



RAMSGATE

Our trip to Ramsgate is of course the main topic covered by me this month. Twenty nine members of MCC set off for our weekend by the sea. This was my fourth trip to this fantastic club, the first trip I and three others, Jill Joslin, Gill Stone and Diane Howell, attended we were merely groupies watching as four of our members played in the All England finals. Jean, Chris J, Pete and my lovely husband Henry all acquitted themselves really well, all finishing in the top ten. This first trip is what led to our visiting Ramsgate Croquet Club on an annual basis. Each time we have been it has been a thoroughly enjoyable time. Sadly Covid interrupted these visits; so of course, we were delighted that 2022 saw a return to the seaside.

Gill Stone and Chris organised our trip, and our inaugural stay at the Pegwell Bay hotel was a very comfortable, convivial experience. Ramsgate CC have the most wonderful facilities, beautiful lawns, and a very capacious club house and a very friendly and welcoming membership. The lunches prepared for us were delicious and everyone made us very welcome. Oh how I wish MCC had such luxurious accommodation! Maybe one day, as all moving to Ramsgate does not seem a feasible option.

Special thanks to all those who made the weekend such a good experience, Chris and Gill from MCC and to Roger from RCC who, as always worked tirelessly not only organising the event Ramsgate end, but also putting up tables and chairs and just being around doing whatever needed attention. As you can see from the pictures, kindly taken by Karen and Diana, we were very well looked after. Roll on 2023 I say!!



- Lynn

The Lawns

I am sure you will have noticed that lawn four has not recovered as we hoped, although it has been seeded twice the grass has not germinated. Our contractors believe this is due to the lack of rainfall this Spring. We do not plan to try to repair again now until the Autumn and so the current lawn four position will remain in use for the whole season. Although far from perfect it does at least give us another lawn to use on busy days.

It is hoped we will have some news on the Forrester Park ownership before we commit further funds to the repair.

- Geoff Macro



CLUB CAPTAIN'S NOTES – JUNE 22

Ramsgate 13th -15th May

A most enjoyable weekend made all the better by staying at the Pegwell Bay Hotel thanks to the hard work and organisation of Gill Stone. The friendly match against Ramsgate Croquet Club (the third of its kind) was played for the “Little Cup” over two days in doubles handicap format. As to be expected Ramsgate fielded a strong team and despite good weather and superb courts, Maldon were unable to win this much prized trophy. That said our team put up a strong effort over all 48 games which were closely fought as can be seen by the hoop score, Ramsgate winning 292 hoops to our 251 but Ramsgate running out clear winners 30 games to 18.

We must thank Roger Loram of RCC for his management of the tournament who, in his usual style, made a complicated task look easy. We must also thank the Ramsgate club members for their warm welcome and excellent catering – thank you one and all.



We are now in the early stages of planning our visit next year when we shall redouble our efforts to win the “Little Cup” while enjoying a sociable weekend in true Maldon CC style.

Covid Singles Handicap Club Tournament

It's good to see that 30 members have entered the tournament this year. Vice Captain Graham reports that early progress in the first round is being made – remember that all first round games are to be completed by 17th July

In other news -

As I write, I am awaiting responses to my invitation to enter the All England GC Handicap tournament.

Graham will soon be sending out the invitation to enter our Georgie Clark and Forrester Plate competitions - keep an eye on your email

Chris Joslin, Club Captain



Al's Coaching tips

Running a Hoop

Visualise

Imagine the ball going through the hoop. Believe that you can do it.

Aim

Do lots of aiming for the centre of the hoop. Concentrate.

Grip

When ready to take the shot, grip the mallet so it doesn't wobble.

Head down

You are looking at the ball and the grass. Don't be in a hurry to see where it goes.

Stroke

Not a hit but a smooth stroke with a follow through. This gives the ball spin to help it through.

Commit

You want this **hoop**, don't trickle up to the it, make a firm shot.

If this is too much, how about:

Aim

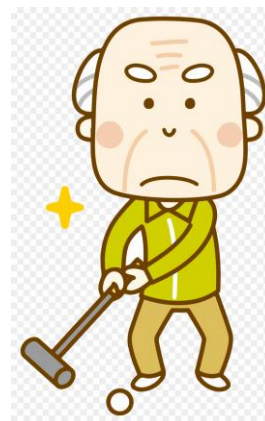
Head down

Follow through

If this is still too much, how about, and this applies to every shot:

Keep your head down

If you didn't make the hoop it's because you didn't do one or more of the above. It's usually not keeping your head down. But also you can never have enough follow through - make the mallet fly in the air. Hit with a firm smooth shot. When you get the hoop rejoice that you're a success and are winning. If you don't get the hoop ask yourself what went wrong and then next time get it right.





Chairman's Notes

The season is now well underway and despite one lawn being out of action, Geoff Macro and helpers have provided a temporary lawn 4 replacement. Not ideal because until marked out it was just a section of grass which had no treatment over the years. Despite that it allows an adequate game although extra strength is required.

Hopefully those of you who feel able, have signed up to the various club competitions organised by Club Captain Chris assisted by Graham. The first of the league games are underway and hopes are high of some good results for Maldon.

The bright spot after all Covid restrictions were lifted was that our long arranged weekend at Ramsgate went ahead. As you may be aware we play 'friendly' games over two days against Ramsgate CC on their superb 4 lawns which are also popular for hosting National Tournaments. We stayed in a new hotel for our period there, the Pegwell Bay Hotel, Gill Stone our past Chair person, made the arrangements on our behalf, and everyone seemed pleased with the food, accommodation and service we received. Altogether an enjoyable weekend, despite the stress of playing competitive croquet. We have made a provisional booking for next year, details of which will be released in due course. Elsewhere in the Newsletter our Club Captain has given more details of what happened over the weekend this year.

For the first time for two years our playing during the summer will be interrupted by holidays! Please bear this in mind, and get your games booked up for the Covid Handicap competition and other fixtures. Well here's to an enjoyable season and if you have any concerns or comments about how things are going, e mail our Secretary Philippa (she will thank me no doubt for mentioning that!) Good luck on the lawns home and away,

- Neil





For her majesty the Queen

Ma'am

In early June we have the chance to celebrate your reign,
We'll raise a glass, and drink a toast in honour of your name.
The nation wants to thank you for your loyal sense of duty,
Seventy years of service done with graciousness and beauty.

Newly wed, off you went with your beloved husband,
You came home as head of state, leader of our homeland.
You promised us that you would serve as long as you should live,
A promise you've fulfilled Ma'am, you give all you have to give.

Standing firm in cold and wet, doing social rounds,
When really you would like to be, striding round the grounds.
We thank you Ma'am for all the times you've represented us,
You show the world our lovely land and in you we always trust.

At ninety six perhaps it's time for you take a rest?
To then pursue all the things you like doing best.
Enjoy the dogs, walk the grounds in scarf and Mac and Welly,
Or sit relaxed while watching, horses racing on the telly.

Your Majesty we thank you, from the bottom of our hearts,
For your sense of pride and steadfastness and for all the different parts,
Of a lifetime serving country and for the promises you've kept.
PMs come and go ma'am, some good and some inept...

But our Queen has been a constant through the nation's highs and lows,
A head of state who earns respect wherever she may go.
Your Majesty we salute you, and hope you will agree,
Those seventy years of service deserve a jamboree!

I wrote this poem for my WI. However my lovely friends suggested that I should include it in this month's newsletter so I hope you enjoyed it.

- Lynn Hamber

