

# In The Loop



Issue 17 January 2019

*Budleigh Salterton Croquet Club*  
Tel: 01395 442548 [www.budleighcroquet.org](http://www.budleighcroquet.org)

## Pavilion Update

By Ian Stratford, for the Property Management Group



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Bolton Builders, the builders of the structure of the new middle pavilion, have at last completed approximately 95% of their work and we expect them back shortly to complete the remainder. We hope to start fitting out the inside early in the New Year with notice boards and ball and mallet racks.

The stormy weather has given us a challenge as wind-blown rain was pooling inside the pavilion and working its way into the ball store under the partition wall. However, now that the glass is installed in the windows and the doors are in place the building is drying out satisfactorily.

We will shortly build two steps up to the ball store so we can start to use the pavilion as soon as possible. Asphaltting the area around the pavilion will include a gentle ramp up to the pavilion main opening and will take place in the spring. It is intended to plant a suitable tree in the spring on the eastern side to provide dappled shade for an outside seating area.

We are delighted that so many members have been complimentary on how well the building suits the site and how attractive and practical it is. We are sure that it will prove to be a significant asset to the club for the next 30 to 50 years with low maintenance costs.

I am sure all members would like to thank Gill Needham for her generous donation which has made this all possible.

**The Club AGM will be on Wednesday 27th March at 5.15pm.**



Inside the new pavilion

## Our New Club Secretary

By Alison Maddaford, Chairman

Following our second message to members in our search for a Club Secretary we were approached by Ervine Kewley, who offered to take on the tasks of administration and the estate contracts.

Ervine retired in 2011 from a working life as a chartered surveyor based in London dealing with commercial property and a national infrastructure project. He is now permanently settled in East Budleigh.

A keen rugby supporter, Ervine has also in the past helped set up and run a charity specifically to provide a cricket club, a football club and recreational facilities in his village when he lived in Surrey. Ervine has now caught the Croquet bug, playing regularly in roll ups and he is looking forward to learning more and honing his skills on the lawns.

Ervine will be working alongside James for 3 months for a smooth handover and we welcome him to the large and varied team of volunteers that keep the club functioning so well.



**Ervine Kewley**

**A Happy New Year to all our members.**

# Bridge

By Lesley Standen

A Happy New Year to you all.

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

We have planned the events below for the coming months. 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.

## BRIDGE CHRISTMAS PARTY

56 people attended the Bridge Christmas Party. It would have been 60 but illness claimed 4 people. The prizes for top scores were North/South Jackie and Peter Hardcastle and East/West Janet Jones and Michael Peters. As usual the food provided was delicious and in plentiful supply. Thank you to everyone who helped both on the evening and beforehand.

### SATURDAY BRIDGE TEAS

Saturday January 5<sup>th</sup> 2019  
Saturday February 2<sup>nd</sup> 2019  
Saturday March 9<sup>th</sup> 2019

Please note the change of date in March

### KEITH PONSFORD SEMINARS

We are running these seminars from 6<sup>th</sup> February to 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019 If you are interested please see the website for more details. There is a sign up sheet on the bridge noticeboard. You must sign up by the end of the first week in January or we will be approaching non-club members to fill any remaining places. This will be the last year that Keith will be running these seminars.

### DEVON AIR AMBULANCE CHARITY BRIDGE

This is advance notice for the simultaneous pairs event in aid of the Devon Air Ambulance. We hope to be holding this event on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February. Watch the website and noticeboard for information nearer the time.

# Croquet Tournaments 2019

By Peter Moore

The following tables show the external and charity tournaments that are planned for 2019

There other internal club tournaments as well - we'll tell you about those as the 2019 programme develops.

## GOLF CROQUET

June 15 <sup>th</sup> /16 <sup>th</sup>	<i>New for 2019</i> – <b>GC Class Weekend</b> . Ideal as your first National Croquet Associaton tournament – level play against visitors and club members arranged in classes of a similar standard
August 11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>FREE</b> bonus GC day. At the end of the club's August AC tournament, reclaim your lawns and take on the visitors at GC!
August 24 <sup>th</sup>	<b>B Level</b> local championship and qualifier for the National Final. Level play, results go into the international rankings. Make your mark on the world stage!
August 25 <sup>th</sup>	<b>C Level</b> local championship and qualifier for the National Final. Level play.

Also see the One-Ball events – You can play that game as well as an AC specialist can!

## SHORT CROQUET

October 8 <sup>th</sup> /9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Individual Tournament</b> . We run the country's largest individual tournament for this code. Quicker games, perfect for the cooler Autumn days.
October 11 <sup>th</sup> to October 13 <sup>th</sup>	The South West Croquet Federation's <b>Autumn Tournament for Teams</b> . Later in the season you can express your interest in selection for one of the Budleigh teams to Judith Moore.

Also see the One-Ball events – You can play that game as well as a GC or AC specialist can!

## ONE-BALL

April 6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Charity Doubles for the Alzheimer's Society</b> . This is our spectacular start-of-season event and we would like to see every club member playing. Just turn up and donate (£5 minimum suggested – we can't charge an entry fee because of Gift Aid regulations). 100% goes to the charity. We'll sort you a partner to even up the standards and you can play as many or as few games as you wish. Wear blue, have fun, help a cause that affects many of us!
May 12 <sup>th</sup>	Details to be confirmed, but we hope to launch a <b>new and exciting</b> one-ball competition

## ASSOCIATION CROQUET

April 7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>High Bisquers' Tournament</b> – for those with a year's experience or more, a chance to compete against players from Budleigh and other local clubs. Perfect first tournament.
April 13 <sup>th</sup> /14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>B Level Championship</b>
April 29 <sup>th</sup> to May 4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>May Week.</b> One of our biggest club tournaments with AC available for experienced players at all standards.
June 1 <sup>st</sup> /2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>AC Class Weekend.</b> Advanced/ Level play within classes of similar players.
June 24 <sup>th</sup> to June 29 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Croquet Association Veterans' Championship.</b> The national championship for players over 60 years of age (with a special and delightfully friendly division for the over 75s). Travels around the country, this year it's in Budleigh.
July 8 <sup>th</sup> to July 13 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Croquet Association Seniors' Championship.</b> The national championship for players over 50 years of age. Travels around the country like the Veterans', this year it's also in Budleigh – a wonderful chance for local players to compete in Championship events on the cheap!
July 28 <sup>th</sup>	<i>New for 2019</i> – <b>14 point Advanced.</b> Now the AC variant of choice for many experts, fast moving and offering fascinating strategic choices – use your advanced rules wiles in a 6 hoop turn. We look forward to introducing this format to many of you!
August 7 <sup>th</sup> to August 10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>August Tournament.</b> This year streamlined to 4 days of class singles and handicap doubles – with the gala GC Sunday to follow
September 21 <sup>st</sup> /22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>AC Class Weekend.</b> Advanced/ Level play within classes of similar players.

Also see the **One-Ball events** – You can play that game as well as a GC specialist can!

### How to enter:

For now, just block off these dates in your diary. Nearly all the events listed above are official Croquet Association (CA) fixtures. The CA website will go live to let you book them online in February, at the same time that the Fixtures Book is posted out. Tournaments do fill up so it's worthwhile entering reasonably promptly. If you have any problem with booking online please speak to a member of the Croquet Committee.

Online booking is not available for the Alzheimer's Charity One-Ball on August 6<sup>th</sup>, Hibiscus on August 7<sup>th</sup>, GC bonus day on August 11<sup>th</sup> or the Short Croquet Individual Tournament on October 8<sup>th</sup>/ 9<sup>th</sup>. Entry details for those will be publicised nearer the time.

# Budleigh Salterton Tennis – Going Back in Time

**By Sue Mappin – Former Great Britain Tennis Player**

I was recently staying in Lyme Regis and after an early breakfast (delicious) at the River Café Deli in Axminster, thoughts turned to days gone by and to the wonderful grass court tournaments which were held on the south Devon coast in the 1960's and 70's. As I had seen a sign for Budleigh Salterton on the way, I thought let's do a nostalgic trip down memory lane and see if the old tennis club still exists.

My satnav, essential these days, took me to beautiful Budleigh in no time at all and wandering through the streets, I just knew we had to find the tennis club. After a few enquiries we found the club, but alas it did not bring back any memories of the club I remembered. There were four men of a certain age playing on the only two courts there, and I was so disappointed not to be seeing the old clubhouse and courts I could remember that I had to enquire what had happened to the old club. I described a long line of grass courts and a large clubhouse and, lo and behold, they informed me that across the road was an old clubhouse and croquet courts, which were once used as tennis courts.

Off we went to investigate and sure enough as we parked by the clubhouse I knew this was it. No tennis but lots of croquet being played, and it turned out it was a match against an Irish team. We met a very charming gentleman, called Roger Mills, a member of the croquet section.

A quick recce round the clubhouse and we found the role of honour for the tennis tournaments played during the 60's and 70's. In fact the tournament went back to 1908! There were many names I recognised, including Mark Cox and Richard Lewis

I remember whilst playing at Budleigh that a girl called Marilyn Greenwood had the shock of her life when her real mother, who she had never known, turned up and introduced herself to Marilyn just as she had finished her match. Quite a shock!

I could go on about the lovely grass courts, the parties and the cream teas, but I wondered if either Mark or Richard had any lasting memories of this wonderful tournament. Mark had won the men's singles in 1963 and 64, although he can't remember doing so! Richard, now CEO at the AELTC, did remember winning against Buster Mottram, in 1972.

I'm pleased to say they both do recall their time in Budleigh and here are their memories.

## **Mark**

*I seem to vaguely remember playing Drobny but whether I won or lost I can't recall. The only things I can recall vividly were the cream teas which were exceptional (Devon cream) and in those days meal tickets were a big inducement to play an event. People were incredibly friendly. Also the grass courts were some of the best in the country. An intimate Centre Court. A beautiful town and an excellent pub I believe called The Feathers.*

*I always had happy times at Budleigh – I just wish I had a better memory."*

**Richard**

*I have great memories of Budleigh Salterton. It was always known as the most social tournament in the calendar and whenever I played it, it did not disappoint. There were numerous events so everyone was playing lots of tennis but in between there was a great deal of socialising. I remember there being parties and dances etc. every evening.*

*I played one of my best ever matches there, beating Buster Mottram in the final something like 6-1 6-2. It followed a week of drinking and late nights. In fact it followed several weeks of drinking and late nights as Budleigh was the end of a wonderful summer season, with Exmouth the week before. The courts were very good, either converted bowls or croquet lawns – or both?*

*When I was a child my parents took me every year to see my grandmother in Exmouth. At the bottom of the garden was the railway line to Budleigh and I and my brothers used run to the bottom of the garden to see the steam trains go under the bridge. I sat for many an hour listening to my parents and grandmother lamenting the plans of Dr. Beeching, which included axing the branch line to Budleigh.*

*I have a few other memories but they cannot be put into print!"*

So my trip back in time to Budleigh was well worth it and it has brought back happy memories for at least three of the old timers! Thank you Budleigh Salterton Tennis Club.

## Addendum from Sheila Jelley

Our Archives show that in August 1962 Mark Cox did play Jaroslav Drobny in the final but did not win. He did however win in 1963 & 1964. He also played in Men's Doubles and Mixed Doubles. Unfortunately, the Tennis Programme for 1962 is missing from our archives so if anyone can access one we would be grateful for a copy. Newspaper cuttings of the event can be seen in the Memories File which is available to browse in our lounge area.

On a recent visit to the Wimbledon Library SW19 we were able to obtain copies of programmes for Budleigh Salterton Open Lawn Tennis Tournaments in 1908, 1922 & 1923 as well as a tennis tournament held here in 1891 to add to our collection.

Sue Mappin played here in 1963 and 1965 in Singles & Doubles.

Copies of their respective programmes from our archives have been sent to Sue and Mark which were very gratefully received.

## CLUB AGM 2019

The AGM will be on 27<sup>th</sup> March at 5.15 pm. There will be a proposal from the General Committee relating to amendments to the Rules of the Club and the Articles of the Company.