



# Reigate Priory C C - Newsletter Summer 2012

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## **Interim Chairman's Comments – *Laurence Hughes***

Nothing very exciting to report folks. Most things are “going along quite nicely”, that is, if you don't mind the weather. The competitions have advanced to plan, the finances remain in good shape and the reduced water bill will be a bonus. The collection for the Tim Hazell mallets has been widely supported – “no pressure!”- and activities have, generally, been well attended, that is if you do not include maintenance mornings in the event category.

It is planned to continue with the winter ladders and I will be putting up a notice whereon you will be able to record your results. There are no changes to the rules planned. Thus the matches will continue not to be entered on your card. If you wish to join the ladder or drop out please let me know. As they have been inactive through the summer, I plan to start from scratch with a random re-ordering rather than require new joiners to start from the bottom, though this would still apply late joiners after the 1st of October start date. This is a good opportunity for members to test their abilities outside the somewhat closed circle of the club sessions and take on some of our leading players.

## **Secretary's report – *Geoff Gunton***

This is a rather short report this time – my computer has died and I'm doing this from memory at my desk after work.

I have mentioned the sports festival elsewhere, which was the last time I spoke to Tim Hazell; he had organised that event, presented some of the prizes and generally encouraged all the stall holders. His passing just a few days later was a shock to all of us. We all have our own memories of him; I recall his support and encouragement in my early days at the club and it became clear that he had time for everyone.

When I joined, I never intended to become secretary, but working with Tim as secretary to his chairman was always a pleasure. The attendance at his funeral, when the church was packed, was a public tribute to his quiet influence across many spheres of local life.

As you probably know, the committee considered the various ideas put forward to commemorate Tim and a set of mallets will be purchased for everyone's use. Andy Gray is overseeing a fund to cover their cost. Any and all contributions are welcome.

The BBQ and its associated finals was a success. The weather was always threatening but the evening turned out fine and Freda and John laid on an excellent spread. Thank you to them and to all those who provided food and help at that event.

We now look forward to the Finals Weekend on 18-19 August and then it will soon be time to fill in the entry forms for next year's competitions. Where did that year go? So I will encourage everyone – especially new members – to enter all the events for which you are eligible. Not only will you enjoy some good competitive games, but you will also get to know some club members that you might not otherwise meet in competition.

## **SECF Doubles Tournament: Southwick Sat/Sun 26/27 th May – Frank Burch**

Reigate took part again in this annual tournament attended by approx 10 clubs from South East Federation Area. During two days of gorgeous weather our Sat team of Jon Criddle, John Bristow, John Knight & Ron Farr achieved 2 wins out of possible 6. Our Sun team of John Stadden, Rodger Tedstone Peter Goldsmith and Frank Burch, achieved 4 wins out of possible 4, at least two games going to time. Our total score over two days was 6 wins out of possible 10. Ramsgate just pipped Dulwich to win tournament with 8 wins to Dulwich 7. Reigate coming joint third with our 6 wins.

## **All England Association Final – Geoff Gunton**

### *John Bristow vs. Alan Slade.*

Both players had some good breaks: John especially so, taking his first ball all the way to rover early in the game. As a result, it was always a struggle for Alan, although an impressive three-ball break took him from hoop 2 to stop at penult – interrupted only by a discussion over whether one shot had damaged the lawn.

So the match looked even, but John hit in with his back ball and took that round to rover, where it could have been wrapped up had his rover-peel come off. It gave Alan a glimmer of hope and, though he made hoop 1 with his second ball and got as far as hoop 4 in that turn and a few others as John shepherded his around the lawn for reasons that eluded the spectators, it was only a question of time before John realised that he really ought to peg out and win the game. It was all over in 80 minutes.

## **Gordon Goodchild Alternate Shot Doubles – Geoff Gunton**

### *Margaret Murphy & Lucy Beach vs. Joyce Carlisle and John Bristow*

Like the heats, this was played as an 18pt game with a 1hr 45 minute time limit and bisques on each side. Both pairs had some impressive hits in and both had some good hoop approaches and rushes, so it was a game that could have gone either way in the early stages.

My notes record that Margaret made some particularly impressive shots and long roquets, which gave her and Lucy a momentum that John and Joyce struggled to match. It was a shame that time was called when it was, with Lucy and Margaret on peg and rover. But they ended as +10 winners, giving Margaret her first club competition win since she won the Rosamond trophy many years ago.

## **SECF Handicap Golf Tournament: Southwick Sun 5th Aug– Neil Coote**

Reigate entered two teams in this annual tournament attended by many clubs from South East Federation Area. The format was two doubles games in the morning, followed by three singles games in the afternoon, each game lasting about 50mins. Luckily we had warm dry weather for the whole day as well. The two teams were:-

Reigate1 – Neil Coote, John Staddon, Joyce Carlisle , Jean Cobbold

Reigate2 – Ian Cobbold, Margaret Murphy, John Bristow, Lorna Jenkins

Reigate 2 came out as runners up with 10 wins, 1 loss, 1 draw in the singles comp. The overall winners were Sussex winning both the doubles and singles.

## **Millennium Salver Golf competition – *Martin Holland***

All the entrants assembled to some welcome warm sunshine. All competitors had to play each other so there were seven games in all for the eight players. By lunchtime Lorna had a slight lead in the number of games won. Laurence provided a good lunch as Freda was competing. After lunch, Lorna increased her lead to an almost unassailable total as she was two games in advance of the next competitor, namely Sally Mackinlay. However, in the final two games Sally won both hers and Lorna lost hers. We were tied for the winner. Much work with the calculator to see who had won the most hoops. They were both on 30 hoops. There was nothing for it but to set-up the full lawn for a playoff. It was nip and tuck all the way but Sally won through, so she is our 2012 winner. Well done Sally.

## **The Longman Cup – *Jon Criddle***

In this knock-out competition we won our 1st round match against old rivals Surbiton, 5-2. However we failed to maintain our momentum in the 2nd round match against Roehampton. We went down 2-4 with the final match declared a draw as we had already lost.

### ***U League.....Team A - Jon Criddle***

We have played only 1 match so far.....28th July. This was against Southwick who were Captained by none other than John Taylor. We won 5-2. Our remaining 3 matches are against Surbiton, Ramsgate and Dulwich on 23rd August, 2nd September and 22nd September respectively.

### ***U League.....Team B - John Bristow***

Results so far: Won at Compton 5-2; Won at Tunbridge Wells 4-3; Lost at Canterbury 2-5; Rother Valley to be played.

## **Golf Teams – *Ian Cobbold***

### ***R League (Level Play)***

Our team has so far played two of its four matches. We started with a very close encounter with our old adversaries at Woking coming out a narrow winner by 4 -3. John Bristow was our most successful player winning both his matches.

We then faced a substandard team from Surbiton (we have no idea why they decided to put out such a weak team) and romped home 7 - 0.

We are due to play Tunbridge Wells on 20th August and West Worthing on 11th September.

### ***Handicap league***

Our two pools of players for these teams are of similar abilities and so the labels A and B do not indicate first and second teams.

### ***Team A***

This team started with an easy 8 - 1 win against Sydenham. Sue Rice won all three of her matches in her first League appearance and has been rewarded by having her handicap reduced!

We then went to Ealing, who are not one of our normal opponents in this league, and were narrowly defeated 3 - 4. Joyce Carlisle won both her singles.

The team still has to play Merton on 7th September and Parsons Green - another new opponent - on a date not yet arranged.

### ***Team B***

This team has only played one match so far, beating Ramsgate 8 -1. Martin Peacock equalled Sue Rice by winning all his matches on his first league appearance. No doubt a handicap cut here too soon.

The team's remaining matches are against Ivychurch on 6th August, Canterbury on 31st August and Guildford on 21st September.

## ***Golf Doubles Final – Laurence Hughes***

The final was contested, in a single 13 point game, between Mike Bottomley and Sue Rice versus Frank Burch and Sally Mackinlay. Frank and Sally surged to an early 3-0 lead despite a prolonged battle at hoop 2 and a degree of problem at hoop 3, with Sally missing the ball three times, whilst colliding with the hoop, Mike and Sue pulled back to 3-1 but continued to trail throughout with Frank and Sally running in 7-3.

It was good to see two of our newer players in this final and I expect we will see more of Sue and Sally in future finals.

## ***All England Golf Club Final – Laurence Hughes***

This was an all Cobbold event with Ian, handicap 3, versus his good lady, handicap 5, engaged in a best-of-three contest. In game 1 Ian moved into an early lead assisted by a wandering blue ball that trundled through the first hoop with a mind of its own. He moved to 3-1 at which point he suddenly lost his line, so they entered the straight 4-4. A splendid jump restored Ian's lead but Jean now deployed her two extra shots to good effect and they ended up tied at 6 - 6. After a struggle in the heat, Ian prevailed 7 - 6.

Game 2 saw Ian pull back Jean's early lead and he finished the match 7-4. Jean was saved at one point from serious double-whammy when in defending hoop 5 she accidentally sent Ian's black ball to nestle in hoop 6. Fortunately for her, Ian failed to make hoop 5 so was forced to send the black ball back up the lawn.

An entertaining match with no sign of a "domestic".

## ***Handicap Committee – Laurence Hughes***

As you may be aware, John Timberlake is standing down as chairman of the handicap committee at the AGM and, also Jon Criddle does not believe he has enough contact with AC players of a greater than 10 handicap. I understand that those below 10 are not within their purview. I wonder whether we should take this as an opportunity to shake up our system.

Take golf handicaps for example – we have people playing off 12/11 who have been playing for many years but play little competitive, as compared to informal, croquet either inside or outside the club. Consequently, their handicaps hardly move and we have been subject to critical comments on occasions.

I don't think we have the same problem with AC, as very high handicap players, such as myself, do not venture outside the club. However, certainly at this high end of handicaps they sometimes seem to be a trifle haphazard.

Perhaps we should have small separate golf and association groups that would concentrate on the high handicap players within each discipline with the heads of these groups meeting with the club chairman to draw up proposals for handicapping policy to be approved by the club committee, e.g. for golf should every new member always start at 12 and should they be assessed at some point and the card becoming the only determinant beyond a handicap of (say) 8 ?

Whatever we need some new handicap committee members and, taking Jon's point, they should include people who play across a wide field including social croquet.

Any Thoughts or Volunteers?

## **Sports Festival – Geoff Gunton**

We attended the Sports Festival in Priory Park on May 6. Although we did not have as many visitors as the previous year or pick up any new members, I believe it is worth attending each year to raise the profile of both the club and the game and to show support for the Council's commitment in providing a croquet lawn.

## **Gatton Park Country Fair – Geoff Gunton**

We accepted an invitation to take part in a Victorian-themed Country Fair at Gatton Park on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Despite frequent sharp showers, it was well attended and we had a good number of children and adults on the lawn all afternoon – somewhat more than we had had at the Sports Festival.



We collected two contact details for following up and others took the club leaflet and the general CA leaflets about the game. I was grateful to the six members who supported this event at various times during the day, which included four of our newest members. If we get invited again, I will be looking for more helpers: there were times when we had so many on the lawn that we had to abandon the gazebo for a few minutes, which obviously presents a security risk. And when packing up, we discovered that one of the lightweight balls had gone missing; an extensive

search of the surrounding area failed to find it. Another pair of eyes might have spotted it wander off and call it back. The CA shop no longer stocks those balls and I have not yet found a source for a replacement.

## The Hoop that Hopped – *John Bristow (aka Bob-the-Builder)*

One day in June whilst a member was practicing with his new brass-cornered mallet a funny thing happened. An attempted hoop run ended in failure - of the hoop that is. An eyewitness claims the hoop spun around and ended up one legged, Figure 1... The striker [technical term, see the rulebook] claims that the hit was not really hard [only 1 on the Jamie Burch Richter scale]. So how could this be?

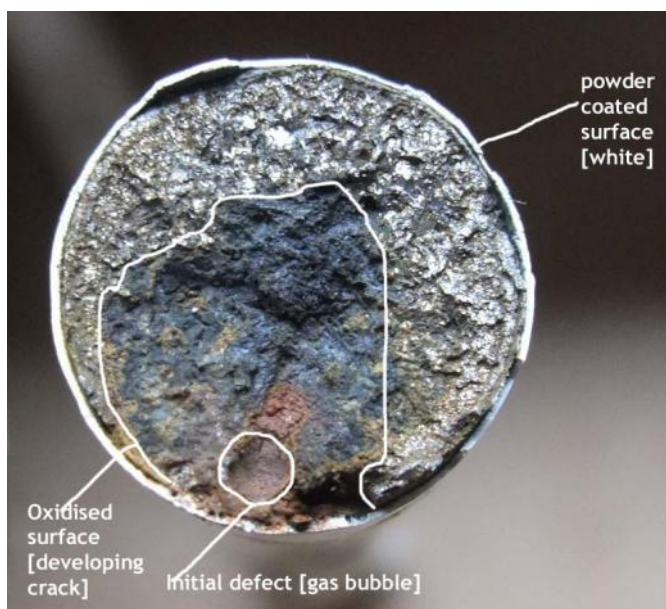
Figure 1 The broken hoop



Hoops are made of cast iron because they are cheap to reproduce, albeit a glance at the Jacques catalogue would belie that fact. Cast Iron differs from steel in that it has much more carbon in it approx 4% rather than 1%. It comes in half a dozen different metallurgical states - our hoop is most likely grey cast iron the most common form. When cast iron fails it will not deform in a noticeable way and appears to snap apart, like a biscuit [provided you haven't dunked the biscuit]. This makes it sensitive to defects and impurities many of which arise during a simple casting process. One common defect is porosity caused by small gas bubbles forming in the molten metal during casting and then trapped as the metal cools and

solidifies.

A look at the broken surface, figure.2, reveals a large defect of this type as a smooth hemispherical depression. From this initial defect a crack formed by breaking through to the surface, and developing internally, the dark oxidised surface, before the final failure [the lighter area] in June.



The hoop was made of grey cast iron was broken by a chap called Gray; that's ironic.

**Editors: Neil Coote and Martin Holland**