

Canterbury Croquet Club

Spring Newsletter 2014

Spring sprang early this year and the weather was also excellent for lawn preparation so our groundsman Tim Smith was able to hand over our courts just before Easter. Barry, Lois, Peter and his son Henry marked out the courts, put in the hoops and cleaned the clubhouse and store. Please help to keep these clean and tidy!

Association Captain Peter reports that our south-eastern Unlimited Handicap League team will play Ramsgate and Reigate at home and Medway and Caterham away. The B League matches are Ivychurch and Ramsgate at home; Merton and Medway away. Yvonne will captain our ladies team in the annual tournament at Southbourne on 2nd July.

Golf Croquet Captain Judy has, for the first time, entered the club into the south-eastern restricted level-play league as well as the handicap league. This will give more of our players a chance to compete against other clubs and gain valuable experience. Judy has, also for the first time, organised a level play internal league. The aim is to raise standards. The handicap matches will be against Cheam and Ivychurch away and Old College (Dulwich) and Ramsgate at Polo Farm. The level play matches will be away to Medway and Ramsgate and at home to Reigate Priory and Ivychurch. Judy will again lead a team to play in the Southern Challenge and also in a singles and doubles competition. Both these events are at Southwick.

Roger has again organised a Spring Opener. The event, on Sunday May 18, is open to the first 16 people to sign up on the list Roger has posted in the clubhouse. Open day is on Monday May 26. These and other key dates are recorded on Roger's calendar of events which is posted on our website.

Robert Barklie is due to captain a team from Herbert Park, Dublin, to compete against us at Polo Farm. The team will arrive on Friday June 27. Roger is, as usual, in charge of arrangements. Members of the Ireland team will stay with Canterbury club members. The teams will play association croquet all day on Saturday and on Sunday morning. Their aim will be to win so as not to take home the wooden spoon trophy. Canterbury have the spoon because they lost to Herbert Park in Dublin after a penalty shootout two years ago and could not attempt to lose the spoon last year because Herbert Park were not able to raise a team to visit Polo Farm owing to illness. A golf croquet match will be held on Sunday afternoon. Roger and Judy will aim to give as many of our players as possible to compete against the Herbert Park team. Club members will provide food and refreshments on match days. Roger will post a notice in the clubhouse inviting players to take part.

As usual there will be a dinner for the Dublin team and Canterbury club members and partners on the Saturday (June 28) This year the dinner will be at The Rising Sun Inn at Stourmouth. The menu consists of five starters, five main courses and five desserts, plus coffee and mints. Vegetarians are catered for. The price is £23.95. I will send everyone the menu in a separate email or letter.

On Sunday evening (June 29) Barry and Lois will entertain the Ireland team and Canterbury club members and their partners to a wine and buffet supper (possibly with some games) at their Rough Common home. This will cost £5 a head payable on the day. A notice will be put up in the pavilion and will those intending to come please reply by the open day, 26th May.

The nuisance caused by clips springing off when balls hit the hoops during golf croquet matches should soon be a thing of the past. John Bowsher asked the maker to redesign the clips to ensure they stayed put. He and I bought sufficient of these clips for league matches but now the committee has agreed to purchase enough for general club use.

Roger has published the first edition of his calendar of events. You can find this on the club's website. He regularly updates the calendar.

Chairman's Report: Our summer lawns are playing quite well and I hope that everybody will have an enjoyable season of croquet.

Things are coming to a head at Polo Farm and we should know by the end of May if planning consent for residential development on our lawns will be given or not. In any event, we shall be able to have a full season's play this year. If we have to move, we do not yet have a firm alternative in place, but I remain hopeful that we should be able to achieve better lawns than we have at present.