



Chairman's Comments

What wonderful weather we are having for Holidays and life in general. Unfortunately as you are aware it has been the worst type of conditions for our lawns! At the moment it is extremely difficult to control the balls with any degree of finesse, although everyone has developed techniques to achieve the objective of going through the hoops. Despite this I understand that the various Club competitions have been progressing well. Our EACF League games have posed some problems, however, as the rules of the league require lawns to be in acceptable playing condition, our Captain, Chris, has had to make some emergency arrangements which you may be aware of.

The change of ownership of Forrester Park Golf Complex has not affected us as yet. We have written to the new owner to enquire whether our arrangements will change. We await a reply, but from various sources we understand that new plans for the complex will take some time to implement. The committee will continue to monitor the situation as, our lawns in particular will need treating by external contractors, which will involve an outlay of Club funds.

I know you have to be wary of what you wish for, but if a deep depression swings into the Eastern part of Britain, bringing heavy rainfall in the near future, it can't be too soon for our poor lawns.

Keep enjoying your croquet as the summer progresses.

Best wishes,
- Neil C.

CLUB CAPTAIN'S NOTES – AUGUST 22 East Anglian Croquet Federation Handicap League

Both of our teams continue to play well against strong competition in the Eastern Area section of the league.

2022 MATCH RESULTS

Results vs.:	Maldon Pavilion	Unity	Colchester	Chelmsford	Maldon Lakeside	Southchurch	POINTS	GAME DIFF	NET HOOPS	PLACE
Maldon Pavilion		Round 5	14-4 [hoops: 114-76]	11-7 [hoops: 108-83]	13-5 [hoops: 118-77]	10-8 [hoops: 110-98]	8	+24	+116	
Unity (Sudbury)	Round 5		9-9 [hoops: 109-101]	14-4 [hoops: 114-79]	10-0 [hoops: 70-33]	12-6 [hoops: 108-87]	7	+26	+101	
Colchester	4-14 [hoops: 76-114]	9-9 [hoops: 101-109]		Round 5	13-5 [hoops: 118-84]	11-7 [hoops: 107-96]	5	+2	-1	
Chelmsford	7-11 [hoops: 83-108]	4-14 [hoops: 79-114]	Round 5		3-15 [hoops: 89-117]	15-3 [hoops: 115-83]	2	-14	-56	
Maldon Lakeside	5-13 [hoops: 77-118]	0-10 [hoops: 33-70]	5-13 [hoops: 84-118]	15-3 [hoops: 117-89]		[19 Aug]	2	-14	-84	
Southchurch	8-10 [hoops: 98-110]	6-12 [hoops: 87-108]	7-11 [hoops: 96-107]	3-15 [hoops: 83-115]	[19 Aug]		0	-24	-76	

Maldon Pavilion continues to head the table following wins against Colchester and Chelmsford. The home match against Colchester on 1st July saw the team of Graham Parker, Pete Howe, John Hustwick and Neil Clark achieve an emphatic 14-4 win, Pavilion scoring 114 hoops to Colchester's 76.



The final home match at Forrester Park on 29th July had to be switched to the away team's lawns because our courts, as members will know, have suffered terribly in the summer heat and with lack of rain. And thus it was that Chelmsford very kindly accommodated us on their green (yes, green!!) courts where the Pavilion team of Tony White, Jean Healey, Neil Clark and Chris Joslin ran out winners 11-7, Pavilion with 108 hoops to Chelmsford's 83. Our thanks to Chelmsford for welcoming us.



Chief scorer / timekeeper Gill Stone with able assistants Ann Clark and Diane Mellor at Forrester Park officiating in the Pavilion / Colchester match.

Next up - Pavilion who will travel to Sudbury to play Unity on 26th August, the winners may well decide the winners of the league who will go on to the semi - finals at Newport on 4th September
And what we do without our scorers / time keepers? An essential and sometimes demanding job !!



Gill Stone and Jill Joslin travelled with us to the "home" match at Chelmsford where they officiated with some particularly tricky timing on a very warm day.



Maldon Lakeside : Readers of this “column” may remember that I said last month that this was to be the first time that Maldon has played Unity at their one court lawn in Sudbury. This was always going to be a tough match and was not helped by Unity introducing Advantage Croquet into the match which was won by them 10-0 (70 hoops to 33). Despite Unity’s breach of rules by this introduction, Lakeside represented by Sue Jackman, Karen Davies and Chris Adams very gallantly conceded the match and Maldon, following discussion with the Federation, has allowed the result to stand.

And then on to Colchester on 22nd July where the Lakeside team represented by Joan Fairclough, Jill Joslin, Chris Adams and Karen Davies played valiantly against a strong Colchester team losing 13-5, 118 hoops to 84.

Lakeside, for their final match of the season, should be entertaining Southchurch at Forrester Park on 19th August but the continuing drought may dictate a change of venue. We shall see – watch this space!!



All England GC Handicap Tournament

During the month the Club heats were completed with Tony White a clear winner.

Tony has since travelled to Surbiton to represent Maldon in the Area Finals. As always this is a stiff competition with qualifying representatives from all over the South East and London and Tony did well to come 13th out of 24.

Club Competitions

From the “pen” of Vice Captain Graham -

The initial stage of the Covid Handicap tournament is now complete and Chris Joslin, Pete Howe, Graham Parker, John Ferguson and Al Brown have qualified for the play offs. Congratulations to all who have taken part.

The Georgie Clark Memorial Vase singles and the Forrester Plate doubles tournaments are also underway. Despite the extreme heat, the first round of the Georgie Clark has been completed. Well done to all. The finals of all 3 competitions will take place on Finals Day.

Another reminder to competitors to enter the Covid and Georgie Clark results on handicap cards. Any help required? -just let Graham or me know

And now something new!!! - Advantage Croquet

You may know that the use of Extra Turns in handicap play is being phased out and, almost certainly, will be replaced in 2023 by Advantage Croquet, a new and simpler form which is designed to be fairer and more balanced. Subject to final approval 2023 will see all league handicap matches and national and federation tournaments using the new form. Our own Covid Tournament will follow suit.

For those who would like to try out Advantage Croquet and put the system into practice, Graham and I are planning to organise one or more familiarisation sessions for all those interested.

We are also planning a “friendly” tournament, preferably doubles, running from mid-August through to late September (depending on take up).



Details of the proposed rules and guidance will be circulated separately to all members in the next few days

So please let me know by email, chrisandjilljoslin@gmail.com if you are interested in participating in either or both (both I hope !!) of these familiarisation events. As soon as possible please

Chris Joslin, Club Captain

Finals Day BBQ

Just further information regarding the Finals Day BBQ in case you were wondering how to get it the Braxted Pavilion CM8 3EE

It takes about five minutes to drive there. From Forresters go up to the main road and turn RIGHT then next LEFT up Mountains Road to the top of the hill and at the crossroads turn RIGHT onto the Tiptree road. The entrance will be straight ahead at the junction of Sextons Lane and Tiptree Road.

Plenty of parking and the Pavilion will be open from 12 o'clock although most will arrive after the final match.

- Diana Pettitt



The Lawns

Well the summer has certainly given our lawns a hard time this year! We were all so pleased with how the lawns looked at the start of the season, but the lack of rainfall has had a detrimental effect on lawns 1, 2 and 3. Last summer we had several periods of rain resulting in a reasonable playing surface all season. It is very unlikely that lawn 4 will recover for any play this season and it has now developed some significant cracks, the rabbits are having a good time digging away!

At least we have the temporary lawn 4 which, although covered in clover, at least gives a green playing surface. All this makes any games played at Maldon challenging.

The Flag

Those observant amongst you may have noticed the Club flag flying on the shed has been replaced with a new one. The old flag was well past its best before date, but considering the flag is out in all weathers it had done good service.

The Shed

Unfortunately the club shed was broken into sometime after play finished on 8th July and the first game on the 9th. Other than damage done to the locks we do not believe anything was taken. Some minor damage



was also done to the hardware that secures the locks. It is just a nuisance that the shed was targeted again. The damage was reported to both the Police and Forrester's.

Coming Soon

The company that supplied the new flag, Spectrum Merchandising, will be hosting a website for shirts and waterproof jackets that have the club logo either embroidered or hot stamped on them. Members will be able to order direct. They are a local company based in Station Road, Maldon, so collection of items will be easy. More details as soon as the site is up and running. We also have sew-on badges back in stock, contact Jean Healey or myself if you would like to purchase one.

Wanted

If you happen to have a sturdy wheelbarrow lying around unloved and unused, we would be happy to take it off your hands. It would save me having to keep walking backwards and forwards to collect equipment when working on the lawns. Let me know if you can help.

- Geoff Macro



Tony White has won our Club Heat to qualify for the All England Area GC Finals at Surbiton in September. Congratulations Tony, think positive - national finals at Wrest Park next up!!!

Hi Everyone,

Please send over your submissions for the newsletter no later than Wednesday the 24th August!
No message from the editor for this month as she may have Covid and isn't feeling the best!

- Lynn's Granddaughter Emily