



# Croquet Newsletter

EAST DORSET LAWN TENNIS & CROQUET CLUB

Issue 6

March 2010

**A**s promised, thanks to Adam again re-scheduling his autumn and spring turf maintenance, we have indeed had a winter lawn available, but unfortunately it was covered with snow for one or two weeks and there has been a lot of rain and cold since then. However, the real

croquet season is just round the corner and we hope that Spring is on its way, so get ready to come and play. Look out for the Club Competition entry forms which will be available in April, usually to be found in the mallet cupboard. We look forward to seeing you all again and having some good games.

## Coaching for 2nd year beginners

Revision coaching sessions are being planned by Peggy for all those who were Croquet beginners in 2009. They will take place at 9.30 am on the five Mondays from 29 March to 26 April, and there will be no charge. Please let Peggy know if you are unable to attend or would prefer another day.

This will be an opportunity for you to re-cap the fundamentals that you learned last year. Please bring your handicap cards for updating and remember to wear warm clothing!

From 7 May, coaching for 2nd years will continue on Friday mornings at 10 am.

Please note that there will be no coaching on 3 May when the Westerns take place (but do come and watch - see article on page 4). Monday morning coaching from 10 May onwards will only be for New Beginners who are starting this season.

Club sessions for Association Croquet are on Tuesdays. Club sessions for Golf Croquet are on Wednesday mornings and Thursday afternoons.



Peggy Nutland

## Coaching for all players

David Nicholson will be available on Friday mornings from 2 April for any player requiring coaching. He would welcome a phone call beforehand if you have a specific topic that you would like help with.

## Duties for members

In common with most other similar clubs, the Croquet Section of EDLT&CC relies upon its members for much of its administration and

maintenance. In the last issue we explained the need for more help and that ALL Croquet members will be expected to help by carrying out a duty. As promised, this was discussed at our AGM in January and many members expressed their willingness to do their share, provided that they knew what help was required.

Some tasks are obviously more time consuming than others and some will require specific skills, but many are straightforward and only require a little commitment. Guidance will be given where necessary, and indeed some jobs will be very sociable and carried out alongside other members.

At present the majority of the effort is provided by about 15% of the membership, whose efforts are very much appreciated. We would like to encourage ALL playing members to contribute so that the load is shared more fairly. Please consider the support YOU could give to assist with the smooth running of the Section. This is where the matrix comes in.

The matrix is a large notice shortly to be pinned up in the clubhouse pavilion. You are asked to put a tick opposite your name in at least one (and preferably more) of the columns to indicate which of the various duties you are willing to undertake. We shall then know who can be called upon for a specific task, with dates and times by arrangement.

**STOP PRESS**  
The Clubhouse Café  
Mother's Day Lunch  
Sunday 14 March, from 12pm  
Booking required by Wednesday 10th

**The Club AGM**  
Wednesday 17 March, 7.30pm  
Your opportunity to  
listen - learn - find out - have your say  
The Bar will be open

## Visitor Events

These evening events are encouraged as they raise valuable income for Croquet and raise the profile of the sport in the local communities. Last summer we mostly held one a month, but there has been good demand so for 2010 we are willing to increase them to two or sometimes three per month, generally on Tuesday evenings.

The Chairman has appealed for members to volunteer to help run these sessions – you do not need to be an expert, and a simplified form of golf croquet is played. You will usually get a free supper following the croquet session, and this is a good way to meet members of local organisations and to help advertise the Club.

A list of dates is shown below, and a sign-up list will be posted on the board for the separate events so that helpers may choose which dates to volunteer for. We always have an organiser – who has previous experience of visitor events – and ideally one helper per four visitors. Joint members are particularly requested to help on the Tennis Vets event on 15 July; please note this is a Thursday.

May	25	Rotary Club of Poole Bay
	Wed 26	1.30pm Assoc of Teachers & Lecturers
June	8	Poole Rotary Club
	15	The Rotary Club of Wareham
	29	Davy McKee Retirement Association
July	Thur 15	Tennis Vets
	27	Bournemouth & District Probus Club
August	17	The Probus Club of Poole
	24	W.I.
	31	Phoenix Ski Club

*David Kendrick*

### A Short Note.....

With the Club's Centenary Celebrations behind us, we are now looking forward to the next century. Our 36 New Members in 2009 will soon be brushing up on their swings and hoop running ready to play in Club Sessions. Please make them welcome. There are Golf and Association players, some playing both.

I wish all players good croquetting and I send a very warm welcome to our new members.

*Peggy*



## Chairman's Message

I am really looking forward to this summer. The new look lawns will be the point of interest and hopefully the newly turfed areas will have settled in enough for us to re-site the boundaries without the balls accelerating off. The small retaining walls will introduce a step between levels so be warned to be aware when walking backwards. Another improvement will be the removal of hut 3 and replacing it with the existing hut 2. A new hut 2 is to be purchased. We have also purchased five new sets of Dawson primary balls. Please do try to keep them in their sets because believe it or not they are balanced at the point of manufacture.

Other changes for this year will be the Thursday evening doubles, this year to become Wednesday evening doubles.

The Clubhouse Café is to extend it's opening to include Wednesdays. The full service will commence at the beginning of our playing season and be available throughout the day. I do hope that the Wednesday morning Golf Croquet players will support the Café to the full.

A new face on the scene will be Robert Green. Robert is taking over from Peter Shephard who after many successful years as our grounds officer is standing down. We should also welcome John Crowe onto the Croquet committee. John will be representing the interests of Croquet on a new development committee. This new cross section sub-committee will be steering the club into the future.

The new Gents changing and shower area should be up and running this spring. In the short term some disruption will be part of the cost. Please be patient.

Look out for the Bridge priority parking arrangements on a Monday and Wednesday evening and don't get blocked in if you are playing on into the evening.

Last and by no means least. The section will be introducing a large matrix on a board. All members will be shown along with the jobs that have to be carried out on a day-to-day basis to keep the section running. You will be asked to tick a box where you think that you can best help and do your share. We will then roster members for duty during the course of the season.

Please have an enjoyable summer season.

*Pat Oxley*

## Club Competitions

I'd like to take this opportunity to say something about Club Competitions. The Croquet Section organises over a dozen competitions during the season, and last year about half of the members took part in at least one – some entered as many as seven.

The rules for each competition are shown on the Club Competitions notice put on the board in April. Here I want to describe the competitions a little less formally, to give you an idea of what to expect, using the same numbering. Note that competitions are Association Croquet unless Golf Croquet is stated.

1. ASHTON CUP. This is a knockout with about 30 entrants, so there will be four rounds before the final. It's handicap play, so everyone has an equal chance, and the Bray system is used, which means that the higher the players' handicaps, the shorter the game.

2. CLUB OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP. This is for the better players, a knockout under Advanced Level Play.

3. LADIES' TROPHY. Also a handicap knockout using the Bray system, but fewer entrants (women only), so only two or three rounds before the final.

4. CLUB HANDICAP DOUBLES. A doubles-play handicap knockout, you enter this with a partner: your combined handicaps must total at least 12. Partnerships are arranged informally (usually by invitation), but if you wish to play I'll do my best to find you a partner. As a popular competition, good for improvers, there will be three rounds before the final.

5. CLUB GOLF CROQUET SINGLES. A handicap knockout for Golf players; there will be at least three rounds before the final.

6. AMERICAN COMPETITION. The entrants are divided into all-play-all blocks; expect between 4 and 7 handicap games, plus play-offs where appropriate. There are four classes, determined by handicap.

7. GOLF CROQUET AMERICAN COMPETITION. As above, but with only one class.

8. GOLF CROQUET LEVEL-PLAY COMPETITION. New for this year, it will initially be in an American format (see above).

9. LADDER COMPETITIONS. All members are eligible to play in both Ladder Competitions at no charge. The handicap singles games go on your handicap card, and give the opportunity for competitive play whenever you want it.

10. BIRD CUP WEEKEND. Quick games (2 ½ hours), so restricted to handicaps 18 and below. The games don't go on your handicap card.

11. HANDICAP DOUBLES WEEKEND. Enter by yourself, and a different partner will be allocated for each round. Short, 18-point games — excellent for improvers.

12. HANDICAP SINGLES WEEKEND. Play as many games as you wish, using the Bray system.

13/14. NOVICES' COMPETITIONS. These are for Golf and Association beginners, and players who have not previously won a competition.

David Harrison-Wood

### Green Fees: What should you do if you sign in a Social member or a non-member?

Last season several Green Fees appeared to have gone astray but turned up (eventually!) in the box intended for entry forms for Club Competitions. Please note the correct

procedure, and do ask if you are still not sure. Full details of the Green Fee system, which has been updated for 2010, are on the Croquet notice board



A Game of Croquet -  
Louise Abbéma 1872

and in the Green Fee book. These details include information about weekly and monthly Green Fees, which have been introduced alongside the Daily Green Fee.

The visitor's name, your (i.e. their sponsor) name, and date etc should be entered in the dark red book in the cupboard, on the RIGHT beside the window. Green Fee entries go in the back of the book while the front is for coaching fees.

The £5 daily Green Fee should be put in the money slot which is also inside the mallet cupboard, on the LEFT, built into the wall. It is deliberately not very visible: a small slot behind a hanging mallet handle.

Please do not use the small brown envelopes because they get stuck.

Social members of the Croquet Section should note that they are allowed to use the Green Fee scheme for occasional play. These members do not need to be sponsored by a playing member, but must follow the general instructions for recording play and paying Green Fees.

### New for 2010

#### Café adds extra day and extends its range

The Clubhouse Café will open on Wednesdays, probably from sometime in late April, and this will provide additional catering for the Golf Croquet members. We hope they will stay for lunch and play on in the afternoon. Our range of snacks that are always available has been extended to include Toasted

Sandwiches and Panini. Fresh home-made scones with jam and cream and toasted teacakes will also normally be available in addition to home-made cakes.

We would like to thank the Croquet Section for their support during the winter period and look forward to welcoming more new faces during the season. We would like to remind members that The Clubhouse Café will be open during all tournaments, commencing with the Bronze Course in April, and anyone is welcome to come in for lunch, coffee, tea or cake at any time.

*Ian and Angela*

### Did you make that hole in the lawn?

Don't be ashamed and don't pretend it didn't happen - because it DOES happen, even to the best of us. It's



no good trying to hide it with that skirt! (Is that why they wore crinolines?) - just repair it **STRAIGHT AWAY** with your divot repair tool. All beginners are given one when they join: it should be in your pocket when you are

playing. If yours is lost, spares are available from the Secretary's cupboard for only 25p. Please ask to be shown how to use it correctly.

In addition, a repair tool will be attached to the key fob of each hut for emergency use.

### Spectators Welcome at the Westerns!

Every year EDLT&CC play host to The Western Championships over the May Day Bank Holiday, and this year is no exception. Come and watch some of the top players in the country on our courts from Saturday 1 to Monday 3 May. The Clubhouse Café will be open on all three days.

If you want to avoid Club sessions, the best times to play are usually these, but please check the calendar to be sure. Coaching and mowing have priority on Monday and Friday mornings, and mowing may also be carried out at other times.

Monday		Afternoon	Evening
Tuesday			Evening (some)
Wednesday		Afternoon	
Thursday	Morning		Evening
Friday		Afternoon	Evening
Saturday and Sunday	Morning	Afternoon	Evening

Editor's Desk What would you like to see in future Newsletters? comments, suggestions, and croquet related articles, will be considered.

All constructive criticism, Romy Shephard

## Club Evening moves to Wednesdays

As Thursdays did not suit some members last year, Neil Cleverly has agreed to Club Evening (Association) being scheduled for Wednesdays in the coming season and the format may also be changed this year. The start date will be 5 May. Please turn up at 5.45 pm for a prompt start at 6 pm.

### Club Shirts and Sweatshirts, anyone?

Time to order your new shirts and sweatshirts for 2010 with the Club Logo. Please get in touch if you would like to order before the season starts.

*Peggy*

### How to gain £10 for our Croquet Section!

If you are not already a member of the Croquet Association (CA), now is the time to join. Mention EDLT&CC on your application form, obtainable from the blue Croquet Information file - do ask, if you don't know where this mine of useful info is kept), and the Club will benefit from a £10 rebate next year.

You will receive your own bi-monthly copy of the Gazette, may enter as many CA tournaments as you wish, and will be entitled to discounts in the CA shop (you can order by phone or internet).

## Your Croquet Committee Members

Pat Oxley	Chairman
Barrie Turner	Secretary
Ellis Raymond	Treasurer
Jane Bell	
John Crowe	
David Harrison-Wood	
David Kendrick	
Romy Shephard	