



Bakewell Croquet Club Newsletter January 2011

It's cold, it's the end of January and the croquet season seems a long way off. Nevertheless, we had our first committee meeting of the year earlier this week and preparation for the coming season is starting to move forward. I hope that you will all join for 2011 and look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the AGM.

Club Walk

I understand from Alan that about twenty of you have signed up for the walk on Saturday 5 February and look forward to seeing you all then, We will start at around 10.30am from Great Longstone, walk for a bit and then have lunch at the pub. If any of you would like to come and have not yet let Alan know, please do so as soon as possible. You can contact Alan on 01629 812603.

AGM

Our annual general meeting is scheduled for 16 March starting at 7.30pm at the Medway Centre in Bakewell, so if you haven't already made a note in your diary, please do so. Although AGMs are boring events, they are a necessary part of running a club and their success depends entirely on your attendance. If you don't come your views cannot be heard. I will be sending out the formal notification in February.

Bass Shield and Coors Cup – Shobnall 13 March

This is being held on the 13 March and, as usual, we are planning on sending along a team of three. Alan Reeves has managed to adjust his schedule this year and so he is leading the team and looking for volunteers to join him. We will continue to give preference to those members who have not been before. The event is held on a Sunday and lasts all day with each competitor playing six croquet matches. The weather is always dubious and the playing surface is AstroTurf, both of these make hitting the ball an interesting experience.

Lincoln Castle

For 2011 the event is being held on 14 May and Mike White is co-ordinating our applications. Last year we had quite a large contingent and did well with Gill Roberts and Steve Marsh reaching the semi final. This is always an interesting event which is played within the castle walls and so although

the lawns are not perfect, the surroundings are delightful. Please contact Mike to register an interest if you wish to play at Lincoln. If you are not sure just ask around and discuss it with someone who has played in previous years.

Club Tournaments

This year, we will again be running two club tournaments, one at the beginning of the season and one at the end. We have tentatively scheduled these for 21 May and 27 August so please put them in your diary. We will either confirm or change these dates just as soon as the schedule for the cricket matches is available. I cannot imagine our having to change either of the dates by more than a week, if indeed we have to change them at all.

The FEMCC Leagues

As in previous years we will be entering both A and B teams in the FEMCC leagues. The A team currently sits in division one with the B team in division two. Our policy remains that we will have a selected squad for the A team and that, subject to availability, anyone who wishes to have a go may play in the B team. For 2011 Steve Marsh is running the A team with Mike White continuing to manage the B team. Contact details are;

Steve Marsh	01246 233496
Mike White	0114 2366648

Friendlies

We will be arranging friendly matches with both Sheffield U3A and Darley Dale this year. We have invited Darley Dale to come to us in Bakewell while with Sheffield we will play both home and away. Sheffield has now moved out of the bowls club premises and this season will be playing on the outfield of a cricket club. They plan on having three full size and one half size lawns. I have no dates for any of these events, but as soon as I do I shall let you know. If you are interested in playing, please let me know as I shall be organising the teams.

Schools Liaison

The schools programme will continue this year and we hope to build on the success of 2010 by increasing the number of schools we visit. We now have a complete set of dedicated mallets and hoops for this activity and so the logistics of the actual visits should be a lot easier than hitherto. We have Bob Furniss to thank for the amount of work and effort he has put into making the mallets and hoops.

Lesley will be co-ordinating this activity, as she did so well in 2010, and will need volunteers. She cannot do it on her own and so please put your name forward and help. The task is not particularly onerous and can be both rewarding and fun.

Lesley's contact details are 01246 233496

Coaching

We will be asking John and Maggie Crossland to run a coaching course for the A and B teams early in the season as part of our plan to improve our league performance. Later in the season, I am hoping to ask them back for one or two sessions for club players, similar to those which we ran last year.

A number of you now own David Barrett mallets and I am unsure how interested members are in having him visit us again. Clearly he has the twin motivations of selling his mallets and promoting croquet. From our perspective, however, the session provides members with the opportunity to try a modern mallet which does give greater power (and by implication, better control) than the standard wooden club equipment. As an aside, I tried one of David's mallets during his visit last year and I think that the ball travelled around 80 yards before coming to a halt. Given that the lawn is 35 yards long, 45 yards was over ordinary park length grass.

Please let me know if you are interested in trying a DB mallet.

Club Barbeque

The club barbecue will be on Saturday 16 July at Oak Edge House and as normal will start at 2.00pm and continue until everyone has gone home. There will be 'croquet' again and you are all invited to come along. Later in the year I will contact you again regarding the detailed arrangements.

Coaches

The Croquet Association is running a course to train coaches for Golf Croquet on the 16/17 April and we have nominated, Peter Blackburn, Bob Furniss, Mike White and Jean Peters to attend. They will have the opportunity to be assessed on the second day of the Lincoln Tournament, qualify for their first coaching badge and become formally recognised as club coaches. Even if they choose not to do the assessment, we will have a cadre of trained coaches within the club who are capable of taking beginners and bringing them to a standard where they can enjoy playing during club sessions.

WI

We have been asked to run a croquet evening for the Bakewell WI on 10 May starting at 6.00pm. We have done this in previous years and while it has not produced new members, it has been an enjoyable and social evening. Closer to the date we will be looking for volunteers to take part.

Bakewell Rotary

We have agreed, in principle, to take part in the Rotary garden party this year, as we have in 2009/2010. I do not yet have any details to give you but, again, we will be looking for volunteers as the day draws closer.

David Peters
28 January 2011