



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Hello to you all, I wish you a better 2021, with the hope that we all have the vaccine as soon as possible and can look forward to a good season of croquet.

In the meantime keep well, stay safe.

Gill.

We are very grateful to John Hustwick and his daughter Belinda who have created our new magnificent Covid Handicap trophy shown below. We hope it will be treasured by this year's winner and for years to come. Unfortunately due to the Tier 4 restrictions currently we are unable to present any of the trophies to the winners.



CROQUET QUIZ – ANSWERS

1. c. Pall Mall.
2. a. Tennis – Wimbledon.
3. d. Both have been Olympic sports.
4. c. Wickets.
5. d. Orange.
6. b. 3 tennis courts.
7. c. Sub-aqua croquet.
8. England 1852.
9. Ben Rothman from the USA.
10. Flamingo and hedgehog.



I would like to convey my thanks to all members for their kind wishes and condolence cards on the loss of Margaret. They have been much appreciated and a great comfort.

Barry Keusch

CROQUET HANDICAPS

During this year's playing season the opportunity to update member's handicaps through competitive play was possible through the initiative of our Captain, Chris, in introducing the Covid Handicap Competition. I was 'volunteered' to coordinate the results and update the Handicap Cards. Now competitive play has ceased I thought it would be useful to give an idea of how the handicap system works.

In the first instance the Club Handicapper uses an approximate assessment for players without a handicap, by observing them during the course of general play. This results in an initial handicap of 14 or possibly 12. The Croquet Association produces a matrix chart which is on the website, and forms part of the handicap card. In the instance of a 12 handicap the points from this chart will be 1200 and from this, the handicap will reduce or increase, based on results in competitions and league matches.

Play in a handicap game is relatively straightforward. The winner gains 10 points and the loser loses 10 points. Level play is more complex as clearly a low handicap player versus a high handicapper, is weighted in favour of the better player, therefore say a 7 handicap wins against a 12 handicap, only 5 points goes to the winner and the opponent loses 5 points; however if the 12 handicap wins, 15 points are awarded to the winner, and the low handicap loses 15 points.

The points are in bands of 50, increasing to 100 point bands as the handicap gets into low single figures. When the points get to a trigger point into the next band, the handicap will reduce. For example, a 12 handicapper will have a point count between 1100 and 1149; once 1150 is achieved the handicap will reduce to 11. However, once the new 11 handicapper falls below 1150 the handicap remains at 11 until the reduced trigger point of 1099 is reached!

Players are responsible for filling out their personal Handicap Card during the course of a tournament or competition. The name and handicap of the opponent has to be entered with the result and points gained or lost entered, the running total being adjusted accordingly. The card is required to be produced before games commence to verify the correct handicaps. The majority of members cards are retained by the Captain for checking and revising as necessary, and handed to players as they take part in say League matches. Players who regularly play in outside competitions and tournaments keep ownership of their cards apart from when they are periodically checked.

The Georgie Clarke Memorial Vase Competition was a level play competition, so the opportunity to gain more than 10 points was achieved by several players in games against low handicappers. This has resulted in a few members now having their handicaps lowered and reflects their playing ability.

Apologies for blinding you with the maths of it all, but you may now be considered candidates for Bletchley Park code breaking!

Neil Clark