



Bakewell Croquet Club Newsletter March 2011

It's two thirds of the way through March, the AGM has come and gone, the pre-season meeting of the FEMCC was last Saturday and the season approaches. It is time to start dusting down the mallets, flexing the fingers, dreaming of hoops and rejoining the club. At this early stage, I am unable to give you a start date for the season, but will do so as soon as possible.

Club Walk

This went well in so far as some of us walked in the rain, about six I think, and the rest turned up for lunch. It was a good day (once we walkers had dried out) and we owe our thanks to Alan for organising the event, planning the walk and booking the pub.

AGM

The AGM was pretty well attended and lasted around one and a half hours, which although being about thirty minutes longer than I targeted, was by no means wasted as the discussion from the floor was very useful.

The committee for 2011 is:

David Peters	Chairman and Handicap Secretary
Peter Blackburn	Secretary
Alan Reeves	Treasurer and Membership Secretary
Mike White	B Team coordinator
Dorothy Evans	Minutes Secretary
Lesley Alexander	Schools Programme
Bob Furniss	Equipment

Gill Roberts has decided to step down as both Secretary and committee member and on behalf of the club I wish to express our thanks for all she has done. Gill was a member of the original group who formed the club in 2005 and without the efforts of her and others none of us would be able to enjoy the competition and companionship which we now do.

Bass Shield and Coors Cup – Shobnall 13 March

This was cancelled due to the lack of entrants; I believe that Ashby and we were the only clubs which put themselves forward.

I discovered on Saturday that Ashby is trying to run the two competitions, at Ashby, on Saturday the 28 May. Being at Ashby, of course, means that the playing surface will be grass and not Astro turf.

Lincoln Castle

As mentioned in the January newsletter, this event is planned for Saturday 14 May. I have heard that the paperwork will be issued within the next week or so and as soon as it is to hand we will circulate it. If you are interested, I encourage you to contact Mike White as soon as possible so that he can organise the Bakewell entry.

Club Tournaments

The club tournaments are now confirmed for 21 May and 27 August 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.

The FEMCC Leagues

At the FEMCC meeting last Saturday, it was confirmed that the leagues will be the same format as for 2010 with both division 1 and 2 playing level play. A reminder that for this to work team members need to have a handicap and so if you need one please see me and I will organise it. The FEMCC is keen to see handicaps being kept up to date and is encouraging clubs to introduce and promote their use. A reminder that Steve Marsh is organising the A team and Mike White the B team.

Friendlies

Friendly matches have now been arranged with both Sheffield U3A and with Darley Dale. For Sheffield the first match will be at Bakewell on 1 July starting at 1.00pm and finishing around 5.00pm, with the return at Sheffield on 9 September, also starting at 1.00pm. The Darley Dale match is at Bakewell on 28 May starting at 1.00pm.

We need a team of eight for each of these matches and, if possible, I would like to field a different eight each time. If you wish to volunteer, please contact me.

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.

Coaching

We have arranged for John and Maggie Crossland to spend five Friday mornings coaching the A and B team squads in an attempt to improve our performance in the leagues. These sessions start in early April when we hope to have the lawns ready for play.

Club Membership

The committee has agreed to increase the basic membership fee to £30 for the year plus £1 every time you play, but we have retained the 'all in' membership at £50 per year with no further charge for playing.

Club Times

These will remain as for 2010 and will be:

Monday	2.00pm to 4.00pm
Thursday	2.00pm to 4.00pm
	6.00pm to 8.00pm
Saturday	10.00am to 12.00 noon.

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.

Bakewell Rotary

I now have the details of the Rotary Garden Party which is to be held on Friday 20 May from 4.00pm through to around 9.00pm. If you are prepared to help please see Alan Reeves who is organising our contribution.

Start of the Season

I mentioned above that we need the lawns to be ready early in April so that the team coaching can start. Hopefully this will also mean that the club season can begin and I will let you know as soon as I have a date.

Equipment

Please remember that you are entitled to borrow a mallet and some balls if you wish to practice at home. If you are considering buying your own mallet, I encourage you to borrow one of the samples owned by the club and experiment before making a commitment. Bob Furniss is the man to contact.

Lastly, I attach a reply slip listing the various event and issues for which we need responses and I would ask you to complete the form and forward it to me. I will then ensure that it reaches the appropriate person in the club.

David Peters
21 March 2011

1. I will/will not be joining the Bakewell Croquet Club for 2011 and forward to following amount:

Basic membership	£30
All in membership	£50

2. I am/am not interested in playing at the Lincoln Tournament on 14 May and wish/do not wish my name to be sent on to Mike White.

3. I am available/not available to play in the Friendly match with Darley Dale in Bakewell on 28 May.

4. I am available/not available to play in the friendly match with Sheffield U3A in Bakewell on 1 July.

5. I am available/not available to play in the friendly match with Sheffield U3A in Sheffield on 9 September.

6. I am available/not available to assist at the WI afternoon in Bakewell on 10 May.

7. I am available/not available to assist at the Rotary Garden Party in Bakewell on 20 May.

8. I am available/not available to assist with the schools programme and wish/do not wish my name to be passed to Lesley Alexander.

9. I will/will not be entering the club tournament to be held on 21 May

10. I will/will not be entering the club tournament to be held on 27 August.

When completed please email or hand to David Peters, Peter Blackburn or Alan Reeves.