

July newsletter

Our Chairman's Column

The Club's purpose (in our Rules) is to "provide club members with premises and facilities for the playing and enjoyment of croquet and to foster and promote amateur sport at all levels, providing opportunities for recreation and competition."

My interpretation of this is that members can play for fun/socially, and competitively. We foster the game by providing coaching and by hosting tournaments and of course our various member-only competitions. We do this for both codes of the game GC and AC, and at all levels from beginner to world class.

Inevitably these aspects sometimes conflict. This year there about 30 days where we have major events - but for most of those three lawns are still available and another dozen or so days that will use only 6 lawns. This seems to me a reasonable balance

These events bring in much-needed money - the "Opens" will yield about £3000 with the lawn hire fee the CA pays, bar takings, teas -and lunches on those days some members are very kindly catering.

I value seeing the best in the country - and the world play on my doorstep. Croquet is a real sport as well as an afternoon pastime and without these events many of us (or at least me) would not be very interested in the game or the Club.

There are not many other activities where you can say that you have made tea or pulled a pint for the World Champion -with whom you are on first name terms.

Adam



*June
been
hot
and*

*has
hot, too
for some
no
respite
yet in*

*as
July! Still the lawns have seen some action!*

We held the annual Croquet / bridge tournament, won by Michael James and Lloyd Jones and we hosted the Welsh Championships relocated here due to restrictions at their natural home at Dyffryn.

Play in the season long competitions has got into full swing, and we are now getting our regular Corporate hirings, one of which was the national and International firm of lawyers, Charles Russell Speechley who on June 21 visited us with some 40 guests and rented 8 lawns for the afternoon, a very welcome addition to Club revenues. The committee extends a big thank you to the team of volunteers who turned out on the day to help make the experience for our visitors one they will wish to keep in their entertainment

Coming up this Month

The Opens

The Opens are formally the Open Championships "and comprise 5 separate events played which together span 7 to 15 July. There's a great opportunity to see some of the top names in Croquet compete here at Cheltenham and this year in the closing stages there is an additional Next Generation competition designed to attract and showcase some of the younger talent in AC.

If you want to follow the results in the Opens but can't get up to the club they are available on Croquet Scores, <https://croquetscores.com/2018/ac/the-open-championships-week>

It would help greatly if members will refrain from parking at the club whilst the Opens are in progress and your help in this will be much appreciated by the organisers .

Festival Week

The Club's Festival week this year runs from 23 to 28 July . There'll be plenty of opportunity for all kinds of Croquet with three doubles on Monday and Tuesday (AC conventional , AC alternate stroke and GC) , and on Wednesday singles in GC and One ball and then three days of AC singles. More info and sign up sheets are posted outside the tea room .

In August

We shall be hosting the CAAC `Ladies sixes ' (11 -12 August) and our own AC handicap doubles the Barwell Salvors (3-5 August) and at the end of the month the August bank Holiday AC advanced competition . Details are on the fixtures list on the board next to the bar .

Of special interest to higher handicap AC players will be the

High Bisquers competition: a 18 point handicap AC Competition on Aug 13-14 for those with handicaps of 16 and above .

A great way to start tournament play Entry fee £14 : entries please to admoliver@btinternet.com

calendar

The annual WI visits

Once again the WI Are coming! On July 19th and August 16th to be precise . As in previous years David and Eileen Magee will be organising the event with their usual “ smooth as clockwork ‘ approach . Expect a call for volunteers to help on the days .

Now here's some more news from the Open Class singles played 8th to 10th June.

Adam received this email below from our Austrian visitors , two of whom played in the competitions , Martin Guentner and Heinz Hackel .Martin did well in the Top block , contesting for the Cheltenham Cup and Heinz won his block, the Asa Thomas Cup . As a reminder here's Heinz receiving his trophy from Adam .



Dear Dear Sarah,
 dear Adam,
 dear John
and all the others

"after returning home we would like to thank you very much for offering us such exciting, pleasant and enjoyable "Croquet holidays".

The organisation of the tournament was excellent, the setting is marvellous and gives a very spacious impression (now at home our 2-lawns-club looks smaller than before ;-)

the lawns are of outstanding quality, the club offers a special atmosphere and you can feel the tradition everywhere - so it couldn't't have been better.

see some impressions

<https://www.facebook.com/Croquet.Club.Wolkersdorf/?ref=bookmarks>

Some players had been quite surprised that we come over mainly to play croquet - it was worth each second and we thoroughly enjoyed it.

Some sightseeing in the Cotswolds (amazing gardens and manor houses) was the perfect addition after the tournament. So we got so many lovely memories and do have already a posttraumatic Cotswolds holidays depression ;-)

Thanks also to Robin for our most useful "experts discussion" about greenkeeping. I got some useful advice.

All the very best from Austria
 and best regards to all the nice members"

Heinz Hackl
 Martin Güntner

Developing the Club - the 10 year review

Here's an extract of last month's newsletter . Perhaps the important points - **WE WANT YOUR INVOLVEMENT** - got lost . I've highlighted them in the text but to be clear . let Adam , Darryl or Paul know if you are interested in joining the working party .

"Some have taken the initiative and put themselves forward already to join the working party , for which we are grateful but to ensure this wide representation of our membership in the working party we'd like to know if any other volunteers are out there and keen to take part . This is a

busy time for all of us as the playing season is in full swing and it may already be that the desired "Done by date" is too ambitious but to get the process underway I'd like to hear from any other volunteers in the next two weeks .

All members will be invited to make their views known to the working party as part of the process.

Some requests from committee

Work in the grounds

The foliage at the front of the Club is growing into the road ,It is time to tame it. If you have a couple of hours on TUESDAY 31 July 9.30 -11.30 please come and help Hedge trimmers, pruners would help ,but we also need sweeper-uppers
Adam admoliver@btinternet.com

White lining

Wanted ,three volunteers to help with white lining. Good exercise, sense of achievement and our gratitude...

CASC SIGN-IN

The end of June snapshot of progress shows that we have so far only reached 34% of members who have signed for 12 or more visits to the club for qualifying purposes as against the 50% criterion set by HMRC.

Almost certainly some members (it applies to all categories including Far Country) will have paid more visits but not signed in. We need to meet the 50% criterion to preserve the financial benefits which amount to some £2000 pa and the sooner we reach it, the sooner we can dispense with signing in for the remainder of the year.

So please do your bit for the benefit of everyone! [Retrospective catch up is ok if you can insert actual dates].

Other committee business

Earlier in the year Gerald our treasurer indicated his plan to step down from that role next year and we shall need a replacement . It seems a long way off but

I repeat an extract from the May newsletter

“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. “

DONATIONS

From time to time members and indeed past members make donations to the club . Naturally the committee responds with a thank you but not all members get to know of this so here's a couple of the more recent ones .

Wendy Wu has kindly donated several seats of pegs designed specifically for the purpose of marking hoops won in serious GC competitions .

Mr and Mrs Norman Allenach , former members have donated four mallets . The smallest is a child's and may have limited use right now (unless you get your 8 year old relatives involved) but the other three are in excellent condition and are a most welcome addition to our stock of club mallets . If you have any yourself that you feel you can happily pass on to the club don't hold back !

(Mark Suter kindly passed on an old one of his at the start of the season -thank you Mark)

And finally , all comments on the Newsletter style or content will be welcome.