



Reigate Priory C C - Newsletter Autumn 2012

Interim Chairman's Comments – *Laurence Hughes*

Just a couple of things – first some of you will be aware that we have been offered re-use of the “Babarona” lawn, others will be wondering what I am talking about. The club used to have access to this full-sized lawn behind Ian and Jenny Archer’s bungalow on Coppice Lane at the foot of Reigate Hill. See picture below:-

Use of the lawn allowed us to host league matches and the SECF has confirmed that we do so again, provide to we make clear that our lawns were separated by some distance involving travel within a match. However, there are several problems to be overcome – Ian, now well into his eighties, is fit and active and happy to mow the lawn but all set-up for matches and take-down would be up to us along with the cost of treatments.

In addition, there is only a small shed and toilet facilities were provided by the squash club, over the road. We are in contact on this. The committee is going to make a decision on the feasibility and value of our management of the lawn but I thought the membership should be made aware – we may need volunteers!



Another issue is parking, particularly on Saturday mornings. This will be raised at the AGM but I thought it would be best if people were versed with the facts prior to the meeting. As Geoff has kindly made clear on the back of your sign, we are only allowed, under our lease, to park if we are there on club business – not to go shopping! Moreover, we are limited to the small area adjacent to the football club building plus other areas as allowed by the cricket club. As you will know the cricket club lets out parking to local shopkeepers etc. only on weekdays. How much abuse there is by intruders is difficult to say as “badges” consist of loose scruffy bits of paper. Frankly, there is no enforcement during the week but they are trying to clamp down at weekends.

Generally, we have little problem in summer with overflow onto the grass beyond the cricket pavilion being permitted. Our problems arise very much on winter Saturdays. Under their lease the hockey club and the lacrosse people claim exclusive use of the parking around the cricket pavilion. The footballers are limited to the same area as

ourselves and have started to overflow onto Green Lane, to the annoyance of the rugby club. It's all getting a bit fraught.

My position is absolutely clear on one point, we must try to maintain harmonious relations between the clubs. One suggestion I have made is that we move our "roll-up" to Sunday afternoon in winter months – one side benefit would be to avoid the screaming dads as they urge on their "little Beckhams". Maybe Saturday morning could be set aside for association play on an arranged basis, which would keep our numbers down.

As I say, this will be covered at the AGM but I will be happy to receive input prior to the meeting.

All England Association Finals – Alan Slade

Over the weekend of September 1st to 2nd John Knight and I took part in the All England Association Regional Finals at Compton (Eastbourne). There were 16 players with handicaps ranging from 2 to 16. The format is a full handicap game to base 10 so this evened up the discrepancy in handicaps. There were three 3 hour games on the Saturday and two 3 hour games on the Sunday.

I'm not sure about John but my expectations were low and I was mainly hoping not to show myself up. My first game was against a 4½ handicap but with my 7½ bisques I managed to win by 7 so I was very pleased. My second game was against a 14 handicap and was pretty dire but I managed to win by 1 on time. My third game was against the eventual winner, an 11 handicap who was an extremely good player and a worthy winner. I did however play well and in the end lost only by 7. The next day I won my first game fairly easily and finally managed to win my last game on a golden hoop. So 4 out of 5 and I came second, very unexpected. This meant I was in the National Finals. John also did well and won 3 games out of 5 and was down as a reserve for the National Finals. A good weekend for Reigate.

The National Finals were held at Ramsgate over the weekend of September 15th to 16th and following some drop outs. John was also involved. It was the same format as the Regional finals with a similar range of handicaps. This time I lived up to my expectations and only won one game although one of my losses was to the eventual winner. John did much better and won 3 games out of 5. The winner was from Ramsgate and was a deserved victor having come from well behind in the semi final to peg one of his opponents balls out and eventually beat his opponent (who was the Regional winner). In the final he immediately got his first ball to Rover and after that was always in the lead and in the end convincingly beat his opponent.



Both the Regional and National finals were keenly played but in a very good spirit and provided two enjoyable weekends of croquet.



Club Outing to Polesden Lacy – *Laurence Hughes*

Not the best turnout we have enjoyed, we could almost have crammed ourselves into one car. The National Trust maintained their unbroken record for confusion. The ladies behind the reception asked if I had paid and I replied that when I made the booking no mention had been made of any payment. Later they advised we would only pay for one lawn and have the other free. Then, when advised we were welcoming a visitor to join us, the second lawn was declared free as well. The funny thing about our low number (max of 6) was that lots of people joined. In fact when Andrew Gray was in sole occupancy at one stage, he was inundated with eager passers-by. Perhaps when there are a lot of us people are more intimidated and reluctant to step forward.

So all's well that ends well!

Alan Grant Candlesticks Final - *Mike Bottomley*

Geoff Gunton (6)/John Knight (16) v Mike Bottomley (4½)/Roger Mackinnon (20)

Geoff quickly got in and made 7 hoops followed next turn by 4 hoops putting him on Rover. After a relatively uninspired period of play from both sides, which the spectators tolerated surprisingly well, we had Mike & Roger on hoop 2 and John had found his way to 1 back. The spectators had finally had enough and as soon as they left the game livened up a bit. A good break by Mike starting with a partner peel and continuing to Rover. However, finally failing to peel Geoff through Rover with a view to pegging him out. Mike was now rather exposed to the reciprocal treatment by Geoff whose first try managed the peel but overrun the hoop, a second attempt similarly failed, but undaunted, at the third attempt he found success. Meanwhile Roger had had a couple of useful turns and was now on 3 back with John on 1 back still and Geoff on peg. A little light fencing finally resulted in John overtaking Roger and beautifully running Rover from Penult and setting up the peg out. But as the saying goes, *it is not over until the fat lady sings!*

Roger made 4 back at an angle from a couple of feet, hit in at 15 yards, made Penult and Rover and pegged out to win +2.

Luckiest win I have had for some time, well done Roger and commiserations to Geoff & John who had led for most of the game.

Creed Cup Final – Mike Bottomley

Jamie Burch (-2½) v Roger Tedstone (3½) – 5 bisques

Jamie opened to yellow corner, Roger to centre right, Jamie shot and missed, ditto Roger. Roger took first bisque and almost immediately went off the lawn. Second bisque got Roger started with 3 ball break to Hoop 4, picked up fourth ball and 4 ball break to Rover. Very smooth and control break but poor leave allowed easy start for Jamie.

Jamie played a 3 ball break to Hoop 4, picked up the fourth ball continued with four ball break to peg en route peeling Roger's first ball through Rover, finally Jamie pegged out Roger, and to the surprise of some spectators, also pegged himself out too.

So now a two ball game with both players on Hoop 1 and Roger entitled to a contact and three bisques left but with Jamie having more experience of this end format.

Roger forgot the contact and missed the hit in. Jamie also missed; Roger hit in and made Hoop 1 and used a couple of bisques laying up at Hoop 2 believing he had wired Jamie. However he failed to realise that although Jamie had sacrificed receiving advanced lifts/contacts he was still eligible for standard lifts. So Jamie took his lift, and now hit in and laid up at Hoop 1 with Roger near Hoop 2. Roger laid up at Hoop 2, not predicting Jamie's powerful hoop running.

Jamie now ran Hoop 1 and 2 in one shot (not planned), roqueted Roger and produced an exquisite long split roll to put his ball in front of Hoop 3 and Roger's ball a couple of feet from Hoop 4. Hoops 3, 4, 5 and 6 were now straightforward for Jamie and 1 back, 2 back, 3 back and 4 back were negotiated with some high quality rushes. Penult, Rover and peg out followed with ease. A superlative all round two ball break quite AMAZING to watch!

Result: +12 to Jamie, great sympathy to Roger, but what does one do against genius?

Vulliamy Salver Final – Mike Bottomley

Jamie Burch v John Prior

Jamie opened with a "supershot" (just North of Hoop 5). A couple of misses later John got in and made Hoop 1. Unfortunately in attempting to separate Jamie in the yellow corner his ball hit the peg leaving Jamie an easy start.

Jamie played a 3 ball break to Hoop 4, picked up the fourth ball and stopped at 1 back, the starting point for the sextuple peel (planning to peel his first ball through the six remaining hoops with his second ball and avoiding any lifts). Sneakily he had left John cross wired at Hoop 1 and his balls 35 yards away. John tried a roquet through the hoop which failed.

Jamie roqueted red to Hoop 2, made Hoop 1, peeled red through 1 back, made Hoop 2, roqueted red towards 2 back , I won't bore you with all the details but the peels of 2 and 3 back went well and all was on target until the 4 back peel failed. The sextuple peel does not allow any leeway and although Jamie subsequently peeled red through 4 back and took yellow to peg, the exhibition was over. He did however find the time to place each of the four balls almost perfectly in the corners for John.

John took his contact, made a couple of hoops, Jamie missed, good hit in by John, three more hoops and then Jamie hit in and after a less spectacular finish than the earlier Creed ran out the Salver winner.

Result: Jamie won +20, too big a mountain for John, or anyone else in the Club, to climb!

Jubilee Final – Laurence Hughes

The final was contested between Frank Burch, the 2010 winner, and Roger Mackinnon who claimed two extra shots on the handicap basis. In the first game of this best of 3 contest Frank moved ahead to a 2-0 lead but only after an extremely confusing contest for hoop 2. The pair played a succession of wrong balls. It's funny but often if one wrong ball is played the opponent also follows with another and, as in this case, some 4 wrong balls were played before they said "hang about". After this kerfuffle the game proceeded with Roger pulling back and they reached the last two hoops 5-5. Thereupon Roger deployed his extra shots to effect to run out winner 7-5.

The second game resulted in the same score line so Roger took the match but not without a second wrong ball fandango and a little help from his opponent. Frank put Roger's ball into hoop 7, whereupon Roger returned the favour at hoop 8. But Frank's generosity continued and he guided Roger's ball into 9.

Congratulations to Roger and commiseration to Frank.

Frances Payne Final - Laurence Hughes

As last year this was contested between Jamie Burch and Ian Cobbold. Unfortunately, Ian could not recreate his heroics of last year when he ran Jamie very close having two chances to win with two of the three games going to Jamie 7-6. This time Jamie ran in 7-2, 7-3. He was aided by a couple lapses by Ian who missed a ball beyond half way and a wrong ball played by Jamie at one point. Given that Ian is a first class referee (he scored a higher score than me in the test – the swot) it just shows how you can sometimes concentrate too hard on your own play.

I suspect we will see Ian's name on the trophy before too long.

Rosamund Final - Laurence Hughes

The Rosamund was a rematch between Ian Cobbold and Martin Holland both of whom, as handicapped a 20, each enjoyed 8 bisques. First blood went to Ian who moved to a lead of 5-1 but only after both players struggled to get going with a combined total of 3 hoops run in the first 30 minutes. Martin started to get going but suffered 2 cruel misses on hoop 2 and continued to suffer "one of those days", that we all know, when it came to hoop running. This allowed Ian to move around the lawn steadily and emerge the winner with a score of +13. Handicap committee take note!

Golf Croquet Handicap League – *Jean Cobbold*

Reigate Priory A

v. Sydenham	21st June	won 8 - 1
v. Ealing	11th July	lost 4 - 5
v. Merton	7th Sept	lost 4 - 5
v. Parsons Green	27th Sept.	won 6 – 3

Reigate Priory B

v. Ramsgate	2nd July	won 8 - 1
v. Ivychurch	6th August	lost 4 - 5
v. Canterbury	31st August	won 6 - 3
v. Guildford & Godalming	21st Sept	given a walkover

Golf R League (level play)

v. Woking	19th June	won 4 - 3
v. Surbiton	12th July	won 7 - 0
v. Tunbridge Wells	20th August	won 5 - 2
v. West Worthing	11th Sept.	won 5 – 7

Although we won all our matches Merton will win the R League this year as their total number of games won is higher than ours.

All England Handicap Golf Competition

After the club round, because of our number of entries, we were entitled to send 3 players to the regional round. Ian Cobbold, John Knight and Sally Mackinlay were the qualifiers. Sally dropped out so Jean Cobbold, as the 4th placed, took her place.

From the regional round, which was played at Hamptworth, Hampshire, Ian and Jean Cobbold qualified for the final, played at Colchester on 22nd/23rd September. The winner, for the 2nd year running, was Tobi Savage, Ramsgate, runner-up Simon Carter, Sydenham. Tobi is amazingly talented and won by an astonishing 7 - 0 in double quick time. And he is only 24!

U-league team B – *John Bristow*

Members that played for team B at least once during the year were Messers Tedstone, Slade, Gunton, Gray, Farr, Coote, Burch F, and Bristow. Given the weather this year, the Gods were good and there was only one wet match.

However in the end the odds were not so good; two matches lost against Canterbury 2-5 and Rother valley 2-5 and two matches won at Compton 5-2 and Tunbridge Wells 4-3.

Visit to Cheam Croquet Club – *Martin Holland*

Ian and Jean Cobbold have started a new croquet club in Cheam, having taken over a failing Bowls club. To provide some friendly competition Reigate Priory was invited to play some Association and Golf games over two days.

The facilities at Cheam are very good, with a large clubhouse and free parking just the other side of a hedge from the lawn. Jean made us very welcome with lots of lovely food, which in retrospect I think this was a ploy to make us overeat and play below par! I hope we can repeat the experience next year.



Tim Hazel Memorial Mallet – *Andy Gray*

Thanks to the generosity of our members we have so far raised £335 for the Tim Hazel Mallet Fund.

Rosamond Vulliamy – *Geoff Gunton*

I am sorry to tell you that our oldest member, Rosamond Vulliamy, passed away on September 26. She was 98. Her funeral will take place at St Mary's, Reigate; on Friday October 19 at 1pm. Stonemans are the undertakers handling arrangements. Rosamond and her husband Bunny did much to support and revive the club in years past and we all owe a debt of gratitude to them.

Editors: Neil Coote and Martin Holland

A selection of pictures from the trophy presentation on Finals Day

