



End of season Newsletter.

The season is coming to a close and I think it safe to say that the lawns have never been better. Thanks to the members on the mowing rota; John Lamb, Steve & Nadia, George Wolfe, Tim Spray, David & Jean, Allen Flatman, Louis McMeeken, Bob Furniss, Alan Reeves and Peter B. The rolling of the lawns has also helped enormously with Bob in particular doing most of it as well as his efforts maintaining the areas around the hoops and keeping the “bunny runs” to a minimum. Alan Reeves has been doing a lot of the blue-lining. So all in all a real team effort resulting in the much improved lawns.

DDDC also carried out the weed-killer application which was successful, although we will try to get them to carry this out earlier next season. Towards the latter part of the season they also applied the worm suppressant, which appears to have been reasonably effective.

I am not sure how long the lawns will remain in a playable condition but will obviously keep you informed.

Winter Croquet

Born2Move have agreed we can play again this year, the price for the soup, spelt roll and play has increased marginally to £6 really due to the amount we used the heaters. These do use rather a lot of power but as croquet is not the most active of sports additional warmth was really needed!

AGM

This will be held on Wednesday 11th March at 7.30pm in the Friends Meeting House again. An agenda will be circulated much nearer the time. If you need reminding the committee officers are; Peter Blackburn - Chairman, Allen Flatman - Treasurer & Membership Secretary, Dorothy Evans - Secretary. The committee; Louis McMeeken, Billie Reeves, Ann Riley & Bill Robinson.

DDDC & pavilion

The pavilion looks a treat now not least down to the efforts of our members who turned up to paint both the inside and outside of the pavilion. We supplied the majority of the “working party”, a fact acknowledged by both the Junior and Senior football clubs.

The kitchen has been refurbished, mostly by the senior football club, and has been transformed. There are now a number of fridges in there which we can use if we so desire. In recognition of the football club’s efforts we have agreed that they can use our mugs and hot water urn. This not only eases the burden of them purchasing their own but also saves on storage space. The senior football club have also just purchased some nice furniture which they would like to leave in the pavilion for use by all clubs throughout the year.

As you are aware Les Warren, our previous DDDC contact, was made redundant in March. Our contact is Ashley Watts who has a more senior role within DDDC and is a more forceful character. He works along side Heidi McDougal who has responsibility for all the ground staff. They organised a meeting with representatives of all the sports clubs using the pavilion on 28th August. It was a positive meeting with wide ranging discussion, with views of all clubs sought.

During the winter months with very often 3 groups of clubs seeking home and away changing facilities but only 5 changing rooms accessible there is a real issue. The cricket club use the 6th changing room as their own permanent storage! We did state that we needed storage for the trolleys etc and for the mower. Ashley declared that storage and changing facilities in the pavilion will be sorted from this time forward with any historical needs no longer valid, let's see what happens. Heidi had an action to look at storage solutions for both the roller and our mower.

FEMCC Leagues

Division 1 – “A” team; organised by Alan Reeves has won 2 but lost 4 this year. Final placings in Div 1 not yet known.

June 11	Bakewell A	Leicester	5 – 7 Leicester win
July 26	Ashby	Bakewell A	9 – 3 Ashby win
August 1	Bakewell A	Branston	10 – 2 Bakewell A win
August 13	Bakewell A	Woodhall Spa	10 – 2 Bakewell A win
August 17	Nottingham	Bakewell A	7 – 5 Nottingham win
August 20	Long Eaton	Bakewell A	7 – 5 Long Eaton win

Division 2 – “B” team; organised by Mike White have done much better by winning 4, drawing 1 and losing just 2. Again final placings not known.

July 5	Richmond Park	Bakewell B	11 – 1 Richmond Park win
July 11	Long Eaton	Bakewell B	6 – 6 Draw
July 25	North Hykeham	Bakewell B	5 – 7 Bakewell win
August 8	Bakewell B	Branston B	8 – 4 Bakewell win
August 15	Bakewell B	Darley Dale	5 – 7 Darley Dale win
August 22	Bakewell B	Nottingham B	8 – 4 Bakewell win
September 26	Torksey	Bakewell B	1 – 11 Bakewell win

Singles League

The Singles League is now in its 2nd round and most games have been completed but Jean has asked that anyone who has not completed their games there is likely to be only a few more weeks left.

Association Croquet

Bill is still running these sessions, now usually on a Wednesday. There are more people playing now which is most encouraging.

Tournaments

In the August tournament Bill Robinson beat the men with Steve and Bob joint second and Christine McMeeken beating the ladies with Carol and Viv coming joint second. Well done to them.

We will have the two tournaments again next year in May and August.

The Oaksedge Barbecue

Jean and David look forward to hosting this most enjoyable event again next year on Sat 11th July.

Ripon Spa Hotel

Jean has agreed to organise this again between the end of April/mid-end May.

Friendlies

The matches that Bob Furniss arranged this year were most enjoyable social events and we hope to continue this again next year.

Visits to Stately Homes

Both Brodsworth and Snitterton Hall, Matlock were a lovely days out playing croquet in lovely settings. Many thanks to Peter Knowles for organising Brodsworth and George for Snitterton. We hope to repeat in 2015.

10th Anniversary

The Dinner is arranged for Wednesday 18th March 2015 at Bakewell Golf Club and the cost will be just £18.95 for a rather superb 3 course meal. Steve and Nadia have kindly agreed to put on a recital after the meal to round off what I am sure will be a great evening. I will be sending out the invitation and menu choices around mid-January.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Blackburn', with a long horizontal line extending to the right underneath it.

Peter Blackburn
1st October 2014