

# Reigate Priory C C - Newsletter Spring 2010

## RPCC Annual Dinner - *Martin Holland*



This year for a change of scene, the annual dinner was held in The Coach House Restaurant, Godstone. There was an impressive turnout of members who filled the main lounge and overflowed into an adjoining lounge for pre-dinner drinks. The restaurant had rearranged the tables so we could

sit in groups of 12 or so. The club had taken over most of the restaurant but one poor couple had wandered in and were relegated to a table in a far alcove. I am surprised that nobody went over to get them to sign up for the club so they could join in next year.



I think everyone agreed that we had a lovely meal and the evening went very well. Our thanks go to Freda for arranging a truly memorable evening.

### ***All England Golf Finals 2009 - John Knight***

The All England golf finals took place at Ramsgate on 25 and 26 September. The first part was an all play all block of 12 players playing 1 x 13 point game. This was followed by the best 4

playing knock-out semi- and finals 19 point games. The weather was dry and warm on both days, and the use of 4 lawns and games being played in a friendly atmosphere without too many referee referrals, allowed all 11 games per player to be completed over the 2 days of play.

Although I won only 2 of my 11 games, generally many of all players' scores were close which suggests handicaps were reasonably right. In the final 3 games the block winner, who won all 11 games was knocked out, and the final winner was Richard Harris, the second in the block, but who had previously won in 2007 and was second in 2008.

Generally it was an enjoyable weekend for everyone

### **Southwick Winter Golf Croquet Tournament - 7th March *Ian Cobbold***

The club entered a team for this tournament for the first time this year. 11 members asked to play and the team drawn by ballot was Lorna Jenkins, Ron Farr, John Staddon and Ian Cobbold. 6 clubs competed and each club played all of the others, with each match consisting of 2 singles and a doubles. We got off to a slow start on a bitterly cold morning losing to Sussex and Medway but then came through strongly in the afternoon beating Rottingdean, Littlehampton and Medway to finish 2nd equal overall. Sussex won all their matches and, although it was a handicap tournament, their team of a 1, two 2s and a 4 was notably strong. John Staddon distinguished himself by winning all of his games - 4 singles and a doubles.

### **Croquet in Corfu - The Greek Open - *Ian Cobbold***

Ian and Jean Cobbold went on a Golf Croquet holiday in Corfu last September which they had seen advertised in the Croquet Gazette.

The Club is the only croquet club in Greece and has 2 full sized lawns next to a cricket pitch and a marina. Most of the participants were from England (6 different clubs) with a German couple and a local Dutchman for good measure. Handicaps ranged from 3 to 12.

The club was founded by a Chelsea solicitor and the prospective players got a shock earlier in the summer when they were told that he was now spending time at Her Majesty's pleasure. Fortunately the holiday money was unaffected and his Dutch partner who lives in Corfu stepped in to organise everything very efficiently with Michael Hague coming out to organise the tournaments.



Four competitions were held, level and handicap singles and level and handicap doubles. These took 6 of the 8 days of the holiday with a boat trip organised for 1 day and a day for sightseeing. Accommodation was in a large and luxurious 4 star hotel a short walk or cycle ride from the club. Plenty of restaurants and bars to choose from in the evenings and everybody got on well together.

Despite the numerical superiority of the Brits, the German and Dutchman won the two singles and one of the Germans was in each of the winning doubles pairs.

A very enjoyable holiday although the lawns took some getting to know.



For anyone interested, there is a longer report on the holiday by Michael Hague in the February issue of the CA Gazette."

### **Club Outing Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2010 to Standen, Sussex – *Mike Bottomley***

Standen is a National Trust property (but non-Trust members will receive free admission) which was built in 1892-4 for a prosperous London solicitor, James Beale, and his large family. He chose Philip Webb as his architect, who was one of William Morris' closest friends and colleagues.



This gem of the Arts & Crafts Movement is hidden at the end of a quiet Sussex lane with breathtaking views over the High Weald and Weir Wood Reservoir. The characteristic Arts & Crafts garden uses local materials in the construction of the formal elements, and loose planting within an unpretentious framework of yew hedges, trellis and pergolas. Naturalistic colour schemes and subtle combinations of colour and foliage were preferred and care was also taken in the transition between the garden

and surrounding landscape. The gardens include a croquet lawn with a summerhouse.

We will be playing friendly (isn't it always?) Golf Croquet from 11AM until 4PM-ish, guests are welcome to join us. We will probably adjourn to a suitable hostelry afterwards. Please put the date in your diary.

Directions: 2 miles south of East Grinstead, signposted from town centre and B2110 (Turners Hill Road)

### ***Club Coaching – John Taylor***

The Club is fortunate to have four qualified CA coaches, three for Association (John Taylor, Neil Coote and Geoff Gunton) and one for Golf (Ian Cobbold). We would encourage everyone, whatever your level of play, to make use of their skills and experience to improve your game.

#### ***Courses***

A number of courses are being arranged under each code this season, designed for players of different abilities. Details of these courses are given below. These are free to members. Everyone has something to learn, so do make use of these; you will enjoy your game more as a result.

#### ***One-to-One Coaching***

In addition, all our coaches are available to give one-to-one coaching clinics throughout the year. Simply contact them to explain your problem and to arrange a suitable booking in the diary. Again, these sessions are free to members.

#### ***Academy Courses***