

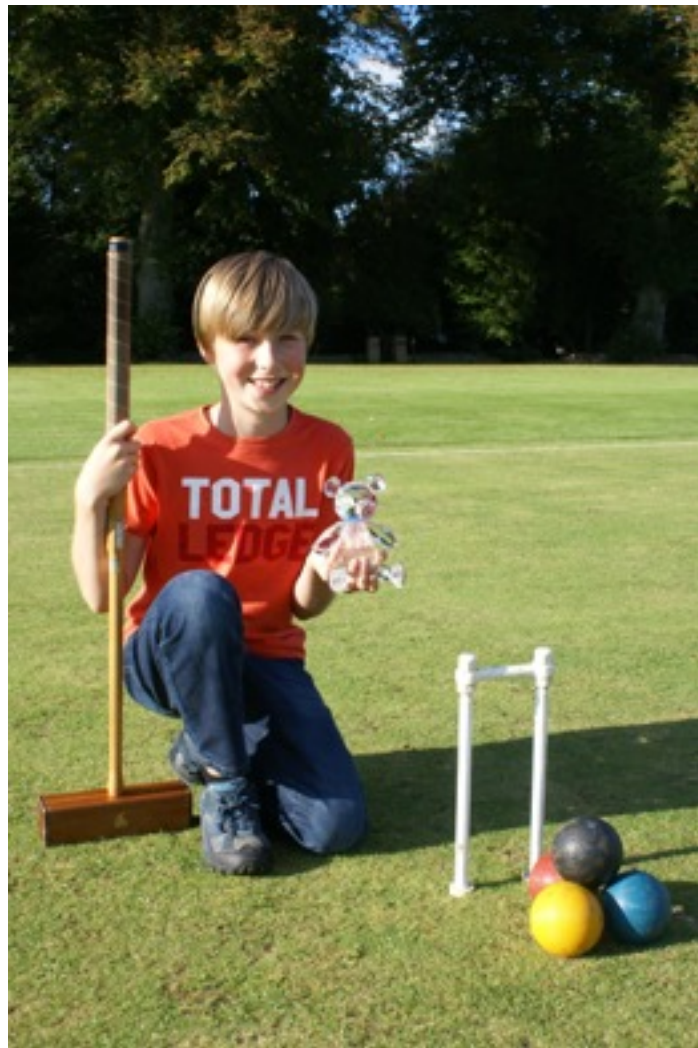
The Bears Croquet Club

at the RAU, Cirencester

bearsCroquet.btck.co.uk

October 2017 Newsletter

Competition Day



Harvey retained his title as Club Champion after playing more games than anyone else in his enthusiasm to take the glass bear trophy home for a second time. Playing off a GC handicap of 12, and a provisional AC handicap of 26 (while he is still learning the basics), he is learning fast and developing a good level of accuracy. He now has his own mallet and able to give the older members a run for their money.

Parkstone League Result

Having come top of Division 3, The Bears were put into a play-off against Bath CC who were bottom of Division 2. The result of this match would determine whether The Bears would remain in Division 3 next season or be promoted to Division 2 with Bath CC being relegated. Although the Bears were nominated as the home team, with only one court we elected to play at Bath but this gave the psychological concern that Bath would be playing on their own courts and be more relaxed as they would not have to travel. On arrival, we were confronted by their team with handicaps of -0.5, 0, 0 and 2.5. This compares with our team's handicaps of 2, 2.5, 4.5 and 4.5. Everything looked as though the inevitable would happen and we would lose all 7 games. At the end of the sixth game, the score was 6-0 in Bath's favour. Keith was still in play but trailing 20-13 with only about twenty minutes remaining on the clock. What ensued held the onlookers gripped by Keith's cool head and determination. Everyone watched in near silence with Bath supporters urging Keith to make mistakes and their own player to finish off the game in double quick time, while the Bears were whispering "Go Keith. You can do it." With hearts pounding, Keith hit in from long distances, made a few hoops and then missed. The Bath player missed his next shot and Keith made a few more hoops. This was repeated and Keith was now 23-20 ahead. The Bath player, normally an expert at hitting in, continually failed to do so but Keith now started making mistakes preventing him scoring more hoops. The timer sounded allowing each player just one more turn. Bath hit in and had the balls in an enviable position which should have allowed him to overtake Keith and finish the game easily. All he needed to do was a fairly straight-forward rush sending his partner ball to the centre and then all would be simple for him to finish. His balls were about a foot apart. The Bears resigned themselves to another loss and the anticipated 'whitewash' so breathed out and waited for the inevitable. Then, Bath astonished everyone by missing his roquet completely and sending his ball off court. Keith deemed his last shot and claimed the only Bears victory of the day, saving our pride. The Bath supporters must have been bemused by the Bears' celebrations at a 6-1 loss but we were all so proud of Keith. The moral of the story is that although it may look as though your opponent is going to win easily, keep your nerve, stay cool and keep your head down because even the best players make mistakes.

News of "an old friend"

If you have not already seen it, there is a feature about Canterbury CC on the CA website (news page) and how it has morphed from the club we visited several years ago into a splendid, high grade, three court club. But who are those familiar players in the photo they chose to use?

RAU International Students Orientation Programme.

We were invited to run a croquet experience for the international students during the fortnight before term started. They were a delight to work with and several of them showed a natural talent for the game so we hope to see them playing during the coming year. At the end of the two week programme, they produced a video of their activities. If you wish to see what they did, click on the link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bHN6fVYt6yg&feature=youtu.be>

The 2017 Wine Cup, Austria.

Robert competed in this Austrian tournament and came third. Two high class lawns at Wolkersdorf CC, about 15 miles from Vienna, are a delight to play on. The welcome and hospitality are second to none and it is a club everyone should visit.



*Martin Guntner, the Austrian champion.
The Austrian and English flags fly alongside the
poster of one of the club's sponsors, The Sports
Union.*



*Robert receives his 3rd place handshakes from
Georg, President of the Austrian Croquet
Association and Karl, President of The Sports
Union.*

Annual General Meeting

As you know, the date for the AGM has always been provisionally advertised as Monday 30th October. **This date is now confirmed.**

Papers and the Agenda for the AGM will be sent to members in mid-October.

The constitution states that:

Members must advise the Secretary in writing of any business to be moved at the Annual General Meeting at least 21 days before a meeting. The Secretary shall circulate or give notice of the agenda for the meeting to Members not less than 14 days before the meeting.

Therefore, if you have any item you wish included in the Agenda, please send it to Robert before midnight on Sunday 8th October.

We are keen to have new faces on the committee, particularly one or more to represent the interests of new members. Enthusiasm is more important than experience. If you would like to put your name forward, or just have an informal chat to find out what would be involved, contact Robert.

The committee comprises, Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and up to 3 committee members. Richard Danby and Stephen Moss are stepping down.

We are also seeking a Social Secretary to organise winter pub evenings. This is not necessarily a committee position.

Diary dates

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. 7.30 p.m. The coffee lounge at Priory Inn, Tetbury.

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

Friday 8th RAU term ends

Quiz question.

Where can you find this work of art? Answer at the AGM

