
Carrickmines versus Sidmouth Devon Croquet Club

at Carrickmines October 2017



Introduction

Our guests from Sidmouth in Devon were waiting eagerly for collection at the Clayton Hotel in order to start battle. We all congregated in the dining area of the clubhouse where the new 'Cock and Ball' trophy was presented to our Croquet Captain Sandy Grieg.

Sandy with his teacher's hat on got out his white board and wrote out the draw sheet for the day. Sandy and Peter Nelson agreed that we would all play doubles in the morning in order to give the visitors a feel for the croquet lawns.

The weather in the morning was kind to us and Carrickmines won two of the three doubles matches and at 1 o'clock we retired for lunch. We proceeded with six singles in the afternoon which resulted in 3 all.

Noteworthy was Geraldine beating Andrew with Sandy and Alan also winners.

At the end of day 1, Carrickmines was ahead 5/4 overall.

On Tuesday evening Gerard and Geraldine hosted super. The guests were royally entertained and we ploughed as much wine into the Sidmouth team as we could and we readily apologize for this. They were very certainly thirsty players!



Wednesday morning was very cold but we struggled with six singles in the morning and believe it or not we went into lunch with the plus one intact. After lunch we proceeded with the last set of six nail-biting singles, Gerard beat Peter Nelson their captain and Geraldine beating Julia with Nathaniel beating Jane giving an overall score of 11/10 to Carrickmines.

Peter Nelson presented the trophy to our captain Sandy Grieg and I must say it will look very unusual alongside the trophies we have won in the past but I'm sure we will make room for it.

Peter on behalf of the visitors thanked the Carrickmines team and the club for their hospitality. Sidmouth is looking forward to seeing us next summer to defend the 'Cock and Ball' trophy. Over the years Peter said the nicest thing about playing croquet is the lovely people you meet over the years and we all certainly agree with this. We look forward to the next match when Sidmouth will have the opportunity to get their revenge and win back the trophy. Thank God we didn't beat them by too much but plus one in the end was a satisfactory result all around.

Gerard Osborne Burke

