

In The Loop



Issue 3 July 2015

Budleigh Salterton Croquet Club
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New Ventures

By Peter Hardcastle

I would like to begin by thanking members of all sections of the Club who work together to help ensure its future. In particular, the PRR team and all those involved in organising the Open Days. They put in a great deal of effort then and in the very successful follow up. Attracting prospective members, showing them the excellent facilities and letting them absorb the friendly atmosphere of our Club has resulted in record recruitment. And we are doing it all again on July 3rd.

This year we started the season with a Spring Buffet which was widely supported and enjoyed by members from all sections of the Club. Thank you Maureen and helpers for organising this.

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PRIOR COMMITMENT presents

Outdoor performances only at The Budleigh
Salterton Croquet Club, Westfield Close, BS

of



by
Noel Coward

**AUGUST 21ST AND 22ND 6PM -
DOORS AT 5.30PM**

Bar Snacks & Licenced Bar

Tickets £8 from Budleigh TIC or from
James Homer on 0777-277-8367 or
enquiries@budleighcroquet.org

In the recent survey Club members said they would like more social events. So our first new venture is "Blithe Spirit". We have asked the theatre group "Prior Commitment" to present outdoor early evening performances of this play at the Club on 21st and 22nd August. This is an exciting and innovative development for the Club. Please come with your friends and enjoy the show.

I would like to tell you about some changes the General Committee has made to Club management.

We have reappointed the House Committee which will be chaired by Maureen Smith. It will be responsible, amongst other things, for coordinating Club catering arrangements.

The Grounds Committee has had its remit

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enlarged and has taken on responsibility for all Building structures. It will in future be known as the Estates Committee, and is chaired by Rob Weeks.

Croquet personal development is a priority of the General Committee and we have appointed a working group, with Rob Weeks as Chair, to focus on this. One immediate result is another new venture – the establishment of the South West Croquet Academy. See page 4 for more details.

As always I must thank all the volunteers who continue to make the Club run smoothly. You just don't realise how many jobs there are, some obvious and others performed in the background, until you have been at the Club for some years.

In conclusion I would like to wish you all an enjoyable and successful season.

Blithe Spirit

by Steve Andrews

One of the best-loved plays of the last century is to be performed at Budleigh Croquet Club on August 21st and 22nd this year. Noel Coward's "Blithe Spirit" has been widely acclaimed as one of the great comedies of the English stage.

I have a small theatre company called Prior Commitment and suggested staging the play as a means of both fund-raising and providing top-rate entertainment for members and visitors alike. A steering group comprising myself, Peter and Jackie Hardcastle, Maureen Smith and James Homer has been set up to oversee the production.

I'm delighted to have the opportunity of putting on this magnificent play – and raising some money for the club at the same time. I'm also very pleased to have recruited some of the most talented actors and actresses in East Devon – plus an excellent professional actor from the Midlands who will play Charles Condomine.

The action of the play flows from the decision of Charles – a writer – to hold a seance to gain atmosphere for his new book. That introduces Coward's best-known character – the medium Madame Arcati. The seance has totally unexpected – but always hilarious – results.

"Blithe Spirit" will be performed outdoors on the terrace of the club. The audience is requested to take their seats from 5.30 onwards; the play will start at 6 and – including the interval – will last about two hours. The bar will be open for drinks and snacks.

Tickets are £8 and will be on sale at the Budleigh Tourist Information Centre – or from any member of the steering group – from July 10th onwards. The audience for each performance will be limited to 80 people so buy your ticket early to avoid disappointment!

Members' Survey Generates Change

By Penny Lewis

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the members' survey. You can see the results on the Club website and on the noticeboard. Your responses are being considered by all areas of the Club and are helping to shape it and what it provides.

Indeed, this issue of In The Loop mentions several initiatives that have already been taken and we encourage you to get involved and take full advantage of them.

One area covered by the survey was about helping to run the club. BSCC is a club run by members for members. Many people said they would be happy to help out, but on a limited or short term basis. We will continue to ask for help with a variety of events and activities and would ask you to please consider giving a little of your time if you can.

The PRR is looking for volunteers to help Elaine (who looks after our publicity and advertising) with activities relating to promoting the Club via the Internet. Please contact her if you feel this is a way you could support the Club (elainemarsh@uwclub.net)

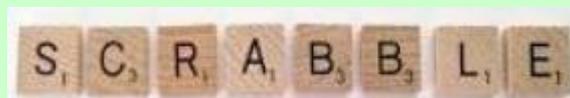
Our recruitment drive for new members across all the sections continues, and this includes our Open Evening on 3rd July.

You may be able to help us to recruit new members by introducing your friends and family to the Club. Why not bring them along to one of the Friday Friends and Family Evenings – see page 8 for details. These informal sessions are run by the members. There's no charge to play croquet or bowls and you can enjoy a relaxing drink from the honesty bar.

Want to improve your vocabulary?

Want to pit your wits against fellow members?

Then join us for a game of



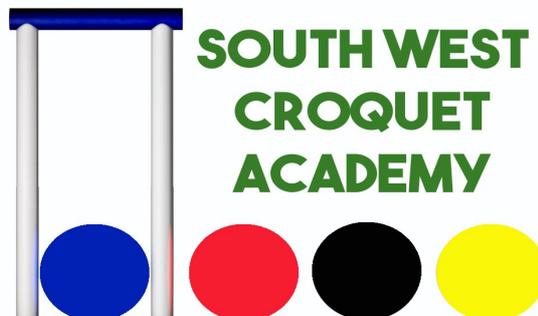
We're very friendly and we meet every Tuesday from 2 pm (prompt) till 5 pm, in the Bridge Room

For more information contact Maurice Ault via email (mauriceault@aol.com) or call on 01395 567337, or call Ellen Purcell on 01395 443884

Club Launches New Venture

By Rob Weeks

Budleigh Salterton Croquet Club is in the final stages of launching a new venture – the South West Croquet Academy. The purpose of the Academy will be to offer courses to both golf and association players so that they can improve their game and at the same time generate income for the Club.



The main operating principles of the Academy will be:

- to use only existing facilities of the Club
- to undertake all promotion of courses and collect all revenues
- to use some of the best coaches in the country
- to pass all profits to the Club
- to give a discount on all courses to Club members
- to use lawns at off-peak times whenever possible
- to minimise pressure on in-house catering by using external services where appropriate

We hope to be operational by March 2016. One of the benefits to Club members will be easy access to some of the best coaches and players at a discounted rate. We also expect that the income generated by the Academy will help to keep future rises in membership subscriptions to a minimum.

Snippets from the Archive (1)

1897 A successful bicycle gymkhana was held. Events included an egg and spoon race for ladies, riding between obstacles, and a Gretna Green Race. This required the gentleman to ride half way down the course whilst wheeling a second bicycle. This was handed over to the lady partner and they rode to the end of the field where they were required to write their Christian names and surnames in a book, remount their bicycles and ride back hand in hand.

An idea for future events? Maybe not on lawn 7 ! Ed.

1930 It was said that the Budleigh Salterton Tennis Tournament was the noisiest that some competitors had ever attended, so it was decided to post lists of imminent games to avoid unnecessary shouting. The Ball boys were apparently difficult to control; it was difficult to get them anyway, in spite of the good pay; so it was suggested that girls should be used instead.

News from the Bridge Tables

by Maureen Smith

The Bridge sessions have all been well attended over the last 3 months. I was delighted that so many members from all the sections came to and thoroughly enjoyed The Spring Buffet. Our AGM took place on Tuesday 28th May. We welcomed two new elected members, Rosemary Ormerod and Jenny Parsons, onto the committee. I, as Chairman, and Maurice Gwatkin were co-opted back on for 1 more year.



This year the awards were as follows:-

- The Eileen Winand Trophy for Thursday evening players went to Hilary Billing and Sandie Miles
- The Rosebowl for Wednesday afternoon players went to Jackie Hardcastle
- The Kitty Healing trophy for Tuesday evenings was won by Barbara Mellor
- The Evening Handicap Trophy for both Tuesday and Thursday Evenings went to Barbara Mellor

As a result of the recent survey we have started to provide a host for the Wednesday afternoon sessions so please come along if you haven't a partner and you will be guaranteed a game. Currently it is working well.

Our congratulations to Bill Souster – see picture above – who reached his 90th Birthday on 5th June. Bill is a long-time member of the club who also played bowls for many years. A card designed by Barbara Mellor, a bottle of wine and a cake were given to him to mark the occasion.

Snippets from the Archive (2)

- 1946** An attempt to use lead arsenate as a worm killer was abandoned after objections from the groundsman.
- 1948** The habit of members borrowing money from the Bridge takings in exchange for IOUs was stamped on.
- 1961** A "Juniors Den" was established during the school holiday in an attempt to attract more junior members. Activities included tennis instruction, table tennis, a fancy dress party and classes in Scottish Country dancing.

News from the Bowling Green

by Roy Norton

The Bowls green – The Club survey conducted earlier this year showed the condition of the bowling green to be the top priority for bowlers. Given that the bowlers' ratings of the green could be summarised as 'Good' to 'Poor', it is clear we have much work to do. The committee continue to work closely with Rob and the grounds team to get the best maintenance plan possible. Our thanks go to Norman, David and all the other bowlers who are keeping on top of the weed killing, reseeded and watering in of a wetting agent. Early signs are encouraging and the general view is we are seeing some improvement – let's hope that continues.

Bowls competitions – Competitions are well underway and the draw for each section will be done in 'FA cup' manner. But please don't forget to make a date in your diary for the two tournaments of the summer . They are a lot of fun and are great Bowls section events.

Tommy Handley
16th July

Evans Cup
20th August

Bowls Ladder – it was hoped to start a ladder this year but there are not enough names on the list in the bowls hut to run one at the moment. It has been decided to extend the closing date to 10th July. If you are interested please add your name to the list or talk to David or Norman.

Oh no, it's not winter yet?! – No, it a long way away but we would like you to pencil in the 4th November for our presentation lunch. It will be held either at the Belmont, in Sidmouth (as before) or at the East Devon Golf Club. We didn't get enough to enable this to run last year so please make a note of the date to ensure we can enjoy this special event once again this year. Both regular and occasional bowlers are most welcome.

Summer Social Event

Do you have a good idea for a Summer Social Event at the Club?

Would you like to organise and run it on 15th August?

If so, Tim Liles will be delighted to hear from you.

Contact him on 01395 442784

News from the Croquet Lawns

by Sheena Hemmings

The croquet season is now in full swing. Many events have already been held and there are many more to come. The Season Start Event was well supported as was the One Ball Charity Event. The club raised £100 for the CA's chosen charity, Bowel Cancer (UK). Thanks to all those who participated and we will plan to run this again next year.

We welcome all our new members and are pleased to see so many joining golf roll-ups. The coaching was a great success, judging by their standard of play and by their enthusiasm.

Following feedback from the members' survey we have made some changes to how golf roll-ups are run, and we have introduced one-ball club sessions. We are running one day competitions and have brought back the monthly Friends and Family Friday evenings. We have also introduced two new awards – Club/Player of the Month and the Club Merit Award Scheme.

Several tournaments have run successfully, including the European Golf Championship for

which we received good press coverage. There are more tournaments to come – see below for details. This year we are hosting a Short Lawn Tournament in October. We do hope that people will enter these events and will very much welcome any help you can give to make them run smoothly.

Competitions are now underway and this is a reminder that each competitor or pair must play the first one or two of their matches in each competition by July 12th. See the noticeboard in the pavilion for details. This does not apply to ladder competitions which are open to members to join at any time – just add your name at the bottom. Please also watch for details of forthcoming visits and league matches. Look at the Club calendar, emails, the web-site, and posters around the Club.

Finally, if you would like to become more involved in the croquet section, our section AGM is in October and new committee members will be needed. Enjoy your croquet!

**CA National GC Veterans
Championship**

21st – 24th July

**Budleigh Salterton August
Tournament**

2nd – 8th August

**Spencer E11 CA Sponsored
Event**

10th – 15th September

CA Handicap Weekend

18th – 20th September

Croquet AGM

22nd October

BSCC Short Lawn Tournament

17th – 18th October

Would you like to arrange a game of croquet with another member outside of club session times? If so, please write your details on the form in the pavilion and then wait to be contacted. You can then decide between you who books the lawn and whether you play level or handicap.

Friends and Family Friday Evenings

July 10th and August 14th 5.00 pm – 8.00 pm

Bring your friends and family along to try croquet or bowls

No lawn or green fees

Honesty bar for drinks, tea, and coffee

News from Members

A Day with a Champion

By Rob Weeks

I recently spent a day at an Advanced Golf Croquet course with Stephen Mulliner. Stephen admits that he hasn't been able to win the World Championship yet (although he has made it to the semi-finals twice) but he does know how to swing a mallet – since he has been British Open Champion eight times and European Champion four times.

The course was held at The Croquet Academy at Southwick near Brighton and I promise you, our facilities here at Budleigh are at least as good as theirs. Mind you, they've got the edge on us for traffic jams.

The day started with a relatively straightforward test which everyone can do to improve their game. Put 10 balls on the boundary in front of Hoop number 1 – that's 7 yards away from the hoop. Now try to knock each ball through the hoop. Simple enough? Then Stephen tells us the added wrinkle. After each ball has gone through the hoop – it has to travel the whole length of the lawn and go over the far boundary! I managed to get 4 balls through the hoop but I could only get 2 over the half-way line and none near the far boundary!

Then we had to play an unusual game of golf croquet where you got nothing for running a hoop but a referee gave you points for aggressive play – running hoops from 10 yards, 15 yard roquets, clearances to the far boundary and other stuff like that. I didn't do very well at that either.

How are your jump shots? We had to start near a hoop and gradually go further and further back – each time jumping a ball in the hoop. I managed a couple of jumps but I think I need to spend more time at the practice hoops by the side of Lawn 9. The rest of the day was filled with discussions on advanced tactics which were all fair enough – provided you've got the skills to employ them.

In the end I decided that if this is the sort of stuff that potential World Champions get up to, then I'm going to save the postage on my application!

The Blind Leading the Blind.....

By David Hicks

Martin Luce and I were playing Golf Croquet against Rob Weeks and Niall Litton. We're on Hoop 7 on lawn 3. Niall has Yellow about 4 feet from the hoop at a slight angle. Martin aims a pile driver at Yellow. He misses and ends up somewhere on the bowls lawn. Rob plays Red and clears my Black to the edge of the lawn but only at a slight angle to the hoop leaving his Red in position to run the hoop. Martin is still trying to locate his Blue following the mayhem he has caused on the bowls lawn and I'm thinking "We're in trouble here, I think I'll have a go at the hoop." I fail to run it but place it perfectly in the centre of the hoop. I walk up to inspect my shot and with a smug look on my face say to Niall "What's your jump shot like mate?" "Non existent" comes the reply. "That changes now." says Rob.

Many of you will have heard Rob say that his jump shot is poor although he doesn't usually put it quite like that. So the man with no jump shot is going to get the man who has never played a jump shot to make the Yellow hop over my ball. Talk about the blind leading the blind! I settle down to watch the shenanigans to come. Rob proceeds to instruct Niall to adopt a position that leaves him giving a passable impression of Quasimodo. Fearing early onset arthritis Niall says "What do I do now?". "Just hit it" says Rob.

Niall hits Yellow and it rises into the air and, oh my sainted aunt, it clears my Black perfectly and settles beyond the hoop in direct line between my Black and Hoop 8.

Martin and I lose 7-6. I hate Croquet.

The previous two items are personal contributions by Club Members.

Have you got anything you'd like to share with the rest of the Club? For example, Club related news and anecdotes, forthcoming charity events and other good causes you are involved with, requests for help. We'll try to include one or two in each issue. Send your items to me, Linda Hicks, at bsccloop@hotmail.com or pass them to one of the newsletter contributors.

Snippets from the Archive (3)

1924 The first motor mower was purchased and the horse mower and cart sold. The horse, however, remained on the staff.

1944 Mrs. Tosswill became the first paid Bridge Hostess at 25/- per week.
That's worth almost £40 in today's money! Ed.