (such as ours) will become "Standard Members" of the CA.

This will:

- mean that every member of our club will become a "Standard Member" of the CA. The per capita annual fee for this of £8.50 and is paid by the club. It is already included in our annual subscription so you will see no change - (Juniors fee is £5). (Larger clubs pay a per capita fee of £10.50 p.a.). This is likely to rise annually.
- give every member the ability to enter any tournaments organised by the CA or its member clubs (previously only "Tournament Members" had this access);
- enable every member to receive copies of the Croquet Gazette. In 2017, these will be paper copies but from 2018 they will be delivered free to members electronically or in paper form by request subject to a small extra annual fee - of about £7;
- every member will have voting rights on CA proposals.

About half of our members currently pay extra for Tournament Membership. Until now, anyone wishing to play in CA tournaments needed to become a Tournament Member and pay an extra £43 per year. This also gave a discount on entry fees and entitle them to a discount at the CA shop.

The current category of Tournament Member will change to Premium Member. Premium membership is to be reduced to £40 p.a. and will give a reduction of about £5 per playing day on tournament entry fees plus priority entry when tournaments are over-subscribed. New members wishing to become Premium Members will get an introductory rate of £14.50 for the first year and £28.50 for the second year before paying the full figure thereafter.

Dual membership discount (e.g. husband and wife) will cease as this discount reflected the fact that they only needed one copy of The Gazette.

Existing Tournament Members will receive an individual letter with a more detailed explanation, from the CA later this year.

This is not a definitive synopsis but highlights the main points which are likely to be of interest to our members. If you wish to register your views or make suggestions, you can either write directly to the CA or you can send quotes to me and I will include them in the club's response.

To write directly to the CA, their dedicated email address for this is [croquetstrat@gmail.com](mailto:croquetstrat@gmail.com)

*Robert*

.....

## Diary dates

We are arranging a session for those coaching or playing GC with the students. The session will be run by Ros Key-Pugh who is the GC Advisor for the SW Federation. She is also a GC Referee and Coach. The main purpose of this session is to bring us up to date on the changes to GC rules and in particular, explain the fundamentals of the Wrong Ball rule, and the differences between and action to be taken following Striking Faults and Non-Striking Faults. We hope this session will be on a Saturday afternoon in November and if anyone who has not already expressed an interest would also like to attend, please let me know - the more, the merrier.

### NOVEMBER

<i>Tuesdays</i>	<i>Club play for as long as weather and conditions permit</i>
Thur 10th	Snooker
Thur 17th	Pub Night - Queen Matilda
Thur 24th	Snooker
t.b.a	GC coaching session
t.b.a	AGM

### DECEMBER

Thur 8th	Snooker
Wed 14th	Pub Night - Ragged Cot

### JANUARY

Thur 5th	Snooker
Thur 19th	Snooker

.....