

In The Loop



Issue 14 April 2018

Budleigh Salterton Croquet Club
Tel: 01395 442548 www.budleighcroquet.org

A New Season – A New Look!

By Sheena Hemmings



As you know, the middle pavilion has had to be demolished for safety reasons. There was so much woodworm in the floorboards, benches, lockers and roof supports that we were able to salvage very little.

We are now working on designing a new pavilion. It will have glass windows to the north, south and west sides, with an equipment store at the east side. It will be built with tongue and groove boards as this has been recommended by all the companies we consulted as longer lasting than feather boarding. The roof will be ridge hipped with rosemary tiles in keeping with the other buildings.

The Croquet Committee have determined that we have sufficient lockers in the lower pavilion so we will use those instead of putting lockers in the new pavilion.

We initially narrowed down the 12 companies that we contacted to a short list of 3. Then, following further scrutiny using predetermined criteria, a preferred supplier was chosen and negotiations are proceeding.

Thanks to Gill's kind donation we intend to build the pavilion as soon as we can after obtaining planning permission, but taking into account the croquet diary.

The current design is shown above. We will keep everyone informed of progress.

Inside The Loop

Quiz Night!	2
Thanks to Gill and Congratulations to Roger	3
Does History Fascinate You?	3
2018 Open Days	4
Hospiscare Open Gardens	4
Croquet	5
Bridge	6
Open Lawn Tennis	7
Tournament Programmes	



Quiz Night

Saturday 28th April

6.30 for 7.00 pm

£10 including a

Sausage and Mash Supper

(vegetarian option available)

**Teams of 4 - we can team you
up!**

Great prizes to be won!

Tickets available from
Sue Beresford, Sheena Hemmings,
Kay Scales, Lesley Standen & Rob Weeks

Thanks to Gill and Congratulations to Roger

By Alison Maddaford, Chairman

By the time you read this edition of ITL the AGM will have been and gone. We will all have had a chance to look at the computer drawings of the planned new pavilion. I must emphasise that this is a computer generated model. As such, much of the detail of the finishes is lacking and some of the colouring is unreal. We must thank again the generosity of Gill Needham and her husband for funds to substantially cover the cost of this pavilion.

We have a busy programme of croquet events through the coming playing season with many opportunities to watch some very high class players. The brave souls who played through the winter months were sometimes rewarded with beautiful sunshine and fantastic lawns – with only a minor interruptions during some quite unusual weather.

Congratulations to Roger Mills who has been awarded the Croquet Association Coach of the Year 2017. Many of us have had the benefit of Roger's patient coaching. If you haven't, there is a chance to sign up for a course with him. Check out the SWCA website.

Does history fascinate you?

In each issue of In The Loop we have a story taken from our archives – see the article by Sheila Jelley on page 7, which tells how important tennis was to the Club right up until the 1970's.

Do you find these stories about the club's past fascinating? Would you like to play your part in preserving the history of the Club for future generations?

The Club's small, informal archive group (currently 5 members) is looking for someone to take the lead on this important work, which will include:

- *day to day cataloguing and organising of the Club's archive material*
- *ensuring that the appropriate record and documents are stored within the archive*
- *activity relating to the celebration of the Club's 150th anniversary in 2020.*

- ideally an organised person with a keen interest in history.

Please contact Rosemary Bradshaw if you would like to know more.

2018 Open Days – 12th and 14th April

By John O'Gorman

You might remember the item in the previous edition of 'In the Loop' about our Open days – the fact that with 11 +1 lawns, and using established Croquet Association ratios, our club can accommodate an additional 46 croquet members. We also have space for many new Bridge players as well.

You might also recall that **YOU, OUR CURRENT PLAYERS** are our best recruiters. So now is your time to consider **WHO CAN YOU INVITE?** Please do give it some thought. Tell them about our open days and encourage them to attend.

Don't forget that we have special membership rates for those still in full time employment. Our 'Restricted' members can play on any two nominated days of the week, after 4pm all week, and in club competitions. It's a great deal.

To help integrate our new recruits, and provide more options for playing in roll-ups we are going to introduce additional sessions with a 4.15pm for 4.30 start time, and later if there is the demand. This will provide more opportunity for new members to immediately start playing and learning more about the game, and the chance for those who like playing in the warm balmy evenings of summer to enjoy a game! The intention is to start these initially after the Golf Croquet roll-ups on Saturday, Monday and Wednesday, we will also put in place a process for any new members who would like to play Association Croquet.

For these late afternoon and early evening roll-ups wearing whites will not be required.

Hospiscare Open Gardens

23rd/24th June 2018 from 11 – 4pm

Following last year's successful weekend, when we raised £800 for Hospiscare, we are opening the grounds again for the weekend of 23rd/24th June.

Please put these dates in your diary as we will be seeking volunteers to help with showing people round the grounds, selling cakes and tea/coffee to raise money for Hospiscare and offering people the chance to try out croquet and take out temporary membership.

In case you have not looked round the grounds recently, an enormous amount of work has been carried out over the winter period. The south bank has now been cleared and a new woodland walk has been created beside the memorial trees.

This is complementary to the planting and beautification work started last year.

Sheena Hemmings

Croquet

By John O'Gorman

Sunday 1st April – Start of the New Season

This year the first day of the season is a Sunday during the Easter Weekend. People often have family and friends visiting at this time, so we have decided to make it a 'Family and Friends' day. Bring your visitors along and let them share the delights of croquet. There may be eggs for the young at heart, so you would be a 'Fool' to miss out!

There will be a roll-up at 2pm including your choice of AC, Golf, and Short Croquet, and visitors are welcome to join their hosts at this roll-up.

To mark start of the season we will also waive all guests Lawn Fees for the day. So no need for the usual process when bringing guests to play, of completing the little brown envelope, putting in the necessary £2.50 or £5.00 per head, and posting it into the office.

Sunday 29th April Charity Event – Alternate shot one-ball Tournament

This year we are changing the format of the Charity match from One-Ball to the doubles version of the game so more members can play, and those not familiar with the rules can be paired with a partner who is. You will be able to enter this fun event during early April and the £5 per head entry fee will all be donated to the nominated charity which this year is 'The Downs Syndrome Association'. Their house colour is green; so on this 'non-white' Sunday you have the option to wear something green!

European Golf Croquet Championship

We are very pleased to confirm that this important event will again be held at Budleigh, from Thursday 24th May until Sunday 27th May. It is wonderful opportunity to watch some of the best players in Europe battle it out on our wonderful lawns, and whatever your current handicap there will be ample opportunity to pick up ideas and inspiration.

Bridge

By Sue Beresford

The first 3 months of 2018 have been a success and of note was the Devon Air Ambulance charity event we held on 15th March where we had 46 playing and raised a very impressive £302.50. This is £29.50 up on the record success of last year!

The Keith Ponsford Seminars which ran in February and March proved as ever very popular with around 24 attendees at each seminar. The Saturday bridge teas and teams evenings have also been very well attended and enjoyed.

Future events for your diary are:

BRIDGE CLUB AGM	Tuesday 10th April 2018 Starts at 6.30pm in the Main Bridge Room prior to the regular Bridge session
TEAMS EVENING	Thursday 19th April 2018 6.45pm for 7pm
INTRODUCTION TO DUPLICATE BRIDGE	Three 2-hour taster sessions Thursday 19 th April, 26 th April and 3 rd May 2018 at 1.45pm for 2pm.

The **INTRODUCTION TO DUPLICATE BRIDGE** sessions are **open to all** and are designed for bridge players who perhaps play social bridge at home or have recently learnt to play the game. This is an opportunity to learn how to use BridgeMates (electronic scoring), bidding boxes and boards by playing duplicate bridge in a friendly environment.

They will take place in the Bridge Rooms and you can come with a partner or without. No problem – just turn up to one or more of the sessions.

£3 per session for non-members of the Croquet Club. £1–50p per session for Social or Croquet members and 50p for Croquet plus Bridge members.

There will be a tea break during the session and lots of help and advice on hand.

COME ALONG AND ENJOY!

For further information, please email bridgechair@budleighcroquet.org or telephone the club on 01395 442548 and leave a message on the answer machine and we will get back to you.

More future events are in the planning stage. If you have any ideas for events, please do let any member of the Bridge Committee know.

Open Lawn Tennis Tournament Programmes

By Sheila Jelley

This is one of our precious Archive treasures.

The first Open Lawn Tennis Tournament was Men's Singles in 1908 with Ladies' Singles being added in 1919. What we have is a large hard-backed volume containing original programmes from the Budleigh Salterton Open Lawn Tennis Tournament held annually in late August and starting in 1926. They are dated on the Saturday with all the earlier round results printed by 'Journal' printers in Exmouth and the winners' names entered in ink/pencil on the day. They contain local business adverts such as Marks Caterers and local hotels.

Slazenger's equipment was used and one of their best racquets was a First Prize. The last programme is that for 1973 when there were 160 entrants for the Men's Level Singles, 100 entrants for the Ladies' Level Singles plus the doubles matches, ladies', gentleman's & mixed. Then there were the Handicap Men's, Ladies', Girls' & Boys' plus the under 21's and the under 18's. What an occasion that would have been.

On glancing through I found one dated 2nd September 1939 and saw that the result was marked 'Divided'. I first thought that as War was declared on 3rd September perhaps they had decided to stop the tournament. But no – in the local paper report there was torrential rain on the Saturday afternoon, so the prizes were divided. You will notice the two names entered on the Honours Board in the entrance hall to the Clubhouse. The next programme is dated 1946.

Ethel Thomson Larcombe, the renowned tennis and badminton player, was a stalwart of the Club. She and her mother Sophia Thomson arrived in Budleigh Salterton around 1884 and Mrs Thomson was listed as the handicapper for the tennis tournaments from that date.

Ethel Thomson first appeared in the Tennis World Rankings in 1903 at No. 4. She then appeared in 1904 at No. 8, 1905 at No. 6, & 1906 at No. 8. She married Dudley Thomas R Larcombe in St Peter's Church Budleigh Salterton in 1906. She next appeared in the Tennis World Rankings in 1910 as Ethel Thomson Larcombe at No. 4, 1911 at No. 5, 1912 at No. 2 (the year she won the Wimbledon Ladies' Singles), 1913 at No. 1 (Budleigh's Serena Williams), 1914 at No. 2. War then interrupted all tournaments and in 1919 she was ranked at No. 5 with Suzanne Lenglen becoming No. 1. Her close friend, the Californian Elizabeth Ryan, was to play and win at Budleigh for many years as well as other top players of the era. Her husband Dudley Thomas Larcombe was Secretary-Manager at the All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club. He was also very involved in life at the Club acting as referee, umpire, handicapper etc. for the Tennis Section. In 1932 Ethel Larcombe was engaged by the Lawn Tennis Association to coach promising young girl players – the first woman coach to be nominated by this official body.

Just a taste of what lies in that cupboard in the South Room!