



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Hello everyone, I hope you are all well, and looking forward to playing croquet at last. Many of you have already booked a slot, and I hope I shall be receiving many more calls from you after you've had your first game. A lot of thought has gone into the organisation, so let's hope it all goes smoothly, and the weather continues to be good. If you want to play and need a partner please contact me.

Unfortunately, Ann Redican has had to resign from the committee due to ill health, she has been a valuable member, and we shall miss her input on many issues; as well as her contribution to Croquet in the Community.

Gill.

HENRY HAMBER

The Club was stunned to learn of the passing of Henry on 7th May.

Henry was the epitome of a true gentleman, kind, respectful, charming, witty, always with a twinkle in his eyes.



He was an excellent, experienced croquet player and a formidable opponent; a great guy to have in the Club's teams.

Henry was great company as many will know. Jean, Pete and I have been recalling his amazing rendition of

Shakespearian speeches from memory, large gin and tonic in hand, the night before the regional finals at Surbiton in 2017. Those battling speeches must have done us the power of good because we all went on to qualify for the finals at Ramsgate where we all did rather well.

Henry will be missed by all of us and our thoughts are with Lynn and the family.

CJ





CLUB CAPTAIN'S NOTES – June 20

It is a relief to know that our season is starting on 1st June following, of course, the strict guidance set down and circulated by the Committee. Forrester's ground staff have been mowing the lawns, Pete and his team will have set out two of the four courts and Gill is awaiting phone calls for bookings from members (members only). At the time of writing, toilet facilities are not available but hopefully that will change in the very near future.

Despite the delayed start, I am intending to organise the Georgie Clark Trophy competition. This as you may recall is a singles competition and will be run on similar rules as in the past. I will be circulating details with a request that you let me know if you would like to enter. I do hope that as many as possible will join in as it is unlikely that there will be any other internal competitions.

Speaking of competitions, I have now heard from the CA that the Federations Shield, where we have qualified to represent the East Anglian Federation in this national competition, has been postponed until 2021 with the same clubs competing.

Let us hope that the fine weather continues although a little light rain (preferably at night) would help the lawns – now I never thought that in February!

Enjoy your croquet !!

CJ



The Committee have taken the decision to cancel the planned Presentation Evening in October due to the current situation and lack of tournaments to be played.



However we hope to have a Christmas Lunch on
Tuesday 15th December - details in due course.



Spotted by one of our roving reporters – Graham Parker!



We are still listed by Maldon DC as playing at

Drapers Farm!! 6th May

CORONAVIRUS DISCORD MEET UP CHAT LINK

Information on this link which has been set up by Tony White has been forwarded by email.

Please remember to log into the Member's Area of our website as below, put your own details on it and see updated information about our Club including the Discord chat room.

<https://maldoncroquetclub.org.uk>



A response from Jane Woodhead in relation to our email on restricted opening:

Dear Philippa, thanks for all the info. Unfortunately I was emailed yesterday by DialaFlight saying that all flights from NZ via Singapore to London are cancelled until first week in July! So I am still stuck. It is cold, snow on the mountains, mist in the valleys and I have no winter clothes! Oh well!!! Jane.

As you know Tim has furloughed most of his ground staff but I noted today he has flown in some cheap workers from somewhere to keep the grass down to reasonable levels!

From our roving reporter Martyn Hardy-King. 22nd May.





Please see below a Press Release from The Croquet Association. This was followed by an article in The Times quoting that sales from John Lewis are 600% up on last year!

Press release

CROQUET SET SALES INCREASE AS PEOPLE LOOK TO BEAT LOCKDOWN BOREDOM



The Croquet Association (CA), the sport's governing body, has seen a sharp increase in sales of croquet sets since lockdown began, as people look for creative ways to entertain themselves at home.

On the wave of this demand, **the CA is encouraging more people to try croquet during lockdown** - even if they don't have a garden! They have set up a website www.trycroquet.co.uk/ to provide some short croquet challenges, and to get people sharing creative videos of themselves playing, using the hashtag **#lockdowncroquet**.

About croquet

Similar to snooker but played on grass, croquet is a mallet sport that calls for skill, strategy and tactics, and enough exertion to get your daily exercise in. Players in a competitive croquet match cover 4km; perhaps as much as *Captain-now-Colonel*- Tom's 100 laps!

Quotes

The CA's Marketing Director Eugene Chang said: "Whilst virtual entertainment such as Zoom quizzes and Houseparty have become mainstream due to the pandemic, croquet is a great physical activity to engage your family and get competitive."

Croquet and lockdown

Whilst domestic and international croquet fixtures have been hit by COVID-19, croquet players have found new ways to satisfy their fixes. The worldwide community has been brought together via weekly croquet quizzes run by former World No 1 Chris Clarke, and clubs have been utilising virtual croquet programs (developed by croquet players) to run coaching sessions for their members. The Association Croquet World Championship concluded in February, just before lockdown commenced, averting the need for the Champion, London-based Reg Bamford, to sharpen his e-croquet skills.

<https://www.trycroquet.co.uk/>

<https://www.croquet.org.uk/>

FB/Twitter/IG: [@croquetengland](https://www.instagram.com/croquetengland)

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