



Reigate Priory C C - Newsletter Summer 2014

Chairman's message

First, I must welcome our new members, Caroline and Mike Barnard and Doug Dykes. I hope they will soon meet everyone and feel welcome and encouraged to get involved.

Congratulations to Jamie, who won the CA's President's Cup in September – the top Association trophy in the country, which is contested by the nation's top eight players. Elsewhere in this newsletter is a press release that Judy Perry put together, with Jamie's assistance. It has appeared online on the Redhill & Reigate Life website; if you have seen it in print anywhere, let me know.

I have not been able to play much this year – both because of my bashed-up foot (much better, thank you. Final hospital and physio appointments were completed end-September) and heavy work commitments this year, so I am especially grateful to my committee members for keeping things going: for example Freda, for encouraging use of the Priory Park lawn, and Martin Peacock for offering to swap his October club day with my April one, at short notice.

There are reports (I hope) elsewhere from the BBQ and finals weekend, both of which went well. Trophies were presented at the time but will be re-presented at the AGM, by which time they will have been engraved for posterity. I hope you will all come to the AGM; details of that will be circulated in the next few weeks.

Finally, a word on club security: as you know, a few sports clubs in the area have suffered from arson attacks in recent months. Although someone has been charged with those offences, they underline how vulnerable clubs such as ours are – especially when our clubhouse is almost entirely made of wood. Always be alert to suspicious activity around the site and always remember to lock up when you leave – there is a check list on the door; please review it whenever you leave.

WI Croquet Challenge – *Geoff Gunton*

For a few years now, I have hosted a couple of evenings each year for the Woodhatch WI. Meanwhile, Ron Farr and, latterly, Martin Peacock and Freda have hosted a group from Sidlow WI from time to time. At my most recent Woodhatch evening this shared interest came up in conversation and the seed was sown for an inter-WI challenge.

So on the afternoon of Saturday August 30th, eight members from each club assembled to contest a handsome trophy purchased and engraved that very morning from Mr Snob of Banstead.

They played four rounds of best-of-seven-hoops Golf, in doubles, with the pairings changing for each game. Four games took place simultaneously on half lawns – 16 games in all. I also kept track of individual scores, so my fall-back tie breaker was to be a best-of-three-hoops playoff between the leading players from each club.

It very nearly came to that: the first two rounds were each shared 2-2. In the third round, Woodhatch achieved a 4-0 whitewash but in the fourth and final round, Sidlow were 3-0 up, with one still in play. If Sidlow won, it would go to a tie-break. That game went to its last hoop, with Woodhatch winning it 4-3 and with it, the trophy.

I am sure they will both be back next year. I hope so: they provided an excellent buffet.

Vulliamy Salver Final – Geoff Gunton

Neil Coote (5) versus Roger Tedstone (4)

I'm not sure how I ended up refereeing this match, but I thought it was going to be quick and trouble free. It was neither. The first sign of trouble was when Neil played a wrong ball when taking croquet. I wasn't sure of the rule; Martin P. sitting alongside me did, so I sent him onto the lawn to sort out the mess. Then a delegation of spectators emerged from the clubhouse demanding to know how many referees there were. Oh dear. It also didn't help that, for the first part of the game, it was double banked with the closing stages of the Rosamond Trophy, and so it was inevitable that, sooner or later, someone would collide with a ball in the other game. It happened to be Roger.

Both players made some good hoops, but both also missed some straightforward roquets and unexpectedly blobbed at crucial hoops. For example, Roger was edging ahead until he missed at 3-back, giving Neil an easy lift and getting him back into the game, making five hoops. Roger then made progress with his Red, taking it round and making Rover but, in trying to roquet his yellow, accidentally pegged himself out, leaving yellow just inches from the peg. That gave Neil a choice of two long shots; he made his choice and hit in, setting up an impressive three-ball break as far as 2-back, where he just overran his approach, putting an end to his game. Roger went on to peg out his Yellow to win +11.

Creed Final (Advanced handicap) – Geoff Gunton

Jamie Burch (-2.5) versus John Knight (12)

With John holding 14.5 bisques, it seemed that even England's top player would fall at the fence of sticks standing tall at the end of the lawn. Jamie played first and put his Yellow ball – as he often does – somewhere near Hoop 5 and John hit it and made the first hoop. But then Jamie hit in with his Red ball and – as he often does – and took it all the way round to peg, leaving the three balls in corners, with his Red in Corner 1. Since the Creed is played to Advanced rules, John was entitled to take contact and he rolled the Red up to Hoop 1 and, for the cost of a bisque, made the hoop but missed the roquet back to Red.

To the astonishment of the crowd, he did not then start demolishing his bisques to get a break going; instead he left Jamie with an apparently simple roquet using his Red. But John reasoned that Jamie would play Yellow – on the other side of the lawn – as that was the ball he needed to progress – and took a gamble that he would miss. Jamie did indeed play Yellow but – as he so often does – he hit the long shot and took his second ball round and pegged out to win +24, leaving 13.5 of John's bisques still standing.

The Alan Grant Candlesticks Final – *Mike Bottomley*

Lorna Jenkins & John Staddon versus John Bristow & John Hyde

Lorna and John received 6 bisques. The game started quietly with some resistance to use bisques. John B got in and made 4 hoops and then John H hit in and with some imaginative play turned a poor situation into a 5 hoop break! However his breakdown at 6 left John S with an easy start and he played an excellent break from 2 to penult. There followed a period of the Johns B & H shooting and missing and Lorna making the odd hoop or so to 1 back. John B then hit in and progressed with a break from 5 to penult. Lorna then progressed further using three bisques to penult, leaving the game delicately poised, as there was only one bisque John H then hit in and progressed from 6 to peg. However John S was in again, making penult and peeling Lorna through rover. John H missed a couple of very long roquets, John S made rover and pegged out both balls, +5 to Lorna and John.

Grass Roots Finals - *Freda Knight*

Following our club competition, which was run as progressive doubles on half lawns, followed by singles play offs, 4 of us qualified to go forward to the Regional finals at Watford in August. This year the format was changed to level singles, which was a big improvement. John Dawson, Sally Mackinlay, Judy Perry and Freda Knight set off for Watford and all had a successful day, despite the lawns being in a very poor state, due to the dry weather, and no watering facilities. All of us qualified to go forward to the National Finals at Ashby on 13th Sept, but in the end only Judy and Freda were able to go, setting off at 6.15a.m.! We arrived at 8.45, relieved to find the lawns in good condition and very true.

Due to finalists dropping out, only 10 people played, resulting in seven games each. The winner was Pat Edginton with 6 wins, and Judy was 4th with 4 wins. This year a cooked lunch and tea was provided, which made for a very pleasant though long day, as we arrived back at Reigate at 9pm.

Southwick 14pt Doubles tournament – *John Knight*

Once again we entered teams for this 3 day event, with the following members representing Reigate:

John Knight, Lorna Jenkins, Ian Cobbold, Martin Peacock.

Mike Bottomley, John Staddon, John prior, Frank Burch

John Bristow, John Knight, Martin Holland, Lucy Beach.

We all enjoyed this fairly relaxed event. The weather was good for all three days and the Southwick organisation and catering was up to the usual standard. The overall results were very close, with seven teams entered, playing 24 games in total. The final results were-

Southwick Goshawks Winners with 14 wins

Caterham, Purley Bury, Reigate and Rottingdean equal 2nd with 12 wins

Southwick Falcons, Rother Valley equal 6th with 11 wins.

If we had won one more against Southwick Goshawks we would have been equal first, so I think we acquitted ourselves well. So, finally, many thanks to all our team members for their contributions to this event.

All England Association Area Final (handicap singles) – Jon Criddle

This was held at Surbiton over the weekend of 30/31 August 2014.

The Club was represented by Lucy and Jon. Other Area Finals were held at Pendle & Craven and Edgbaston.

Sixteen players qualified for the competition and came from as far afield as Ramsgate, Bristol and two entries from Duffryn outside Cardiff. To call it the All England would appear to be a misnomer!

The event, which was organised by George Noble, was run as a Swiss Block with each entrant having to play five games. Lucy won her first four games in great style, and only narrowly lost her last one. Nevertheless she had done enough to be declared the overall winner and received her trophy to much applause. Well done Lucy!

Jon was an also-ran.

All England Association Final (handicap singles) – Neil Coote

The National Final was held at Colchester over the weekend of 13/14 September 2014 for the eight finalists, Nick Archer (Watford), Lucy Beach (Reigate Priory), Tony Elliott (Enfield), Graham Good (Bury), Joe Iddison (Peterborough), Alan Morton (Fylde), Christina Rice (Ramsgate) and Robert Upton (Dyffryn).

Graham Good, Nick Archer & Lucy all had 4 wins out of 5 and so a tie break was declared. From this Graham ran out the winner with Lucy coming in 3rd. A full report can be seen on the CA website [here](#). Well done Lucy, a great result.

B League Results - Peter Goldsmith

We have now played 3 out of our 4 matches, resulting in 1 won and 2 lost. Although the results were disappointing, the two lost matches were very close and could easily have gone either way. We are therefore confident of victory against Medway in September to make us even for the season and thus improve on last year's single victory! Results were:

Monday 8th July, lost to Southwick 1-2

Tuesday 16th July, beat Woking 2-1

Saturday 3rd August, lost to Ember 1-2

Those playing in the three matches were Frank Burch, Martin Holland, Martin Peacock, David Connah, John Knight, John Staddon, Joyce Carlisle, Alan Slade, Ron Farr and John Hyde.

Longman Cup – Neil Coote

This is a C A National AC handicap knockout competition which we entered a team into. We beat Purley Bury, Woking and then lost to Blewbury, but after the match Blewbury found that they had made an error in their team's handicap. This made their team ineligible, so they withdrew giving us the win. We are now in the semi-finals against Roehampton to be played at Nottingham on the 4th October, followed by the final or 3/4th place on the 5th October.

The teams are as follows:

Saturday Team.		Sunday Team	
Mike Bottomley.	7. (Capt).	John Bristow.	8. (capt)
Roger Tedstone.	4.	Roger Tedstone.	4
Chris O'Byrne	8.	Chris O'Byrne	8
Andrew Gray.	6.	John Knight.	1

U league A team – Jon Criddle

We have enjoyed a successful year by winning all our matches. The same four players made up the team. They were Mike Bottomley, Jon Criddle, John Knight and Chris O' Byrne. Two other players, John Hyde and Simon Ling, were in the squad but they were unavailable to play on the dates required. The results were as follows:-

- v- Tunbridge Wells won 6 – 1
- v- Surbiton won 5 - 2
- v- Southwick won 4 - 3
- v- Compton. won 5 - 2

We wait to hear of our final position in the League, which thirteen clubs entered and which may involve a play-off if another club also kept a clean sheet. The overall winner is eligible for entry to the Secretary's Shield in 2015.

U league B team – Neil Coote

The B team struggled to match the A team this year and only managed to win one game. The results were:

- v- Guildford won 5-2
- v- Medway lost 3-4
- v- Purley Bury lost 3-4
- v- Rother Valley lost 2-5

Thanks to the various people who played, John B, Roger, Andrew, Geoff, Neil, Alan, John S

Friendly Matches 2014 - *Martin Peacock*

The friendly matches for the season have now been completed and many thanks to all those who played. The overall results were good (see results table) and various new members were introduced to playing matches. I trust that all who played enjoyed and look forward to more new members playing in the next season.

Date of Match	Club	Home/Away	Golf/ Assoc	Result
Sunday 4 th May	Cheam	Away	Assoc	Lost 3 - 1
Thursday 8 th May	Rother Valley	Away	Golf	Won 8 - 1
Thursday 15 th May	Woking	Home	Golf	Drawn 2 - 2
Thursday 22 rd May	Rother Valley	Away	Assoc	Won 4 - 1
Thursday 12 th June	Cheam	Away	Golf	Won 6-2
Thursday 31 st July	AELTC – Wimbledon	Home	Golf	Drawn 4 - 4
Thursday 14 th August	Rother Valley	Home	Golf	Won 5 - 1
Thursday 28 th August	Rother Valley	Home	Assoc	Drawn 2 - 2
Thursday 18 th September	Cheam	Home	Golf	Lost 6 - 2

Millennium Salver - *Martin Holland*

Freda Knight presents Jill Dawson with the Millennium Salver. Jill won the 2014 competition by beating her husband in the final.



Member News - *Geoff Gunton*

Elizabeth Davis

Many members will remember Elizabeth Davis, wife of former member Rex Davis. She passed away on 5th September, aged 83. She and Rex moved to Sussex a few years back and Rex joined Southwick. Some members have kept in touch with Rex and Elizabeth; if you should wish to make a donation to the Alzheimer's Society in her memory, please ask me for details.

PRESS RELEASE

Top national competition won by local croquet star, Jamie Burch

Reigate Priory Croquet Club members are celebrating their premier player's recent success in winning the President's Cup, the highest award in the country. Entry is by selection, with only the top eight players invited to compete. Currently ranked no 6 in the World, Jamie Burch won the play-off final against Robert Fulford, (5 times World Champion).

The event took place at Bowdon in Cheshire on 7-8th September and Jamie's play throughout the competition made him the man to beat. The play-off itself was marked by some impressive shots and tactics by both players but Jamie's remarkable accuracy at crucial stages of the game gave him a comfortable victory

Jamie, 34, who lives in Reigate, started playing croquet with his parents at Reigate Priory when he was 7. Now a devoted family man with two young children, he works full time as a painter and decorator yet still finds time to play

darts as well as world class croquet. Earlier this year he represented England at the top-tier World Team Championships in New Zealand.

Reigate Priory Croquet club is justifiably proud of its star player and keen to welcome new members, whether beginners or more experienced players.

If you think you might be interested in joining this thriving and successful club you will be made very welcome.

Jamie then went on to retain his South of England trophy at Compton. (Ed)

