

End of Term Report

The croquet season came to an end last weekend with the very popular Thornton Trophy which attracted 24 players for a doubles competition. This tournament requires skilful organisation because the intention is that over a five game round robin, everyone is paired with a different partner each round to play against different opponents, with each pair having a low handicap player alongside a higher handicap player. In the lower handicap group (6 and under) there were 3 players on 4 wins Nick, Harry and Phil. Nick and Harry qualified for the final with Phil narrowly missing out on hoop difference. It should be noted that Phil was playing in the lower handicap group to help the running of the competition. In the higher handicap group (7 and over) there were again 3 players on 4 wins Mick, Judy and Kevin, with Kevin again missing out on hoop difference.

The final saw Nick paired with Judy and Harry with Mick. Unaccustomed to playing in front of a large crowd, the players showed some nerves but after 6 hoops Nick and Judy were ahead 4 - 2, only to be pegged back by Harry and Mick who took the next three. Nick and Judy fought hard to win the next two, and looked as if they would win on the 12th only for Harry to clear Nick's ball from in front of the hoop. The game was won on the deciding 13th golden hoop, after Judy led off with a brilliant first ball to place herself 6 feet in front of the hoop; with her next shot she played her ball into the jaws of the hoop, allowing Nick to peel her through to win an absorbing and tight contest 7 - 6. In presenting the trophy to the winners, director Steve Hayns declared Judy to be the player of the tournament – an accolade richly deserved as in the final it was her yellow ball that went through 6 of the hoops.

Thanks also to Judy and Debbie for providing the cakes enjoyed by all!

Congratulations are also due to the Golf Croquet B team who won the Southern Croquet Federation B league. Despite losing the first game of the season they won the next four to win the league by one point. Those who represented the team included Steve and Debbie Hayns, Joan Grove, Jim O'Keeffe, Gareth Noott, Vernon Gibbs, Sue Peters and Nick Westmore.



And finally, a couple of our club members made an exhibition of themselves at the Sidmouth team challenge.

