



# Reigate Priory C C - Newsletter Spring 2010

## RPCC Annual Dinner - *Martin Holland*



This year for a change of scene, the annual dinner was held in The Coach House Restaurant, Godstone. There was an impressive turnout of members who filled the main lounge and overflowed into an adjoining lounge for pre-dinner drinks. The restaurant had rearranged the tables so we could sit in groups of 12 or so.

The club had taken over most

of the restaurant but one poor couple had wandered in and were relegated to a table in a far alcove. I am surprised that nobody went over to get them to sign up for the club so they could join in next year.



I think everyone agreed that we had a lovely meal and the evening went very well. Our thanks go to Freda for arranging a truly memorable evening.

### **All England Golf Finals 2009 - *John Knight***

The All England golf finals took place at Ramsgate on 25 and 26 September. The first part was an all play all block of 12 players playing 1 x 13 point game. This was followed by the best 4 playing knock-out semi and finals 19 point games. The weather was dry and warm on both days, and the use of 4 lawns and games being played in a friendly atmosphere without too many referee referrals, allowed all 11 games per player to be completed over the 2 days of play.

Although I won only 2 of my 11 games, generally many of all players' scores were close which suggests handicaps were reasonably right. In the final 3 games the block winner, who won all 11 games was knocked out, and the final winner was Richard Harris, the second in the block, but who had previously won in 2007 and was second in 2008.

Generally it was an enjoyable weekend for everyone

### **Southwick Winter Golf Croquet Tournament - 7th March *Ian Cobbold***

The club entered a team for this tournament for the first time this year. 11 members asked to play and the team drawn by ballot was Lorna Jenkins, Ron Farr, John Staddon and Ian Cobbold. 6 clubs competed and each club played all of the others, with each match consisting of 2 singles and a doubles. We got off to a slow start on a bitterly cold morning losing to Sussex and Medway but then came through strongly in the afternoon beating Rottingdean, Littlehampton and Medway to finish 2nd equal overall. Sussex won all their matches and, although it was a handicap tournament, their team of a 1, two 2s and a 4 was notably strong. John Staddon distinguished himself by winning all of his games - 4 singles and a doubles.

## **Croquet in Corfu - The Greek Open - Ian Cobbold**

Ian and Jean Cobbold went on a Golf Croquet holiday in Corfu last September which they had seen advertised in the Croquet Gazette.

The Club is the only croquet club in Greece and has 2 full sized lawns next to a cricket pitch and a marina. Most of the participants were from England (6 different clubs) with a German couple and a local Dutchman for good measure. Handicaps ranged from 3 to 12.

The club was founded by a Chelsea solicitor and the prospective players got a shock earlier in the summer when they were told that he was now spending time at Her Majesty's pleasure. Fortunately the holiday money was unaffected and his Dutch partner who lives in Corfu stepped in to organise everything very efficiently with Michael Hague coming out to organise the tournaments.



Four competitions were held, level and handicap singles and level and handicap doubles. These took 6 of the 8 days of the holiday with a boat trip organised for 1 day and a day for sightseeing. Accommodation was in a large and luxurious 4 star hotel a short walk or cycle ride from the club. Plenty of restaurants and bars to choose from in the evenings and everybody got on well together.

Despite the numerical superiority of the Brits, the German and Dutchman won the two singles and one of the Germans was in each of the winning doubles pairs.

A very enjoyable holiday although the lawns took some getting to know.



For anyone interested, there is a longer report on the holiday by Michael Hague in the February issue of the CA Gazette."

### **Club Outing Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2010 to Standen, Sussex – *Mike Bottomley***

Standen is a National Trust property (but non-Trust members will receive free admission) which was built in 1892-4 for a prosperous London solicitor, James Beale, and his large family. He chose Philip Webb as his architect, who was one of William Morris' closest friends and colleagues.



This gem of the Arts & Crafts Movement is hidden at the end of a quiet Sussex lane with breathtaking views over the High Weald and Weir Wood Reservoir. The characteristic Arts & Crafts garden uses local materials in the construction of the formal elements, and loose planting within an unpretentious framework of yew hedges, trellis and pergolas. Naturalistic colour schemes and subtle combinations of colour and foliage were preferred and care was also taken in the transition between the garden and surrounding landscape. The gardens include a croquet lawn with a summerhouse.

We will be playing friendly (isn't it always?) Golf Croquet from 11AM until 4PM-ish, guests are welcome to join us. We will probably adjourn to a suitable

hostelry afterwards. Please put the date in your diary.

Directions: 2 miles south of East Grinstead, signposted from town centre and B2110 (Turners Hill Road)

## **Club Coaching – John Taylor**

The Club is fortunate to have four qualified CA coaches, three for Association (John Taylor, Neil Coote and Geoff Gunton) and one for Golf (Ian Cobbold). We would encourage everyone, whatever your level of play, to make use of their skills and experience to improve your game.

### **Courses**

A number of courses are being arranged under each code this season, designed for players of different abilities. Details of these courses are given below. These are free to members. Everyone has something to learn, so do make use of these; you will enjoy your game more as a result.

### **One-to-One Coaching**

In addition, all our coaches are available to give one-to-one coaching clinics throughout the year. Simply contact them to explain your problem and to arrange a suitable booking in the diary. Again, these sessions are free to members.

### **Academy Courses**

Externally, the Croquet Academy at Southwick offers a range of courses for players of all standards, and for aspiring coaches and referees. You will find details of these on p6 of your yellow Club Calendar for 2010-11, and on the Club notice board. These are well recommended and are excellent value for money.

Have a good season!

## **Golf Croquet Coaching in 2010 - Ian Cobbold**

Ian Cobbold is intending to run 3 different coaching courses this season. Each course will comprise up to 3 sessions of 2-3 hours each. The timing will be arranged to suit those interested as far as possible and will be held in April/May to give maximum benefit.

### High handicappers' course

This course is intended for those with handicaps of 10 and above who have been playing croquet for a year or two and want to develop their skills. It will cover stroke play, tactics and the Rules.

### Mid-range handicappers' course

This is intended for those with handicaps of 6 – 9 who want to take their play to a higher level. It will cover tactics and stroke play with a refresher on the Rules.

### Association conversion course

In response to several requests, this course is intended for those who have been playing Association for some time and want to play more Golf Croquet. It will concentrate on the differences between the games – the Rules and stroke play - and major on the tactics of Golf.

**Please let Ian know if you wish to take part in any of these courses by the end of March so that he can arrange suitable groups.**

Ian will also be willing to coach to new members and to help existing members on an individual basis as needed.

## **Association Croquet Coaching Courses in 2010**

We are offering two specific courses in Association Croquet this year, aimed at players with different levels of expertise. To make them more flexible, each course has been divided into separate modules. Depending on your own requirements, you can sign up for any or all of the modules in the course.

The two courses being offered are as follows (please note that the timings of each session are slightly different from those given in the Club Calendar, sent to you recently):

### **Improvers' Course (handicap <16)**

This course is aimed at players who have mastered the basic skills of Association croquet, but wish to improve both their technique and strategy. At the end of the course, players should be able to attempt all-round breaks with more confidence and to control the outcome of the game better.

**Coaches** John Taylor, Neil Coote (Club coach).

#### **Module Date Time Content**

**1** Fri 9 April 2.00 – 4.30pm The 4-ball break made easy!

**2** Sun 11 April 10.30 – 1.00pm The rush; 3-ball breaks.

**3** Sun 11 April 2.00 – 4.30pm The start; Laying up; Endings.

### **Beginners' Course (handicap 16+)**

The aim of this course is to teach the basics of the Association game to members who are either new to Association play, or who have relatively little experience of it. At the end of the course, players should be able to construct reasonable breaks and to use their bisques to best advantage.

**Coaches** John Taylor (Grade 1 coach), Geoff Gunton (Club coach).

#### **Module Date Time Content**

**1** Fri 16 April 2.00 – 4.30pm Object of the game; Basic strokes.

**2** Sat 17 April 2.00 – 4.30pm Hoop approaches; Making breaks.

**3** Sun 18 April 2.00 – 4.30pm The start; Laying up; Use of bisques.

***To enrol on either of these two courses, please complete an entry forms, and return them to John Taylor by 1 April (latest).***