



Bakewell Croquet Club Newsletter October 2012

I promised myself that I would write this at the end of September which, at the time, was comfortably distant and could be forgotten about, and I did! Somehow September sneaked by without my noticing and turned itself into October and the approaching end of the season, although today the weather was good enough to have been earlier in the year.

The club has had a good year, our membership has remained pretty stable, our teams have done well and at the first time of entering, one of our members won a local tournament.

Our Teams

Both the A and the B teams did very well this year with the A coming second to Ashby in division one by winning the same number of matches but only won 35 games to Ashby's 37. This is a stunning achievement and sets the bar very high for next year. Congratulations to Peter Blackburn, Alan Reeves, Bob Furniss, Steve Marsh and Judith Clay all of whom played during the season. Particular thanks to Peter Blackburn who also organised the team.

The B team came fourth out of seven in division two winning three of their six matches. This is not the whole story, of course, and some of the matches/games were much closer than the position might suggest. As you know, the B team is open to anyone who would like to have a go at playing in the East Midlands Leagues and the club plan is that it finishes around the middle of the league or maybe just a little higher. Thank you to Mike White who did his usual first rate job of organising this team.

Club Tournaments

The summer tournament was played on the 1st September and around twenty of our members entered. The weather was kind and the day turned out very well. The playing order was the usual 'mix and match' and I think that all enjoyed themselves. Certainly, the only complaints which I heard were all about how badly the speaker was playing. This year the prizes were organised slightly differently in that there was one for the highest scoring lady and also for the highest scoring man. There must be something in the Calver air, because Viv Blackburn topped the ladies' list while Peter Blackburn topped the men's. Congratulations to both of them and many thanks to Peter for organising both this event and the one in the spring.

Thank you also to all the ladies who supplied the refreshments during the day, they were of the normal high standard. The one personal problem which I have with these tournaments is that the croquet gets in the way of my cake eating!!

Sheffield U3A Friendly

We played two friendly matches with Sheffield U3A this year, one at Sheffield on the 29th June and the other at Bakewell on the 7th September. Both went extremely well and were enjoyed by both clubs and will be repeated next year, so any of you who did not play this year and would like to do so, please be prepared to volunteer in 2013.

Darley Dale Friendly

This year Darley Dale hosted us and the Bakewell players had the experience of playing on the small and sloping lawns at the Whitworth Centre. This notwithstanding the afternoon was enjoyable as was the tea afterwards.

Singles League

Jean has run this again this year and again it has proved to be a success with people getting on and arranging their matches. For any of you who are interested in improving your singles game, this is a good way to do it with three leagues allowing people to play at their own level and progress up the leagues as they improve.

Schools Liaison

Although there were fewer schools this year, those which came forward were enthusiastic and the children clearly enjoyed the experience. Our thanks to all those members who gave up their time to take part and spread the croquet gospel! We expect to be doing this again in 2013 so get your volunteering hat on.

Association Croquet

The sessions organised by Bill have continued throughout the season and we are starting to create a small core of people who play this version of the game. Association croquet (AC) is very different from Golf croquet and presents a completely new set of skill and tactical challenges. Even if you do not think that you would like it, it is worth trying and I hope that Bill will be prepared to continue with these sessions next year.

The Oaksedge Barbecue

The weather for the Oaksedge barbecue this year was probably the best yet, and although we watched thunderstorms all round us on the horizon, none bother to come our way. Bob Furniss was lucky enough to see what looked like a lightning strike towards the south, but there were no press reports of damage so I guess that it hit a field.

Those of you, who didn't or couldn't come, please think about it for next year.

Ripon

As in past years a group of us spent a few days at the Ripon Spa Hotel in early September. As you know they have three full sized lawns and one half size, all of which are available to hotel guests and

all of which are of international championship standard. If you want to know what it feels like to play on a well maintained and flat lawn, this is the place to do it.

This year there were twelve of us (it grows all the time) and we went on the Sunday to return on the Wednesday. Jean organised a bit of a competition, but the afternoons were free for either sightseeing or playing club league matches. There was also coaching from the resident coach who lives in the hotel.

For those of you who haven't been, this really is something which is worth doing, even if you only come for part of the time. There is no doubt that a few days at Ripon improve everyone's play so it may be worth considering going earlier in the season.

Winter Activities to keep in touch

1. The Miner's Standard

When the season finally closes we will again be continuing a sort of croquet at the Miner's Standard at Winstar but this year we will give it a try at lunchtime rather than in the evening. The format will be the same except we will meet at 12.30p.m. on Thursdays for a lunchtime snack followed by a game. Our first session will be on the Thursday 25th October.

2. Short walk and a pub lunch – just come to the pub if you don't want to do the walk.

Monday 5th November. Meet at the Cock and Pullet at Sheldon at 10.30a.m. for a 2 to 3 mile walk finishing about 12.30p.m. (Lunch, snacks and sandwiches available). No need to book, just turn up.

Monday 3rd December. Meet at The Derwent Water Arms at Calver at 10.30a.m. Walk about 3 miles. Lunch 12.30p.m. (Lunch or light bite options). No need to book, just turn up.

Saturday 12th January 2013. Meet in Great Longstone near The Crispin at 10.30a.m. for a 4 to 5 mile walk and lunch at about 1.00p.m. Please let Alan Reeves know by 4th January if you intend coming.

David Peters
8 October 2012

Footnote

Have just heard that the lawns will not be mown again this year. If the grass doesn't grow much over the next week or so, we may still get a game of sorts but in any case we will make Thursday 18th October our last club playing day of the season.

Alan
8 October 2012