



Reigate Priory CC Newsletter Spring 2011

From the secretary - Geoff Gunton

First, welcome to two new members – Sue Lock and Sue Rice. I know that many of you have met them and I hope more will have an opportunity to greet them during the season. Ian Cobbold has been in touch with them, having taken over Laurie Chandler's committee role as liaison with new members, and has provided some coaching.

This year's renewals have been completed and we now have 57 members, of whom 50 are playing members – including Freda Knight, who has upgraded from non-playing to playing member.

Our oldest member, Rosamond Vulliamy, is now living in Wray Common nursing home. Rosamond and her late husband Bunny were instrumental in reviving the club in the 1970s but Rosamond is now 97 and deserves to take life a little easier.

I may be duplicating information found elsewhere in this newsletter, but I'll take this opportunity to thank everyone who supported our presence at the Sports Festival in Priory Park in early May. We had quite a few visitors who came and had a go with some – including Sue R – asking for more information. By the time you read this, we will have provided a croquet element to an event in Gatton Park on June 5th to mark the opening of its remodelled parterre in the presence of the Mayor. Thank you to those who have offered to support that, too.

Talking of Priory Park, please remember to support the club sessions that we are holding there this year: the morning of Saturday June 18, the afternoon of Sunday July 17, the morning of August 13 and the morning of Saturday September 24. The Sunday afternoon is an experiment: it gives those who find Saturday mornings inconvenient a chance to use the Priory Park lawn and the car parking is cheaper: £1 for an unlimited stay on Sundays. We approached the Priory school to ask if we might park on its premises and, though the headmaster was sympathetic, they get so many such requests that they have to have a 'no parking' policy to avoid arguments.

Another important date for your diary is July 9, when we will be holding our annual BBQ, with the finals of a number of competitions played during the day. There will be more details about that shortly.

There are, no doubt, comments elsewhere about the various competitions, so I'll just note here that we begin our quest to win the CA's Secretary's Shield on June 12, with a trip to Nottingham to play Huddersfield. We gained entry to this event by winning the SECF's U-League for 2010, in a play-off against Southwick earlier this year. Closer to home, we play

our first game in the Longman Cup on June 4, against Watford; this match is actually a preliminary round, with the winner going through to the first round itself. I hope you are enjoying your croquet this season,

[Annual Social Bridge evening - John Hyde](#)

The annual social bridge evening was held on Friday 15th April at John Hyde's house. 14 players took part and the winner by a comfortable margin was ex-chairman Tim Hazel. The top lady was Mary Hyde. A highlight of the evening was the riotous feast at half time. For a number of the players this is their only bridge game of the year, this includes John Prior who led the field for most of the time.



The photo shows John Hyde presenting the trophy to Tim Hazel.

[Gardening Group - Tim Hazell](#)

A gardening group to look after the beds and areas surrounding the lawn has been set up comprised of Doreen Taylor, Lorna Jenkins, Jon Criddle, Andrew Gray, Laurence Hughes, John Taylor and Tim Hazell. The purpose of the group is to improve the overall appearance of our grounds by keeping our super-active weeds under control on a regular basis, ensuring that the grass at both ends of the lawn is kept short and looking for positive ways of improving appearance by planting more shrubs, pruning existing ones etc. By dealing with this regularly we hope to avoid the need to rely entirely on dramatic action by working parties on Sunday mornings, although this will continue to be useful from time to time. We have made some progress already this year with the weeding of the 'brewery bed' and the area under the tree by corner four, and the planting of shrubs by John and Doreen Taylor. Doreen has also re-planted the half-moon bed by the clubhouse with new perennials, which will, hopefully, mature nicely as we go through the summer. We are grateful to both John and Doreen firstly for giving the club all these shrubs and plants, and then nurturing them over the past, extremely dry, few weeks. The next job is to improve the appearance of corner two in front of the trellis area – and, of course, dealing with the bindweed and other horrors which have already re-appeared in great numbers!

We hope we can gradually get all this under control and improve the surrounds to match the standard of the lawn which is looking really superb. *I should, perhaps, add that the maintenance of the lawn itself remains entirely with Laurence and is not within the remit of the gardening group.*

Lastly, if any member would like to join this group, he or she, would of course, be made extremely welcome.

[Annual Club Dinner 3rd March - Freda Knight](#)

Last year we tried a new venue for the Annual Dinner - the Coach House at Godstone. We liked it so much, we went again this year. 43 people attended, which is a record. I can vouch for this, as I am the only member of the club to attend all the dinners since they were started by Bunny Vulliamy in the mid 1970s! We started off at the Burford Bridge, and then one year we tried a mobile caterer at St. Mark's Hall (very economic). One year we went to the Plough at Leigh, when Gordon Goodchild took a taxi and found himself delivered to The Plough in Kent! We tried the Reigate Manor, two golf clubs and Lanni's at the Bridge House, where we took advantage of their half-price offer for several years. Sadly, Lanni moved on. We all had a good evening at the Coach House, and appreciated being able to choose from the full restaurant menu of delicious food. So, folks, where shall we go next year?

[Festival of Sport 2011 - Tim Hazell](#)

The annual Festival of Sport in Priory Park which is organised by **rb sport** – the Reigate and Banstead Sports Council - the YMCA, and the Leisure Services Department of the Borough Council, has been held for each of the last twenty years or so. This year was one of the best attended and most popular of these events in recent years. We were blessed with some excellent weather (for a change) and there was a record number of thirty-six sports clubs or organisations 'on parade' demonstrating their particular skills and, most importantly, allowing visitors a chance to 'have-a-go'. Bowls, croquet, tennis, hockey, cricket, rugby, football, lacrosse, table-tennis, gymnastics, taekwondo, martial arts, wind-surfing, trampolining, cycling, basketball, golf, karate, netball were all featured to say nothing of motor cycles and F1 racing car simulators! Reports from most of those taking part suggested that they had received a good deal of interest from potential members. Churchfields Bowls Club, which shared the croquet lawn with our club, claimed that they had signed up fifteen new members on the day!

On the other side of Priory Park, the ever-popular YMCA Fun Run was taking place with one mile races for children from the age of six, up to an adult five mile road race. Thirteen hundred competitors took part: the first Fun Run, held eleven years ago, attracted forty-five contestants!

It was good to see the Croquet Club on the improving Priory Park lawn and very good that Sue Rice has joined us as a result. Well done, and thank you, to all those members who spent some of their time there.



Geoff and Ian man the stand, whilst John Hyde encourages a young man having a go.

We are planning to have an 'Olympic' size event in 2012 and hope that the Croquet Club will, once again, take part.

[Club Outing to Standen, September 10th – Geoff Gunton](#)

Please put the club outing to Standen in your diaries for September 10th. That date is the national Heritage Day, when many buildings of historical interest are open to the public and Standen is taking part this year, offering free entry to all comers. So if you are not a National Trust member, you will be able to get in for nothing and there should be a good number of visitors, which will help us promote ourselves and croquet itself.

Standen is a jewel of the Arts & Crafts Movement, furnished and decorated by William Morris and provides a fascinating venue for our day out.

[Club Competitions – Neil Coote](#)

Please note that all blocks must be played by 31st July. The first round of the Francis Payne finishes on June 19th.

The finalists of the All England AC and GC, the Gordon Goodchild, Golf doubles and the Grass Roots must be available to play at the BBQ on the 9th July.

[Determining Competition winners](#)

This can be difficult to work out when you have a competition where you have something other than a knockout format. There are a set of rules that are used to order to find a winner when there is no time to have a playoff. These are as follows:

1. Number of wins: the person with the most wins, wins outright. If this doesn't resolve it then 2

2. Who beat whom: see if the players in contention played each other. The winner of that match gives the winner. If this doesn't resolve it then 3
3. Quality of wins: Add up the number of wins each of the beaten opponents achieved, for each of the players in contention. If this doesn't resolve it then 4
4. Points: Add up the points for each player in contention, for the matches won.

Golf Croquet teams at Southwick March 6 - John Timberlake

Dressed more for an Antarctic expedition than croquet (5 layers of warm clothing plus scarf, gloves and woolly hat) we arrived at Southwick at 9am with 5 other clubs for 5 hours of GC battle comprising all play all and each match being a doubles and two singles. We were Frank Burch, Roger Mackinnon and Martin Holland led by John Timberlake. Opponents were Sussex, Winchester, Littlehampton, Rottingdean and Preston Park. We beat Winchester, Littlehampton and Preston Park and lost to Sussex and Rottingdean, and ended up 2nd equal, with Winchester and Rottingdean, the winners being the host club Sussex. All contributed good results – Frank and Martin won 3 doubles each, Roger won 2 singles and a doubles, and John won 3 singles and a doubles.

U League play-off v Sussex County CC at Southwick on 27 March 2011 – John Timberlake

Sadly we lost 3-4. The full results were:

Morning Play

Roger Tedstone (3½) beat David Cooke (8) +3T

Neil Coote (5) lost to John Scrase (3) –14

Geoff Gunton (6) & Andy Gray (7) beat Alan Theobald (8) and Jamie Angus (8) +8T

Afternoon Play

Roger Tedstone lost to John Scrase –9

Neil Coote beat Alan Theobald +3

Geoff Gunton lost to David Cooke –3T

Andy Gray lost to Jamie Angus –6

So, everyone won a match, but everyone lost a singles. It was close and nail-biting. The usual excellent Southwick hospitality, and nice to see Alan Theobald.

(Ed) NOTE: It was subsequently found that one of the Southwick players was using an incorrect handicap, therefore Reigate Priory were the subsequent winners.)

SECF Doubles Tournament Southwick – Mike Bottomley

Many thanks to those who represented the Club in this event in which nine clubs competed.

On Saturday Neil & John K won 2 of 3 and Jon & John B won one, leaving us only one game behind the three joint leaders. On Sunday Mike & John T won 1 of 2 and, our stars,

John S and Tim won 2 of 2 leaving us with 6 wins and as joint second and worthy runners up to Guildford and Godalming with 7 wins.

Gordon Goodchild - Tim Hazell

Just to tell you that we completed the round robin section of the Gordon Goodchild over the weekend and the two winning pairs were John Bristow and Jean Cobbold from Saturday and John Copper and I from today's games. We shall, therefore, meet in the final which is to be played on the 9th July, Bar-b-que day. I think people enjoyed playing although the weather was not entirely on our side.

Ladders – Tim Hazell

The introduction of winter ladders for both association and golf proved to be a modest success. The three months up to December saw about thirty ladder matches played with Charles Harvey working his way to the top of the association ladder and Geoff Gunton defending his place at the top of the golf one. The three months after Christmas were badly affected by the wintry conditions and not many games were played although John Taylor was able to play enough to reach the No1 spot on the association ladder. I am not sure how often Joyce Carlisle had to play to remain in the same position on the golf ladder!

The Committee decided to continue with both ladders throughout the main season and they are both up in the clubhouse. Mike Bottomley is writing about the on-line ladder he has set up which is the exact reflection of the earth-bound one at the club and which operates in exactly the same way.

I hope that members will make more use of the ladders on club mornings and afternoons. When we last had a ladder system, games were played, almost exclusively, on Saturday mornings and there was quite fierce rivalry amongst members who seldom played in other competitions to reach the top of the ladder. I hope that more regular 'club session' members will consider joining the ladder and restoring this tradition. Anyone can join in at any time by adding their peg (which is in the clubhouse cupboard) at the bottom of the list.

Longman Cup – Geoff Gunton

Our Longman Cup adventure came to an end this year before it had really started. We were drawn against Watford in a preliminary round, prior to the first round itself. The match took place at Watford on June 4th and we came second, losing 3-4. The morning session was encouraging, with the doubles pair of Roger Tedstone and Andy Gray winning their game +13 - the only game of the day to go to a finish - and John Bristow winning his game +12, while Geoff Gunton lost his morning game -12, leaving us 2-1 up at lunch and needing two of the afternoon games. We only got one: Geoff beat his opponent +1 while Roger lost -1, Andy lost -7 and John lost -9.

Although none of us had visited the Watford club before, one Reigate member has: John Staddon was a member there in his youth before WWII and his father was club chairman.

All England Results - Lucy Beech

After a bit of encouragement we had 16 entrants this year. So there were 4 blocks of 4 players. In each block there were outright winners, those being Mike Bottomley, Lucy Beach, Alan Slade and John Knight. So Mike and Lucy played one another, a tough game but Mike won through. Alan and John have not yet played, but will have done so prior to BBQ day. Mike and either John K/Alan S go through to the Regional finals in September. But before then they play each other for the RPCC Trophy on BBQ day.

HoopLA - Bob the Builder (aka John Bristow)

We all have difficulty getting in and out of hoops during a game. At the end of a game there can be a further problem of getting the hoops out of the lawn. Either you can heave like heck [which may strain your back] or wiggle the hoop untill it comes free [which damages the hoop setting and the lawn]. Inspired by Laurence the lawn, Bob the Builder has created HoopLA [Hoop Lifting Apparatus] to solve the problem. It is easy to use; insert the arm under the hoop, Fig 1, then rotate the hex key on the top clockwise a turn or two and the hoop pops up! Fig 2. For the sake of your back and the lawn please use it.



Fig 1

Fig 2

Members News

Jamie Burch retained his Southwick Salver trophy earlier this year, played in the Western championships at East Dorset LT & CC and got to the semi finals, only to be knocked out by Robert Fulford !

He now has the Men's championships this coming week, 9th to 12th at Cheltenham and will be playing at the Open tournament at Surbiton from the 2nd to 10th July, so good luck in those events.

The open will be a great opportunity to see the worlds top players at a local venue, so if you can, do try and get along and see how Association Croquet at the top level is played. Check the CA website for further details.

Neil Coote was runner up in his class at the Hurlingham May tournament, and won the Brooke Cup at Roehampton

John Taylor played in the Southern B-Level Championships at Southwick and got to the semi finals, also played for the CA Select team at Southwick for the AC Inter Counties in Division 2. The team won 3 out of 10 games.

John is playing next in the National Veterans' Championship at Southwick.

[The Pilgrim Brewery – Mike Bottomley](#)

Some of you may have wondered about the large red brick building at the north end of our lawn. Those with a keen sense of smell will know that it is a brewery! It is in fact Reigate's only brewery and was the first new brewery in Surrey for over 100 years and brewed for the first time on January 8th 1982 in Woldingham but in 1985 moved to the current premises in Reigate.



The brewery was designed by David Bruce of Firkin pub chain fame. In fact it is just a larger version of the pub breweries' equipment. It has however been improved and augmented over the 27 years we have been using it. Its major advantage is simplicity but the downside to that is that it is very labour intensive; still that keeps us fit! As they have proved we can brew top quality beers from English bitters through mild, stout and porter to wheat beers: as long as it is warm fermented they can do it!

At the Club BBQ on Finals Day you will again be able to sample beer from Pilgrim which comes with a personal recommendation from Frank Burch (however so does most of the local beer!)

Editors: Neil Coote and Martin Holland: June 2011