



Bakewell Croquet Club Newsletter - June 2015

The new season is well underway and we continue to mow our lawns, generally on a Monday morning, in addition to the DDDC mow on a Thursday or Friday. We (mostly Bob Furniss) also continue to roll the lawns with the new roller, but only after a period of heavy rain. Weedkiller was applied on Friday 5th June so we should see an improvement, especially on Lawn 2 which suffers from a surfeit of daisies. DDDC have also bought fertilizer and will apply it after a period of rain.

We have now have 14 people on the lawn mowing rota and we try to balance the number of times everyone does it. If you feel you want to be added to the list let me know, it is not arduous and takes two people about 1½ hours. It is usually on a Monday morning but a few can only manage a Sunday or even an evening close to the weekend, so whatever you can do can generally be accommodated and very much appreciated.

We have four new members; Sylvia Bartrop and Pauline Hicken (who are sisters), Annette Dwyer-Joyce and Pat White (Mike's wife) so extend a warm welcome to them.

AGM

Held on 11th March we had a good turn out with some changes to the committee. Dorothy decided to retire from the committee with many years of service as the Secretary, so we thank her for all her efforts and dedication. The secretary's role has been taken over by Ann Riley. Welcome to Ruth Barnes and Tim Spray who join us on the committee. Louis takes on the membership secretary role as well as continuing with the Club Diary.

Re-elected were; Peter Blackburn - Chairman, Allen Flatman – Treasurer, Billie Reeves & Bill Robinson.

DDDC

Our relations with DDDC have improved significantly and they have proved to be strong advocates of fairness by treating all clubs without undue bias. The cricket club recently complained to DDDC about us mowing on a Monday morning when there was a cricket match on the following Saturday. Having viewed the complaint the Chief Exec (Dorcas Bunton), no less, of DDDC rejected the complaint with a statement that by Saturday there was no discernible difference to the height of grass between our lawns and the rest of the outfield. A very good result.

DDDC are continuing to work on the proposed storage and have gathered all the information; cost, size, screening etc to put a case to Peak Park about planning application. If planning is granted DDDC plan to apply for a grant from Sports England and will be asking each club involved to write a letter of support plus possible a donation towards the cost. Unfortunately the process had been delayed as the person carrying out the work also had responsibilities for polling booths and other election issues since last Christmas. It is a slow process but hopefully there will be positive news later this year.

Pavilion

Now that the football club have finished the kitchen re-furbishment and provided nice new tables and chairs it looks a real treat in there. Billie has also organised for tea, coffee and biscuits during our Monday and Thursday afternoon sessions, which is proving to be very popular and a good use of the facility.

Singles League

Jean Peters has issued the Singles League sheet for completion by 31st July. There are now 14 people in the three divisions so if you would like to join in please let Jean know. (01629 56409, there are just 5 digits).

Bakewell success

A "C" Level tournament is held each year in May at Nottingham for 24 players of handicap 7-12. Pleased to announce that Louis McMeeken won the cut glass trophy this year, so very well done. His name will be engraved on the trophy and joins with Dorothy who won it in 2012.

Veterans' competition – 8th June

This competition was held at Ashby and attended by; Alan Reeves, Bob Furniss, Louis McMeeken and Steve Marsh. 16 people from different clubs entered and each played 6 games of singles. Steve did particularly well and came in the top 4, a good result as there was some stiff competition.

Tournaments

The first one took place on Saturday 30th May with Bill Robinson coming first with 27 hoops and second, on 26 hoops, shared by Louis McMeeken and Steve Marsh. It was a lovely afternoon with 23 people taking part. Many thanks to the people who brought cakes and savouries for us all to enjoy.

There is another tournament on Saturday 22nd August. Although taking place over the afternoon players just play 5 x 30minute games so there is lots of opportunity to chat, have a cuppa and a piece of cake or two.

Coaching

With the start of a new season if you would like some help to improve your game please contact one of the people listed: Jean Peters 01629 56409 - Dorothy Evans 01246 270209 - Peter Blackburn 01433 630200 & Bob Furniss 01629 815092,

The Oaksedge Barbecue

Jean and David are kindly hosting this most enjoyable event again on Sat 11th July. If you have never been before the croquet is a real challenge on the sloping lawns so it's a lot of fun.

Ripon Spa Hotel

The visit this year was 11-14th May and over the 3 days there were 17 people at various stages. Not everyone went for the 3 days but the weather was kind and it's always a treat to play on the lawns there. The evening meals at the hotel on the first night and then the Italian we now go to on the 2nd and 3rd nights are always a lot of fun, with plenty of laughter.

Friendlies

Bob Furniss has arranged a number of friendlies again this year and the dates are in the Club Diary that Louis has circulated. If you would like to take part please contact Bob direct on 01629 815092.

Visits to Stately Homes

There are two this year; Peter Knowles has arranged for another visit to Brodsworth, near Doncaster on Monday 10th August and has circulated details. It is English Heritage and there is a discount for us. George Wolfe has arranged an afternoon playing croquet at Snitterton Hall, Matlock on Tuesday 16th June with just a £3 donation per person. The gardens are really lovely and as it is not generally open to the public is a real treat.

Club visit to Tim & Anne's at the Chicken Farm

On 22nd April 2015, 15 of our members visited Tim's chicken farm near Bolsover. We were impressed at the size and cleanliness of the four sheds, each one housing 34,000 chickens. Everything was automated and carefully controlled, including temperature, water, food and ventilation. Quite amazing that the chics we saw at 2 days old would reach a weight of 4kgs in only 8 weeks and that the process would then start all over again. Following our visit, we were invited back to Tim and Anne's house to enjoy their lovely garden, including a croquet lawn, and wonderful views over Carr Vale and beyond. The evening ended with a superb sit down supper. Our thanks to Tim and Anne for a very enjoyable evening.

Croquet Dinner

Following the great success of the Anniversary Dinner in March at Bakewell Golf Club quite a number of members have suggested we hold it again. We are planning to hold it on Wednesday 16th March 2016 again at the Golf Club because the standard of catering is so good. There won't be any "cabaret" this time so it will provide a good opportunity for socialising after the meal.



Peter Blackburn