

# Bury Croquet Club – News June 2023

## The Overlap On Tour Live

The club recently welcomed 3 former international footballers and well known football pundits, Gary Neville, Jamie Carragher & Roy Keane who were filming an episode of a four part series “**The Overlap On Tour Live**”.

The trio spent several hours at the club filming and played a game of croquet – of sorts!

Unfortunately for obvious reasons, the production company insisted on a high degree of confidentiality prior to filming and at the moment there remains an embargo of publication of photographs until the programme is aired – **which will be on 5<sup>th</sup> July**.

However there is a **Sky TV trailer** for the series with Gary & Jamie now available on YouTube in which reference is made to the club. This was filmed on the same day but it was necessary to blur out the background because of other activities in the background – however the club house can be made out.

This can be found on

<https://youtu.be/2dZF6qZHwNk>

As of Friday morning it had 35,000 hits!

It is a four part series on **Sky Max** 9pm the first one was televised on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June. The pre show intro does briefly show Jamie getting excited about running a hoop. As mentioned the episode featuring the club, which revolves round Gary who was born on Ainsworth Road (as referred to in the trailer) is due to be aired Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July at 9pm.

**Obviously with TV we have to manage our expectations** so we are not making too much of it until the day and have to wait and see how much of the filming at the club is included (if anything) – it will all depend on other content, time limitations etc.

Once aired we can then take advantage of the publicity opportunity.

## Other news and events:

### **Golf Croquet Coaching for beginners & improvers: Monday mornings at WP.**

A reminder that David Barrett is now running his GC coaching courses at WP on Monday mornings, open to beginners & improvers. 10.00am – 12 noon.

### **GC to AC: Monday afternoons at WP.**

Thinking about trying AC but not sure? What is AC? An ideal opportunity to develop your croquet skills, get more benefit from the sport, your membership and widen your horizons! The differing skills of each format are interchangeable and a shot developed in AC can often come in useful in GC.

*Give it a try – a lot to gain and nothing to lose!*

Coaching with Chris Alvey from approximately 4.30pm – please email Chris for more info or confirm you would like to attend.

**AC Intermediate (H/c 18-10) & Advanced AC (H/c 9 & below) – Coronation Park**

Hosted by Ken Jones 4pm – 6pm and 6pm – 8pm respectively

The club thanks our coaches shown above who give up their time to help members improve and develop their game, please support them.

**What's Next:**

**Southport Festival of Croquet. 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> June.** Southport & Birkdale Croquet Club.

The club has teams in every format of the festival – wish them luck!

This is a great weekend – why not have a run out for the day to sunny Southport and see over 100 croquet players in action!

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July – National GC B (3+) Level Tournament Whitehead Park.**

The club again hosts this tournament which has a full entry of 3+ GC players from Northern Clubs, including 2 Bury players.

Spectators welcome – come and pick up some tips!

*Help is also needed please with set up of lawns, catering etc. Please advise Roy if you can assist.*

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July – Ainsworth Village Day.** Recreation Field, Bury Old Road. 12 – 4.30pm

The club will have a stall and giving croquet demonstrations at this event.

Another networking and recruitment opportunity.

For details of the day see Facebook @ainsworthvillageday.

*Some help needed please to assist with demonstrations, taking enquiries and end of day breakdown.*

*Please advise Roy.*

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July National GC C (7+) Level Tournament Whitehead Park.**

There are spaces available for this tournament. Why not enter? A good opportunity to dip your toe into tournament play at your home ground and among friends. For details contact David Barratt.

**35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party – 15<sup>th</sup> July Whitehead Park 4pm (TBC).**

Please continue to save the date – we are still trying to put something together for this event.

Confirmation and details will follow.

**Association Fun Day – 22<sup>nd</sup> July Whitehead Park.**

Again save the date. This is a doubles format, an experienced player teamed with an inexperienced player. A good and fun way to learn about AC.

Details are still being discussed and a decision will be made by the committee on 3<sup>rd</sup> July.

### **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> July – Whitehead Park Community Funday. 1.00pm to 4.30pm**

I have just been advised that this event organised by Bury West ward councillors is being planned again having twice been postponed due to national events.

The club has been invited to take part, by providing refreshments from our kitchen, and there will be opportunity to give tasters to interested visitors on practice lawns.

A good networking and recruitment opportunity.

(NB – the main lawns can still be booked by members for play, but please be aware that there will be a fun fair etc going on).

*Assistance will be needed with catering (light refreshments only). Please advise Roy.*

**Visiting Groups** - Attached to this email is a document with current details of forthcoming visiting groups. These events provide an extra source of income to the club, and also bring new people to the club and sport.

Help with these events is always welcome and basically involves hosting/guiding & helping visitors to play GC on the lawns and assisting with light refreshments.

Most visitors really enjoy themselves and are very appreciative, and it is nice to meet new people.

### **WHAT HAPPENED IN APRIL/MAY?**

#### ***Quite a lot!***

We held both of our early season public events. 22<sup>nd</sup> April Bury Hospice Open Day raising over £630 for the hospice. 27<sup>th</sup> May National Croquet Day raised over £320 to be donated to MND Association. Both events enjoyed good attendance and received good publicity in Bury Times and social media. Full details and pictures on club web site.

A bleed cabinet was unveiled at WP in April, attended by local councillors, MP and GM Deputy Lieutenant.

Good News – a defibrillator has now been assigned to the club and will be fitted shortly.

19<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> May members visited Cober Hill for another enjoyable and sunny weekend.

21<sup>st</sup> May our Longman Cup Team (current holders), are through to the next round winning against a strong Bowdon team 4-3.

28<sup>th</sup> May our Secretary's Shield team (Caesars) played in the first round against Middlesbrough with a convincing win 6 – 1.

#### **Individual club member achievements include:**

Congratulations to Richard Leach who was runner up in the National GC A level tournament held at WP 13/14<sup>th</sup> May.

8<sup>th</sup> June Jack Good won the Nottingham B-Level AC Tournament against some significant opposition and become the youngest winner of the Sage bowl.

10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> June Ged Smolskas was a close contender at the Cumbrian Cup Advanced at Crake.

13<sup>th</sup> June Ian Saunders was runner up at the Crake C Level (7+) GC Series National Qualifier.

In April Gabi Smolskiene took part in the John Beech Easter Tournament at Pendle & Craven winning Under 10 Handicap Trophy.

(Apologies if I have missed anyone – but these details are based on information available or that I have been made aware of).

Full details and pictures of most of the above, along with league match reports and photographs can be found on the club web site.