



Reigate Priory C C - Newsletter Spring 2014

Sunny Saturday Speed Doubles – *John Bristow*

The afternoon of Saturday the 3rd of May saw a dozen or so* club members rushing about the lawn in pairs. They were “speed doubling”. Speed doubles is a version of Association Croquet played against the clock for a short time period. Very different from the full game which is perceived by some to be somewhat boring with much time spent off the lawn. In this game, with shots being played alternately by the pair partners, there is little sitting out. Basically the RPCC interpretation of rules is:-

- Assoc. Alternate Shot Doubles
- 14 point game on Half lawns
- Pairs different each game
- Bisques $\frac{1}{4}$ (handicap difference)
- Time limit 15 mins each pair
- Start clock at beginning of turn
- Switch clock to other pair at end of turn
- Do not enter lawn until clock started
- Running is not permitted
- Out of sequence play, if spotted, = end of turn
- A pair is allowed 1 shot per turn when their time is up until opponents' time is up also
- Game ends when both time limits up or one pair pegged out
- Your score is the sum of all the points gained by the pairs you played in [3 or 4 games]
- Highest score wins [averaging may occur]

Despite the apparent long list of rules everyone seemed get the hang of them including using the clocks and set about having fun for the afternoon, of course helped along by one of Freda's teas. The “no running” rule produced the most entertaining antics of the afternoon as some of the more mature members attempted to reach the clocks without seeming to run. Perhaps a “no wiggling” rule will have to be introduced next time.

At the end of the day almost everyone had had three games and five players had managed to average at least 7 points per game. J Criddle came 3rd with 22 pts, Sue Rice was 2nd with 23 pts and well done to Chris O'Byrne who won with 27 pts.

It was good see players not familiar with AC having a go and similar numbers of both genders taking part. It was a pleasure to organise it. A few more next time would be even better.

* Actually a baker's dozen arrived on a turn up and play basis.

Play at Prior Park – Freda Knight

During the closure of the lawn during the winter, we made use of the Priory Park lawn, which is opposite the school entrance.

John Bristow kindly marked out the full lawn for us, whilst office workers from Esure were playing their version of Association on a half lawn. We used the new slim hoops, which Martin Holland obtained for us, as they are easier to push in. The lawn was quite firm, and does drain quite quickly. There were a few hazards - one or two muddy patches, slopes to left and right of some hoops and tree roots to contend with. However, the grass was kept short and overall it is much improved. I kept the equipment in my possession and tried parking some days, but mostly I parked at the club and pushed the equipment and coffee, of course, over there in my 'granny's shopping trolley.'

18 of our members played golf during the 7 weeks, with an average of 8 per session, and most enjoyed the challenge! Lots of passers-by stopped to watch play, including the Priory school children, although we weren't able to offer 'have-a-go' as we had members waiting to play most days. One lady asked to have details of the club. Although we are glad to be back playing on the club lawn, I think we are very lucky to have been able to use the park lawn, free of charge during this period.

Bridge Evening, Gastronomic night of the stars ! - John Hyde

The annual bridge evening at John Hyde's house was on Saturday 26th May. As always it was all very convivial with the bridge coming second to the splendid feast at half time. Each of the ladies brought a dish and the men brought wine and the result was spectacular! The winners were the men's and ladies champions John and Sylvia Timberlake, and overall runner-up was John Prior.



FESTIVAL OF SPORT - Freda Knight

The annual YMCA Fun Run and Festival of Sport was held at Reigate Priory Park on Sunday May 4th. The club usually takes part, often sharing the lawn with one of the local bowls clubs. This year, we had it to ourselves, so we set up the full lawn, using the wire hoops, as they are easier to push in and easier for novices (and ourselves) to run.

It was a lovely sunny day, which was fortunate, as we didn't have the benefit of the Chairman's gazebo this year. I stood in as anchor woman, supported by 11 other members at intervals during the day.

It was quiet in the morning, as expected, but once the fun-run finished, we had a steady trickle of punters keen to give croquet a try.

Every hour, croquet was announced on the loudspeaker, and the event photographer came along and took the photos below. A lot of passers-by stopped to watch play. Four children used the junior mallets and balls, and two brothers showed us how it was done by swiftly progressing round the course, using their own version of croquet! Altogether we had 15 'triers', some of them interested in hearing more about our club. All in all, it proved to be an enjoyable and worthwhile day.



Roll up sessions - Martin Holland

The committee would like to get some statistics on the numbers who turn up for roll up sessions and which type of games played. Therefore, if you play any roll up games, could you each put your name in the diary and an A or G, for association or golf? Put AG if you played both in one roll up session. This information will allow us to tailor the roll up sessions to adequately cover all requirements.

Progress in the NE corner – *John Bristow*

The story of the NE Corner Terrace so far is one of reclamation and re-use. After Christmas timber that was originally rafters and joists in the old Cricket Pavilion was recovered from the “building site” and de-nailed [approx. 40 nails per joist]. The wood was left to dry out through January under our club house canopy and then treated with timber preservative in February. Meanwhile the earth adjacent to the corner wall was approximately levelled off with the surface breaking tree roots removed leaving the stump in situ as a feature. The turf removed was used at a temporary retaining wall for the soil. At this stage it was clear that a significant amount of extra soil and hardcore [brick rubble] would be needed to create the level area. This is where stage two of the reclamation came in. Soil was bagged up [40 in all] from a pile in the lane down to the tennis club and brought across on the back of the Cricket Club tractor. *Well there was a bit of a delay ...the tractor wouldn't start. “Anyone got jump leads?”. “No”. So off to the newsagent-come-ironmonger that was once West Street Post Office. “Do you by any chance have any battery jump leads to start a car?” “Do you want the £10, £18.50 or £25.50 set?” It is amazing what you can find in an old post office!! Tractor started, the soil got shifted.*

Where were we..... Reclamation stage two: The compost heap in the NW corner was found to contain a large number of broken bricks which were unearthed and recovered to the site. At this point the cricket club joined in and carted across the old bricks from the foundations of their rebuilt scoreboard. With enough soil and hardcore available the low retaining wall, apart from its top layer, was installed before Easter using the reclaimed timber. Thanks are due to SueR, NeilC, AlanS, SimonL, JohnD, JohnB and JohnR for their sterling work in the winter months.

At the Mid-April committee meeting it was decided that the tree stump should be removed if the cost was not prohibitive. So Plan B, remove the hardcore that had been laid, and a bit of a delay whilst quotes were sought over the phone and the “www”. A couple of site visitations and the quotes were in. But hang on; Hon Sec had a cunning plan. He had mentioned our stump to a chap called Dean that was removing several stumps near where he lives.



To cut a long story short the stump was removed in double quick time on Tuesday 20 May without interrupting play in any way, as can be seen above.

The photo on the right shows Dean* from "Surrey Stump Removal" in action. The work was done gratis in exchange for showing Dean's kids how to play croquet. The chippings that ensued, seven barrow loads, have been distributed in the existing troughs along the side wall. So now is the time to put the hard core back and proceed with having some paving laid. Maybe this will lead to reclamation stage three... who knows? When the terrace is finished what shall we call it? Suggestions to date include :- "The Vulliamy Terrace" "The Vulliamy Memorial Terrace", The N E Terrace", "The Northeast", "Corner three", "Bunny's". Preferences, suggestions and help welcomed.
Bob-The-Builder.



* If you ever want a tree stump removed, Dean from Dorking is your man. His details are \



Changes to Golf Croquet Handicap for 2014 – John Bristow

You may have heard murmurings and maybe seen paperwork about changes to GC Handicap Rules. Well, as far as most of the RPCC members are concerned, they are nothing to worry about at all. .

The changes have come about because of too many players across the country are on zero handicap. They are threefold

1. Handicap range is extended down to –3 with named players being allocated differing minus handicaps.
2. Handicaps in the range below 4 are being reassessed
3. A device is introduced called "effective handicap" which means that additional extra turns are allocated when playing handicap games against players below 4 h/c.

Plus the handicap card has been revised to reflect the changes.

There is a 3 page document* covering these changes but in summary

1 does not affect anyone in the club.

2 has been done with only one change Jamie Burch becomes zero h/c.

3 may occasionally come into play in club competitions and some external matches. All you need to remember is that besides the extra turns allocated on handicap difference you get :-

1 more playing a 3h/c; 2 playing a 2h/c; 3 playing a 1h/c ; 4 playing a 0h/c and so on up to 6.

Finally existing handicap cards remain valid and are quite adequate and only need to be replaced when full.

*Available electronically if you really want one

Members News – Neil Coote

Congratulations go to Jean Cobbold, Jon Criddle, Jamie Burch and Neil Coote.

Jamie won the Western Championship held at the Parkstone club, Poole. As a result, he is now ranked no1 in the UK.

Jean & Jon were awarded Club coach (subject to coaching at the club) & Neil AC Coach Level 1 after attending the coaches' qualification course at Southwick.

Editor: Neil Coote