

In The Loop



Issue 16 October 2018

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

Our New Pavilion – It's taking Shape!

By Sheena Hemmings



Inside The Loop	Page
Raleighing around the Club	2
Winter Membership	3
Helping Hands	3
Christmas Drinks	4
Bridge	4
Croquet Matters	5
Budleigh Open Short Croquet Tournament	8
Winter Croquet	9
Golf Croquet Coaching	10
GC Winter Pop-up Tournaments	11
100 Years Ago	11

The base and the roof of the new pavilion have been completed. A time-capsule with various club documents and a plaque was buried in the centre of the base together with a piece of timber and a tile from the old pavilion.

The timber and brick construction is now being built and has been admired by many members. The East Devon Building Control Officer has been inspecting it, as it progresses and is happy with the standard of work.

One of our sub-contractors has advised us that the production and delivery of the concrete sills will be delayed by a month. We have adapted the plan by continuing work on other aspects to minimise the impact of this delay. The pavilion should be completed by November.

Once the building work is complete, the ground area round the pavilion will be finished. This will include a brick edged bed with a tree in it to provide some shade. There will be space for tables and chairs to be placed there in the summer months.

This will certainly be an attractive asset, which will last many years, as we look forward to the 150 year anniversary of the club in 2020.

Raleighing Around The Club

By Steve Andrews

Croquet players never complain – well, not often anyway.

On Friday, August 25th, we had promised a slick performance of “From Exe to Axe” in the balmy surroundings of the evening sunshine. Plenty of space for 100 seats and assorted picnics.

Thanks to the weather, what we got was 100 people crammed into the clubhouse, some with restricted vision, limited access to the bar and a totally inadequate acting area. Many people had made special arrangements to sit with their friends on numbered seats and all those had to be sacrificed.

The sword fight which was due to take place with authentic rapiers was replaced with rather pathetic plastic daggers (Aladdin's Cave in Exmouth £1.99). How the Earl of Essex managed to simulate artery-severing wounds I do not know.

Because parties had to be split up, the picnics were exercises in “tossing the radish” and “heaving the vol-au-vent.”

And not one word of complaint from any of you. For that I am deeply grateful and full of admiration for your tolerance and goodwill.

In Raleigh's day, a show like that in the Globe would have been greeted with derision and death sentences. Many, many thanks to you all for your forbearance.



Rehearsals – in better weather!

Editors's note – The Exe to Axe performance raised £600 for club funds plus some not inconsiderable bar takings. Our thanks to Steve, the cast and all those involved in the production.

WINTER MEMBERSHIP

We now have Croquet Winter Membership available.

If you know anyone who plays cricket or bowls or would simply like exercise and good company during the winter months, please tell them and bring them along.

They will receive sufficient tuition to understand and enjoy a game of croquet.

Alternatively speak to John O'Gorman, Rosemary Birch or Sheena Hemmings, who can arrange for them to come along and join in.

Helping Hands

By Steve Andrews

Thank you all for the very healthy and helpful response to my e-mail asking about volunteers – or the lack of them.

I received about 30 replies and I have now distilled all the main points raised and passed them to the General Committee for their consideration.

There were various marked similarities but many of you came up with startlingly innovative and original ideas.

What was most striking though, was the uniformly positive and forward-looking terms in which they were couched. There was total unanimity that ours is a club which inspires great loyalty and affection and the genuine desire to help was a recurring theme.

Various people asked for personal conversations with committee chairs and I have asked the General Committee to examine if these can be arranged as a matter of some urgency.

I was a bit nervous about this exercise and was steeled for some negativity verging on abuse. Not a bit of it. Helpful and hard-working people very anxious to help. There is a deep well of goodwill for the club. It just needs the right bucket.



CHRISTMAS DRINKS

Sunday 16th December 12 noon – 2.00 pm
Please join us for drinks and nibbles on this festive occasion.

Bring a plate of finger food for all to share.

Bridge

By Lesley Standen

I hope you will all enjoy your Autumn/Winter bridge.

We extend an invitation to all bridge playing croquet members to think about joining us. You would be very welcome.

We have planned the following events for the coming season. If you have any further suggestions please do let me know. Sign-up sheets with more details will be put on the noticeboard nearer to each event.

SATURDAY BRIDGE TEAS

Saturday November 10th 2018
Saturday January 5th 2019
Saturday February 2nd 2019
Saturday March 2nd 2019

CHRISTMAS BRIDGE PARTY

Tuesday 11th December

WELL DONE!

Our congratulations go to Tessa Slow and Stuart Tibbitts who achieved 73.21% on 5th June 2018!

Croquet Matters

By John O'Gorman

South West Federation League Fixtures

We entered a total of eight teams this season, playing in various South West Federation leagues. Four teams playing AC and Four GC.

AC Results were:

Competition	Team Captain(s)	Results
Parkstone Trophy – Division 2	Peter Moore	Won 1 Lost 5
Intermediate League	Alan Rush & Maureen Smith	Won 1 Lost 4
B League South	Maureen Smith	Won 1 Lost 3
Federation League South	Robert Tait	Won 4 Lost 2

GC Results were:

Competition	Team Captain(s)	Results
Level Play South	Alan Rush and Clive Sawers	Won 3 Drew 2 Lost 2
Handicap South East	Tom Pyne	Won 4 Lost 2
Handicap South West	Bridget Andrews	Won 6, Lost 1
		The team won the Handicap South West League. WELL DONE! They played in a quarter final and won against Dowlish Wake, then played in a semi-final and lost to Swanage.
High Handicap South	David White	Won 4 Lost 0
		The team won the High Handicap South League. WELL DONE! They then played in a semi –final but lost to Dowlish Wake.

Club Competitions

Once all our Club tournaments and internal competitions are completed, the results will be displayed in both the clubhouse and, when finished, the middle pavilion. We will also include them in the results section of our web-site.

Croquet Matters Continued

Tournaments – This year and next

I think we would all agree, including the Croquet Committee, that this year the number of Tournaments we have hosted, and the lawns they have occupied, has been exceptional. The higher number resulted from a combination of factors. Some events come to Budleigh on a cyclical basis. In addition, we grabbed the opportunity to host the European Championship and we bailed out Nailsea, whose lawns were under water, by accepting tournaments they could not accommodate.

We recognise that this created a level of stress, for our volunteers, and frustration, especially on roll-up days, for members looking forward to a game. Thank you for your forbearance. We are NOT planning for this to happen next season.

At the recent Open Forum several people asked for some facts about Tournaments, here goes: All these figures include the Short Lawn events planned for October

This season we will have hosted 15 Tournaments held over a total of 53 days. There are 214 days in the season so there was a tournament happening on 25% of them.

We have 11 lawns and 214 days in the Summer Season, this results in a total availability of 2354 lawn days. The 15 events occupied 419 lawn days which represents 18% of the total.

The anticipated income to the club from these events, excluding any profit from the Bar, is £11,327.

You may not be aware that in 2016/2017 a small team carried out very thorough study of our lawn usage and in January 2017 their 'Lawn Availability Review' was published. If you would like to read it in full you can find it under 'Committee Reports' on our web site. Their recommendation relating to Tournaments was as follows:

We should:

- a) avoid programming tournaments too close together as occurred in May and June 2016;*
- b) aim for a maximum of say 20% tournament use of available lawn days in any one month (with the exception of the August tournament) where possible;*
- c) monitor the use of lawns booked for tournaments and release them for use by members when possible;*
- d) ensure that the number of tournaments (and other events) remains in step with our ability to service them.*

The Croquet Committee accepted these guidelines, but felt that 25% would be an acceptable figure for *b*, and that a three month rolling average should be used. Clearly this year we have failed on *a*, and *b*. We have tried hard with *c*, by managing on a daily basis to notify members of any lawns that could be freed up, by e-mail, and on Flash news' on the web site. We also used the blackboard outside the lower pavilion. We accept that, as yet, we do not have an adequate solution for those members not connected to the web. On *d*, we coped, just, thanks to our volunteers whose continued help throughout the year was both essential and very much appreciated.

We will continue to plan with the Lawn Availability Review very much in mind.

Croquet Matters Continued

For the 2019 season Peter Moore, assisted by Philip Shaw and Alan Rush will be managing Tournaments, working closely with the Croquet Committee. The plan is for fewer tournaments using, in the main, fewer lawns, designed to entice more of our own members to take part. These will create less stress for all involved and leave more lawns for club play, but will result in our income being much lower. This shortfall will need to be made up somehow.

Creating the right balance will never be easy, and there will always be some element of tension. We should also recognise that for many the added frisson of tournament play adds greatly to their pleasure of life. I must say that having entered my first CA Tournament this year I can see why. There is an added element of competition that, unlike League play, is very personal. It is still very friendly but with a bit of an edge – you against the rest. It did help that I just about managed to win, beating our very own Ray Virr in the C level GC event. Watching Tournament play is also a great way to learn – playing the game from a seat, shaded a little from the sun, pint in hand, knowledgeable commentator sitting beside you, and no pressure to perform. Perfect!

What does the Croquet Committee do?

We have a number of people stepping down from the committee at the forthcoming AGM on the 4th November. Tim Liles, Ian Stratford, and Adam Wimshurst, all of whom have contributed much during their tenure, will be leaving. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their time, energy and commitment. I will also be standing down, so there will be at least four vacancies.

Ray Virr, who is remaining on the committee with Margaret Brett, has decided that after two years as our Internal Competitions Secretary he will stand down from this role next year. So here is **an opportunity for someone to become our new Competitions secretary** and help influence and drive how our competitions evolve next year. If you would like to find out more this role please talk to Ray, or any member of the committee.

So what exactly does the committee do, and why is it so vital to all croquet players that it is set up to succeed, and why should you consider joining the team?

The Committee:

- Sets the overall strategy for Croquet in the club, and puts plans in place to deliver it.
- Establishes the Croquet Section annual budget, monitors and manages it.
- Sets the framework and has oversight for Tournaments, working closely with the Tournament Secretary and his team who make it happen
- In conjunction with the Internal Competition Secretary agrees the format of our competitions
- Liaises with our League Team Captains to agree which teams the club will enter, confirms these with the SWF, and sets up a process to agree the dates for all matches before the start of the season.
- Constructs the Calendar for the year which has input from many sources.

Croquet Matters Continued

- Manages, and initiates, the many visits we receive each year from clubs, societies etc.
- Sets the Roll-up schedules
- Delivers the Booking sheets
- Ensures there is a handicapping process in place for AC and GC
- Ensures that Coaching is available, and all levels, so members have the opportunity to reach their own goals.
- Liaises with the South West Croquet Federation.
- Negotiates with the CA on the need to increase lawn fees for CA Tournaments
- Ensures that full support is given to the recruitment efforts made by the club.

As you can see, this team has a great influence on all matters affecting the game, other than the ground and grass you play on.

Nomination papers have been issued and are due to be completed and returned by the 15th October. Please give this some thought. The ideal committee needs a mix of experience and fresh ideas, knowledge of all codes of the game, knowledge of Tournaments, and a keen interest in what it is that makes our members happy. The ability to remain enthusiastic, resilient, creative, and hardworking throughout the year also helps.

***Budleigh Open Short Croquet Tournament
9th and 10th October 2018***

***All AC handicaps are welcome
SC handicaps will be assigned to
players who do not already have one
9 + timed games guaranteed***

CA membership not essential

***Entry fee: £25 including welcome tea and biscuits
Bring your own lunch***

**Apply to Manager, Peter Moore, pay in advance or on arrival (cheque or cash)
Email: moorep@tiscali.co.uk Phone: 01395 268657**

Winter Croquet

By Linda Hicks

The winter season, which runs from 1st November till 31st March, is almost upon us. The Estates Committee will try to keep as many lawns open as possible while they carry our necessary maintenance and repairs.

Play will only be possible if weather permits. Frost or heavy rain may well make the lawns unplayable or liable to damage. There will be a message on the Club answerphone to tell you whether the lawns are open. Please call 01395 442548 to check before you leave home.

We want you to enjoy playing during the winter, but please remember that the grass is much more fragile and less able to recover from damage than in summer. For Golf Croquet, please start games at least a yard away from the usual corner quadrant to avoid wear in this area. No 'grass-risky' strokes, such as jump shots and stun shots which ground the mallet, will be allowed. Please carry a divot repair tool with you and use it to deal with any damage as best you can. Throughout the winter there are likely to be worm casts on the lawns. If these are trodden in, they are not good for the condition of the lawns. When you arrive to play, if your lawn has a lot of worm casts, please use one of the swishers to clear the worst of them.

Weather permitting, roll-ups and the initial start times will be as follows:

Association Roll-ups	Wednesday	09.45 – 13.00
	Friday	13.45 – 17.00
Golf Roll-ups	Wednesday	13.45 – 16.00
	Saturday	13.45 – 16.00
Sunday Roll-up		13.45 – 16.00

Please note that we will monitor the light conditions as winter progresses. When necessary we will bring forward start times so that play can be completed before dusk sets in. Please look out for information about start times on the noticeboards or via email.

Sunday roll-ups are open sessions for everyone. Players decide what type of croquet they would like to play on the day.

As in summer, play starts promptly on the hour for roll-ups. Players meet at the middle pavilion 15 minutes before the start of play. It is important to be on time so that the game pairings can be arranged. If you are late you may not get a game. Whites are not necessary for any play during the winter season.

There will be simplified booking sheets and, especially outside of the roll-ups, there should be plenty of lawns available for matches, friendly play and practice.

As in previous years, we will be allowing people to take out winter membership. These are usually people from other local clubs such as Sidmouth and Exeter but anyone is welcome. See page 3.

Enjoy your Winter Croquet!

Golf Croquet Coaching

By David White

As one of the club coaches for Golf Croquet I shall be offering a series of coaching sessions for new and inexperienced members. These will start in November and carry on into the new year.

The object of this coaching will be to encourage these players to take part in competitions next year. I am also the non-playing captain of the Budleigh team which takes part in the regional South West Federation High Handicap League (SWF HH league). This is for players with handicaps eight and above, so one of the objectives will be to get sufficient people to a standard to enable me to select players to become members of the team. This is a relatively new competition which we have won and consistently performed well in. We need to keep training new people because each year players improve and their handicaps go down below the range of eligibility for the High Handicap competition! Of course this also means that these players are able to take part in club and other tournaments and competitions with confidence.

The course will comprise several sessions and include short lectures on technique, tactics, rules, and how the competition system works both for the SWF HH league and club competitions generally. Each lecture will be followed by a practical session out on the lawns.

Competition croquet requires that every competitor has a handicap card to enter the results of competitive games. You will need to have a card issued by the handicap committee. Therefore, before you join the course, if you have not been issued with one please contact Bridget Andrews (01395 442961) or Tom Pyne (01395 442524) who will be pleased to arrange to assess you and give you a handicap.

One of the things you will learn on the course is how to complete these cards and I shall arrange for students to have a "dummy" card to practice on. The easiest way to get one is to ask the Handicap Committee member who assesses you to give you a second card with your details filled in. Print DUMMY on the front to prevent confusion!

I hope that these sessions can be fairly regular and if possible on the same day of the week. I do not anticipate them being held weekly but probably two or three times a month. If you decide you would like to join, please be prepared to attend as many sessions as possible as missing one might make it difficult to catch up, although I shall endeavour to issue notes for your guidance.

Register your interest, giving your telephone number and handicap if you have it, either by email to wintercoaching@oldrectorysm.co.uk or by signing up on the sheet which will be adjacent to a copy of this article on the notice boards.

GC Winter Pop-up Tournaments

By Linda Hicks

This winter we plan to run 3 or 4 one-day GC tournaments when the weather permits. These will be fun events played under winter rules – see page 9. Results will not go onto your handicap card. You'll bring your own lunch and the bar will be open for the purchase of drinks. There might even be a small prize.

If you think you might be interested in taking part in these pop-up tournaments, add your name to the list which will be placed in the lower pavilion. Signing up will not commit you to playing.

When the forecast is for good weather in two or three days time, I will email or phone (for those without email) to let you know that a tournament is planned, whether it is handicap or level play, the likely format and the maximum number of entrants. If you would like to play, you should respond quickly – it will be first come, first served!

Contact me if you have any queries.

100 Years Ago

By Sheila Jelley

As we approach 100 years since the end of the 1st World War it is worth noting that three of our Club members, listed in the Members Record book for that period, were to lose their lives while serving in the conflict.

Lieutenant Eric Mursell HARTREE died 8th August 1918 aged 25 while serving with the Army Service Corps in France. Born in 1894 he married in the early part of 1918. Eric is remembered with honour on the Budleigh Salterton War Memorial as well as on the brass plaque in St Peter's Church. There is also a separate plaque donated by his family on the wall of St Peter's Church.

The family moved to Budleigh Salterton in 1913 and lived at Green Gables, The Lawn. His father John Hartree was an Architect by profession, a Council Leader & JP as well as being Chairman, Hon. Secretary, Lawn Tennis Tournament Secretary of this Club and was elected Vice President in 1918. The whole family were members of the Club and would have walked from The Lawn through the gate which can still be seen by to-day's allotments!

Nurse Phyllis May MALTBY died of pneumonia 6th December 1918 aged 27. Phyllis served with the Voluntary Aid Detachment (V.A.D.) at Green Bushes in Budleigh Salterton, Torquay, Plymouth, Malta and Birmingham. She died on duty at the 1st London General Hospital in Camberwell. Phyllis is remembered with honour on the Budleigh Salterton War Memorial as well as the brass plaque in St Peter's Church.

Phyllis was born in India a couple of years before Joyce Dennys and their families knew each other well. Eileen Maltby, her sister, was at The Princess Helena College in Ealing with Joyce Dennys in 1911 and they are listed as helping with refreshments at a concert in Budleigh Salterton to raise money for the school fund earlier that year. Her mother and brother were also members of the Club.

Lieutenant Miles WALKER died of influenza on 3rd December 1918 aged 27 in London. He is remembered in St Peter's Burial Ground, Moor Lane, Budleigh Salterton on the gravestone of his parents.

Miles attended preparatory school in Budleigh and was an Oxford Graduate but delayed his degree until after the war. He served in the Royal Army Service Corps (RASC) in Egypt and Gallipoli and was invalided out in 1917 on account of ill health contracted on active service. He had married in 1916 and his widow died in 1970. Miles was the son of Dr Robert Walker a well-known Budleigh resident of whom I have written before but who had died in 1916. His mother lived in West Terrace for many years. He re-joined as a member of the Club in July 1918, no doubt contemplating a happier time again playing tennis and croquet as peace approached.

The groundsman, **Albert Lawrence**, enlisted in 1/7th Bn. Devonshire Regiment and returned after the war ended. Mr Coard Fulton of the Dial House allowed his 'under gardener' to help with the maintenance of the grounds during this period.

The Club remained open between 1914 and 1918 but no competitions were held. There was a Member's Vote in 1915 which then allowed Officers to play tennis at the Club on a Sunday afternoon, without charge

There were, of course, many others who were involved in the conflict both at home and abroad and came home to once again enjoy the Club's facilities.

And to illustrate how prices have changed in the last 100 years, in 1915 the Club purchased the following:

A Ransome Mower for £6 7s 6d

49 dozen tennis balls for £16

10,000 turfs from Potbury's for £40