

# HUNSTANTON CROQUET CLUB

## NEWSLETTER for June 2014



### Welcome to the Summer Newsletter for this year.

**Committee:** So far it has been a year of change in regard to the Committee. Unfortunately due to his illness our Chairman Terry Kendal felt he should hand over his responsibilities to the Committee and resigned in April. We wish him well in the future and hope we see him and Janet playing Croquet when circumstances permit. In April also our Secretary, Derek Cole tendered his resignation, also Ruth Cole has resigned from the Committee. The Committee agreed to appoint the Vice Chairman Myfanwy Dunford to the position of Acting Chairman until the AGM, it also co-opted Geoff Hoy onto the Committee in March. At the moment we do not have an Acting Secretary, and the other Officers and Committee are taking on these responsibilities until an appointment is made.

**The Lawns** We have been requested by the Groundsmen that we start all Games on the appropriate half way mark either F (First Colours) or S (Second Colours), to allow the reseeded areas to establish themselves, if you ball enters these areas during play, it is ok to use them to get back to the hoop you are aiming for. Given the situation of the trees, we may well have to use this procedure most of the playing months. The Lawns are looking excellent, the Borough Council have made a very good job over the Winter and Spring in getting them back to the very high standards we have been used to. The damage to Lawn 3 due to vandalism early last year has been completely repaired thanks to the Council Team, especially to Jeff Race, for their efforts. The perpetrators of the damage were caught, found Guilty and punished, we have now received Damages (minimal) from the Courts which will be passed onto the Council for all their efforts.

**External Tournaments:** Our first major CA Tournament of the Season on the May Day Bank Holiday, the AC Robert Pritchard Cup has been successfully completed, with many congratulations from the Competitors and Officials for the welcome, the Grounds, the Catering, the Bar, and of course the weather (which we cannot take responsibility for). The Cup was won by Mark Avery, presented by our President Ken Wheeler. Thanks to all who organized and helped at this important regular Tournament. Our Team in the GC Murphy Inter-Club Shield Round 1 were victorious beating Leighton Linlade 5-3, and have progressed to the next Round at Northampton. Our Team was David Thirtle-Watts, Terrey Sparks, Tony Lee, Derek Cole. In the GC Inter-Club Championship match at Letchworth the Club came 2<sup>nd</sup>, our Team was Jeff Race, Terrey Sparks, Tony Lee, David Thirtle-Watts.

In the EACF GC Level Play at Newport on 3 June, beating the hosts by 12 to 6, our Team was Terrey Sparks, Jeff Race, David Thirtle-Watts and Derek Cole.

On June 7<sup>th</sup> we hosted the EACF GC Inter Counties event for the Ken Wheeler Shield. It was a very evenly fought between 3 of the 6 Counties, with Norfolk coming our winners in the last game, for the 1<sup>st</sup> time in this Event. Our Team was Tony Lee, Simon Carter, Jeff Race and Team Captain David Thirtle-Watts, managed by Ken Wheeler.

We have several more CA & EACF Tournaments during the year, we need a few more volunteers to help each day of the Weekend Tournaments, first thing in the morning to set up the hoops, open the shutters and help with the external furniture etc. Then in the evening remove the Hoops, close the shutters and tidy away.

**Internal Tournaments:** The Friday League in its original format has been cancelled this year due to lack of support, but a modified version the Friday Handicap Ladder Series is being organized for all Members, please see both the Web site and Club House Notice Board, you can come as it suits you, we would like this to be a success, and you can hopefully improve your Handicap.

Unfortunately we have had to cancel some of our own Golf Croquet Tournaments due to lack of interest by Members, we would request you regularly check the Notice Board and Calendar and endeavor to enter as many as suit your ability and availability. The Club tries to offer a whole range of Events for all experience, some are Level Play (all Competitors play irrespective of their Handicap), also others where you play according to your Handicap, with these you can then improve your Handicap and progress to more challenging Events, and possibly represent the Club in higher level Tournaments. All Events although competitive are friendly and help to increase the Clubs' prestige. We have several Members who play at the highest Levels of our Sport, especially the Association Croquet, where we would welcome

more Members to take up this version of the Game. The Tuesday Evening Ladies and Gentlemen event has progressed satisfactorily for those who participate, and will continue whilst it is still supported.

The Club Golf Singles Level Play Competition on 5<sup>th</sup> June was competed by 10 players, and Jeff Race was the winner beating Simon Carter in the Final, with Ken Wheeler as Manager. Forthcoming Events for local members are the Chairmans' Day on 21<sup>st</sup> June, a light hearted event with a Tournament for the Chairmans' Salver for the Tournament winner. Bring your own lunch, a Strawberry Tea will be provided by the Acting Chairman Myfanwy.

**The 100 Club** is up and running again this year, although the take up is much reduced from previous years. We have only just enough Members to make it viable with a very small surplus. This does of course mean that the odds of those who have joined are better than in previous years. We have one member who has invested in 12 numbers, and regular wins, naturally.

**BCKLWN Rent/Water:** At the end of last year and early this year our Officers were in discussions with the BCKLWN regarding the Rent for our Grounds and Premises. The Rent has been increased from 20%, it had not been increased for several years, but so far we have not been invoiced for the extra, we will have to pay it though. Compared to many other Croquet Clubs with the same number of Lawns, we are very fortunate with this rate. As you are aware the Council has to find savings in all areas of its responsibilities, and we will have now pay for our water usage, which can be variable according to the weather conditions. Given the high drainage rate of our Lawns, these need a constant amount of rain or irrigation to ensure in summer they are still playable to the high standards we are used to, as we know from the problems with the corners under the trees. This is still to be concluded as to our future costs. The Council will continue to maintain our Lawns, hopefully to the same standards as present.

**Lease:** Your current Officers are now negotiating with the BCKLWN and Norfolk County CC, regarding the new Lease for our Grounds. This has been in force for 15 years, expiring at the end of March, and needs to be renegotiated for the next 8 years. Although we received a Draft last September discussions have been delayed until recently and we are now trying to get a meeting arranged agree the details, which are very demanding as many clauses need reviewing for our continued future use of this property, which is important to the Area and our sport. As further information is available we will keep members informed. We have engaged a Solicitor to ensure that once the practicalities have been resolved, then the legalities can be confirmed.

**Calendar:** We have Issue 3 of the Club Calendar available now. The Tournaments are shown together with any changes to events. The Committee is also hoping to issue the 2015 Calendar once we have agreed dates and which Tournaments we will be hosting.

**CA Golf Rules 2014, Club Badges etc:** We have purchased a small supply of the 2014 CA Rules of Golf Croquet, and recommend Members who play Golf Croquet to purchase a copy to further your enjoyment of the Game, as played by most of our Members, only £4.00 a copy. We have a small supply of other Club items which we hope to have on display shortly.

**Club House Help:** Once again we have request Members if they can help with the Housekeeping Rota, unfortunately it yet again falls to the very few regular volunteers, but we need all Members to offer to help and do some of the routine tidying up, floor cleaning, and generally keeping the premises tidy, and when necessary help set up the Clubhouse for the various events that we host.

**Web Site:** We are trying to keep the Club Web Site as up to date as possible, although we are aware that many local Members do not have access, or a Computer. Many of our Members and Croquet Competitors who do not reside close to Hunstanton do rely on being kept informed. All Competition Results are added as soon as possible after the Event.

**Voluntary Help** - We rely so much on everyone volunteering to give their time, for the benefit of the Club, where practical. The Committee can only do so much, and we need the experience that Members can offer us to run the Club effectively and friendly.