



March 2024

The Monthly Mallet

We're on a diet



Anyone who's seen me from the side will understand this (although bizarrely the picture that appeared the Croquet Gazette [left] recently tells a different story). The Mallet is not immune to this, so it's a slim edition this month.

Despite being the warmest February on record, it hasn't always seemed that way. Moments of sunshine, but other than for the Fish and Chips GC day, the lawns have mostly been quiet. Now is the time to plan your croquet calendar, so see if any of the dates for the diary make the cut for you.

If anyone has ambitions to compete outside of the club, let me know so we can offer support and commission a write-up?

Hardy Cup

Des & Rod

I suspect most action this month has been down to contractual obligation fixtures, and here's the latest.

	February									
	Tim H		Alex		Rod		John B		Colin T	
Tim H			5	7	5	7	7	3	6	7
Alex	7	5			3	7	7	1	7	3
Rod	2	5	7	3			6	7	7	5
John B	3	7	1	7	7	6			7	5
Colin T	7	6	3	7	5	7	5	7		

Wins	Hoops F	Hoops A	Points
1	23	24	2
3	24	16	6
2	22	20	5
2	18	25	3
1	20	27	1

	Sue BB		Max		John GD		Clive Branch		Alistair	
Sue BB			7	4	7	6	7	4	7	6
Max	4	7			7	6			2	7
John GD	6	7								
Clive Branch	4	7								
Alistair	6	7								

Wins	Hoops F	Hoops A	Points
4	28	20	6
1	13	20	
0	6	7	
0	4	7	
0	6	7	

	Matt		Anne T		Sue R		Peggy		John T	
Matt			7	6			6	7	6	7
Anne T	6	7							7	4
Sue R										
Peggy	7	6							2	7
John T	7	6	4	7			7	2		

Wins	Hoops F	Hoops A	Points
1	19	20	
1	13	11	
0	0	0	0
1	9	13	
2	18	15	

	Tim W		Jane		Shirley		Steve D		Kevin	
Tim W			7	4	7	2	5	7	7	1
Jane	4	7			7	2	7	5	5	7
Shirley	2	7	2	7			2	7	7	2
Steve D	7	5	5	7	7	2			6	7
Kevin	1	7	7	5	2	7	7	6		

Wins	Hoops F	Hoops A	Points
3	26	14	6
2	23	21	3
1	13	23	1
2	25	21	5
2	17	25	2

There may well be games that haven't made it to the spreadsheet, but kudos to divisions 1 and 4 for completing.

The latest installment of Des and Jane’s alliterative series of GC contest meets gala lunch events took place on Thursday 27th. As far as we can tell, the latter seems to be of most significance! Ace reporter, enthusiastic washer-upper and all-round star Jane Taylor was there to cover proceedings exclusively for the Mallet.

Pavlov would have been proud to see the effect of the bell ringing to announce the arrival of the fish and chips. As instructed earlier by the Lord and Master of Newport, there was to be an immediate downing of mallets when the delivery arrived. Instant barely describes the spontaneity of the abandonment of the lawns when the bell was rung. Within seconds the players were transported to the tables with the golden fish and chips before them.



It had been a chilly morning with 3 vigorous games of rotating doubles so those chips didn't stand a chance of survival. They were digested amidst a steady munching and chatter about the morning's play. Much gossip focussed on Helen Frenay's spectacular inaugural performance giving her three wins in her first Fun Day outing.

With the fish and chips despatched, it was time for Pudding Annihilation, a favourite game with Newport Club members. A startling performance as ever with Peggy taking on substantial quantities of her secret hoop winning elixir, treacle tart. Alistair as ever did us proud with the selection he so thoughtfully selected.

The afternoon play was fast and furious, the lawns having dried a little and players selected their own partners. Trevor (with a treble pudding serving fuelling his mallet) was knocking balls through hoops at a furious pace.



Most players survived the 5 games, using their last energy to reach the club house for the final score announcement.

3rd was **Helen Frenay**, 2nd **Alistair the Puddingmeister** and, in a well-deserved first place, **Colin Carr**. [Ed - Sadly Jane's attempt at cleaning up only extended to the dishes. Next time, Jane!]

Despite the culinary feast, the event made £25 for club funds. Thanks to everyone for participating with such gusto.

Next Fun Day is **March Mad Hairs** on Tuesday 27th February. No, that is not a typo, and we hope it's not a reference to the soup. Look forward to Perfect Perm, Tantalising Tonsures and Marvellous Mullets in next month's Mallet.



GC Competition Season

Anne Taylor *EACF GC League Manager*



Just a reminder that the weather isn't always so uninviting. Spring and Summer will be with us soon, and if you don't want to miss out on extended tanning sessions, do get in touch with Anne to be considered for selection in the day-long inter-club matches. You know you want to make like a tree or some kind of vicious bird.

You can let her know now, by e-mail, if you would like to be included in this year's teams; colinandannetaylor@live.co.uk and don't forget to let me know your current handicap!

One-Ball competition



First up is my very own One-Ball tournament, slated for **Thursday 11th April**. One-ball is a strange hybrid of AC and GC where two players race around the course, sometimes using the opponent's ball to enable roquets and croquets to speed their progress. You can find out more about it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fD39v9ILO9g>

Last year saw Nick Jones emerge victorious, and he won the highly prestigious bottle of fizz you can see to the left.

This is actually part of a nationwide tournament that raises money for charity (this year it's the **British Heart Foundation**). We ask that all entrants donate £10 to this cause and are urged to wear something red. The winner will be put forward to compete, should they so wish, at the regional finals - Sunday 5 May at Surbiton or Saturday 11 May at Nottingham.

Let me know via WhatsApp or email alex@thewinelake.com if you'd like to have a go and be added to the dedicated WhatsApp group. There will be the opportunity to get a bit of training in the weeks leading up to the event.

Internal Tournaments



As above, don't feel left out when you're bored of staying in – make sure that tournament organisers Des (GC) and Alex (AC) are aware that you want to take part – and maybe make it to finals day.

Impress family, friends and neighbours alike when you place one of these impressive trophies on your mantelpiece.

Here's to the Cleaners

Unsung club heroes uniting to keep the clubhouse spick and span – thanks to those that volunteered

Newport croquet club hut cleaning rota 2024

Please clean the hut between the dates shown in the rota below. If you cant make the dates please swap with someone else.

If you can't swap with someone else please contact Jane Taylor.

Please clean between the dates shown for your week.

Week to clean	Cleaners	completed
4 March - 11 March	Jacqueline and Clive Branch	
25 March - 1 April	Tim and Glenys Walder	
15 April - 21 April	Glynis and Brenda	
6 May - 13 May	Jane and Des Taylor	
27 May - 3 June	Pamela Mugliston and Steve Dutton	
17 June - 24 June	Sue Roberts and Valerie	
8 July- 15 July	Sally and Colin Carr	
29 July -5 August	Paula and Rory	
19 August - 26 August	Rod and Betty George	
9 September - 16 September	Peggy and Alistair	
30 September - 7 October	Kevin and Shirley Lacy	
21 October - 28 October	Colin and Anne Taylor	
11 November - 18 November	Penny and Helen Frenay	

Mystery Lawn

So the drone has been out and about looking for croquet lawns to spy on. Can you guess where this one is?



Dates for the Diary

So sorry that this somehow got chopped off February's Mallet, but there's so much to look forward to!

2024 Social Events

Newport is renowned for its Nosh. Come and sample the delights of our catering subcommittee in your very own clubhouse

- 18th April - Soup Lunch
- 21st June - Strawberry Tea (and croquet, of course!)

Cliff Jones will be running a series of courses for GC and AC

Internal GC sessions- Free to Newport Members

- Tuesday 19 March, 1 day - handicaps 8 and above
- Tuesday 16 April, 1 day - handicaps 5 and above

But also don't forget that informal GC coaching sessions are available for the hour before most social GC sessions on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, at 1pm. Check Lawn Booking system for latest.

External GC sessions- £15 to Newport Members

These are advertised by CE (Croquet England) to all clubs. Would be very good if we have a good Newport contingent as well.

- Saturday 30 March handicap from 0-7
- Saturday 20 April handicaps of 7 and above

External AC weekend sessions- £35 to Newport Members, £55 to outsiders

- Weekend 27, 28 April, weekend Beginners Coaching
- Weekend 4, 5 May, weekend Improvers Coaching

Internal SC sessions on Tuesday mornings with Mat.

Check with Lawn Booking system or on the WhatsApp group.

2024 Tournaments

GC Tournaments at Newport

We are hosting 3 GC One-Day Tournaments, organised by Des and Jane

- 25 May, Saturday C level - £15
- 29 June, Saturday Ladies - £15
- 20 July, Saturday Doubles - £20

These will have an excellent lunch available for £10 - provided by Sally and Sue with help from others.

If these events are well attended the club will make a good amount of money.

Newport AC/SC Tournaments

- 11 April Charity One-Ball (Alex)
- 18-19 May Open Advanced (Fran)
- 8-9 June B-Level Advanced (Fran)
- 7 July - Short Croquet (Alex)