

April newsletter

The Delayed lawn reopening

The Spring repair hit an obstacle on Thursday 22nd when frost damage to the irrigation pump and sprinklers meant that granular feed laid the day or so before couldn't be watered in. Emergency work by our irrigation engineer and a very long day with a 7 am start by him and our ever-present Lawns manager meant the repairs were done and the watering by the end of Friday 23rd but unfortunately not in time to allow play that day.

Our apologies to anyone misled by the positive tone of the email which said the lawn would be open that Friday. All such message should be read as "weather and other unforeseen eventualities permitting" and that will be added in future.

Though in this case the weather was set fair with the promise of a Spring Day

the BEST advice in times of doubt is to phone up.

Thanks for all the positive feed back about the New style Newsletter .All suggestions are welcome .

What's been happening?

The bad weather and contractor problems delayed the start of the Spring playing season even more than anticipated , Further information on the sidebar item to your left .

The AGM -the highlights

As well as all the necessary business of an AGM, as usual the interesting bits came in AOB !



Russell with the winning GC High handicap team at Camerton and Peasdown

Victory in the leagues

Russell Barter pointed out the two Shields on display won last year by our victorious GC handicap and a High Handicap teams in the SW Fed leagues with almost complete wins in both leagues . Who says our high handicap players don't have easiest fro competitive play ? Well done to both squads and to Russell who captained them both albeit not playing himself

in the High handicap team . For a more detailed report see the entries in you Swan newsletter or ask to see one if they've all gone.

A generous legacy

The president , Paul Smith told the meeting of a generous donation from the estate of the late Jean Powell , John Morgan's partner of £1000. As the Treasurer reported legacies and donations like this are essential to the club's income .

More Data Consents

Alison Thursfield raised the prospect of extra things to be done by the club to comply with the new General Data Protection Regulations . The committee are looking at this right now but at the AGM Michael James asked members to help the club by responding more quickly when he seeks individual approvals under these Regulations .

The Club in 10 year's time ?

Les Bowker had come across a 10 year old reference to club study on "How do you see your club in 10 year's time ?" . By uncanny coincidence Club Development had just been put on the Committee's agenda as a standing item . *Watch this space!*

We Need Volunteers !

Whilst thanking all the volunteers who help make this club work our President made a plea for even more , so watch out for notices asking for help in activities ranging from Publicity , DIY maintenance and repairs to teas , the bar and helping at Tournaments. And if our hard worked and indeed hardworking Lawns Manger , Robin Hayes looks like he could have some help with a task why not offer it ? Robin does a great deal of work around the club which isn't really part of his sterling efforts to give us top quality lawns . Many tasks don't require special skills , just often enough muscle to move boundary boards chairs and the like .

And Finally on the AGM

One thank-you amongst the many due but one which we overlooked was to thank Russell Barter for his fine gift to the club of two sets of new hoops which have found their way already onto our showcase lawns . What an asset we have in this man .

The full minutes are up on the notice board and can be supplied to those who want them electronically by application to Darryl.

John Shipton's 90th Birthday Tea Party

Following established tradition the Club held a tea party for John on Friday 23rd just a day or three after the actual event . The party was hosted and catered for by Eileen and David Magee and was well attended . Its as good to see some other nonagenarians at the party as well . What a wonderful advert for the longevity benefits of Croquet !

Eileen give a short address explaining that John had come here over 12 years ago and outlining his contributions to the club including being the mainstay and driving force behind the Tuesday afternoon roll ups , winter and Summer , rain or shine.

In reply John explained how he came here for family reasons after playing croquet at reigate and Winchester clubs where he had carried out varied duties such as lawns manager . He thanked his double partner Richard Thompson with whom John had won the Curtess Webb trophy two years running . (Richard was heard to say under his breath that this was due to the canny way John had managed his games so as not to suffer a reduction in his handicap !)



On the lawns.

The Easter weekend saw two fine Tournaments, both very well attended despite the shocking weather. The AC advanced was managed by Mark Suter who did a fine job on his first Tournament manager . The winner was [Richard Smith](#) and runner up [Dave Kibble](#) as reported by [Mark Suter](#) below .

"All the lawns were in very good condition, but the weather was pretty bad with lots of rain and low temperatures.Overall the event went smoothly with about 99% of games completed and both events played to a conclusion.



Main event Knockout: Richard M Smith beat Dave Kibble in the final +13

Egyptian: Jonathan Powe beat Paul Rigge +8 to win and also reduced his H'cap to -2

Richard M Smith won a Silver medal for reaching semi-final of an event with 32 or more players. "

Spot the Winner !

The handicap competition managed once again by Penny Crowe was won by [Richard Zhao](#) whose handicap was reduced from 10 to 8.

Coming up

GC

This month we have two GC Tournaments, handicap and level play on Friday 13th -lucky for some- and over the weekend , 14th and 15th the level play . Respectively the competitions are for the Barter Trophy and the Barter Cup . (the level match is an Official A Level CA competition)

Plenty to see if you're not playing and there should still be some members' lawns available.

One Ball

On April 22nd we have the first of this year's Charity one ball matches . For your entries please see the notice that's up at the club or contact Michael James.

We'll also be hosting the CA Ladies vs glamorgan AC match on 28-29 . Lawn hire fees from events such as these all add to the income we need and it's good to see visitors here who spread the good word about Cheltenham .

Coaching at the Club

Sarah Hayes has taken on the role of Lead coach . Sarah joined the club with her husband Robin , now our Lawn manager, about 2012 and has contributed in so many ways including coaching since then . Sarah is also the Chairman of the CA coaching committee .

Her first formal coaching since taking on the role as Lead Coach is to kick off , with Julia Lowery a repeat of the popular improvers course as below .

IMPROVER COACHING

4 Ball Break Course

6 week course for all h/caps 14+

THURSDAY MORNINGS STARTING 19th April @ 9.30am

4 Ball Breaks - a must for handicap and advanced play
Around about 1.5 hours each session.

If you're late - don't worry we'll start without you!!!

Hope to see you there!!!

Phone Sarah on 01 452 418135 or email burrow_sarah5@gmail.com
or Julia on 01 242 220547 or email julia@leckhampton.org

COACHES:- SARAH HAYES and JULIA LOWERY

Also happening are our **Taster days** .,

The first on April 8th was a great success attracting over 25 visitors to the club many of whom we hope will choose to have coaching and then join the club .The event was run by Adam who has thanked the coaches and many helpers who came along to support this essential membership winning activity and Russell for organising some inter team games to add colour and interest to the day .

Thanks go too , to those members who have been busy in publicising these event sand getting their friends and relations along .

The next Taster Day is on May 13th - **National Croquet day** . Adam is working on plans to celebrate that even and getting even more would be embers along to the taste the experience.

.If you know of anyone who might want to try the game out with a view to joining then why not tell them about it and get them to contact Darryl via croquetcheltenham@gmail.com to book a place.

Adam is also planning a one day repeat course for last year's beginners and others with handicaps 20 or above on May 12th . Thereis no charge . Applications to Adam please:

admoliver@btinternet.com