



LEIGHTON-LINSLADE CROQUET CLUB

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Founded 2000

NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2014 Volume 15 Issue 1

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“Looking Forward to Another Busy Year - and our First CA Tournament”

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2014. Happy New Year to all members and friends. In the first newsletter of 2013 we looked ahead to a busy year and it was certainly that. There were some 57 fixtures in last year's calendar fitted into approximately 180 days! All these events were detailed in Newsletters 3 and 4.

This all took a lot of organising and I do not intend to pick out all the individuals that made this work so well - however I would like to highlight the excellent work carried out by our Events Secretary, John Thorp, for the enthusiastic and efficient manner in which he fixed up many of these events. I would also thank John for his welcome support concerning our lawn maintenance. Again, much of this was detailed in our last newsletter. More on the lawns later.

The big news for this season is that we will be hosting our first Croquet Association Tournament. As was also reported in the last newsletter we were asked at the last minute to host the EACF Handicap League final in September, between Ipswich and Enfield. The day was very successful in terms of our organisation and hospitality, and encouraged us to think about organising a Croquet Association Tournament open to CA Tournament members throughout the country.

Members may recall that at the end of the last newsletter we reported that David and Jean Ball had

qualified for the final of the Golf Croquet B-Level Series held at Hamptworth. Twelve players from eleven different clubs contested this inaugural event which even attracted one overseas qualifier all the way from Latvia. Ian Norris of Phyllis Court was the first ever National Golf Croquet B-Level Champion. David Ball was 6th and Jean was 7th - and we were the only club that had two entrants.

This competition was initiated by Chris Roberts, the Editor of The Croquet Gazette, to try and bring a climax to the series of B-Level Tournaments held throughout the country - in 2013 there were 11 of these events at Sussex County, Hamptworth (4), Watford, Wrest Park, Nottingham, Phyllis Court, Guildford, and Edgbaston. They are Singles Level Play competitions for players with handicaps from 2-6, 3-8, 2-7, 3-7, 4-8, and 5-8! Obviously the variation in handicap levels is somewhat confusing. Chris's idea was to enlarge the competition by getting more clubs to take part and rationalising the events to allow play from the same handicap. This has now been finalised and the handicap level will be 3-8. The clubs taking part are those above plus Colchester, Hunstanton, Middlesborough, Ashby, Budleigh and Leighton-Linslade.

The full calendar will be published in the Croquet Association Fixtures book in January, however I can tell you that our date is Friday 20th June 2014. Winners of Winners' Parade. Most of the 2013 award winners at the Annual General Meeting with Town Mayor Amanda Dodwell. Details of who won what over the page.





Left to right: Mix 'n Match Doubles Handicap winners were Don Barrett and Roy Kemp; runners up were Tom Miller and Ronnie Richardson (not present); Ladies Doubles Mix 'n Match winners were Helen Wilkinson and Jean Ball.

each round will automatically qualify for the two-day final at the end of the year. Remaining spaces in the final will be taken up by players who accumulate points for 2nd, 3rd and 4th finishes.

You need to be a Croquet Association Tournament Member to enter this event. I hope members will put this date in their diaries and we look forward to putting our club on the national map with our well known hospitality, and our unique scoring system.

If you are interested in joining the CA as a Tournament Member you can find more information on the CA website at www.croquet.org.uk or speak to any of our existing tournament members - John Cundell, John Thorp, David and Jean Ball, Roger Stroud, Richard Keighley or Sheila Guest.

Annual General Meeting

The 14th Annual General Meeting was held at Northall Village Hall on Friday 8th November 2013, and the meeting started promptly at 7.30pm as our Chairman David Ball welcomed some 25 members, plus our new Financial Examiner Terry Marsh and his wife - and the Town Mayor Amanda Dodwell. Secretary Roger Stroud then gave 11 apologies for absence.

There were no matters arising and the minutes of the 2012 AGM were duly approved.

We had circulated the Officer's Reports with the AGM

Agenda Pack before the meeting therefore they were not repeated verbatim, but updated as appropriate.

David Ball added that we had three new members who appeared to be enjoying their croquet. He also highlighted that in early October some nine members assisted in tining and raking up the cores which were used to fill in a couple of valleys in lawn 2.

David personally thanked Secretary Roger Stroud, Treasurer Len Buckingham, Vice-Chairman John Cundell, Fictures Secretary John Thorp, Membership Secretary Judith Cundell, and the rest of the committee for their help during the year.

Roger Stroud added that we had been taking part and doing quite well in many top level competitions and were respected by many other clubs. He also mentioned the improvement in our understanding of the maintenance aspects required for the lawns. We have had assistance from the Town Council and the groundstaff with the loan of some equipment and built up our knowledge as the year progressed. Due to the excellent work of a small number of members, our lawns are looking as good as they ever have been.

Len Buckingham, our Treasurer, asked if there were any questions following the earlier circulation of the annual financial reports. He confirmed that the final statement from the bank agreed with his draft reports circulated to members.

Left to right: Club Singles Handicap winner was John Thorp; runner up was Tom Miller; East Anglian Croquet Federation Handicap Champion of Champions was David Ball; The John Fogg Trophy Trophy winners were Richard Keighley and George Lawson (not present).





Left to right: The John Fogg Trophy runners up were Len Buckingham and Roger Stroud; Golf Croquet B-Level Edgbaston winner was David Ball; LJB 70 Plus Main Trophy winner was John Thorp.

Len then explained the Licence arrangements with the Council and the reason why we have to hold a substantial capital reserve. The Licence will be renegotiated in 2017. He went on to say that we still had to pay for last year's materials for the lawns and that this season we will need replacement balls as these are nearing the end of their life.

Len proposed an increase in subscription for the 2014 season from £70 to £75. The proposal was put to the vote and passed unanimously. He also requested that members support the Wednesday morning social as the small £2.00 charge went a long way to boosting the funds.

Len then thanked our new Accounts Examiner Terry Marsh for his help which had been very useful and informative.

The Officers' reports were duly accepted by the meeting.

There then followed a discussion and proposals to amend our Constitution with reference to the item covering the possible dissolution of the club. Since the meeting a closer look at our constitution shows that the procedure adopted at the meeting was incorrect. The whole subject needs further discussion in committee before the constitution is amended as it is now apparent to a number of members and our officers that the proposal and vote was invalid.

David Ball then explained in more detail the situation with our three guarantors, David Ball, Len Buckingham and John Cundell. These three are the signatories on the Licence with the Council to guarantee that should the club fold, we would pay the Council the outstanding yearly fees until the end of the current licence in 2017. This is the reason why the capital reserve is necessary to cover this eventuality. David has obtained promises from ten members who are prepared to stand as guarantors from 2017 which will enable us to make better use of our reserves as required for lawn and equipment improvement in the future. Len added that some form of legal agreement will be necessary with the guarantors at that time.

Ross Bagni asked if we had made any progress in trying to obtain a higher rate of interest for our capital funds. After a brief discussion it was agreed to raise this topic again at a future committee meeting.

The Chairman then stepped down and handed over to Vice-Chairman John Cundell who, after examination of the

Nomination Forms, declared that David Ball was the only nomination for Chairman, proposed on a number of forms. David was duly accepted by a unanimous show of hands.

David resumed the chair and conducted the appointment of officers and committee for 2014. Val Jeffers who had been a committee member for at least six years is standing down for health reasons and she was warmly thanked for her service by David Ball and all members. There was no other change except for the addition of Sheila Guest as a new committee member.

(Before moving on Roger Stroud has asked me to include a note that he forgot to read out at the meeting. It was from our old friends and past members Bryan and Joan Ferris, who moved to Kent in 2013. They send everyone their good wishes for Christmas and the New Year and hope that we all have a successful croquet season.)

Presentation of Awards

At this point David invited Town Mayor Amanda Dodwell to step forward and present the following awards.

Mix 'n Match Doubles Handicap

Don Barrett and Roy Kemp

Runners up Tom Miller and Ronnie Richardson

Ladies Doubles Mix 'n Match

Jean Ball and Helen Wilkinson

Runners up Peggy Kenny and Margaret Lawson

Club Singles Handicap

John Thorp

Runner Up Tom Miller

EACF Champion of Champions Handicap

David Ball

B-Level Newport

John Thorp

The John Fogg Trophy

Richard Keighley & George Lawson

Runners up Len Buckingham and Roger Stroud

B-Level Edgbaston

David Ball

LJB 70 Plus Trophy (Main)

John Thorp

LJB 70 Plus Trophy (Plate)

Peter Davis



Above left to right:
 Club Championship
 Doubles winners were
 Sheila Guest and
 John Thorp; Club
 Championship
 Doubles runners up
 were Richard Keighley
 and John Cundell;
 Club Championship
 Singles winner was
 John Thorp.
 Left: Club
 Championship Singles
 runner up was Jean
 Ball.

Club Championship Doubles

Sheila Guest and John Thorp

Runners up John Cundell and Richard Keighley

Club Championship Singles

John Thorp

Runner up Jean Ball

The meeting was officially closed by David who wished all present a Merry Christmas and a Happy Croquet New Year, after which the party commenced. This was enjoyed by all, as well as the excellent raffle organised by Tony Stammers and Eve Buckingham, which raised a good sum. There seemed to be enough prizes for all present!

Officers, Committee and Specific Duty Appointments - 2014

Officers

Chairman David Ball
 Secretary Roger Stroud
 Treasurer Len Buckingham

Committee

Ex officio members

Vice Chairman John Cundell
 Fixture Secretary John Thorp

Members

Eve Buckingham, Tony Stammers, Malcolm Kirby, Peter Cole, Sheila Guest

Specific Duties and Non-Executive

- Archivist Malcom Kirby
- Catering Manager Val Jeffers
- Assisted by Eve Buckingham, Jean Ball, Margaret Lawson, Sheila Beal
- Child Protection Richard Keighley
- Club Clothing Judith Cundell
- Coaching Richard Keighley, John Cundell, Eve Buckingham, David Ball and John Thorp
- Competition Organisers & Managers John Cundell, John Thorp, Len Buckingham, David Ball, George Lawson, Judith Cundell
- Event Preparation John Cundell, John Thorp, Len Buckingham, David Ball and Malcolm Kirby
- Handicappers John Cundell, Len Buckingham, John Thorp, David Ball
- Lawn Maintenance John Cundell, John Thorp, Malcolm Kirby, Ross Bagni, Sheila Beal, Helen Wilkinson, Roy Kemp and David Ball
- Membership Secretary Judith Cundell
- Newsletter John Cundell
- Publicity/Press David Ball, John Cundell
- Quartermaster Eve Buckingham
- Referee Len Buckingham
- Registers Len Buckingham, Judith Cundell
- Safety Officer John Thorp
- Scoring Manager Irene Davis
- Selection Committee John Cundell, David Ball, John Thorp, Peter Cole, Peggy Kenny
- Sports Council Peter Cole
- Tea Towel Laundry Tony Stammers, Jean Ball, Eve Buckingham, Malcolm Kirby and Sheila Beal
- Welfare Secretary Judith Cundell

2014 Dates for your Diary

March

- 19 Committee Meeting
- 14 Annual Dinner - Leighton Buzzard Golf Club
- 29 LAWNS OPEN - weather permitting

April

- 5 Official Opening by Town Mayor Amanda Dodwell - 2.00pm - TO BE CONFIRMED
- 25 Dunstable Friendly

May

- 10/11 Club 'Mix 'n' Match' Handicap Doubles
- 21 CA B-Level Tournament (3-7) - Wrest Park
- 31/1 Club Ladies Doubles 'Mix 'n' Match'

June

- 8 East Anglian Counties Tournament - Hunstanton
- 11 Committee Meeting
- 14/15 Club Handicap Singles
- 20 CA B-Level Tournament (3-8) - Leighton-Linslade
- 29 EACF Club Champions Tournament - Colchester

July

- 12 Club Garden Party and Fun Day at Page's Park
- 13 EACF Handicap (8-12) Tournament - Newport
- 28 U3A Dunstable Visit

August

- 13 Committee Meeting
- 9/10 Club Mens Doubles 'Mix 'n' Match' John Fogg Trophy
- 14 Dunstable CC Fun Day

September

- 10 Committee Meeting
- 12 LJB 70+ Trophy
- 20/21 Club Doubles
- 27/28 Club Singles

November

- 14 AGM & Party

The dates for other events such as League Matches, Inter-Club Shield, Local Friendlies, etc., will be published in the next newsletter in early March.

Garden (Park!) Party and Fun Day

In 2013 it was necessary to cancel the Annual Garden Party and Fun Day due to lack of interest and support. For 2014 we intend to try something new - combining the best of both events on one day and to be held at Page's Park, starting around 10.00am and running through into the afternoon. We will be booking the pavilion. Further details in due course. Final confirmation of the date is awaited.

Leighton-Linslade Social Club

The Wednesday morning social club is meeting regularly during the close season at Page's Park pavilion from 10.00am to 12.00, and on average a dozen or so members have been present. The fee is £2 per session, and for that you get refreshments and the opportunity to play many board games, darts, snooker, dominoes and cribbage. The activities generally finish about noon, and the hall is already warm on arrival, so please support this venture if you possibly can. Friends of members are welcome for same attendance fee.

Sports Council Grant

In his second year as our club representative on the Leighton-Linslade Sports Council, Peter Cole explained to the meeting held on 2nd December that we are now responsible for lawn maintenance outside the playing season, which was the reason for our request for a grant to assist in this area. We are pleased to report that the meeting agreed and we were awarded £450 which was presented on 13th January. Well done to Len Buckingham for the application and to Peter Cole for promoting our case at the meeting.

Annual Dinner - STILL SOME SPACES!

This year's dinner will be at Leighton Buzzard Golf Club, Plantation Road on Friday 14th March. Forms were distributed at the AGM and by post thereafter. There are still a few spaces left for what has always been a very pleasant evening, good company and good food. The price is a very reasonable £22.50 for a three course meal with a selection of four choices per course, and including coffee or tea with after-dinner mints! If you would like to come then contact David Ball **urgently** on 01525 211988 for further details.

EACF Club Champions Tournament

It was in this event that David Ball won the Handicap trophy last year. This year the venue has changed from Newport to Colchester where each club in the region is invited to send both their level play and handicap club champions from the previous year, or suitable substitute. More details in due course.

EACF High Handicap Tournament

This tournament is now into its third year. Diana Phelps and Margaret Brown attended in 2013 and had an enjoyable day. It is aimed specifically for those players whose handicap falls between 8-12, designed to give the less experienced player a chance to play in open competition relatively locally, and hopefully to tempt them into entering more senior Croquet Association events. This will be at Newport on 13th July. Further details concerning entry in due course.

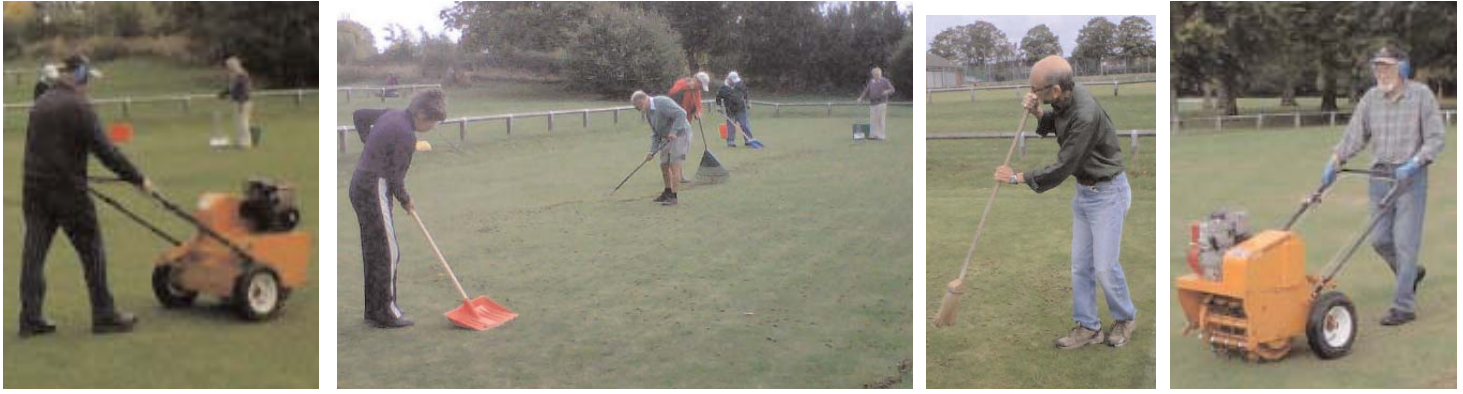
EACF Leagues

After the introduction of a Level Play League as well as the long running Handicap League in the East Anglian Croquet Federation in 2012, this will again be part of the 2014 season. The new EACF League Manager for 2013, Jason Carley, has spent the winter, along with Terrey Sparks and representatives from most of the EACF clubs, in sorting out some of the anomalies within the two leagues. There was a pretty good response to the survey from all 8 clubs in the Level Play League and 11 out of 15 in the Handicap League. In general there was a consensus for little change and after due consideration Terrey and Jason have presented the 2014 rules which can be found on the EACF website and which I have published below for members information. Basically there is little change but with one or two tweaks to tidy things up.

The main changes are in deciding who plays who initially (the order will be from lowest to highest handicap), and doubles pairings must be declared prior to the start of play, however the pairings at captains' discretion.

E.A.C.F. Level Play Golf Croquet League Rules – 2014

1. All games shall be level play and played under The Laws of Golf Croquet (3rd Edition March 2008).
2. Each team shall consist of four players, not necessarily the same players each match. The order to be from lowest to highest handicap, and doubles pairings must be declared prior to start of play.
3. No substitutes permitted after a match has started.
4. No player may play for more than one team in a season.



Some of our Maintenance Crew at work. Left: John Thorp with the tining machine. Next: Peggy Kenny, David Ball, Roger Stroud, Malcolm Kirby and Len Buckingham collecting the cores following the tining. Next: Ross Bagni wields a deft broom. Right: John Cundell's turn on the tining machine.

5. The start time of the match to be agreed by both team captains.
6. The match shall consist of 16 singles games and 2 doubles games. Each Team member will play 4 singles games and 1 doubles game. Match total 18 points. (Match results to be scored 2 points for a win and 1 point for a draw).
7. 13-point level play games will be played to a finish with NO time limit.
8. In the result of a tie, then the winner of the Area Group is determined by the Who beat Whom rule; then if still undecided, by the average of games won.
9. Handicap Cards to be submitted to each Team Captain prior to the start of play. All handicap cards are to be up to date and verified correct by either the Club handicapper or Official C.A. Handicapper. If a player forgets their card they can verbally declare their handicap but must provide a copy of the card to the League Manager as soon as possible.
10. Any number or size of lawns may be used. Adjust the format accordingly. Spread the play if the quality of lawns varies.
11. Results are to be notified by the home Team Captain to the League Organiser within 48 hours after the match.
12. All block games not played by the cut-off date of 1st September 2014 shall be declared void and no points awarded.
13. If a team cancels a match unilaterally less than 5 clear days before a scheduled match, that team forfeits its points and the non-offending team shall be awarded the match and 2 points.
14. In the event of a dispute the League Manager's decision shall be final.
15. All Singles results will be submitted to the C.A. by the League Manager.

Final Round Play - Off

- 1a. To arrive at the overall league winner a Final Round will be arranged by the League Manager, the date and venue stated prior to the start of any league matches being played.
- 2a. If a match is drawn at the end of all games, Captains will choose any 2 players to play a deciding 13-hoop game. To determine who starts, all four players to hit one ball from the same boundary line across the lawn; whichever ball is closest to the far boundary line without going over it commences play.

E.A.C.F. Handicap Golf Croquet League Rules – 2014

1. All games shall be handicap and played under The Laws of Golf Croquet (3rd Edition March 2008).
2. Each team shall consist of four players, not necessarily the same players each match. The order to be from lowest to highest handicap and doubles pairings must be declared prior to start of play.
3. Substitutes in matches shall be allowed by prior agreement

4. Each player shall have a handicap within the range 0 - 12. The total aggregate of the team must not be lower than 20.
5. No player may play for more than one team in a season.
6. The start time of the match to be agreed by both team captains.
7. The match shall consist of 16 single games and 2 double games. Each Team member will play 4 single games and 1 doubles game. Match total 18 points. (Match results to be scored 2 points for a win and 1 point for a draw).
8. For those Clubs with two teams in the same region, the matches between those teams must be played as the first fixture otherwise the result of that game will be void.
9. 13 point handicap games will be played with a 60 minute time limit - all games to start at the same time, with secondary colours starting from corner 2. If a game is drawn when time is called the players must play one more hoop to determine the winner. Bisques may not be used for this extra hoop.
10. In the result of a tie, then the winner of the Area Group is determined by the Who beat Whom rule; then if still undecided, by the average of the games won.
11. Handicap Cards must be submitted to each Team Captain prior to the start of play. All handicap cards are to be up to date and verified correct by either the Club handicapper or Official C.A. Handicapper. If a player forgets their card they can verbally declare their handicap but must provide a copy of the card to the League Manager within 24 hours of the match. If a player's handicap turns out to be higher than that declared on the day then all 5 games played by that player shall be forfeit.
12. Those players who have had a recent handicap reduction within the last 10 days prior to the match shall be permitted to play off their new handicap (even if this reduces the total team aggregate to below that of 20).
13. Any number or size of lawns may be used. Adjust the format accordingly. Spread the play if the quality of lawns varies.
14. Results are to be notified by the home Team Captain to the League Organiser within 48 hours after the match.
15. All matches not played by the cut-off date of 20th August 2014 shall be declared void and no points awarded.
16. If a team cancels a match unilaterally less than 5 clear days before a scheduled match that team forfeits its points and the non-offending team shall be awarded the match and 2 points.
17. In the event of a dispute the League Manager's decision shall be final.

This year we intend to enter both competitions with one team in the Level Play League and one in the Handicap

League. The entry forms will be posted in the clubroom at the start of the season.

Selection Committee

The general consensus from members was that the 'selection committee' arrangement for last year was successful and the committee has agreed that it will continue for 2014. The committee members for 2014 are John Cundell, David Ball, John Thorp, Peter Cole and Peggy Kenny.

New Golf Croquet Rules

On The Croquet Association website at the end of December was an item introducing a possible new edition of the GC Rules. The following extract from the article by Martin French, Chairman, CA GC Laws Committee, explains the thinking behind this.

'The World Croquet Federation has approved by 47 votes to 2, new text to form a 4th Edition. The draft of this WCF text was the subject of an earlier comment cycle last summer. Now, the CA's GC Laws Committee would appreciate comments by 12th JANUARY 2014 on the CA Rulings and CA Commentary proposed to turn this core WCF text into an edition suitable for publication by the CA.

The aim is to have new booklets available by the end of March 2014, and for the new edition to come into force from the start of the 2014 season. This is subject to CA Council approval in January.

The WCF GC Rules Committee – on which the CA has a permanent seat - has been working for the past few years on a new edition with a number of aims:

1. Clarifying the laws so most of the existing Official Rulings are no longer needed.
2. Fixing the known problems, such as the Wrong Ball rule.
3. Simplifying the rules and using standard text for aspects common to AC and GC (e.g. the specification of courts, mallets and balls).

In this new edition, good progress has been made on the first of these, and some on the third. But only limited progress has been made on tackling the really difficult problems, as no agreement could be reached between the various countries represented.

The good news is that the new 4th Edition means very few actual changes for the players. It is primarily a tidied-up version of the 3rd Edition laws, with many of the Official Rulings integrated into the rules. This shortens and simplifies many rules. The Wrong Ball rule is simplified somewhat, but needs further work in the coming years.

You might ask, if the changes are really only tidying-up, why we should go to the bother of publishing the new edition? First, the changes do make the rules easier to find and follow, without the ever-burgeoning number of Rulings to get in the way. Secondly, the international community will be using these. Thirdly, the more difficult work to tackle the major remaining problems, like the Wrong Ball rule, will take many years to agree and will start from this new edition.'

'Instant' Newsletter

Please include your email address when you complete this year's membership form. The newsletter will normally be distributed by email. As per 2013 please mark on your membership form if you are happy to print out your own copies of any other forms which may be required. Postage

costs are now very expensive.

Also please add your mobile telephone number. This is very handy for chasing up those who forget they have entered a competition! - and also for members to arrange visits to the lawns outside of the regular playing sessions.

Lawn Maintenance and Equipment Storage

In our third year of looking after the lawns during the close season, we are becoming more proficient and knowledgeable as to what needs to be done to maintain, and over the longer term to improve, our lawns. We are also accumulating the necessary equipment by purchase or borrowing/hiring to help us carry out the work required.

The lawns suffered badly in 2012 due to the excessive rain and flooding which certainly kept the grass green but also encouraged the moss to proliferate. Our first attempts at moss treatment helped, as did the much drier 2013 season. However this is still one of the problems, particularly on lawns 2 and 3. Also the poor grass at the left hand area of lawn 1 needs improving. Accordingly the following plan of action was put into effect at the close of last year's season.

In early October John C and John T were instructed on how to use the Council's tining machine which punches holes and aerates the lawns, and they proceeded to hollow tine all three lawns. Following them were Ross Bagni, David Ball, Len Buckingham, Malcolm Kirby, Peggy Kenny and Roger Stroud to collect up all the removed cores.

The 'mossy' areas of lawns 1 and 2 were 'verticut' and then scarified. In the afternoon, the two Johns applied slow release fertiliser to all three lawns, borrowing the Council's spreader. After this lawn 1 was re-seeded as were the mossy areas of lawn 2. As the dry weather held overnight, the following morning the two Johns re-seeded lawns 2 and 3 and applied 24 bags of top dressing to the poor left hand side of lawn 1, to the 'bumpy' area between hoops 3 and 4 on lawn 2 and to other selected areas.

We also utilised some of the cores to fill in the two dips at the top of hoop 2 on lawn 2. These areas were destined to be rolled over the winter months.

In all some 40 hours work from these 8 members. John Thorp and John Cundell would like to thank the six others for their valuable help that is much appreciated. We would also like to thank the Council's Groundsman, Doug Bolton, for his assistance in helping us to get the use of the Council's equipment.

Up to the end of the year, the two Johns carried out moss treatment, rolling and top dressing of the filled areas on lawn 2 which have responded very well, aeration of mossy areas, swishing to remove worm casts, and leaf clearance. All lawns have been mowed twice. This work amounted to another 36 hours!

The Christmas and New Year period has been very wet so there has been little chance to get on the lawns. As soon as this is possible we will probably need to mow again, and as the new season approaches, apply a slow release fertiliser, a light scarification and more moss control if the wet weather persists.

I may have gone on a bit about this but it is important

that members realise just what is required to maintain and improve our lawns. So far the total hours spent by our small group adds up to 76.

We were pleased that the allocation of the Referees Room as a storage arrangement for our maintenance equipment and some playing equipment again worked reasonably well last year. We will certainly need this facility again for 2014 as we need somewhere to locate all the additional equipment and materials required for maintenance and the general running of the club. We are hopeful that as soon as some of the football moves to Astral Park, we can have permanent use of the Referees Room for storage and as a small committee/meeting room.

Member News - "The Only Way Is Up!" says Roger Stroud



In February Roger Stroud will be attempting an ultimate hoop - one that is 19,500 ft high! He will be climbing Kilimanjaro for the second time - 2005 previously. The main peak is 5,896 metres high and was formed originally from a volcano. There are twin peaks and the summit is on the volcanic ridge. The Monty Python team did talk about building a bridge between the twin peaks! Roger is taking five days to ascend - he says it can be done much quicker but at risk of severe health problems.

He has decided to put his efforts towards a good cause by raising money for the Cinnamon Trust Charity and would welcome any sponsors to donate to this charity.

Having now reached 70 and survived a cancer scare a few years ago Roger feels that challenges need to be attempted whilst he is still capable. Over the past few months he has put in many hours training for this.

The Cinnamon Trust has a web site which can be viewed. In general it is the only specialist national charity for the

elderly, the terminal ill and their pets, and exists to ensure that any problem encountered in the day to day care of a pet can be overcome and all the benefits of owning a pet can be preserved. A national network of some 18,000 community service volunteers has been established to provide practical help, for example, walking a dog for a housebound owner. Other benefits are a national fostering service for pets whose owners face a spell in hospital, and long term care for pets whose owners have died or moved to residential accommodation that will not accept pets.

Roger fully understands that people have limited resources and their preferred charities, so this is just an invitation to donate to this specific charity as a sponsor to his climb.

Below is a link which can be used to take anyone wishing to donate directly. Alternatively, if you live locally and prefer not to use the website, you can make a donation directly to Roger which he will forward to the charity. The website is

<http://www.charitychoice.co.uk/fundraiser/carolinestroud/ki-limanjaro-trek>.

Best of luck Roger.

Playing Sessions

Below is a reminder on the 'official' playing sessions for 2014 - no change from 2013:

- 10-12 Tuesday (Singles Handicap)**
- 2-4 Tuesday (Singles Handicap)**
- 10-1.00 Wednesday**
- 10-1.00 Thursday**
- 10-12 Saturday**
- 2-5 Saturday**
- 10-12 Sunday (Singles Handicap)**
- 2-5 Sunday**

Our Lawn Rent arrangements allow for playing sessions to be flexible to work around the weather - either good or bad - e.g., if morning is wet we can regroup pm or even on another day; if good then stay on as required. Also, members are able to go along for practice sessions at will.

The only provisos are that a) if the Council Groundstaff or any Contractors or our own members are working on the lawns, then they will have priority and players will have to wait until they are finished; and b) certain Mondays and Fridays when League and Friendly matches are scheduled when no club play will be possible.



MEMBERSHIP FEE DUE!!!

It's that time of the year again - the membership fee is due. Accompanying the newsletter is a membership application form for the 2014 season.

Please complete this and send with the appropriate remittance, which for this year is £75, to the Membership Secretary, Judith Cundell, whose contact details are on the form and on the masthead of this newsletter.

If you have an email address please include this as we would like to send as many newsletters and other communications as possible by email to reduce postage and delivery costs.

Also, for 2014 we will not be sending your membership cards back to you by post. Those on email will receive acknowledgement that your subscription has been received. The small number of members who are not on email will be telephoned. The membership cards will be distributed at the Social Club, Annual Dinner or Clubroom as the season commences.

AND PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO INCLUDE YOUR MOBILE TELEPHONE NUMBER.