



# Reigate Priory CC Newsletter Autumn 2010

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## *Committee Meeting 20th October 2010 –Mike Bottomley*

### **Tournaments and Finals Day**

There were problems with this year's finals that resulted in very few finals actually being played on finals weekend. There will be some changes about which you will receive more information shortly, probably with the AGM notice that will include tournament entry forms.

In summary however:

The finals will be played on the weekend of 19-21<sup>st</sup> August to avoid clashing with CA/SECF events.

There will be a deadline for games to be played and there will be absolutely no extensions.

In order to progress to semi-finals the players must be available to play these in a three week period and be available for the finals week end

Trophies, as far as possible, will be presented on the Sunday

Players will be expected to complete any events they enter and should not default without very good reason. In this regard the same will apply to the All England and other outside events, if players qualify for Regional and/or National Finals they must indicate early if they do not intend to take up their place. It is grossly unfair to take a place and then not use it and further it reflects badly on the Club when this happens.

### **AGM Discussion Topic**

We generally have one discussion topic for the AGM, and this year it will be "Support for Club Events". The response to many of the Club activities including Priory Park days, Club days and the outing to Standen has been rather disappointing. The Committee would like discussion/feedback on why, do we need different events, are the days wrong etc.? Please think about this and let us know at the AGM.

### **New Lease**

I think we are almost there (after nearly three years)! We will have a formal 15 years lease with the Cricket Club hopefully in the next couple of weeks.

## *Secretary's notes – Geoff Gunton*

Since our last newsletter, we have welcomed two new members, Rachel Bia and Elizabeth Bridges. If you have not met them yet, I hope you will do so soon, although Elizabeth spends her winters in New Zealand, so it may be the spring before she is back on these shores. I am in touch with another potential new member.

You'll recall that the summer newsletter mentioned our break-in, which Ian Coulson – then a new member – found himself acting as a key witness and our contact with the police. He received a letter in mid-October from the Criminal Justice System to say that a Mr Tony Worboys had pleaded guilty to two burglaries, including ours and he was to be sentenced on 15<sup>th</sup> October at Guildford Crown Court. He has been remanded in custody until 15th October. I believe that Worboys was identified from a DNA sample obtained from a drink can in our kitchen, so thank you to those at the scene who preserved it for forensic analysis.

We have had two more visits to the Priory Park lawn since the last newsletter and I believe that those who have attended have enjoyed it. The lawn is, as you know, far from match quality but it is good enough for a Saturday knock-about and it has certainly helped raise our profile. When the committee meets in January to plan next year's programme, I am sure that similar visits will be included.

I mentioned in the last newsletter that we were planning to apply for a grant from the Reigate and Banstead Sports Council to cover half the cost of two additional sets of Dawson balls. We have been successful in that application and will be buying the new balls shortly. I estimated their cost as £160 in the summer newsletter. I was a long way out – when I made the application, they were priced at £285 per set and by the time the cheque came through, they had risen to £310! The CA shop has offered to let us have them for £300, with a further £30 trade-in against a set of Barlow balls. If any member would like to have a set of Barlow balls, we are offering two sets for sale for £30 to match that trade-in value. Let me know ASAP; I've got my eye on one set, but will avert my gaze should two people express interest. This offer has already been made to those members on email, with no takers so far.

***Stoppress:*** Only ONE set of balls left.

I also mentioned in the last newsletter that our liability insurers now require us to have an accident book on the premises. I have obtained one and it is in the clubhouse cupboard. It takes the form of an A4 pad of report forms that should be completed in the event of an accident. I have posted a notice about them next to the insurance certificate.

The committee is starting to make plans for the AGM on November 27<sup>th</sup> at 4pm at the Reigate Tennis Club. Please put the date in your diaries: the AGM provides the best opportunity for you to have your say and contribute to decisions made about how the club is run and what events are organised. This is also when the competition trophies will be presented and is always followed by an enjoyable meal.

## *SECF League reports*

### *U League – Jon Criddle*

The Committee decided to enter 2 teams again this year. As previously Team "A" consisted of those members who could play on any day of the week, and Team "B" being predominately those still in gainful employment and available only at weekends.

**TEAM "A"** We managed to win 3 out of our 4 games. We beat Ramsgate 4-3, Dulwich 4-3, and Compton 4-3. Our losing game was against Caterham where we always struggle due to the slope and unevenness of their lawns. There we lost 2-5. Thus we finished 3rd from 17 teams.

The players who represented the Club were: Bottomley (3), F Burch (2), Criddle (2), Hazell (1), Hyde (1), Knight (2), Taylor (1), Slade (3), and Staddon (1).

### **TEAM "B"** *John Timberlake*

We finished tied first with Southwick with 4 wins out of 4 and will play off for the shield and the right to play in the Secretary's Shield next year

The players who represented the club were: John Bristow, Neil Coote, Wendy Dominguez, Ron Farr, Andy Gray, Geoff Gunton, John Knight, & Roger Tedstone.

### *LONGMAN CUP - Jon Criddle*

After our successful run last year when we reached the final only to lose to Bury, we were hoping to go one step further this year.

Our campaign started well with wins over Southwick 4-3 and Blewbury 5-2. In the quarter final we were drawn against Guildford and Godalming. In order to repay their previous hospitality and neutralise their home advantage on lawns which they are unable to water, they accepted our invitation to play at Surbiton.

The morning session went very well with Reigate winning all 3 games -leaving only 1 game to be won in the afternoon. You've guessed it - we lost all 4 games! Mind you the reverse happened last year at Roehampton again in the quarter final.

In the morning session Andrew Gray had a 12point break with rover peel in his +19 win, qualifying him for the C.A. Silver award.

The following members represented the Club: Messrs: Bristow, Coote, Gray, Gunton, Hyde, Knight, Tedstone and Timberlake.

### **SECF Golf Croquet teams day**

As usual we were able to enter 2 teams for this event, with a total of 17 teams taking part. For the third time in the last five years we won the singles event with our A team of John Bristow, Jean Cobbold, John Knight and Ian Cobbold being the only team to win 11 of their 12 matches. The B team of Ron Farr, Lorna Jenkins, Joyce Carlisle and Neil Coote also did very well finishing in 4<sup>th</sup> place

with 8 wins and a draw. In the separate doubles competition the A team came 2<sup>nd</sup> and the B team 10th. This is a competition the club has never won, so let's hope we can do so next year.

## **SECF Golf Leagues**

For the first time this year we entered 2 teams in the Golf League. There was an excellent response to the invitation to play in the teams and each team was able to draw on 10 players, with each person playing in at least 1 match.

The SECF labelled the teams A and B although the pools had been designed by Ian and Jean, the team co-ordinators, to be as equal as possible. If we enter 2 teams in future it would be good to use names instead. Any suggestions would be gratefully received by Ian and Jean.

For the first time in a number of years we played some of our matches at home and found that this worked well. Catering was kindly provided by Laurence on two occasions and Jean on the third.

## **A Team**

The A team started with a surprisingly easy 7-2 win against Woking who have won the league twice in recent seasons and followed up with a 6-3 win against Merton. In our third match we came up against Sydenham who had won their previous 3 matches and we just prevailed 5-4 after some tough games. In our fourth and final match the team came up against another unbeaten side, Rother Valley, and this time we were beaten 3-6 after a number of very close games.

## **B Team**

The B team started with a bizarre match against Surbiton who only remembered they were playing us the day before and fielded a scratch team which then soundly beat us 1-8. The second match against Preston Manor also resulted in a 1-8 score line. The team's fortunes then picked up with a 5-4 win against Canterbury, followed by a 7-2 win against Crawley.

The overall result was the A Team finished joint 2nd and our B Team finished 13th out of 20 teams

## **Grassroots Competition**

Four members – John Knight, Lorna Jenkins, John Robertson and Roger Mackinnon - qualified for the regional round of this competition, and later Colin Swain was able to join them as people from other clubs had dropped out. All four of our qualifiers made it through to the national final with John K winning the regional round, beating Roger in the final.

The national final was played at Northampton during our Finals weekend. Lorna finished in fourth place, which is probably the best result a member of the club has ever had in the competition. Very well done, Lorna. John K and Roger both finished in mid-division and John R was unfortunately not able to make the date.



Roger T and John H on finals day 2010

## Club tournament results 2010

### Winner

Vulliamy Salver	R. Tedstone v J. Hyde	R. Tedstone
Creed	R. Tedstone v J. Staddon	J. Staddon
Fuller Buckley	M. Bottomley v. T. Hazell	T. Hazell
Gordon Goodchild	Knight/Timberlake v. Bristow/Hampton	Knight/Timberlake
Alan Grant Candlesticks	N. Coote/J. Knight v. J. Staddon/J. Copper	J. Staddon/Copper
Francis Payne	I. Cobbold v. J. Burch	to be played
Rosamund	P. Goldsmith v. J. Copper	P. Goldsmith
Jubilee Bowl	F. Burch v. R. Mackinnon	F. Burch
All England Association	A. Gray v J. Staddon	A. Gray
All England Golf	M. Bottomley v. L. Beach	L. Beach
Golf Doubles		M. Bottomley/P. Goldsmith
Millennium Salver	Not played	
Grass Roots	J. Robertson v J. Knight	J. Robertson

## *Southwick winter golf team tournament on 6 March – Ian Cobbold*

We entered a team in this tournament this year and had an enjoyable if chilly day's croquet. Ian Cobbold has sent in an entry for next year's event. Please let him know if you are interested in playing. It is a handicap event so all are welcome.

## *Croquet abroad - Ian Cobbold*

Ian and Jean Cobbold took part in the German Open Golf Croquet tournament played in Hamburg at the beginning of September. It was suggested by the German couple that they met on their croquet holiday in Corfu last year. 18 players took part, 8 Germans, 3 English, 2 Australians, 2 Czechs and one each from South Africa, Portugal and Switzerland. The lawns were challenging to say the least with slopes and bare patches.

The competition was played in 3 blocks with the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2nd from each block and 2 of the 3<sup>rd</sup> placed players going through to the knock-out stage. Jean just missed out by being the 3<sup>rd</sup> third placed player but had the satisfaction of beating the German champion in one of her block games. Ian just made it through but was beaten in the quarter-final 7-3, 5-7, 4-7 by the eventual winner David Hopkins.

## *Croquet at large - Geoff Gunton*

I recently spent nearly three weeks in Singapore on business and thought that a few games of croquet would provide a welcome diversion. Given its colonial past, I felt sure that Singapore would have a croquet club. Yet despite diligent Googling and an email exchange with the CA, I could find no trace of one.

Well, that's not quite true: there is a Singapore Open Croquet Tournament. It takes place every October and is a large event. This year's - the 27<sup>th</sup> – was limited to 128 players in 64 pairs and the organisers urged early applications, as it sells out fast.

Yet this event does not take place in Singapore. It is held in America – this year it was in California – and is just one of the activities surrounding the annual get-together of the Independent Lubricant Manufacturers Association. I emailed the organisation to ask about the event's origins but have not received a reply.

But there clearly is some interest in croquet in Singapore since two large residential developments currently under construction include croquet lawns among their attractions, although one sales agent rather spoils it by adding in brackets: "for the 'silver' generation." Expect to pay around £450,000 for a two-bedroom apartment in a 17-storey block if you'd like to use these lawns.

I was more successful in finding a croquet lawn on another work trip: to the naming ceremony of Cunard's new ship, *Queen Elizabeth*. It has a small games deck with artificial grass and includes a croquet lawn alongside a bowling green and a tennis court – all somewhat scaled down. The balls and mallets were of normal size and I thought it would have been rude not to run a few hoops. The lawn was perfectly flat, of course; at sea, it will not always be level.





Sharp eyed readers might notice that one of the spectators in the photograph is Alan Titchmarsh (who learned his horticulture from my uncle, but that's another story). I guess he was more interested in the absence of real grass than my croquet prowess.

### *Secretary's certificates – Geoff Gunton*

I plan to award the Secretary's Certificates at the AGM again. These are intended to recognise progress by higher-handicap players and can be awarded to people who may not have won any events – you just need to have won more individual games than you have lost to be in the running. The idea is to encourage members to take part in competitive games that count on their handicap cards, either within the club, by offering to take part in club teams for matches at other clubs or by entering external events as an individual.

So if your Association handicap was 10 or more or your Golf handicap was 5 or more at the time of the 2009 AGM, work out how much your index points have increased since then and let me know. The certificates will be awarded to the member(s) with the greatest points increase over the past year.

There is no central list of index points so I can't check this for you; it's down to you to let me know. The certificates are inscribed for us by a professional calligrapher, so are worth having. Let me know by 13<sup>th</sup> November so that I can get them done.

### *The All England Handicap Association Competition – Mike Bottomley*

Some of you might be interested in some history of the All England event. I am a fairly active buyer of croquet pictures and other items of interest, particularly on EBay. About six months ago a medal appeared, awarded in 1923 to E H Cartwright of Tunbridge Wells Club (see below).



This medal interested me for two reasons, firstly I was surprised that the event was already in place by 1923 and secondly 1923 was the year Reigate Priory CC was founded. Unfortunately I failed to win the medal which sold for £31.

I was sufficiently interested to ask the Croquet Association archivist about the All England and discovered that 1923 was actually the first year of the All England and the winner was not E H Cartwright so obviously all the finalists received a medal.

Interestingly the Tunbridge Wells club is not that now in existence as that was only founded in the mid 1960s by Gerald Williams, a croquet enthusiast, in the grounds of his mansion at Shernfold Park, Frant, East Sussex. It later moved to its present grounds as the Royal Tunbridge Wells Croquet Club.

A couple of months later a second medal appeared on EBay, this time from 1931. This medal was presented to Mrs C S Wright from the Sidmouth Club.





Again I failed to win the medal which sold for £13.50, rather cheaper than the 1923 version!

### *CLUB CLOTHING AND BADGES – Freda Knight*

I have a quantity of club badges which can be sewn on and some white peaked caps for sale. There will soon be some brooch type club badges available, which I will bring to the AGM. In addition, I am collecting members' own clothing to take to the workroom to be embroidered with the club badge. If anyone wants this done, please bring your garments to AGM, or give me a ring asap.

*Editors: Neil Coote and Martin Holland 29 October 2010*