



Reigate Priory C C - Newsletter Spring 2013

Chairman's Thoughts – *Laurence Hughes*

First, we had a respectable turnout for the “Chairman’s Choice” club afternoon. The game was a version of Golf Croquet with some touches of Association blended in. John Bristow and Freda Knight triumphed in a closely fought contest.

As planned, I presented the club the three new Tim Hazell memorial mallets, which I purchased recently, thanks to your generous contributions. They are in different lengths and weights to help new members to gauge what suits them best.

The sad part of this is that it took a year after Tim’s passing for us to actually get around to purchasing the mallets – in the end I got fed up with the lack of anybody coming forward and spent 15 minutes on the telephone to the Croquet Association shop to get the job done. Okay, I was as much at fault as any other club member but I don’t want the same sort of delay in the use of the money from the Vulliamy family. Suggestions as to a suitable memorial are welcome – some are already in hand and we will try to achieve a happy consensus.



I have circulated the dates and venues of the planned SECF Golf League matches to those who indicated their interest in playing at the time of membership renewal. However, it is not too late to come forward and don't be shy to put your name down on the clubhouse notice or send me a note. It is always a pleasant and friendly occasion. It is interesting to visit other clubs and it really does not matter much whether we win or lose.

"U"League Team A. – Jon Criddle

We experienced a disastrous year winning only one of our four matches.

The results were: Southwick - won 5-2

Surbiton. - lost 1-6

Dulwich. - lost 2-5

Ramsgate. - Lost 1-6 At Surbiton two of our games were very close, -1(T) and -3(T).

The lawns were lightening fast, the grass cover patchy and with no give in the tight hoops!

At Dulwich three games were very close -2, -3, and -3.

At Ramsgate we had difficulty in adapting to the fast lawns combined with a strong cross-wind.

The closest we got was -3(T) and -7(T)

Altogether a rather disappointing season.

The players who took part were:

Lucy Beach - 2 matches

Mike Bottomley - 2

Joyce Carlisle 1

Jon Criddle 4

John Knight 3

John Staddon 4

A round up of the 2012 SECF League results. – Jon Criddle

Association Croquet.

"U " League

14 clubs entered including 2 teams from Reigate Priory. The winners were Rother Valley, R.P "B" team were 7th and R.P " A"team were penult!

"B" League.

12 clubs entered. The winners were Woking, R.P. were 10th equal with Purly Bury.

Golf Croquet.

Restricted Level League.

11 clubs entered. Merton and R.P. were 1st equal on points but Merton had a higher percentage score of 93 as against 75 for R.P. and therefore took 1st place.

Handicap League.

There were 28 entries including 3 clubs with 2 entries. Guildford and Godalming won with R.P. "B" in 6th place and R.P. "A" in 11th place.

SECF Doubles at Southwick, 17 - 18th May 2013 - *Mike Bottomley*

The response for this normally very popular event was a trifle disappointing this year; we only just managed to raise a team for the Sunday. We were represented by Jon Criddle, John Hyde (twice), John Knight, Martin Peacock (twice), Martin Holland and me.

Having won 3 out of 6 on Saturday, Reigate was not among the leaders but a solid 3 out of 4 on Sunday gave us a four way tie for first place with six wins. Unfortunately we just lost on points difference to Medway and finished a very creditable second.

Particular congratulations to John Hyde who won 4 out of 5 played and to Martin Peacock, playing both days, who won 3 out of 5 played. Martin has only been playing croquet for 12 months, was playing of 20 handicap rather than his really handicap of 22 and his performance should encourage more of you to participate in these very friendly events. There is another one in the autumn.

Charity One-Ball Competition – *Andrew Gray*

This year's one-ball competition was originally scheduled for 17th March – we had a great turn out but dark clouds and lashing rain meant that the lawn was completely water-logged. We rescheduled some good weather for 7th April.

The competition was run using the Swiss format, and was close fought with four people out of twelve taking part having four wins after five rounds, but on points difference we had our usual champion, John Knight. This is at least the third year in a row that John has won our Reigate heat, but he has never won the national final in Winchester, so perhaps 2013 will be the year when he achieves that.

The national coordinator of this competition thinks our heat should be called the "John Knight Annual Benefit"!

Bridge Evening – *John Hyde*

The annual bridge evening was hosted by Mary and John Hyde on 7th April. It was the usual success, with the highlight being the sumptuous half-time feast, all the ladies bringing a dish.

Men's champion was Mike Bottomley, and Ladies champion was Lorna Jenkins. Runners-up were John Copper and Gwen Bottomley, and the worthy winner of the booby prize was Sylvia Timberlake. A good time was had by all.



Introducing the Knight Tankard - *Freda Knight*

To celebrate our 4th decade of membership of RPCC, we have presented a pewter tankard to the club, to be used as a trophy for the All England Golf competition. It has been engraved with the name of the 2012 winner, Ian Cobbold, and was presented to him at the Annual Dinner in March - with a bottle of Cocker Hoop beer to go with it!



Club Clothing – *Freda Knight*

I have a few polo shirts (sizes M, L, XXL) and sweat shirts (L) in stock, plus caps and badges. Other sizes can be ordered on request. I can also arrange for your own clothing to be 'badged' if required.

Please contact Freda for details

A Plea from an Ex-chairman - *Mike Bottomley*

I was disappointed at the 2012 AGM that the Club was unable to persuade anyone to fill the vacant place on the Committee.

It is more alarming to see that John Bristow has now had to pick up the Chairman of the Handicap Committee role in addition to managing one of the U-league teams, which he picked up last year, all alongside his extensive Bob the Builder role.

Similarly Laurence in addition to his Chairman and supremo of the lawn role has now had to pick up the running of both handicap Golf Croquet teams and the SECF Golf Day at Southwick.

I don't need to expand on Geoff's role, described formally as Honorary Secretary but also embracing general factotum and "if no one else owns it, it must be mine" roles. He does an enormous amount of work for the Club.

The Club cannot carry on letting a small number of people struggle with such a large work load. Acting as an assistant to many of the roles above would, I am sure, be greatly appreciated and be an excellent grounding for taking on the full role in the future.


So my plea is:

Will all Members please consider whether they can pick up some of the work off these poor guys else they will surely, shortly, throw in the towel and then where will we be?

Handicaps – *John Bristow*

The club's handicap committee has a role to initially allocate and subsequently monitor the handicaps of all playing members. Currently the handicap committee is Lucy Beech [3], John Bristow [1], Ian Cobbold [2] and Peter Goldsmith [4]. Each committee member has approximately 25% of the players to monitor with the intention of review handicaps and validating cards at the beginning of each season. A card that has been validated will be stamped with the date and the number of the handicap committee member, see a typical example below

Date	Hcp	Index	Init	Date	Hcp	Index	Init
9/4/13	3	506	1re				


Validated
 H/C com. 2
 Date 9.4.13

If your cards have not been validated this year please contact one of the members mentioned above.

The purpose of the cards is to record the results of all singles games in tournaments, club competitions and inter club matches ["formal friendlies included]. Fuller details about cards are given in the club handbook. Ideally the system is automatic but the handicap committee may seek to modify a handicap based on performance *. Having a validated handicap card is a prerequisite of entering any formal club competition or playing for a club team. It is also helpful to organisers of club day games when arranging pairings, who-plays-who, etc.

In the club house "library cupboard" is a file intended to record results of all singles games played on the full lawn at the club. Not many members seem to be doing this. It is voluntary but it would help the handicap committee to review progress if everyone did this. Each club member should have a named page; if you find you do not have one there are spare pages to create one for yourself.

* Additionally, to account for experience gained by playing but not entering completions, starter handicaps are reduced annually as follows :- Association, steps of 2 down to 20 : Golf, steps of 1 down to 9.

Members News – Neil Coote

Congratulations go to Martin Peacock and Neil Coote.

Martin is now a Golf referee after attending the referee's course at Southwick. In addition Martin, together with Neil Coote, also attended the AC Laws course.

Neil passed the exam achieving an Assistant Referee level.

Andrew Gray played in his first external tournament at Southwick, which was also to advanced rules. Well done Andrew for venturing out into the big wide world.

The Solomon Trophy – Neil Coote

This competition is played every year between two teams from the USA and Great Britain. Last year it was hosted by the USA at the Bald Head Island croquet club. The two teams consist of 6 players and a variety of doubles and singles matches are played over a four day period. This year Jamie Burch was in the team and team GB won the match 13-8 to regain the trophy after two successive defeats by the USA.

See some of the action. [Video on YouTube](#)

Helicopter Drama at Croquet Club - *Freda Knight*

Eight members were playing golf in the warm sunshine on Thursday afternoon, when an air ambulance flew over and circled over the croquet lawn. We realized it was preparing to land on the cricket pitch, which Roger was busily mowing. He desperately signalled them not to land on his cricket square and they touched down near the cricket pavilion. News hound Joyce Hampton threw down her mallet, and, camera at the ready, scuttled over there with Sue Rice, to see if they could help. There had been an accident in the High St. apparently, and eventually the casualty was brought by road ambulance, down Green lane, to the helicopter for conveyance to hospital.



Editors: Neil Coote and Martin Holland