

May newsletter

Our Chairman's column

I sometimes come to the "roll-ups" AC and GC. I aim to be there just before 1.30 the start time for afternoon sessions(1.pm in Winter) .I was surprised to see many people already playing and for someone less assertive than me it might have been rather intimidating to try to get into the game .

Start times are arranged so that everyone knows when to be there. These sessions should start on time and include everyone. I tell new members it is at 1,30 – they arrive to feel they have missed it.

I was playing at Budleigh recently and noted that they organise their roll ups(GC) ,which started at a set time -so that after about an hour everyone switches partners -perhaps something to try here.

This month we're putting what's happening on the lawns up front But the impact of new data protection rules is important . [Please see our later article](#) .

On the lawns.

GC tournament play got off to a cracking start on the 13th , 14th and 15h of April with our two Barter competitions- the trophy and the Cup .

The first , the handicap has been growing in popularity and this year was contested by some 24 players with good number of visitors . Here's an extract from a report sent by Russell to the croquet gazette .

“The Barter Trophy which is a Handicap event for handicaps up to 12. It was won by Stuart Smith(Broadwas & Cheltenham) playing off a handicap of 0. He won all his matches despite having to give away so many Extra Turns. The final was between Michelle Leonard & Stuart Smith. Will Drake (Pendle) who is 94 also played in this event and played the next two days in the Barter Cup. This is a dedicated Croquet player!!”

The A level competition was fully subscribed with 32 entrants . Here's the report from Kevin Ham the manager.

The first A Series golf competition of the year, was won by Lionel Tibble, with David Trimmer runner up.

A capacity 32 players gathered over the weekend to play on eight of the lawns at Cheltenham. There were four blocks of eight with two going through to a best of three knockout.

Cheltenham members were out before eight o'clock to put the final touches on the fine lawns and to firm up the hoops.

It comes as no surprise that Tim King, Lionel Tibble, and Mark Suter, all had seven wins out of seven games in their blocks. Though, the star of the day must be Wendy Wu a six handicap who had four wins, including the scalp of a minus one player.

Saturday was a lovely day to play Croquet. Sunday was not. It started overcast and progressed with April showers.

Of those in the knockout David Trimmer (-1 at AC), was the most inexperienced. So new to Golf Croquet he did not have a handicap, other than -1, using the conversion table. In the final Lionel's experience showed through winning 7-4, 7-5.

The other matters to report are. Peter Balchin won the plate. Wendy is now a four, and there are still two places left for the Cheltenham GC Championship (Ascot Cup) in June.

Cheltenham and "The Coles"

Also happening at the start of May (5th to 7th) was "The Coles Championship " managed by David Magee . This is a senior competition for top players in the Country and attracting many visitors .The winner was David Maugham and the winner of the consolation event , Chris Williams .David (Magee) reports that

"As a stand-alone tournament, it was a great success helped enormously by the excellent weather and the strength of the entry – a third of the competitors had a handicap of -2 or better. The only action necessary is tolimit the number of entries to 32. "

On the downside given the large entry and many of them visitors ,we could have done with few more members to help with the very many minor admin tasks to be done and to help man the bar . (PLEASE SEE THE ARTICLE THAT FOLLOWS)

Taster Days

Two have now been run and were great successes attracting over 35 visitors to the club many of whom we hope will choose to have coaching and then join the club .The events were 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 April day .

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

Even if it's too late for the Taster days we are always open to new members so 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 or Adam via croquetcheltenham@gmail.com

Our demand for Volunteers is insatiable !

The Bar Rota

The the rota is up and is currently outside the club. It lists all the occasions when we think we need bar staff but there maybe more. Special arrangements will be needed for major events. Please look at the rota: there are two spaces for bar persons . This may be a second person at anyone time or for a separate time slot depending on the event . If you have put yourself down as a second person please liaise with the first person as to how to play the event.

Other tasks

We still need help with Publicity , DIY Maintenance and repairs and around the grounds especially on competition days before and at the end of play .

We also need to have someone (or two) join our white lining team .

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.

Coming up (and just happened !)

Lots of things , so this isn't a complete list ! Please consult your fixture list and/or the "What's on " for May and June

Last weekend (19/20 May) we held the **Bernard Neal Trophy** , an AC advanced level competition which will once again attract a big entry . Expect a report in the June Newsletter .

On Sunday **27 May**, there will be the first (of 4) **Friendly One-Ball Tournaments of this Croquet season**.

As it will also be Members Day those who would prefer to play standard AC or GC games, particularly AC doubles (where an experienced player will play with someone who is newer to the game and pass on tips) are free to organise such games in addition.

[For Sunday 27 please let Michael James know by email preferably that you would like to play in the One-Ball competition at Cheltenham or attend the Members Day AC/GC, so that he can make some advance preparations. A list will also go up on a Club notice board, where players can enter their name.]

A Visit from **The Hyde Park Club of Adelaide , Australia**.

They are touring the UK and will be with us on **30 May** . Adam is coordinating things at this end and he writes ;

“We could do with a couple more people to play in this unusual fixture About twenty people for the Adelaide club are touring and we are playing them on 30 May with GC doubles - us v them , in the morning then lunch then a casual GC knock about.
Lunch for £8 and tea will also be available .

Two or three more of us would be good.Let admoliver@btinternet.com know if you want to join .

DATA PROTECTION

DATA Protection

Data protection law has strengthened with the introduction of the General Data Protection Regulations, GDPR.

The Consent Form gives details.

Without your (renewed) permission to use your personal data we cannot send you further information and notices.

Please remember If you decided to answer NO to any of the 5 statements and wish to change your mind at some future date, you can still send a note to the Membership Secretary stating “I agree to.....” after signing and dating it.

LOOKING FURTHER AHEAD

Looking ahead we will need a new Treasurer : Gerald has supplied these thoughts..

“For all the sterling contributions of many others, the club simply can’t operate without a Treasurer to bank receipts, pay contractors and suppliers, and keep the books. We now need to get serious about finding a successor to Gerald Wynn who has said he will not be standing for re-election at next year’s AGM. The job can be shared out in various ways and indeed he has throughout had someone to help him particularly with banking monies and making payments. It doesn’t require accountancy skills or experience, and the book-keeping side just needs a careful, methodical and accurate approach following initial familiarisation. There is scope for organising things differently to fit a different balance of sharing to suit whoever is involved, and some responsibilities could be handed off to others. “

Please everyone therefore think seriously about whether you could take on some or all of this responsibility and get in touch with Adam, Gerald or Darryl if you think you might be able to do so, want to find out more or have suggestions to offer. We really don’t want to find ourselves in a last minute crisis with no solution in prospect.

And Finally ! A word from the “Editor “ on the newsletter itself.

This month’s newsletter is shorter than it might have been . later than it should have been, and lacks photos and colour.

The lateness is due to a succession of holidays , competitions and then illness . I hope to have next month’s earlier.

On the length there is no ideal: with a digital edition length is not a cost factor and each reader can read as much or as little as interests him or her. On the photos: if you have any on your cameras that you think might relate to likely news items please send them to me .

In the same vein if you have any items of interest you want to contribute to the newsletter than do let me know , with “ copy “ if possible .

For variety I have been happily mixing font sizes , choice of Font and colours . There is no significance in any of these choices but I hope in doing so to invite you to read on (it also saves a lot of time otherwise fiddling with presentation !)

The content is a mix of what's been happening on the lawn, what is yet to come and things the committee would like you to hear about (even though we have probably e mailed you separately .)Please though do keep looking at the individual notices which appear on the club notice boards.

Next Months content will include;

- *reports on the competitions and events at the club*
- *information on what's coming up*
- *an extract of our Data Protection Policy*
- *an update on how we plan to conduct the 10 year review .*

Darryl