



# BLEWBURY CROQUET CLUB

## Newsletter

2011/3

### The Sports Section

We're well into the season now, so this edition of the Newsletter is the Sports Reports.

#### Opening day

We got going on 16<sup>th</sup> April with the local round of the Winchester Charity One-Ball competition, on lawns of reduced size in the hope that the grass would take the opportunity to grow a little more about the edges! A round dozen participants, drawn from both golf croquet and association croquet players, proved amongst themselves that Nick Butler was actually the best player at this game. As organiser, Nick then had the honour of awarding himself the prize. The day raised £69 for the designated breast cancer charity.

#### Tournaments (1) - Golf Croquet Spring Doubles

The Spring Doubles Tournament was organised by Susan Tilbrook and held on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April. 12 people played in glorious sunshine. Pairs were pot luck (names being drawn from a pot) with David Vincent and Alan Stubbs winning all their games and so being declared the definite winners. Afterwards all enjoyed welcome cups of tea and cakes whilst sitting outside in the warm sunshine admiring the view.

#### Blewbury win GC friendly match against Harwell

The first match of the year against another club. Challenged by Harwell, we rose to the occasion on the Harwell courts. Susan reports:

Our first friendly golf croquet match of the season was a lovely afternoon of playing in the sunshine at Harwell on 10<sup>th</sup> May. Three pairs played – Janet & David Vincent, Mike & Diana Elliot, Mike Magnay & Susan Tilbrook and the result was a win for Blewbury 5 games to 4. Several of the games were closely fought and ended 7-6. Afterwards we enjoyed some delicious cakes and tea provided by Harwell.

Scores on the doors were:

David & Janet Vincent v Steve Boddy & Barbara Williamson 5-7

David & Janet Vincent v Steve Fisher & Mike Duck 6-7

David & Janet Vincent v Jim Bartlett & Pru Adams 7-6

Mike & Diana Elliott v Steve Boddy & Barbara Williamson 2-7  
Mike & Diana Elliott v Steve Fisher & Mike Duck 7-4  
Mike & Diana Elliott v Jim Bartlett & Pru Adams 7-6

Mike Magnay & Susan Tilbrook v Steve Boddy & Barbara Williamson 7-6  
Mike Magnay & Susan Tilbrook v Steve Fisher & Mike Duck 4-7  
Mike Magnay & Susan Tilbrook v Jim Bartlett & Pru Adams 7-5

## Next, starting them young



Bernardine coaches croquet in the background, while Rosemary explains the finer points of Toe-quet on the cricket ground on 14<sup>th</sup> May, when Ed Vaizey MP came along to open Blewbury Recreation Ground's new pavilion.

## Tournaments (2) - Ladies Doubles

The Ladies Doubles Golf Croquet was organised by Diana Elliott and held on Wednesday 18th May - a cold and windy day. Diana reports that eight brave members each played three games. The clear winners were Judy White and Pam Richens who won all their games.

## GC Friendly (2) - Phyllis Court

Phyllis Court won 11 - 5.

Mile & Diana Elliott v Raymond Wood & Mary Gaynor 4-7 to Phyllis Court  
Mile & Diana Elliott v John Chalfont & Don Rutherford 6-7 to Phyllis Court  
Mile & Diana Elliott v Sylvia Thompson & Rosie Richardson 4-7 to Phyllis Court  
Mile & Diana Elliott v Ralph Chambers & Nina Cox 7-5 to Blewbury

David Vincent & Ken Walsh v Raymond Wood & Mary Gaynor 4-7 to Phyllis Court  
David Vincent & Ken Walsh v John Chalfont & Don Rutherford 5-7 to Phyllis Court  
David Vincent & Ken Walsh v Sylvia Thompson & Rosie Richardson 1-7 to Phyllis Court  
David Vincent & Ken Walsh v Ralph Chambers & Nina Cox 3-7 to Phyllis Court

David Grinstead & David Moren-Brown v Raymond Wood & Mary Gaynor 6-7 to Phyllis Ct  
David Grinstead & David Moren-Brown v John Chalfont & Don Rutherford 5-7 to Phyllis Ct  
David Grinstead & David Moren-Brown v Sylvia Thompson & Rosie Richardson 7-6 Blewbury  
David Grinstead & David Moren-Brown v Ralph Chambers & Nina Cox 7-5 to Blewbury

Ken Gotch & Susan Tilbrook v Raymond Wood & Mary Gaynor 2-7 to Phyllis Court  
Ken Gotch & Susan Tilbrook v John Chalfont & Don Rutherford 7-5 to Blewbury  
Ken Gotch & Susan Tilbrook v Sylvia Thompson & Rosie Richardson 5-7 to Phyllis Court  
Ken Gotch & Susan Tilbrook v Ralph Chambers & Nina Cox 7-6 to Blewbury

## But in the GC Handicap League two days later...

We won our first match, against High Wycombe, 8-4! Though the doubles were even, Deirdre and Ken each won both their singles games to swing the match.

Deirdre Cochrane & David Vincent v Geoff Brook & Geoffrey Duckworth 7-3, 4-7  
Susan Tilbrook & Ken Walsh v Margaret Walker & Ralph Baker 6-7, 7-6

Deirdre v Geoff 7-3, 7-3  
David v Geoffrey 7-4, 5-7

Susan v Margaret 7-6, 5-7  
Ken v Ralph 7-5, 7-5

*Deirdre and David in tactical talks*



## National Team Trophies - Longman Cup

We drew one of the few short straws in this inter-club knockout competition, and needed to play a preliminary round, at home against Kenilworth, on 28<sup>th</sup> May. The sun may have shone, but the wind blew. In the morning session, our doubles pairing won quickly but the singles both went to time:

David Spear (7) & Bruce Gallop (16) beat Peter Dennis (4½) & John Handy (10)	+19
Deirdre Cochrane (7) lost to Cliff Daniels (6)	-1(t)
Paul Wolff (12) beat Philip Wood (16)	+6(t)

So we took our opponents to lunch at the Red Lion with a 2-1 lead. The excellent meal dulled Paul's competitive edge, but Deirdre and David won quickly giving us a 4-1 lead with

only two more to finish, and Bruce lost as narrowly as he could, his game being tied when time ran out, so the first player to score a hoop would win. It turned out to be his opponent, but the match was still safe, and we took the win by 4 to 3.

Deirdre beat Peter Dennis +18  
 David beat Cliff Daniels +13  
 Paul lost to John Handy -7(t)  
 Bruce lost to Philip Wood -1(t)

Blewbury will play High Wycombe in the first round proper on 26<sup>th</sup> July, and the winner is drawn against the winner of Harwell v Dyffryn, so that's an incentive for both local clubs.

## 2011 Inter-County Championship

Congratulations to the four Blewbury players - Andy Robertson, Avril Rangoni-Machiavelli, Nick Butler and Robin Brown, who made up half of the eight-man squad to play in the Inter-County Championship for the joint Berkshire/Oxfordshire team on the same weekend as the Longman Cup match. The team's main aim was to avoid the wooden spoon but they played much better than expected to obtain a solid mid-table finish in 5<sup>th</sup> out of 11 with 5 wins from the 10 matches. Next year the aim will be to push for a top 3 position which would mean promotion to the 1<sup>st</sup> division.

## East Hagbourne Win 2011 Association Inter-Village Tournament

Congratulations to the East Hagbourne team of Stuart Parks and Bruce Gallop who narrowly beat Cholsey +4 on time in the final game of the tournament to win the trophy on the basis of who-beat-who. Four villages were represented in this 14 point handicap doubles tournament which was played in glorious sunshine on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June, with each pair winning at least one match.

Village	Blewbury	Cholsey	E Hagbourne	Shillingford	Wins
<b>Blewbury</b> Nick Butler & Deirdre Cochrane		-10t	-13	+4	1
<b>Cholsey</b> Simon Jones & David Seed	+10t		-4t	+7t	2
<b>E Hagbourne</b> Stuart Parks & Bruce Gallop	+13	+4t		-4	2
<b>Shillingford</b> David Spear & David Moren-Brown	-4	-7t	+4		1

## Open Court(s) at the Blewbury Festival Family Fun Day

On a fine and pleasant day, while a little bit of summer was passing by, we threw the courts open while Blewbury began its two-week festival on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June. No competitive play, but plenty of visitors wandered in, flourished a mallet or two, and wandered off with a more informed view of croquet that they had come in with.



Unfortunately, the following day, Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June, which was to have been our Open Day for visitors from a wider area, was completely rained off.

## And the Association Croquet Handicap League opens with a win too...

The same Sunday, Blewbury took on Oxford University in The Parks, in our opening association league match. It may have been wet and windy, but we rose to the occasion and beat some very talented undergraduates 3-1, before they kindly treated us to a pub lunch.

Scores:        David Spear (7) beat Will Gee (-1)        +21  
                  Deirdre Cochrane (7) lost to John Gale (10) -21  
                  Paul Wolff (12) beat Jonathan Lindsell (10) +4(t)  
                  Bruce Gallop (16) beat Simon Picot (16)        +3(t)

## Coming up

The Roger Cambray One-ball competition next Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> June, at Hall Barn, while Deirdre's garden is open on the Open Gardens day of the Blewbury Festival, under the National Gardens (Yellow Book) scheme. You still just have time to enter, and help decorate the garden for the afternoon! Email [David Spear](mailto:David.Spear@blewbury.org) to book your place.

## Coaching

After the coaching sessions last month, there are no more timetabled yet. Not many association croquet players came to Deirdre and Nick's Thursday evenings during May, and perhaps that reflects the preferences expressed in your membership renewal questionnaires, which by a clear majority favoured group coaching sessions either once a month, or just occasionally.

*Paul Wolff, with thanks to all contributors*