

In The Loop



Issue 1 January 2015

Budleigh Salterton Croquet Club

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Welcome to 'In the Loop'

By Jack Smith

Welcome to the first edition of 'In The Loop'. We are always looking for ways to improve communications within the club and our thanks go to Linda Hicks, part of the PRR team, who was willing to become the founding editor of this newsletter. It will replace my occasional "Chairman's Note", with a smart new look, more regular publication, news and features from each area of the club, and more!

Its success depends on you, as does anything we do as a club. There is plenty of action

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planned this year, and we have great facilities, so join in, make the most of it, and do your utmost to bring potential new members along. Let's make 2015 a year of Wins, Fun and Growth. Here's wishing you all Good Health, Prosperity and Happiness in the New Year!

The PRR and 'In The Loop'

By Penny Lewis

The PRR committee, which is made up of people from each area of the club, was set up to take a club-wide approach to Publicity, Recruitment and Retention.

One of our objectives is communicating with members about what is going on in the club. This newsletter, which will be produced quarterly, is one of the ways we hope to do that. Each edition will cover events for the next four months. Each section of the club has identified a person to write their contribution - their names are under the heading for each article. We hope you will find 'In the Loop' helpful, interesting and informative. If you have items you would like included in a future issue or have any comments on the newsletter, please talk to one of the contributors or the editor. You will find the latest date for submission of articles on the last page of each issue.

Survey of Members

Around the end of January we will be sending out a survey to all members. We will be asking you about how you would like to see the club progress and respond to its membership. There will be questions about the club as a whole, plus specific questions about each section of the club.

Please do take the time to complete and return the survey. Your views and ideas really do matter and will be welcomed.

Open Days 2015

Thursday April 16th and Saturday April 18th

From 10.00am till 4.00 pm we will open the club to the public. We need people from all sections of the club to be involved – to talk to potential new members, show them round our club, and maybe get them to try their hand.

If you can help on either or both days, please sign up using the sheet on the clubhouse bar.

Organiser – Penny Lewis

Keeping Winter Lively

By James Homer

By the AGM in March we need nominations for a Chairman and at least two members of the General Committee. This is essential for the smooth running of our club. If you are interested, please contact James Homer. Nominees must have completed a minimum of 2 years continuous membership of the Club immediately prior to the AGM.

We have re-introduced the “winter talks” once a month with audience numbers rising each time. It is vitally important to maintain “liveliness” in the club over the winter months. These activities along with others, such as the pre-Christmas drinks and the teas run by various sections, have been great successes.

Another area of importance has been the continuing improvement in the scope and content of our website. Many thanks to Ro Smith for all his work.

Winter talks – 2.30 pm

8th January – Spin Doctor in the House

5th February – Financial Matters

Club Spring Clean

19th March from 9.30 am
Brushes, Mops and Rubber
Gloves at the ready!

AGM

Wednesday 25th March
5.30 pm
All welcome!

Spraying Against Leatherjackets – 19th and 20th January

By Rob Weeks

Subject to weather conditions, the whole site will be sprayed with a chemical called ‘Cyren’ over Monday 19th and Tuesday 20th January. This is to kill off the hundreds of thousands of crane fly larvae that are living just under the surface of the croquet lawns and the bowling green.

If we don’t do this then, later in the spring, these grubs will start eating the roots of the grass. They are capable of devastating a lawn in a very short time. Our lawns are some of the finest in the country and we feel that we have a duty to try to protect them.

However, there’s no getting round it – the chemical is toxic so the whole site will be closed whilst the spraying takes place and while the chemical is washed into the soil using our automatic watering system. For the following few days members are requested to wash their hands after play.

Members using just the clubhouse should not be affected, except that the car park will be closed while the actual spraying is being done on Monday 19th.

We absolutely hate using toxic chemicals but this is one of the few that we have to employ.

Winter Croquet Action

By Sheena Hemmings

Welcome to our winter members. We hope everyone is enjoying the winter play. As well as roll-ups and winter ladders, we have held one golf pop-up competition, won by Rosemary Bradshaw and Ian Stratford. Weather permitting, there will be more.

Since we now have the newsletter and will be carrying out the club survey, we feel the pre-season meeting is superfluous and so it will not be held in March.

We are working to implement remaining areas of the Croquet Development Plan – copies of this are on the club noticeboard and on the

web-site. If you feel you could help with any of the actions, please contact Sheena Hemmings.

Our Tournament Secretary, Charles Townshend, is intending to retire from this role after this year and needs someone to understudy him before taking over next year. If you feel you can help and would like to find out more, please speak to Charles.

Lastly we wish Harry Dodge well for his entry into the the Golf Croquet Under 21 World Championships in New Zealand in February. Thank you to all those who have generously helped him financially or with his practice sessions.

PLEASE HELP

Regrettably, some damage has been caused to our lawns, so we have had to introduce new rules regarding winter play. Please do all you can to help us to minimise any further damage.

See the website or noticeboards for details

High Bisquers AC Tournament

Saturday/Sunday 18th and 19th April

For handicaps 16 – 24 Entrance Fee £25

For more details contact Charles Townshend

Nailsea Short Lawn Competition

Saturday 11th April

If you would like to take part in the team please contact Sheena Hemmings

Members' Corner

Have you got anything you'd like to share with the rest of the club? For example forthcoming charity events and other good causes you are involved with, requests for help, club related anecdotes, jokes (clean please – I've led a sheltered life). If we have the space, we'll include one or two in each issue. A maximum of 50 words please. Send your items to me at bsccloop@hotmail.com or pass them to one of the newsletter contributors.

2014 Bowls Champions and 2015 Indoor Action

By Roy Norton

Bowls Section champions

Congratulations to all our 2014 winners:
Norman Upchurch, Margaret Ringsell, Brian Goddard (*Tommy Handley*), Gordon Marshall (*Mens*), Penny Weeks (*Ladies*), Peter Cooper (*Daldry*), David Roberts (*Brownlie*), Margaret Ringsell & Keith Stidder (*Pairs*), Margaret Ringsell (*Evans*).

Putting ourselves about a bit!

Can you think of ways the bowls section could help the club get more involved in the local community and maybe get more exposure to potential bowlers. For instance local school, children or adults with learning difficulty, people from care homes, cricket club, etc. Anyone have any views or contacts?

Represent the Bowls Section on the PRR

We'd really like a Bowls representative on the PRR. If you are interested please talk to Bob Clifford.

A Busy Winter of Bridge

By Maureen Smith

I wish you all the Very Best for 2015.

After a very exciting but busy two months organising the resoundingly successful "Tea at the Ritz" for the whole club and the very enjoyable Bridge Christmas Party, we move rapidly into 2015 with a full programme of events. Duplicate sessions will run as usual on Tuesdays and Thursdays 6.45 pm and Wednesday afternoons 1.45 pm., with Rubber Bridge 1.45 pm on Monday and Friday afternoons. For more details regarding all of the events listed below, please visit the website or the main Bridge room.

Weekend Bridge Trip to Woolacombe

Friday 23rd – Monday 26th January

There is still some availability but book soon to avoid disappointment!

Dinner B & B Approx £90 pp total – depending on room

More events on next page.....

Winter Bowls

Some of us play winter indoor bowls at the Games Club but there is also a possibility of playing at ISCA in Exeter. For anyone who is interested this happens most Thursdays 2–4 o'clock and the price is around £5.50. So, if it takes your fancy please contact Penny Weeks (01395 567757).



Tommy Handley Winners

Presented by Mrs. Handley and Jack Smith

More Bridge events

Simultaneous Pairs
in aid of the
Devon Air Ambulance Trust
Thursday 26th February 2015
6.45 pm

**Keith Ponsford Bridge
Seminars**
Thursdays 10 am – 12.30 pm
January 8th, 15th & 22nd;
February 19th & 26th; March 5th
£20 for the six sessions
Limited to 28 players

Bridge Teas
Saturdays 1.45 pm
February 7th, March 7th,
April 4th

Teams Duplicate
Tuesdays 6.45 pm
February 17th & March 17th
Players must sign up as whole
tables are essential

AGM and Prize Giving
Tuesday April 28th 6.30 pm
prompt
Followed by a duplicate session

Like to play with Big Boys' Toys?

By Rob Weeks

Ever fancied driving something like a JCB? Or a tractor or a triple mower? If you have then we can help you!

The Grounds Section is always looking for more members to join our happy band of volunteers. We have an amazing array of machinery for you to try your hand at and, of course, full training will be given.

The only requirements are that you should be reasonably fit (as there is some lifting involved); that you should be able to drive (for obvious reasons) and that you don't mind getting up early in the morning (since we sometimes start at 6.45am). Yes – that is a quarter to seven – but I promise you – in the summer – it's the best time of the day!

If you would like to know more – then please contact Rob Weeks, Grounds Manager.

This is an equal opportunities newsletter – Girls welcome too! Ed.