



## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Sadly the season has come to a 'sticky end' thanks to the high level of rainfall in recent weeks. I am sure that you are all sorry to have to stop playing croquet; it has been a wonderful constant in these difficult times.



Latest attire!

For the latter part of the season, we have been able to introduce others to the game.

**A big thank you to Chris Adams for ensuring that all visitors have been able to borrow a mallet.** May I remind you, that, after the initial visit, the cost to visitors is £5 per session, please ensure that these fees are paid to Richard Wallis, our treasurer. ([richard-wallis1@sky.com](mailto:richard-wallis1@sky.com)).

**Thank you to Geoff Macro for taking the seat and getting it ready for 2021.**

Our last two committee meetings have taken place, successfully, via Zoom, and we will continue to do so until the situation changes.

I hope there will be opportunities over the winter for members to keep in touch. So, stay safe and keep well. Gill.

**WELCOME**

We extend a warm welcome to another new member **Margaret Hadley** which brings our total membership to 62.



More Natty Footwear!

## REMINDER

New members are issued with a Forrester Gold Card giving them a discount on food and drink in the Club House. Any member who has not yet collected their card please do so from a member of staff once Forresters reopens!

Some of our new



members at play!



## CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Unfortunately due to the current Covid restrictions we have had to cancel our proposed Christmas Lunch which would have included a presentation of trophies. However it is hoped that the trophies will be presented by the Chairman on our lawns in the coming weeks. If you are a holder of one of the trophies from the 2019 season can you please return it to Pete Howe ([dandphowe19@gmail.com](mailto:dandphowe19@gmail.com)) as soon as possible. This is to enable it to be engraved before the presentation.

Sadly we are not able to arrange any winter lunches for the foreseeable future. Why not give another member a ring for a chat & to stay in touch – you have their contact details!

Mary.



Don't miss out! Sign-up to the **Maldon Croquet Club** website. The website is a great place to find out about the club's history and keep up to date with the latest news and information. The sign-up process is quick and easy to complete.

<https://maldoncroquetclub.org.uk/>

Further to this, please take time to visit Maldon Croquet Club's Facebook page. Please 'Like' and 'Follow' the group and its posts to help boost our club's profile.

<https://www.facebook.com/Maldon-Croquet-Club-112916520254373>

**If you need any help please contact Tony our Web Master on**

[anthonywhite7@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:anthonywhite7@hotmail.co.uk)





## CLUB CAPTAIN'S NOTES – NOVEMBER 20

In driving rain the hoops and balls were put back into the clubhouse this afternoon ( Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October) marking the conclusion of the 2020 season. They will be going to their winter homes for servicing and storage until April next year.

So time to reflect on what, I believe, has been a highly successful season, a season shaped by corona virus as a result of which members could play croquet, compliant with restrictions, without the distraction (don't we all wish !!) of holidays, U3A, bridge, golf etc. etc. This enabled a high proportion of members to enter and enjoy the competitions and structured coaching as well as enjoying social croquet six days a week. Sadly because of the virus and despite the Club's best endeavours, a few members have had little or no play due to screening from the virus.

The amount of play has increased and the quality and, I believe, enjoyment has improved significantly despite the lack of "roll up" sessions and the deterioration of the lawns. We have been mindful of inclusivity and our endeavours have been rewarded by a successful season despite Covid.

It is not possible to predict what restrictions will be in place at the start of the 2021 season (I write this while awaiting the PM's announcement) but the current Committee proposes, subject to restrictions, to reintroduce "roll up" sessions, to develop structured coaching, to incorporate the Covid Handicap Tournament as an annual competition alongside the Georgie Clark and Forrester Plate competitions, to encourage more members to play in our East Anglian League teams and other external competitions including the All England Handicap. Plenty of planning for the Committee to be doing in the winter months!!



Oh, and of course we have won the right to represent the East Anglian Federation in the Federations Shield so we are looking forward to playing either Phyllis Court (Henley on Thames) or Durham in the first round of this national competition.



A busy and exciting year lies ahead , if only .....

Meanwhile, stay safe

Chris Joslin (Club Captain)



### **RESPONSES TO OUR EMAIL CLOSING THE SEASON**

I would really like to express my heartfelt thanks to all the many members who have taken the trouble to contact me during this last croquet season. 2020 has proved to be the worst year of my life, but to have the offer of so many croquet games has done a great deal to alleviate my sadness. So thank you lovely members for all your kindness. Thank you too for welcoming and including our friends Jan and Walter, you have made them feel very welcome.

Our lawns may not be pristine, but our members are friendly and second to none long may our lovely club continue.

Lynn Hamber

Thank you for your email. We will look forward to next year and many happy hours on the Lawns.

Geoff Hadley

Afternoon Philippa and Committee,

Many thanks for all your hard work in keeping us going in these awful times, we 'singles' have especially appreciated being able to meet up and play - we are not sure what we are going to do with ourselves over the next few months - but we will try and keep out of trouble! Look forward to the Spring.

Very best wishes, Velda

Dear Philippa,

Correct decision. Congratulations to you and the Committee for all your hard work in making the season so successful in what has been a very challenging time. It certainly has been a great boost to my morale. Best wishes Barry.

Thank you for your email and a big thank you to the committee who have made it possible for all members to play this season. It has been much appreciated and certainly stopped a lot of us becoming stir crazy. Ann Clarke.

Thank you very much all you committee members for your really splendid efforts towards making this a different but absolutely great croquet season. The social contact, fresh air, country surroundings and pleasure at seeing all the friendly friends has been such fun. I am sorry it is ending WHAT am I going to do now?!!!!!!

Best wishes, Jane.



**ARTICLE WRITTEN BY NEIL CLARK OUR PUBLICITY OFFICER FOR THE GREAT TOTHAM PARISH NEWS WHICH INCLUDES SOME HISTORY OF OUR CLUB**

### Croquet

Passing down Beckingham Road from the main road, you may glimpse through the hedge, part of the Practice ground at Forrester Park Golf Club, Great Totham. A large closely mown area is the home of Maldon Croquet Club, where on playing days, hoops are set out through which the balls are hit. This is the modern equivalent of the lawns used by our Victorian Forebears, although they used Vicarage lawns and similar facilities at large Country Houses. The game became established in this country in the mid-Nineteenth Century, and was an extremely popular summer activity, coupled as it was with afternoon tea on the terraces after the matches.

Times have moved on and a sport enjoyed by a privileged few, is now being enjoyed throughout the country by all and sundry. The version played in the village is known as 'Golf Croquet', and is played either as singles or doubles with special mallets and sets of 4 balls one for each player, or two each in singles matches. The game can be likened to outdoor snooker in that a certain amount of technical skill is combined with tactical position of balls, to defend against an opponent, to enable a hoop to be 'run'. The team or player wins when seven hoops out of thirteen are run, or time runs out and one side has more hoops than the other.

Maldon Croquet Club was formed in 2008 and initially played at Drapers Farm, Heybridge, but then re-located to Forrester Park. The Club has moved from strength to strength, socially and competitively. Last year one of the Club teams won the East Anglian Croquet Federation Handicap competition. They were due to play in the National Finals representing East Anglia this year, but unfortunately this has had to be postponed.

This year special arrangements have been made to ensure safety of members and the community, against the spread of Covid19, with pre-booked slots and no more than 4 players on each of two lawns. This has meant no outside groups or guests have been able to play.

In normal seasons W.I. members, Rotarians and U3A members, as well as other Clubs and Societies, have been hosted for a social get together in 'taster' sessions. Individual visitors and guests are welcome, and special arrangements have been made for disadvantaged and medically handicapped groups to be accommodated with Carers, Club members showing them the ropes.

Playing this year ends in October, and fingers are crossed for next year commencing in April, for a resumption of a full normal season. Perhaps there may then be the opportunity for Villagers to explore the lawns at close quarters, and enjoy gentle exercise in the outdoors with friendly and helpful like-minded individuals.

More information can be found at:- [maldoncroquetclub.org.uk](http://maldoncroquetclub.org.uk)