



Reigate Priory C C - Newsletter Autumn 2013

Chairman's Notes - *Laurence Hughes*

At our recent committee meeting at Freda & John Knight's house we covered a series of topics I would like to share.

It is proposed that Martin Peacock will join us as Secretary, with Geoff Gunton stepping up as Chairman to replace myself. Even though I will be staying on for another year, we will still be below our full complement. As on previous occasions the Knight's cat made up the numbers but contributed little. Is there anyone out there willing to step forward?

We moved forward somewhat in terms of a fitting Vulliamy memorial and John Bristow and I have been commissioned to make it happen.

We discussed participation in CA and SECF competitions and decided to carry on as this year with one reservation. Jean Cobbold ran our participation in "Restricted Golf League" and had some trouble in fielding teams. She was even forced to pull me in for one match. The rules are that 4 players play 2 best-of-three games each, level play, with the teams enjoying a total handicap of 16 but no-one 2 or less. Thus, one could, notionally, be confronted by 4 x 4 handicap players. When I turned out I thought the format would be the same as the H league – I could play 2 doubles games and a singles and get by. So, to find I was to play 2 best of 3 games against lower handicap players was something of a shock. The first game I crumbled to a 1-7 defeat. I decided that if I could manage 3-7, I would save some face but surprised myself by winning the next 4 games.

The point of this tale is that we should not worry about taking part in whatever competitions –nobody minds! So, despite Jean's concern we plan to enter again if enough members are prepared to put their names down when the lists are circulated.

Enjoy the game and the club.

Buffet Evening - *Freda Knight*

On Finals Week-end we tried out a new idea - a Buffet Evening to follow the competition. Instead of a charge, we asked everyone to contribute by 'Bringing a Plate' of food to share. We also had a Shoot at the peg competition, charging 50p for 4 balls, shooting from the baseline. Jill, Sue R and Freda had two hits each, but as rain stopped play, the tiebreaker had to be postponed. The eventual winner was Jill Dawson who hit the peg at her third attempt and was presented with a bottle of wine.

Although only 11 people attended and the weather wasn't great, it worked well and would be worth trying again earlier in the season.

Ageing Well Week - Freda Knight

On October 1st, the club took part in a council initiative to encourage older and retired people to try a new activity, called Ageing Well Week. This session was held in Priory Park, and John and I got down there at 9 a.m. and were able to park behind the croquet lawn hedge and had half-lawns, table and parasol set up by 10a.m. when it started. We were very grateful for the support of the Dawsons, Pam T, John Bristow, Sue R., Joyce H, Joyce C, Judy and Dilys who came along to help during the day, as we had 15 'triers', who all seemed to enjoy themselves. Two of them will be joining the club and there were other possibles. The weather was dry, but rather chilly, so we were glad of hot coffee and Pam's cake to sustain us. Next year, the organiser plans to hold the event earlier in the year, which would suit us better I believe. Altogether it was a very successful and worthwhile day.

SECF Golf Restricted Level League Results – Jean Cobbold

For this level-play league individual handicaps are restricted to a minimum of 3, the team's handicaps to total a minimum of 16.

We had a very successful season this year, coming 3rd out of 10. Winners were Tunbridge Wells, 2nd were Woking.

Our matches were:-

Thursday, 18 th July v Medway	won 7 – 0
Tuesday, 6 th August v Southwick	lost 3 - 4
Tuesday, 13 th August v Dulwich	won 5 – 2
Wednesday, 21 st August v Ivychurch	won 5 – 1 and drew 1 (time-limited)

Reigate were represented by John Bristow (played 3), Frank Burch (played 2),

Jean Cobbold (played 3), Roger MacKinnon (played 1), John Staddon (played 3), Laurence Hughes (played 1) and John Knight (played 3).

We had no home matches and several lengthy journeys, but were always well-entertained by our hosts. The format is 6 singles and 1 doubles, all best of 3, so a very full day of croquet is assured.

We were lucky this season, it was touch and go at times whether we could field a team and one match had to be rescheduled. We need more players with handicaps of 4 – 7 willing to play, and it is definitely a league for middle-rank players to aspire to. If you have a handicap of 8 do put your name forward next year.

New Members – Ian Cobbold

Since the last newsletter, the Club has gained 4 new members - Chris O'Byrne who has re-joined after a break of 4 years, Lester Gould, Simon Ling who has been playing at Polesden Lacey for several years, and Bob Nicholls. I am sure you will all make them welcome and offer any advice that they need. With John and Jill Dawson and Pam Tillett having joined at the beginning of the season, the Club is doing well in attracting new members this year.

The Longman Cup - Jon Criddle

Thirty six clubs entered this National knockout competition. Our results were:

Preliminary round.	Beat Purley Bury	5 - 2
1st round.	Beat Rother Valley	5 - 2
2nd round.	Beat Sussex.	6 - 1
Quarter Final.	Lost to Woking.	2 - 5

The match against Woking, which was played at Surbiton, was closer than the score suggests.

The results of five of the games were, - 2, +1, +2, - 1, and - 2.

Woking went on to beat Enfield in the Semis before beating Southport 6 - 1 in the Final, so we lost to the eventual winners.

The players representing Reigate were,

Mike Bottomley, John Bristow, Neil Coote, Jon Criddle, Andrew Gray, Geoff Gunton, John Knight, John Staddon and Roger Tedstone

'U' League Team 'A' - Jon Criddle

What a disastrous season!

We only played three of our four games and lost them all. The fourth should have been against Ealing but we were unable to raise a team and had to give them a walkover. The only dates Ealing could offer were in September, by which time some of our squad had other commitments including myself.

In the final analysis, of the sixteen clubs that entered, Reigate came last. The competition was won by Caterham who were the only club that won all four of their games.

Our results were:	Medway.	Lost 3 - 4
	Rother Valley.	Lost 3 - 4
	Guildford and Godalming.	Lost 2 - 5
	Ealing.	Lost w/o

The players representing Reigate were:

Mike Bottomley, Frank Burch, Jon Criddle, John Hyde, John Knight and Martin Peacock

The reducing number of available players has put into doubt our ability to enter two teams next year. We used to have a pool of 15/16 players but this has now reduced to about 10, some of whom have other commitments and are not readily available. As players may only play for either team 'A' or team 'B', it means that each team only has a nucleus of 5 players at best. It makes trying to organise matches / teams very frustrating and for the first time we failed with our Ealing match this season.

Group visit to Wimbledon Croquet Club – *Martin Holland*

Roger MacKinnon kindly hosted a visit of a small group to visit Wimbledon Croquet Club. They have three full sized lawns in a secluded site next to the old Southlands Teacher Training College. The lawns were truly magnificent, being very green and flat. It was a revelation being able to hit a ball from one end of the lawn to the other is a dead straight line with no deviations. The weather was mostly fair, and after a morning's play we went to the Centre Court Members lounge for lunch and a view of Centre Court from the Royal Box. The lunch was excellent and we resumed play in the afternoon. We were joined for the day by a couple of the older players from Wimbledon who gave us a run for our money. We mixed up the groups for some friendly golf games. A truly wonderful day was had by all.

There is a short video of the visit on <http://youtu.be/S-dPCa1aBUQ>



Figure 1 Old Southlands Collage behind Wimbledon Croquet lawn

AGM at Reigate Tennis Club – *Martin Holland*

We had a good turnout at the Tennis Clubhouse. Freda and her helpers had put on a nice tea and snacks spread. Notable discussions were had on the proposal for the Vulliamy bequest. Laurence Hughes has handed the chairmanship over to Geoff Gunton. Geoff's secretaries role has been taken on by Martin Peacock. There will be minutes of the meeting available in the near future. At the end of the meeting we had the trophy presentation. I will post a composite of the presentation on the clubhouse. If anyone wants a professionally printed glossy as a souvenir to frame, then please let me know. I will put a thumbnail set of photos and an order sheet in the clubhouse. I need a minimum number of 6 to spread the cost of postage from the photo processors.



Just a couple of pictures from the presentations. Nice Tie!

Editors: Neil Coote and Martin Holland