



## **Bakewell Croquet Club Newsletter March 2013**

The weather is cold, the nights are frosty, the ground is sodden, there is still snow on the hills and things are not forecast to improve in the near future. It must be the croquet season!!!

Well, not quite but close. Our AGM is done, the days are getting longer and we hope to start on the 1<sup>st</sup> April.

### Club Walk

There have been several club walks during the winter, all led by Alan Reeves. Those who came enjoyed pleasant if sometimes wet walks and those who didn't were still allowed to join us for lunch. For those who came, thank you for attending and a particular thank you to Alan who took the trouble to organise it all.

### AGM

The attendance at the AGM was down this year, which may have been due to the weather, but the brave souls who did come were welcomed to an unheated room in the Friend's Meeting House where we huddle together to keep warm. Apparently they had forgotten about us!

As some of you may be aware, I was co-opted back onto the committee for last year after finishing as Chairman at the 2012 AGM. I am still not sure why, but I finished at this AGM, as did Alan Reeves and Bob Furniss. Alan, of course, was also stepping down as Chairman.

Lesley Alexander subsequently asked to step down from the Committee as she was moving away from the area to Uttoxeter. Our thanks to her especially for organising the Schools Programme.

With Alan, Bob & latterly Lesley gone we had three vacancies (I was an add-on and did not need replacing). Louis McMeeken agreed to stand for one of the free places and was duly elected. This leaves two vacancies, and so if any of you feel so inclined please see Peter Blackburn who is our new Chairman.

The committee for 2013 is:

Peter Blacburn	Chairman
Dorothy Evans	Secretary
Allen Flatman	Treasurer and Membership Secretary
Bill Robinson	Association Croquet
Louis McMeeken	
TBA	Schools Programme

Alan and Bob are the last members of the original committee, when the club was founded, and both have put in many hours to ensure that we have the smoothly functioning club that we currently enjoy. Alan, in particular, fought long and hard to get the club established and obtain permission to play on the recreation ground. Our thanks to both of them for the contributions which they have made and, I am sure, will continue to make.

### Club Organisation

The committee is vital to the functioning of our club and without them we would very quickly find that things started to fall apart. However, there are several other people who contribute to the day to day organisation and not only do we need to thank them from time to time, but it is also useful for you to know who does what.

Other people who help in the running of the club are:

Billie Reeves	who organises the catering for matches etc
Jean Peters	who runs the club leagues and is a qualified coach
Mike White	who is the 'B' team manager
David Peters	who is the handicap secretary
Peter Blackburn	who is a qualified coach and organises the club tournaments
Dorothy Evans	who is a qualified coach
Bob Furniss	who is a qualified coach and also looks after the equipment.

### Lincoln Castle

The Lincoln Castle tournament will be held over 18/19 May this year and if anyone is interested please contact Peter Blackburn who has the details of the arrangements. I believe that the Saturday will be dedicated to the tournament, as usual, and that the Sunday is an open 'have a go' day for the public.

### Nottingham Tournament

The Nottingham Club is holding 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 will be lunch and tea on offer and the tournament is to run from 10.00am to around 5.00pm. The format is to be mini leagues leading to a knock out competition. Entrants should get at least 6 games.

You may recall that last year Dorothy Evans won this tournament with Mike White being runner-up. Dorothy isn't entering this year but both Mike and Jean Peters will be there. In addition, Louis McMeeken will be playing under the Darley Dale banner.

I suspect that it is too late now to enter, but spectators are welcome.

### Club Tournaments

Our spring tournament was originally scheduled to be held on 18 May, but as this clashes with Lincoln we have chosen Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June as the new date. The date of the summer tournament is confirmed as 31 August. Please let Peter Blackburn 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.

### Friendlies

There will be several friendly matches with local clubs throughout the season and these are being organised by Bob Furniss. So, if you are interested in playing please let Bob have your name as soon as possible.

### Singles League

Jean Peters will again be running this league and anyone who wishes to join is welcome. Those of you who played last year will be enrolled automatically (unless you say otherwise) and new entrants will be welcomed with open arms. Please contact Jean for details and to put your name down.

### Schools Liaison

We have to decide what to do about this with Lesley leaving the Committee.

### 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

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 I will be canvassing names later in the year so that we have some idea of the catering.

### Ripon Spa Hotel

A group of use will be going to the Ripon Spa Hotel from 28 April to 1 May to play croquet on the hotel's immaculate lawns. I think that the number is up to around 12 at the moment, but please do not let this put you off. You need to make your own hotel booking and mention the Bakewell Croquet Club when you do. It would also be useful if you would let Jean Peters know that you are coming.

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

David Peters