



## **Bakewell Croquet Club Newsletter June 2011**

I sit to write this on a dull Sunday afternoon in mid June and the croquet thought foremost in my mind is my ineptitude when I have a mallet in my hand! I hope that the rest of you are having rather more success. We are now about a third of the way through the season, several league matches have been played, the spring tournament has come and gone and the club league is up and running. Things are looking pretty good.

### East Midlands League

Both the A and B teams have been in action and both won their first matches. The B team drew its second last week. A good start to the season! Remember if you wish to have a go at playing in a match but are not sure whether it will be 'you' contact Mike White and see if he can fit you in to the programme.

### Club League

The club league has started and I know that several matches have already been arranged and played. Those of you who are involved, please remember to let Jean Peters the results of the matches so that she can maintain the table. For those of you who did not join this first round, but who would be interested in joining a second round, please pass your names to Jean.

Jean can be contacted on either 01629 56409 or [jean@oaksedge.org.uk](mailto:jean@oaksedge.org.uk).

### Schools' Programme

The schools' programme continues to go from strength to strength with Lesley Alexander doing a first rate job of organising the whole thing. So far this year we have had seven schools sign up, which is a record.

### Spring Tournament

The spring tournament held on 21 May was a big success with 22 people playing and Dorothy Evans scoring the most points among club members. Patricia Duke-Cox, who is the development officer for the East Midlands Federation and past President of the Croquet Association joined us for the day and played in the tournament. I later received from her an email of appreciation and thanks.

### Friendly with Darley Dale

The friendly match with Darley Dale was held on 27 May with eight players from their club and eight from Bakewell. As usual, the pairs were mixed so that one Darley Dale member always played with one Bakewell player. The weather was fine and the afternoon enjoyed by both clubs.

### Friendly with the Sheffield U3A

The first of the season's friendly matches with the Sheffield U3A will be held on this coming Friday 1 July at Bakewell. The format will be the same as for Darley Dale and if anyone wishes to come and watch, they are most welcome.

There will be a second friendly with Sheffield at their ground on 9 September.

### Women's Institute Afternoon

The afternoon with the WI seemed to be as enjoyable as in previous years and one new member has subsequently joined.

### Rotary Garden Party

The Rotary Garden Party was held in the same place as last year and, again, croquet proved to be a popular diversion from talking or eating and drinking. There was lots of enthusiasm from the Rotary members and they all seemed to enjoy the experience. Unfortunately, as in past years, none of this has translated directly into new members.

### Coaching

Four of our members went to Ashby Croquet Club over the weekend of 16/17 April and are planning to work towards achieving their club coaching badge for Golf Croquet. Jean Peters has completed her five qualifying sessions and been awarded the yellow club coach badge. If any of you want to be coached please contact either Jean, Bob Furniss, Dorothy Evans or Peter Blackburn.

### Referees

On 23/24 May Jean and I both attended a course to train as referees for Golf Croquet. The course was useful and covered both theory and practical examples of the sort of faults that can occur. If you want to talk to either of us about interpretation of the rules please do not hesitate, we may be able to answer but, more importantly, we now have the contact to get an authoritative ruling.

### Lincoln Castle

A number of the club played at Lincoln Castle again this year in disappointing weather and with disappointing results. Let's hope that things are better next year.

### Kenilworth Festival

This event was held at the Kenilworth Club on 11 May. We have never entered this particular competition before and Bob Furniss and Steve Marsh went along as our guinea pigs. It turned out to be a very enjoyable event and I think that we will try to enter again in 2012. Coincidentally, the referee's course was also run at this club and so I was able to see their lawns at first hand. They are at least as good as those at Ashby and, I suspect, somewhat better.

### Mallets for All

The committee has decided that in order to make better use of the club's store of standard croquet mallets they will be available for hire for a season for £20. For this the member can take the mallet home and for the season treat as though it was their own. Bob Furniss is the man in charge of this and so please see him if you have a favourite mallet.

In addition to the club's stock of standard mallets, we have five of the more expensive variety. These come in different weights and from different manufacturers and all members are encouraged to borrow them for a month in order to assess whether a more expensive mallet is for them. If you have decided to purchase your own mallet, then I encourage you to borrow these over a period and try out the different types before purchasing.

### Summer Tournament

A reminder that the summer tournament approaches and will be held on 27 August. If you wish to enter and you have not told Peter Blackburn, please do so as soon as possible. If you are not sure whether to enter, please talk to a member of the club and find out what it is all about. Remember, the tournament is doubles, you change partners each game and your score depends on the number of hoops you gain over the afternoon.

### Oaksedge Barbecue

This approaches and is on Saturday 16 July. It will start at 2.00pm, all members and their partners are invited. During the afternoon there will be some croquet played on what we laughingly call a croquet lawn and we will plan on eating around 5pm. Jean and I are starting to count numbers and while I have already spoken to some of you, please let us know if you will be attending. Again, if you have not been before ask around and see what the other members think before deciding yes or no.

### Club Chairman

Those of you who were able to attend the AGM last March will recall that while I agreed to be Chairman for a further year, I also announced my intention to stand down at the 1012 AGM when I will have done three years. Although our club does not have any rule in its constitution which prohibits a member from staying on the committee or in office for eternity, I believe that for the club to progress both office holders and committee members should be changed regularly. This allows new ideas and insights to be generated and facilitates the dropping of any activities which may no longer be appropriate.

We have developed into a strong and active club both within croquet and within the local community, the danger is that we lose our momentum and stop developing.

If you wish to know more about the role of chairman, please talk to me; if you are prepared to have a go, please pass your name to Peter Blackburn.

I know that next March is a long way off, but the worse thing we can do is to make this decision too quickly by leaving it too late.

David Peters  
28 June 2011-06-28