



NEWSLETTER

December 2007

From The Chairman



The main season is now well over, but when the weather is not too cold or wet there are hardy people still playing croquet on the Bowling Green – I guess we need to start calling it Lawn 4 (a/b). Congratulations to them all!

This has been a great year for the club, but I won't recount the detail here since everything was covered at the AGM (see separate minutes). I'd just like to thank Ann Boyle and Pam Clark for their excellent food and their sterling work in overcoming the problems in the kitchen at the AGM.

I'd also like to thank the two retiring committee members, Ann Boyle and Selwyn Ward, for their efforts over the last few years and welcome on board Mike Greagsby, who's practising hard in California this winter, but is doing sterling work from there.

Since the AGM your committee has not been idle and we have organised some social activities for the Winter – see below for more details and other things happening around the club.

Finally, I wish you all a Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year and hope to see you all on the lawns next year.

Winter Warmer!

Thanks to Elaine and Mark Houslop we'll be having a ~~Summer Barbeque~~ Winter Chilli (Con Carne) on 31st January at their home - Nine West, Hungershall Park, Tunbridge Wells TN4 8NE. From 7pm – price £10 per head including wine. To reserve your place(s) contact Elaine on 01892 619192 by 23rd January.

Pub Lunches

The dates are in the Diary below. For 10th January at the Chaser Inn we need to order in advance, otherwise the kitchen will be overloaded, so here is the menu:

STARTERS

- * Soup of the day served with fresh bread. £3.95
- * Seared scallops served with black pudding and spinach puree, finished with a creamy lobster butter. £7.95
- * Large field mushroom with spinach, topped with Welsh rarebit served with rocket and curly salad and pancetta. £6.95
- * Chinese duck spring rolls with carrot, red pepper and sesame seed salad and soya honey dressing £6.25
- * Game terrine served with plum and ginger chutney and toasted brioche £6.95

MAINS

- * Char-grilled 9oz steak burger with bacon & mozzarella served in a

bun with salad & chips. £9.95 (M/MW/WD)

- * Fishcakes (Salmon, smoked haddock & potato) with a beef tomato & spring onion salad & a lemon mayo. £8.95
- * Half shoulder of English lamb with a Dijon mustard & brioche herb crust served with thyme & redcurrant sauce served with roasted vegetables & dauphinoise potatoes. £14.95
- * Chicken breast marinated in lemon, garlic and thyme on a spring onion mash finished with a rich wild mushroom sauce and served with seasonal vegetables. £13.95
- * Kentish bangers & mash served with onion gravy. £9.95
- * Pan fried fillet of wild sea bass served with and clam chowder on a bed of fresh saffron linguine £14.50
- * Char-grilled scotch fillet steak £2.50/ounce or sirloin £2.10/ounce served with a peppercorn sauce, salad & chips.
- * Chestnut, sage and Gorgonzola risotto finished with cream, served with garlic bread and a small salad £9.95

PUDDINGS

- * Banoffee pie, served with fruit coulis £5.25
- * Chaser trifle topped with toasted almonds with cream £5.25
- * Chocolate Brownie with white chocolate sauce/vanilla ice £5.45
- * Sticky Toffee Pudding with toffee sauce/vanilla ice cream £5.25
- * Lemon posset served with gingersnap biscuit £4.95
- * Walnut treacle tart served with honeycomb ice cream £5.45
- * Selection of ice creams and sorbets: £4.25
- * Selection of cheeses with celery, grapes, and biscuits £4.95

SIDE ORDERS

- *Dauphinoise potatoes £3.50 *Chips £2.95 *New Potatoes £3.50
- *Mixed Vegetables £3.50 *Side Salad £3.50

WHEN ORDERING STEAKS & BURGERS PLEASE LET US KNOW HOW YOU WOULD LIKE THEM COOKED!

Please let Jon Diamond on 01892 663837 have your order by 7th January.

Fencing

They're at work again – the Council are now replacing the fencing between us and the basketball court with something a bit stronger. They should also be putting something underneath the fencing on the East boundary to try and prevent foxes coming in, but don't hold your breath.....

Pavilion

Many of you will be aware that, although we have a lease from the Borough Council for the Bowling Green, we do not have one for the associated Pavilion. This is mainly because we don't want to be responsible for the maintenance and up-keep of it (there have been quite a few broken windows in the last couple of years).

Because of this the Council have been looking for another organisation to use it and have agreed that the Kent Youth Service will be able to do so from early in the New Year. A Youth Worker will be based there on a nearly full-time basis. An office will be created in the

screened off area to the right of the entrance. They will focus on the needs of the youth and will be supported by other professional staff as needed.

We have had a meeting with the Youth Service and agreed to leave sufficient equipment in the locked office to continue playing on the Bowling Green without having to fetch everything from the main clubhouse. We should still be able to use the drinks making facility on a shared basis. Unfortunately, because we have less control over security we recommend that members *do not* leave any items of their own in the Pavilion.

The Youth Service also understand that when we're not playing croquet they can use the Bowling Green for activities which don't damage the grass; even perhaps playing croquet!

It's not planned that the Pavilion will be a general meeting place for the youth of Tunbridge Wells, although they will use it from time to time. The Youth Service will be putting up posters etc., but some of these may be graphic. So please be warned that you may find some of these offensive.

We hope we will be able to work amicably with the Youth Service and that we can even persuade some youngsters to join our club....

Penshurst Place

We've had an invitation to demonstrate croquet here on 20th July from 12pm – 4:30pm, thanks to Mike Greagsby. This is a new location for us and a good donation will recognise the efforts we hope you will all be making on this occasion.

Lawns

We're in the process of trying to recruit a person to handle the lawn and garden maintenance activities, apart from the mowing. If you know of someone who might be interested in doing this on a paid basis for approximately one day a week in summer, less at other times, please let Roger Morris know.

Membership Subscriptions

A membership renewal form, including entry details for our internal competitions, will be sent out in the New Year and should be returned by early March. Your subscription is due at this time.

Coaching and Handicaps

See the Diary below for Association and Golf Coaching dates at Southwick. Most courses are two days, but the Association Summer School is 5 days. Both Dan Long and Miriam Reader were at the Summer School last year and reckon it was excellent value for money.

Just a reminder – could everybody who's got a Golf Handicap Card please send it in to John Hobbs ASAP, so that he can review the whole club at the same time.

Tournaments

Dates and entry forms for our Open and internal tournaments are on the website and will be in the Club House in due course. Please send the forms in, with your payment, to Mick. Don't forget that if we're oversubscribed that entries will be taken in their order of arrival, so enter as soon as you can!

We're hosting a Croquet Association event for the first time next year. It's the Musk Cup for the top eight English players and will be held on 16/17 August. All lawns will be used for this, but spectators are welcome!

Inter-Club Matches and Friendlies

We didn't organise many friendlies last year, but we'll be trying a bit harder in 2008. However, we don't have someone responsible for this activity, as all Committee Members are overloaded. If you're interested in helping with this, either for Golf or Association, please let one of the Committee Members know.

There were no League matches until mid-June last year, so rather than reserve all dates for League games and only organise Friendlies after we've sorted these out we're initially reserving April and May for Friendlies. We hope this will help smooth their organisation.

2008 Diary

January 10	Pub lunch 12:30pm @ Chaser Inn, Shipbourne - Pre-orders required	June 14?	Open Golf Handicap Tournament
January 31	Winter Warmer 7pm @ Nine West, Hungershall Park (see above)	July 2	SECF Ladies Team Day @ Southwick
February 7	Pub lunch 12:30pm @ Brown Trout, Lamberhurst	July 5/6	Golf Coaching @ Southwick, contact Daphne Gaitley on 01903 767174
March 13	Pub lunch 12:30pm @ Foresters Arms, Fairwarp	July 19?	Internal High Bisquers Tournament
April 19/20	Bronze/Silver Gilt Coaching Course @ Southwick, contact Frances Low on 01273 388910	July 20	Exhibition @ Penshurst Place
April 26/27	Silver/Gold Coaching Course @ Southwick, contact Frances Low	July 21-25	Summer School @ Southwick, contact Daphne Gaitley on 01903 767174
May 10/11	SECF Association Teams @ Southwick	August 9?	Open High Bisquers Tournament
		August 16/17	Musk Cup @ TW
		Sep 6/7	Open Advanced Tournament
		Sep 27/28	Open Association Handicap Tournament
		Nov 22	AGM @ Frant Village Hall

Don't forget the latest dates, information updates etc. are on the web-site, so if you're asked about croquet or club details just direct them to <http://www.tunbridgewellscroquet.org.uk>