

The Bowdon Clang

February 2015

Editorial

This is a very stripped down Clang, with no frills (no I haven't gone all Cockney). It contains all the essential stuff to kick-start the season. Please check to see if you are on the tea rota. Please return your entry forms for club competitions to Steve as soon as possible. The AGM was well attended and lively as usual. See inside for the minutes and the Presidential address.

The winter activities, both on and off the lawns, have been very successful. The one-ball has been well supported and Canasta has been popular, with one session having an attendance of 24 members, a number which is starting to rival the Wednesday comp. The Friday evening "Youth Club", sadly has not attracted the crowds despite it being on every Friday and not fortnightly (and therefore easier to remember). Perhaps the improving weather, leading up to the start of the season, will bring people out to what is a very enjoyable evening.

The new season opens with Bowdon sporting 5 lawns not 4. This is down to the ingenuity and hard work of Alan Mayne and John Greatbanks who have somehow managed to fit in three lawns where lawns 1 & 2 stood. This has been achieved by orientating them at right angles so that they are side by side instead of end-on. Of course they are not full size, but they are not far short and I don't think members will notice the difference too much. Naturally, lawns 1 & 2 will be reinstated for tournaments.

An interesting change to the handicap system for 14 point games is to be introduced (according to my Croquet Gazette Issue 354 which arrived today). 14 point games will score the same number of index points as 26 point and 18 point games, ie: 10 index points in handicap play with the normal adjustment for level play. The item is on page 24 of the Gazette and is written by Strat Liddiard, Chair, CA Handicap Committee.

Archive News

As you may or may not know, I have assumed the role of club archivist and the most visible sign of my efforts is the row of magazine holders on the shelf at the back of the clubhouse containing around 240 Croquet Gazettes. This collection was started years before I joined the club of course and I have simply kept it up to date, neat and tidy and clearly labelled.

So what have old Croquet Gazettes got to do with our club history, I hear you ask? Well some years ago I noticed that Bowdon members appeared quite frequently in some capacity or other; writing articles or letters, winning trophies, being photographed etc. I embarked on a project to record all these in an index which Bowdon members could refer to rather than wading through all 240 gazettes but what I didn't realize was how many entries there would be in this index. It turned out to be around 700. Finding every

reference to a Bowdon player would have been well beyond the capabilities of one man so I decided to choose things that were easily spotted. First off, I chose photographs. This worked quite well because your photo doesn't appear without there being some reason for it, so once a photo was spotted some detail of a trophy won or an event having taken place, followed. Next I chose letters or articles written by Bowdon members, because their names stood out. It took a long time and I have worked on it, spasmodically over several years. Once I have printed it out with names in alphabetical order, it will appear on the bookshelf alongside the magazine holders.

The whole enterprise brought one or two problems. First of all, the very early Croquet Gazettes in our collection had very few photos and also I was aware that I hardly knew the names of Bowdon players from that time except for those appearing on club trophies such as the Silver Box and the Novices Bowl. If anyone can furnish me with a list of club members from back in the 1970's I would appreciate it, as I would be able to make the index more complete.

Tournaments

The tournament handbook for the 2015 season has been sent out. Further to my comments in the October Clang, remember that you are allowed to enter one tournament even if you are not a member of the CA and a whole host once you join. The club is trying to encourage non-Bowdon players to come to our tournaments by restricting Bowdon players to no more than 50% of the places but of course if players from other clubs don't fill the places, that leaves room for us and there is always a reserve list. One of the factors contributing to the decline in visiting players to all tournaments, not just ours, is the cost of accommodation.

Several Bowdon members already offer accommodation to visitors so if you feel you could add to that list, please do so because it will benefit the club. We have our fair share of top class players in the club, we can watch, but it is helpful to watch other good players with their different styles.

And finally, many thanks to Colin and Chris Irwin for their kind offer of drinks at the AGM. I know I speak for all of us when I say how much it was appreciated and we toasted your good health.

Two dates for your diaries

Saturday 14th March: Club Spring Clean. Come along and help blow away the cobwebs. Arachnophobes need not worry as there are plenty of jobs not involving cobwebs.

Sunday 29th March: First day of the 2015 season. Yippee!



Draft Minutes of the Bowdon Croquet Club AGM

Saturday 22nd November 2014

(Subject to the agreement of the 2015 AGM)

1. Attendance

Lorna Frost (chair); Barry McKenzie (Treasurer); Kay Martin (minutes); John Saxby (Hon. Secretary) and 48 other members.

2. Apologies for Absence

Colin Irwin (President); Alan Mayne (Ground Manager) and 16 other members.

3. Minutes of Previous AGM held on 16 November 2013

These were circulated in February 2014 with the Pre-Season Newsletter and the committee proposed that they be taken as read.

Approval proposed by Rupert Webb and seconded by Chris Evans. Passed with no objections.

4. Matters Arising

None.

5. Presidential Remarks

Colin Irwin's report was read to the meeting by John Saxby – this will be circulated next year with the newsletter and competition entry forms. He ended by inviting members to have a drink "on him" at the close of the meeting.

6. Honorary Officers' Reports

These had been circulated with the agenda.

There were no questions from the meeting. Steve Reynolds spoke briefly of the difficulty chasing people to get matches played. He asked that, if members knew that they were going to be away, they play before they leave or let him know.

8. Appointment of an Auditor or Auditors

The Balance Sheets had been circulated by Barry McKenzie who informed the meeting that the accounts had been audited by Michelle Miller whose signed report, dated 06.11.2014, was available. He requested that she be reappointed as auditor. Proposed by Martin Granger Brown, seconded by Liz Webb and passed with no objections.

7. Accounts

Barry McKenzie addressed the meeting advising that at the year end there was a cash balance of **£28,000** with a prediction that costs and receipts would be similarly balanced next year. The main source of income was our fees – his balance assumed that we would gain and lose members at the average level of previous years. Our costs for the year were £28,000 – much of this was predictable, the main expenditure being the care of our lawns. We were insured for any major risks and he considered that the reserves of £28,000 were sufficient to take care of any uninsured eventualities. If the reserves fell below £20,000 then he would consider it necessary to raise fees or look for savings.

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by David Cotton and seconded by Brian Storey – passed with no objections. Some queries in respect of our insurance were clarified.

9. Entry Fees/Subscriptions

The committee recommend that **fees remain unchanged for 2013/14** as follows:-

- Full Playing – Entry £90 Subscription £225
- Far Country – Entry £25 Subscription £39
- Junior – Entry Nil Subscription £30 (Nil for relatives of full playing members)
- Non Playing – Entry £12 Subscription £32
- Country – Entry £35 Subscription £89
- Student – Entry £22 Subscription £40

A discount of £5 (for full paying membership) will be given if payment is made before the 1st January 2015 and there is a 10% discount on the fees for family members of a full playing member.

An **Amendment was proposed** by Brian Storey that the **fees be increased by £5 for Full membership and £1 for Far Country and Country Members.**

Brian expressed concern that an increase had not been made in line with inflation. He feared a drastic increase may be necessary another year as had happened 20 years ago following a three year period of no increase.

The **proposal was seconded** by Rupert Webb who pointed out that, at £45 a month, it was the cheapest of sports and it was unrealistic not to raise the fees.

Discussion of the amendment followed: - Martin Granger Brown spoke in support recalling that the club had previously worked hard to reach solvency and it was essential to have one year's outgoings in the bank. Peter Taylor spoke against the proposal expressing concern that a lot of members do not play a great deal and may be dissuaded from rejoining also it was not necessary as there was already a year's expenditure in the bank. John Lucas expressed the view that any organization would expect to raise fees in keeping with inflation and therefore supported the amendment. John Leckie pointed out that, if there was a sharp increase in inflation, and then there would be more interest payable on the capital available. Francois Garcia added that the club had increased membership, as was the aim, so that we now had the increased fees from 105 full playing members.

A vote followed:-

- In favour of the amendment – 18
- Against – 21
- Abstentions – 3

Barry McKenzie then **proposed that the fees remain unchanged.** This was seconded by Francois Garcia and carried by the majority of members present.

10. Election of Officers

The following retired in accordance with the rules:-

- President Colin Irwin
- Hon. Secretary John Saxby
- Hon. Treasurer Barry McKenzie
- Hon. Croquet Secretary Ken Cooper
- Hon. Ground Manager Alan Mayne

All Officers had agreed to continue if elected. In the absence of any other nominations their re-appointment was proposed by David Cotton and seconded by Pam Sword.

11. Election of 7 Committee Members

The following retired in accordance with the rules: - David Walters; Lorna Frost; Kay Martin; Richard Smith; Charles Harding; Barry Keen and Steve Reynolds. All except Richard Smith agreed to stand for re-election. There was a properly proposed and seconded nomination for Carole Kelsall to join the committee. There were no other nominations and the election of the seven committee members was proposed by Liz Webb and seconded by Jane Wilkinson.

12. AOB

Graham Good considered that the **club rules** required amendment now that we had 105 full players – John Saxby, endorsed by Lorna Frost, recalled that no amendment was necessary as the increase had been for a **trial** period of five years, subject to any concerns from the ground Manager. The committee would confirm that this was the case.

Meeting Closed - After the close of the meeting the **Club Trophies for 2014** were presented by the Chairman

President's address 2014

Good morning everyone and welcome to the AGM at the end of another excellent year for the club. Alan and John have done great work on the lawns in the face of some adverse weather conditions, yet again Barry and the committee, chaired by Lorna, have managed the finances superbly and kept us on a sound financial footing, and our team of caterers have enhanced our and their reputation for great tournament food. Even better, if you look at the accounts you will see that they made us quite a bit of money doing it. Some of that is because people who provide the food often don't charge for it at all, or charge less than it really cost, if you cater please do make sure you are not out of pocket, we have a pretty good cost/quality balance. Anyone who wants to join in just talk to Kay or Chris, new helpers are always welcome.

The recruitment drive was very successful again this year so well done to Charles and Ken and all those who helped. Welcome to all our new members. Personally I was rather disappointed that we did not have enough entries to have a meaningful novices competition, maybe we will do better next year.

Our new members are to be seen regularly on the lawns which is excellent, and I'm sure we will soon see some of them represent the club in the various teams.

And talking of teams, unfortunately we had no success in the NW Federation leagues this year. We nearly got the advanced league, we were in fact undefeated, but we still managed to lose out to Chester even though we beat them because of the bonus points system which really disadvantages us with our low handicaps. But we are not bitter, are we team?

On a better note we won the Festival of Croquet. Sometimes we struggle to get teams, but really this is great fun and people should try it. Armies of people gather at Southport for a couple of days of competitive croquet in all its different formats, great team spirit, and as a Bowdon player you get to wear an orange shirt if you like. Rather more seriously, congratulations to our Longman Cup team, for the new members this is a national team handicap event, this year 29 clubs entered teams. Our first win was 1968, we last won it in 1997, and we have now won it 5 times in total, which is a pretty good record. I haven't been able to find a complete historical record but that may well be more wins than any other club. We also won the Secretary's Shield, this is the knock out competition for winners of the various Federation Leagues. The origins of this competition are more local than you might think, many years ago those of us in the North and Midlands felt a bit remote from the CA and we formed a Northern Federation and a Midlands Federation independently of the CA as pretty ad hoc bodies to coordinate things in our regions. We set up local leagues and the original Secretary's Shield was contested by the league winners of just the two regions. After the current 9 federations were set up by the CA the competition was expanded to let each enter a team.

Individually, Graham Good won both the All England AC Handicap and the All England GC Handicap, I believe the first person to achieve the double. Unfortunately he was representing his other club, Bury, but he is a member here too so we can do a bit of basking in the reflected glory.

By now the winter activities will be well under way, Wednesday 1-ball, Youth Club, Canasta, Bridge and so on. I hope you all enjoy the club's winter activities, many clubs go dormant in the winter months, but at Bowdon we try to keep the momentum going.

Finally and most importantly I have made sure there is cash on my bar card, Chris has some on hers too, so have a drink on us after the AGM, I'm sure the Secretary can be persuaded to open a few bottles of wine. Enjoy the club dinner, have a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year, and we look forward to seeing you again in April.

Colin

2015 TEA ROTA

APRIL	4	Patrick & Louise Cheyne
	11	HOT POT SUPPER
	18	John & Sue Lucas
	25	Jane Wilkinson & Jean Teare
MAY	2	MAY HANDICAP WEEKEND
	9	Mike & Sylvia Steer
	16	Diana Jerman & David Holland
	23	Douglas Burrington & Jo Kenyon
	30	JUNE ADVANCED WEEKEND
JUNE	6	Nan Bowers & Monica Young
	13	Roger McCall & Ali Reeves
	20	Brenda Swales & Anne Whalley
	27	Frank & Janice Moir
JULY	4	Chris Evans & Carol Steinberg
	11	NORTHERN WEEKEND
	18	Stephen Moores & Andrew Winn
	25	Alison Court & Anne O'Reilly
AUGUST	1	Jacky Davies & Joanna Pierpoint
	8	Pauline & Gordon Hennell
	15	Ken & Ros Pimlott
	22	Wendy & Ian Bell
	29	NORTH OF ENGLAND CHAMPIONSHIP
SEPTEMBER	5	Mosey & John Knight
	12	Peter & Virginia Taylor
	19	B LEVEL WEEKEND
	26	Leo & Eileen Fletcher
OCTOBER	3	David Cotton & Richard Smith
	10	Cas Sinclair & Carole Kelsall
	17	Elmyr & Val Hughes
	24	Graham Abrahams & David Lee
	31	Marjorie Aston & Lynda Healey (if lawns open)

Apologies to those on the list who did it last year but this has been impossible to avoid. If you cannot manage the date that has been allocated, please arrange a swap, and record it on the list in the clubhouse.

GIVEN ALL YOUR BUSY LIVES, PLEASE FEEL FREE to buy the cakes and scones rather than bake them yourselves. Only spend around £15-20 on food, and refund yourselves from the takings. Expect to spend a bit more if the weather is good, or a bit less, if a lot of members are playing away

CLUB COMPETITIONS 2015

Please fill in the entry form overleaf and return it to Steve Reynolds by Friday 13th March.

The draw will be posted by the start of the season to allow maximum time for the matches to be played. Cheques will not be presented until the draw has been made, so there is nothing to be gained by delay.

Format

- The Open and B-class will be played according to advanced rules.
- C-class will be ordinary level play.
- D-class will be 18 point level play. Players start a hoop 1 and move the clip of the backward ball to 3-back once hoop 1 has been made with their first ball.
- E-class will be played under handicap rules, but all players take **15** bisques. However, the number of points that should change hands is based on the LEVEL play table (just as in the other class events), so if a 20 beats a 24 they only get 8 index points.
- Players may enter the class event immediately above, as well as their own. Note: if you believe that your handicap is out of line, please have a word with any committee member before deciding your entry.
- *Class events and the 14pt Advanced will be by draw and process, i.e. two lives.*
- *The 14pt Handicap, Golf, Short and Handicap Doubles will be single life.*
- *The Silver Box will be a single life competition, although 1st round losers will be entered into the Silver Plate competition.*
- The Silver Box **and Plate are** recommended to be full bisque handicap play with a base of 6. For example, if an 18 handicap plays a 14, BOTH players receive bisques - 12 and 8 bisques respectively. However, either player may instead insist upon normal handicap play.
- For 14pt games the number of bisques required for your handicap can be found in Competition Rules, a copy of which is pinned on the Club notice board.
- *14 point, Golf and Short competition matches will be decided by a single game, however if both players agree, they can be best of three.*

All-England Handicap

- Representatives of the club at the area final of the All-England Handicap shall be taken from the semi-finalists in the Silver Box. (The exact number qualifying will be dependent on the total number of entries).
- *Representatives of the club in the Millenium Competitions shall be taken from the semi-finalists in the Silver Plate.*
- Representatives to play in the area final of the All-England Golf shall be taken from the semi-finalists of the Golf competition.
- The Club will play the entry fees for these Competitions.
- *Please indicate on the attached Entry Form if you are willing to represent the Club in these Competitions.*

Entry Fees for Club Competitions

- Entry fees are £2.00 per competition with a maximum total payment of £8. New members are strongly encouraged to enter all the competitions for which they are eligible (e.g. E-class, Silver Box, 14 Point, Short, Handicap Doubles and Golf).

Return by Friday 13th March 2015. No reminders

Post your entries + cheques to:

**Steve Reynolds, 3 Arbour Crescent, Tytherington, Macclesfield Cheshire,
SK10 2JB**

Or put your Entry in the folder in the Clubhouse.

I would like to enter the following competitions:

Class events:	Open	.....	(-3 to 2)
	B-class	.....	(2½ to 7)
	C-class	.....	(8 to 13)
	D-class (18pt)	.....	(14 to 18)
	E-class	.....	(20 to 24)

Remember that you may enter your own class AND the class above.

14 point advanced:

14 point handicap:

Golf:

Short:

Silver Box handicap:

Handicap doubles:

Doubles Partner

(If you wish me to find you a partner then please say so here).

I enclose a cheque for _____. (Cheque payable to Bowdon Croquet Club).
(Entry fees are £2.00 per competition with a maximum total payment of £8).

Name _____

Current Handicap _____

If you are interested in representing the Club in any of the NW Croquet League Competitions, or the National Competitions (Mary Rose and Longman Cup) please let the Captain of that team know (Captains are listed on the website), or speak to any member of the Committee, who will tell you who to contact.

The Club entries for the regional finals of the All England and Millenium Competitions for 2015 are selected from the semi-finalists in the Silver Box/Plate and Golf Competitions. Please indicate if you are willing to play in these Competitions if you qualify via the appropriate Internal Competition. (Note: This is not definite a commitment, but will help the Club in selecting representatives.

..... (Yes/No)

Return by Friday 13th March 2015. No reminders.

2015 Calendar for Bowdon Croquet Club

[illegible]

Notes: The letter codes (C, M, S, A, etc.) are used to indicate the away matches and events. Question marks indicate dates that have not been confirmed. Mons: Solomon Grundy Comp. Tues pm: TWG (30/3-6/10 inc.). Weds: Wed. Comp.(except 15/7)

(C) Championships (and NW Fed. Events)

25-26 April	NW Fed Millennium Advanced (Pendle)
9-10 May	NW Fed Millennium Handicap (Crake)
10 May	NW Fed Millennium Handicap Golf (Bury)
23-26 May	Inter Counties Championship (Southwick/Compton)
30 May	NW Fed Millennium Short (Fylde)
31 May	NW Fed Millennium Level-Play Golf (Chester)
27-28 June	North West Festival of Croquet (Southport)
Sept.	All-England AC Handicap Area Final (?)
5-6 Sept.	All-England GC Handicap Area Final (Pendle)
19-20 Sept.	All-England AC Handicap National Final (Chester)
19-20 Sept.	All-England GC H'cap National Final (Colchester)
Oct.	Inter-Club AC Finals (??)

(G) Bowdon Griffins Midweek (John Saxby)

15 April	A	Westmorland
6 May	A	Bury
4 June	H	Pendle & Craven
22 June	A	Fylde
30 July	H	Bowdon Earls
13 August	H	Southport
17 September	A	Chester

(E) Bowdon Earls Midweek (Barry McKenzie)

16 April	H	Bury
7 May	H	Westmorland
3 June	A	Southport
2 July	H	Chester
30 July	A	Bowdon Griffins
26 August	A	Pendle & Craven
	H	Fylde

(M) Bowdon St Mary's H'cap (Alan Mayne)

23 April	H	Bowdon Firs
17 May	H	Southport
30 May	A	Chester
14 June	H	Bury Peelers
4 July	A	Pendle & Craven
19 July	H	Fylde
2 August	H	Crake Valley
23 August	A	Birkdale
6 September	A	Bury Caesars

(GB) Bowdon Bandits L-P Golf (Alan Mayne)

9 Apr	H	Bowdon Sinners
21 May	A	Culcheth
11 June	H	Bury East
25 June	A	Chester
23 July	H	Pendle A
13 August	A	Pendle B
3 September	H	Fylde

(A) Bowdon A-Advanced (Ken Cooper)

19 April	H	Bury
	A	Crake Valley
7 June	A	Fylde
27 September	H	Pendle & Craven

(B) Bowdon B-Advanced (Charles Harding)

10 May	H	Chester
26 July	H	Bury
9 August	A	Fylde
16 August	A	Southport
6 September	H	Pendle & Craven

(F) Bowdon Firs H'cap (Steve Reynolds)

23 April	A	Bowdon St.Marys
26 April	H	Chester
7 June	H	Pendle & Craven
14 June	A	Southport
5 July	H	Birkdale
18 July	A	Bury Peelers
1 August	A	Fylde
23 August	H	Bury Caesars
20 Septembe	A	Crake Valley

(GS) Bowdon Sinners L-P Golf (Ros Pimlott)

9 Apr	A	Bowdon Bandits
30 April	H	Pendle B
14 May	H	Chester
9 June	A	Pendle A
15 July	A	Fylde
2 September	A	Bury East
24 September	H	Culcheth

(S) Bowdon Short Team (John Haworth)

3 May	A	Westmorland
24 May	H	Chester
21 June	H	Llanfairfechan
26 July	A	Southport
9 August	H	Pendle & Craven
20 September	A	Bury

Other Events

7 March	NW Federation Spring Meeting (Culcheth 10am)
14 March	Club Spring Clean
25 March	Charity One-Ball Bowdon Heat (10am)
11 April	Revision Day (10am)
11 April	Hot-Pot Supper (7.30pm)
18 April	Taster Day 1 (10am)
24 April	Taster Day 2 (10am)
18 June	Barbecue (7.30pm)

11-15 Sept. Eights Week

7 Nov.	NW Federation AGM (Culcheth 10am)
14 Nov.	Bowdon AGM (11am)
20 Nov.	Bowdon CC Dinner & Dance

(R) Mary Rose Trophy (Charles Harding)

(L) Longman Cup (Barry Keen)

(SS) Secretary's Shield (Barry Keen)

(IA) Inter-Club A.C. Championship (Colin Irwin)

(IG) Inter-Club G.C. Championship (Alan Mayne)

Last corrected on 11/02/2015 - Please inform Ken Cooper of any errors or amendments