

## RSCC Newsletter September 2024



Sept	Event	Notes
Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Club Singles	
Thurs 5 <sup>th</sup>	Friendly v Dales (A)	
Mon 9 <sup>th</sup> – Tues 10 <sup>th</sup>	MCC	
Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup>	YF Level Play League v Sheffield (H)	
Thurs 26 <sup>th</sup>	End of season social	

The season is rapidly drawing to a close. Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September is the final event of the season. Then, what will you do with your Tuesdays and Thursdays? I find I heave a sigh of relief at the end of the season, thinking “aahh no more croquet for a bit, deep joy!” Then about two weeks into the off season I find myself looking forward to the new season. There’s no pleasing some folk.

The Club and its members have been fairly busy again this month if perhaps not quite so frantically busy as the previous month.



The first event was the Club Progressive Doubles. A real fun day for all; no matter what your ability you can have fun in this event. Ted masterminded the whole thing; here he is at Mission Control working out who plays who next. You may be able to make out two wooden figures on his table. They represent two guest players drafted in to make up numbers, the guests were: Reg Bamford and Stephen Mulliner, they came nowhere. After a fun day’s play on a lovely summer’s day the competition was won by Arlene and Robert and the plate was won by Alex and Jane.

We have played one match in the Yorkshire Federation level play when we travelled to Ben Rhydding wondering if Storm Lilian had finally abated. Happily, it was a reasonably fine day, and we beat the home side 7 games to 5. There should have been one other match in this league, that against Sheffield, which was postponed.



The club was well represented in the C Level Competition at Bishop Monkton. Three of our members competed: Kerry, Marcia and Robert. Robert won, Marcia came second and Kerry fourth out of a field of eight players. Another grand day out for RSCC, and Rob's second C Level win this year. The boys on a roll!

We visited Ben Rhydding again, this month just gone. This time for a Friendly match which we won. It was quite a close match: RSCC 14 games to Ben Rhydding's 11, and 3 drawn games; RSCC 127 hoops to Ben Rhydding's 117.



Monday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September saw eight of us battling for the Club Singles trophy. After a long day's croquet which saw some excellent competitive croquet being played, Michael emerged victorious, beating Sue in the finals. Of the two finalists seen here receiving their well earned prizes, I reckon Sue got the better deal, a nice bottle of Sauvignon Blanc, rather than a trophy which lies about at home gathering dust for a year! Maybe that's just sour grapes on my part 'cos I didn't win. Not only did Michael win but he managed the competition also. Thankyou Michael.



Every year Ripon holds the "Summer of Fun" event. This is held for the children of Ripon to enjoy various sporting activities: soccer, rugby, rounders, cricket and various other activities. RSCC has always made known its willingness to be included in this. In previous years the demand for croquet has ranged from disappointing to non-existent. This year however we had quite a few youngsters come along and enjoy the games, involving croquet mallets and balls which Andrea, Sue and I supervised.

Now let me tell you a little story of inter-club cooperation. At a friendly match earlier this year it was noticed that one of secondary, Sunshiny balls was smaller than the others. Michael asked the YCF secretary to put on the agenda for the meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> August that if any club had a spare Sunshiny brown ball to spare RSCC would be willing to buy it.

At the meeting Peter Reed of Sheffield, Parkhead said he would check, and the next day he sent a photo of a brown ball, so Michael paid him and he arranged to have it delivered. The journey of the brown ball from Sheffield to Ripon happened thus: Brown ball travelled to Sheffield CC and Ki Hulme of that club brought it to Bishop Monkton where Sheffield were playing a Federation match. Michael collected the ball from Ki and brought it home. It was used in the next Club Afternoon and seemed to be quite at home with the other three.

#### OR TED'S VERSION

The Sunshiny Brown Ball – the fantasy

I'm fed up of being in this box with all the other odd balls. I'm not an odd ball, ok my colour might be a bit smudgy but it's how I was made, it's not my fault. Anyway a few days ago Uncle Peter took me out of the box,

"Job for you mate!" he said, "You're off to a new home!"

Then I heard the words Sheffield CC, and my little heart sank, another Sheffield Club – I want to travel, I want to roll over the world. Next thing I knew it was "Bishop Monkton", well, I was travelling to a Bishop no less. At least I would be treated with respect, I knew that Vicars used to play lots of croquet but maybe Bishops play super advanced! Not sure about Monks though.

But it wasn't to be, next thing it's "Ripon Spa".

Oh, a Spa, gentle soothing waters, soft white towels, kind warm hands but I'm not ready for retirement yet. Then what a surprise! Out of the plastic bag and in with some new mates and to be played with again! Graham Greenie is my best pal, not sure about Peter Pink, always getting at me but I take it out on Willy white.

If you get me out of the secondary bag and talk to me nicely, like Uncle Michael did, then I'll roll straight and true and if I'm a bit off line I'll find a little rise and whizz through the hoop. But if you think I'm a funny colour then I'll show you, I'll cruise past the ball you're trying to make me hit, bounce back off a hoop upright and if you got ears to hear, you might realise that the replacement secondary brown ball on court two is having a little giggle, so happy to be played with and to have found such a wonderful new home.

Thanks for the journey.

And now a word or two from Chairman Ted

#### **The Joy of Doubles and Singles**

Our recent flurry of singles tournaments and the excellent surface that the Brilliant mower produces has made me relish the fun of hard hitting, big clearing and go for it croquet which I think we have been missing over the past few seasons. So, what to do to provide more opportunities for singles games without taking away the fun of our doubles sessions during club afternoons?

The idea of a club croquet ladder seems to have gone down like a lead balloon, so how about internal B level and C level Singles tournaments within the club? It would not only give some sharp competition for those who like such a thing but also an opportunity for members who haven't done it before to manage such events. Another suggestion is to have a Ladies Singles and a Gentlemen's singles, we have plenty of ladies but not sure about finding any gentlemen!

These games and matches could go on outside club afternoons and we do have Mondays, lots of evenings and many Sundays on which games could be arranged by mutual consent.

I'd love to hear your views.

Onwards and upwards,

Ted

Please folks, do let Ted know what you think. Ted is always looking for new ways to improve our club in all sorts of ways, so feedback is important to him.

This letter would not be complete without saying a big thankyou for the members who made up the work party

Before I close, I must touch on the matter of booking in. Please will all members, if they intend to come and play or wish to play in a particular tournament or match, use the booking in system on the website. On Club Afternoon it is useful, for the member on tea duty, to know how many they need to cater for. It is also important to a competition manager to know well in advance how many want to play. If anyone has difficulty in using this system, please ask me or Sue, in good time to put your name down. However, it would be great if everyone could learn to use the system by asking Michael for help.

Now I've gone on long enough, at least someone thinks so!



Best wishes to you all

Roger