



## **Bakewell Croquet Club Newsletter April 2012**

We are half way through April, the AGM is done with, the new committee has had its first meeting and the sun is shining. What more could we ask for? Did you say 'to play croquet'? Well, it's getting closer but I still cannot give you a date for when the lawns will be ready. The DDDC are being their usual dynamic and thrusting selves and they are almost certain that something will happen sometime!

### Club Walk

The club walk went very well this year and was enjoyed by all who attended (daft comment really, how can one enjoy something if not present). Unfortunately Alan Reeves who organises the walk was suddenly taken ill on the day and so Bob Furniss took charge of us and made sure that nobody got lost or mislaid. Thank you all for attending.

### AGM

I think that the AGM was about the best attended yet which is a good indication of the vitality of the club. Thank you all for coming. Alan Reeves continues to maintain that you were there primarily to make sure that I stood down!

In any event we have a new committee which has already shown a freshness and some new ideas and so I look forward to another step in our progress as a club.

The committee for 2012 is:

Alan Reeves	Chairman (Alan is prepared to do this for one year only)
Peter Blackburn	Secretary and 'A' team manager
Allen Flatman	Treasurer and Membership Secretary
Bill Robinson	Association Croquet
Dorothy Evans	Minutes Secretary
Lesley Alexander	Schools Programme
Bob Furniss	Equipment
David Peters	Hanger-on

As you know, I stepped down both as chairman and committee member at the AGM, but the committee has co-opted back for a year because they needed someone to hold their coats while they discussed things of import. So here I am writing the newsletter.

### Club Organisation

The committee is vital to the functioning of our club and without them (I refer to the real members here) we would very quickly find that things started to fall apart. However, there are several other people who contribute to the day to day organisation and not only do we need to thank them from time to time, but it is also useful for you to know who does what.

Other people who help in the running of the club are:

Billie Reeves	who organises the catering for matches etc
Jean Peters	who runs the club leagues and is a qualified coach
Mike White	who is the 'B' team manager
David Peters	who is the handicap secretary (and writes the newsletter)
Peter Blackburn	who is a qualified coach
Dorothy Evans	who is a qualified coach
Bob Furniss	who is a coach but has not yet got around to applying for his badge.

### Lincoln Castle

The Lincoln Castle tournament is over 12/13 May this year and is slightly different than previously. The Saturday event is an open double tournament (I believe that the format is as in previous years) and the Sunday being a singles tournament for players with handicaps of 8 to 12. We normally provide a fair bit of support for the Saturday event which Mike White (0114 2366648) is co-ordinating, so please let him know if you would like to go.

### Nottingham Tournament

The Nottingham Club is holding a C level Golf Croquet tournament on the 30 May which is aimed at beginners and therefore restricted to those players with handicaps in the 8 to 12 range. There will be lunch and tea on offer and the tournament is to run from 10.00am to around 5.00pm. The format is to be mini leagues leading to a knock out competition. Entrants should get at least 6 games.

Three of our members have decided to enter and I am sure that they would appreciate either fellow entrants from Bakewell or your support as a spectator on the day. If you wish to enter, please contact the Nottingham Club.

### Club Tournaments

The club tournament dates are now confirmed as 26 May and 1 September this year and Peter Blackburn again has agreed to organise them. Please let him know as soon as you can whether you intend to enter. The format will be the same as last year with doubles play and a change of partners for each game.

### Friendlies

We have friendly matches arranged with the Sheffield U3A (home and away) and with Southwell. The dates are Southwell 10 June, U3A away 29 June and U3A at home 7 September. A number of you have already expressed interest, but I could do with a few more so if you feel like having a go please let me know as soon as possible. (01629 56409)

### Singles League

Jean Peters will again be running this league and anyone who wishes to join is welcome. Those of you who played last year will be enrolled automatically (unless you say otherwise) and new entrants will be welcomed with open arms. Please contact Jean for details and to put your name down.

### Schools Liaison

Lesley is about to write to the schools in the area and offer to visit and teach the children something about croquet. This is an important part of our outreach and with the cuts in school budgets a free service such as we offer is likely to become of greater importance. Please contact Lesley on 01246 233496 if you think that you may wish to volunteer to help.

### Golding House

We have agreed to provide a 'croquet experience' for some of the people who attend Golding House and suffer from learning difficulties. The date will be either 6 or 13 June and from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Alan Reeves is organising this and so if you can volunteer to help, or even just want to discuss the possibility of helping, please talk to Alan. (01629 812603).

### Coaching

We now have four people in the club who are able to provide coaching for members. They have all been on the Croquet Association coaching course and three of them have completed the necessary additional work to gain their yellow coaching badge. They are:

Peter Blackburn	01433 630200
Bob Furniss	01629 815092
Dorothy Evans	01246 270209
Jean Peters	01629 56409 (please note that I have not missed off a digit)

If you want some coaching, please contact one of the above, to arrange a time and place.

### Club Times

For the 2012 season the normal club times will be:

Monday	2.00pm to 5.00pm
Thursday	2.00pm and 6.00pm
Saturday	10.00am to 12.00 noon.

In addition to the above, which will be for Golf Croquet, we are starting an Association Croquet session on Tuesdays at 6.00pm with Bill Robinson providing coaching. If you are at all interested in what was the original version of the game, please come along. Bill is giving up his time for this and deserves our support. (01629 810206).

As always you are free to play at any other time provided that the ground is not being used by another organisation. If you wish to visit outside the club times, I suggest that you contact Alan Reeves who has a list of organisations bookings for the recreation ground.

### Start of the Season

As I mentioned above, we do not yet have a date for the start of the season. As soon as we do I will let you know.

### The Oaksedge Barbecue

This event will be held again this year and will be on 7 July. The format will be as in previous years with some daft croquet played in the field and a barbecue cooked late in the afternoon. We start at 2.00pm and finish when we feel like it. If previous years are anything to go by, the weather will be mixed, but the company good. The less said about the croquet the better!

If you haven't been before ask around and find out what people think and then decide to come along. Jean and I will be canvassing names later in the year so that we have some idea of the catering.

### Ripon Spa Hotel

I think that the number going to Ripon is now up to 14 but I am sure that the hotel still has rooms available. Not everybody will play croquet all the time but the lawns are competition standard and it is a joy to ply on something so level and smooth. If you are interested, talk to Lesley Alexander as soon as possible and she will give you details. You will have to make you own booking. If you are unsure, have a look at the website of the Ripon Spa hotel.

Lastly, I attach a reply slip listing the various events and issues for which we need responses and I would ask you to complete the form and forward it to Alan Reeves who will pass it on to the person who needs to know.

David Peters  
10 April 2012

To Alan Reeves, 14 Wye Bank, Bakewell, DE45 1BH or alan.reeves@care4free.net

Event	Yes, I wish to enter or support	No, I do not wish to enter or support
26 May Club Tournament		
1 September Club Tournament		
Golding House		
Schools Liaison		
Southwell friendly 10 June - home		
U3A friendly 29 June - away		
U3A friendly 7 September - home		

From \_\_\_\_\_