



NEWSLETTER

July 2009

From The Chairman



The season is well under way, with our lawns looking in great condition this season. I'm slightly disappointed by the numbers we're seeing on Club Afternoons when the weather is good – there's plenty of room for more players on the lawns on these days. On the other hand there seems to be more competition and friendly games being played at other times.

We've been successful with another grant application from Gatwick Airport Community Trust for £800 towards some mallets. 4 of these will be shorter ones, for younger players on demonstration days etc, and others to replace some of the older, more ropey ones.

You'll all probably be aware of the break-in at the Bopwling Green Pavilion in April. We lost/had broken a few items of equipment, but as we're insured we should be able to replace those when our insurance claim is finally processed.

We need new members! Well of course we do, since the lawns aren't full all the time. Have you persuaded your friends to have a go? I find that whenever we have a social occasion novices always have a great time and enjoy the game. We just need to persuade them to join...

Don't forget if you bring a visitor along, or one turns up, to fill in their details in the Visitors Book in the Club House.

Finally, as we're short of at least one member on the Committee we need some new blood. If you interested in helping please contact me or one of the other committee members.

Jon Diamond

Late Summer BBQ at Nine West, Hungershall Park
on Friday 4th September from 7pm

Cost £12 including wine

Please let Elaine Houslop know as soon as possible
if you wish to attend

Phone: (01892) 619192
Email: m.houslop@btinternet.com

Help Needed

We've got several parties coming to our lawns in August (all good money for the club funds) and we need volunteers to help with these occasions. So if you can help could you get back to Jon Diamond or Mick Belcham as soon as possible.

The dates/times and group visiting are:

7 th August	4pm-7:30/8pm	Lovat Insurance - 32 players
13 th August	am/lunch	Red & White (Dutch cricketers) - 12 players
13 th August	6-8:30pm	Cripps -32 players
15 th August	pm	Crowborough Friends of Montargis - 20 players

People News

We're glad to be welcoming Derek Crocombe back to good health and also the lawns after a significant time away for almost the whole of last season. He's been seen on many Club afternoons recently.

Mick Greagsby had some chest pains during a recent club match against Ramsgate, but played on. In retrospect he shouldn't as it turned out that it was a heart problem and he's had two operations to fix it. He's now recovering and was seen for the first time playing a couple of friendly doubles last week. He's not ready for competitive play, but we hope to see him back to full health soon – *take it carefully Mick!*

Finally, welcome to our latest member – Ron Benson. Ron is an Association player (handicap 12) and was previously a member at Surbiton.

Lawns Report

This season the lawns have been the best our club has ever had thanks to the work of our grounds team. Many favourable comments have been received from visiting players. The grass has been cut to 5mm which is as short as we can practically go and this together with the hot weather has increased the speed to acceptable levels.

The verti-draining done at the start of the season has significantly helped the drainage of lawns 2 & 3 and we intend to repeat this at the end of the season. We have combated the attacks on our hoop holes by crows or foxes by laying rectangles of mesh over the holes when not in play.

Please remember to replace the mesh when you clear a lawn. The peg should NOT be stuck in the middle of the hoop to keep the mesh down (as they were originally) since that will help create rabbit runs quicker – stick it in to one side, preferably not in to the same position as previously.

Roger Morris

Handicapping

Please remember to fill in your handicap cards for every tournament, match or competition game. Your handicap will not normally be changed by the Club Handicapper except by reference to this card. In general all handicap changes should be automatic when your index passes through a trigger point and he shouldn't need to do anything, except sign-off any automatic changes.

Filling in the Golf Handicap Cards is a little more complicated than it used to be, so we've put together a note to help you do so – it's on the Notice Board next to the Membership List and copies of it are available on the table underneath.

Coaching

Richard Clark has completed his Golf coaching course, but is planning to run another one later in the season. Currently he's running an Introduction to Association course on Tuesday evenings, to some keen participants.

The Monday evening Advanced sessions organised by Mick Belcham are proving a little hit and miss, but whenever they're held they are always valuable!

We all need some coaching, so why don't you turn up to one of these sessions or just talk to one of the other players to find out what you're doing wrong? Or why not practise? We've got a hoop that we can set on the side of Lawn 1 that you can use to practise jum shots with. We've also got a half-ball on a spike. This can be used as a target, so that you can improve the accuracy of your hitting more quickly.

Competitions and Tournaments

Arranging most of our SECF Association matches has proved more troublesome than usual this year, but we have lost to Ember in the B League and Compton In the U league. In the A league we lost to Dulwich, but took revenge on them in the CA's Mary Rose competition – we now play away to Colchester.

We've been more successful in arranging games in the Golf Leagues, but sadly our play is not quite up to the mark in the Level league – we've lost all three games to Dulwich, Ramsgate and Surbiton by considerable margins. Our handicap play is clearly better – we've won against Compton and Crawley and lost to Reigate Priory.

Full details are obviously on our website.

Several of our players have competed elsewhere in the last few months:

- Geoff Croxford won the Kent Cup (Golf) at Ramsgate, with Mike Gentry also participating.
- Jon Diamond won the 6 Lawns Handicap Tournament (at Winchester, Littleton and Hamworthy clubs) with seven straight wins.
- I came 3rd in the Kent Cup (Association) held at TW, with Jon Diamond and John Hobbs also playing.
- John Hobbs and I both played in the Seniors (see below).
- Jon and I also seem to have been playing in a number of other tournaments, although without winning any silver (or what passes for that these days).
- We had a team in the SECF Association Doubles and acquitted ourselves adequately – winning 5 and losing 5 games.

Other results in our home tournaments include:

- Mick Greagsby winning our B-level Golf Level play
- Jean Cobbold from Reigate Priory winning our Open Golf Handicap

Alex Jardine

The Seniors Tournament at Southwick

Each year Southwick hosts either the Seniors (over 50) or the Veterans (over 65), a six day tournament, with doubles, handicap and advanced association competitions. I've been attending for the last 18 years, but of late it has been apparent that the word Seniors has some relevance.

My senior moments robbed me of a couple of matches, when I organised a superb break and then came to run my first hoop and found that it wasn't for that ball. I also managed plan so far ahead in one game that I missed out one hoop and had this quietly pointed out by my opponent. So, the moral of the story is to say to yourself, for example, when you start a turn, "I am playing with red and red is for hoop five" once you have verified that this is a true statement. Keep the brain engaged at all times.

I won't report the results, because I didn't stay till the finals day and I don't think many of you would know the people anyway, (except Alex Jardine). But it is great to meet people whom you may see only once a year, since they also make the Seniors a fixed item in the calendar. A six day event is also good for you to try and iron out any bugs in your play, since you will have two or three games a day.

Anyone who wants to dip their toe in the water can also come for just one, two or all events. I commend it to you – the handicaps went from -1 to 19, so there's room for all.

John Hobbs

Club Afternoons and Friendlies

Frank Gunstone is continuing to run, with help from others, the main Club afternoons on Wednesday and Sunday, generally starting at 2pm with tea at about 3.30 and continuing until early evening. Golf Croquet is the primary game on these afternoons, with the overall emphasis of club afternoons being fun and enjoyment in a friendly atmosphere. We'll also be encouraging competitive singles play and trying to improve your playing skills.

Our visit to Penshurst Place, on 7th July organised by Mick Greagsby, was another success and profitable for club funds also.

Duncan Cox also organised a number of friendlies, including visits to Ivychurch and Bromley.

Corporate Challenge

The fourth year of this event, inaugurated as part of Royal Tunbridge Wells 400 in 2006, was a great success with 14 teams taking part on a sunnyish, if slightly cool evening. Sadly the Courier and some other teams were unable to attend again. All teams played with gusto throughout and thoroughly enjoyed the evening, saying that they would be back again next year.

The previous winners (Blockley Partnership and Lovat Insurance Brokers) entered again, and were clearly trying to repeat their previous successes. In the end the final was between two teams from Lovat, with Chris Moon and Robert Elkins, who won all four of their games ending up as winners.

Cleaning

Please help to keep the Club neat and tidy! We've had a number of occasions when it's been left in an unsatisfactory condition. If you follow the housekeeping rules on the wall above the sink in the Club House. then we'll all benefit.

The Cleaning Rota (on the Notice Board) has not been a total success this season; although it's been filling up it's still not full. Please help to ensure that the club house remains a clean and tidy place by volunteering for at least one week of the season.

Elaine Houslop

Important Diary Dates

August

1 Open Super B Advanced
7 eve Lovat Insurance competition
9 SECF Golf Teams @ Southwick
13 am Red & White XI visit
13 eve Cripps Futures event
15 pm Crowborough Friends of Montargis
16 Mary Rose 3rd round @ Colchester
22 Open High Bisquers Tournament
23 SECF A League v Parsons Green

30 SECF A League v Woking

September

12/13 Open Advanced Tournament
26/27 Open Handicap Tournament

October

4 Finals Day

November

21 AGM @ Frant Memorial Hall

Finally, remember that the latest dates, information updates etc. are on the web-site, so if you're asked about Croquet or our club details just direct them to <http://www.tunbridgewellscroquet.org.uk>