



Bakewell Croquet Club Newsletter

May 2013

The weather seems to be improving e.g. no snow but still a strange mix of warm and cold! However we have been getting in some games and the normal sessions have had good attendance.

AGM

The AGM has been and gone and to remind you the committee for 2013 is:

Peter Blackburn	Chairman
Dorothy Evans	Secretary
Allen Flatman	Treasurer and Membership Secretary
Bill Robinson	Association Croquet
Louis McMeeken	

Ann Riley has also just agreed to come on the Committee.

We decided not to pursue the schools programme at least for this year as the uptake last year was so poor. However if a school does approach us we will give it some serious consideration.

DDDC

We want to update you on progress to date. You were probably aware that Alan Reeves, ably assisted by Bill and Allen F, spent a year negotiating an Agreement with DDDC. This specified:-

- a) the length of the grass at no more than 12mm,
- b) removing grass cuttings,
- c) reasonably regular rolling to remove worm casts,
- d) applying appropriate weed & pest control,
- e) develop surfaces with top dressing,
- f) providing storage,
- g) permitting parking for up to 8 cars over the far side through the gates.

To attain the 12mm cut DDDC have a new mower and claimed that the grass cuttings would be so fine that they wouldn't be a problem for us, however this would be monitored. The length of grass a week or two back and notably before our 1st June Tournament, was not 12mm and we have reported this to DDDC. When it is 12mm it is playable and not too bad. We are monitoring the situation. Incidentally the Cricket Club are also complaining to DDDC about the length of the outfield and the amount of daisies so we do have something in common.

We have been pressing DDDC to be more specific about (c) – (e) above. They have now responded thus:

- a) our lawns are most definitely part of the cricket outfield and as such will not receive specific treatments just for the two croquet lawns. However if the outfield is rolled or fertilized then obviously so will our lawns. DDDC has agreed to apply fertilizer twice a year. We are still trying for a response about weed-killer to manage the daisies etc.

- b) Top Dressing; DDDC have recognised that a level playing surface is important for us and have agreed to trial remedial work over the winter period and to rope off the areas to be worked to keep the public off as much as possible. This also means that the positions of the lawns have to be accurately mapped rather than taking a guess each year.
- c) We also have a difficulty with Lawn 1 due to the inconsistency of the grass as approx 1/3 has lush grass. We asked DDDC if it could be moved about 6 metres towards the cricket table and out of courtesy they will ask the Cricket Club if they have any views.
- d) Regarding the parking in the park for 8 cars the double gate has a key-operated padlock and DDDC have given us one key. Parking will still be available at Alan & Billie's but if anyone wants to use the park, as it is a wee bit closer to the lawns, we are willing to get more keys cut for individual use at a refundable hire cost of £5, as we do with the storage facility. Allen F will produce a suitable notice to place in your car and the last one out must lock the gates after them.

If you do want a key please let me know so we can organise to have them cut.

- e) The storage facility has been tidied up so there is a little more room to get trolleys in and out.

Progress is slow but if DDDC carry out all they have promised then there will be some gradual improvement and if the grass is cut to 12mm and we eventually have more level surfaces that will be something.

1st June Tournament

It was a lovely day with the sun shining for most of it. The teas and cakes were wonderful so thanks to Billie and the people who made the cakes. It was great to have the prize for the Ladies top score shared with Carol and Joan, both on 20 hoops as neither had won before. The Men's top score was shared by Alan Reeves and also, unfortunately, the new chairman both on 23 hoops. There were 23 entrants, our largest entry to date which meant Jean Peters had to wave her magic wand to produce the playing matrix which is becoming more complex. **Don't forget out 31st August tournament.**

Lincoln Castle

The Lincoln Castle tournament took place 18th May and was well attended with a dozen people taking part, playing as pairs. Nominally one experienced player with someone less experienced. Despite the grand setting it was rather a cold day. It is certainly an event worth considering if you have never been there as playing within the castle walls is an experience.

Garden Fete

This also took place on sat 18th May and we were requested to take part to help raise funds for Bakewell Parish Church roof. It was held at the Cockerton's (Bakewell solicitors) rather large house on their now disused tennis court. We managed to layout a half size lawn and managed to get quite a throughput of people during the 2½ hours. Bill, Allen and I took it in turns to accompany 4 people round in 15 minutes sessions explaining rules & tactics as we went. The whole event raised over £1,200 with our contribution just over £105, with thanks to Viv for collecting money, putting people into slots and generally rounding up people to take part.

Nottingham Tournament

The Nottingham Club held the second C level Golf Croquet tournament on the 29 May which is aimed at beginners and therefore restricted to those players with handicaps in the 7 to 12 range. There The format was mini leagues leading to a knock out competition. This year there were three entrants; Jean Peters, Louis McMeeken and Jean Peters. Conditions weren't ideal with poor weather and water-logged lawns and there were a lot of entrants of a high standard. Although enjoyable we didn't do as well this year. You may recall that last year Dorothy Evans won this tournament with Mike White being runner-up.

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 2013 season the normal club times will be:

Monday	2.00pm to 5.00pm
Thursday	2.00pm until the light fades
Saturday	10.00am to 12.00 noon.

Bill Robinson will continue to provide coaching and encouragement to those of you who wish to try Association Croquet on a Thursday evening. Please contact Bill if you are interested.

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.

The Oaksedge Barbecue

A reminder that this event will be held again this year and will be on 27 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 David Peters will be canvassing names later in the year so that we have some idea of the catering.

Ripon Spa Hotel

10 of us went to Ripon from 28th April – 1st May and the weather was dry and a little chilly to start but warmed up enough to take our sweaters off on the last two days. Playing on the lawns there is a real treat and we all had a really enjoyable time.

There will be a second trip to the Ripon Spa Hotel, probably in September, and details will be advised closer to the date.

Bakewell Baking Festival – Sat 8th June

The Mayor has requested we lay on some croquet during the day from 10.00 – 16.00. We have organised for 4 people to play, every 2 hours but if you want to come along and join in at any time that would be marvellous.

Peter Blackburn