



Thank goodness this month I am Covid free so much more able to write for the newsletter. Having had a wonderful holiday in Austria Bavaria and attending the Oberammergau Passion Play both myself and my travelling companion picked up the virus and had a pretty nasty few days. When asked if the holiday had compensated for the illness my reply has always been ABSOLUTELY. The scenery and the especially the Play were just wonderful and I would not have wanted to miss the trip.

As usual the Chairman's Captain's and Groundsman's reports are all very comprehensive, so that all details re the club news will follow this article.

I would add that Diana has organised a wonderful venue for our end of season bbq, the club house is more than adequate for our needs, Millins, the wonderful butchers, from Tiptree, are providing all the food, including desserts, which should be delicious, and there is lots of parking and excellent surroundings.

We have, at present, a membership of 65 plus! Yet only 32 people have signed up, and some of those are non-members, for what promises to be a very pleasant social event. So since there may still be some confusion regarding the logistics of the day I thought I would add the following.

FINALS DAY 18th SEPTEMBER, WILL BEGIN AT FORRESTERS AT TEN, WE HAVE THREE FINALS TO BE PLAYED. CHRIS HAS ALLOWED AN HOUR FOR EACH FINAL, SO ALL SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY ONE O'CLOCK. THERE WILL ALSO BE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ROLL UP GAMES FOR THOSE NOT INTERESTED IN WATCHING THE COMPETITIONS. THE PLAN IS THEN TO PUT AWAY ALL EQUIPMENT, A CHORE INCUMBENT ON ALL MEMBERS PRESENT! AND THEN THOSE PARTICIPATING IN THE BBQ WILL LEAVE FORRESTERS, TAKING THE TEN MINUTE TRIP TO THE VENUE, AND WE WILL THEN PROCEED TO ENJOY A NICE AFTERNOON OF EATING AND SOCIALISING, AS A LAST HURRAH OF THE SEASON. WE WILL NOT BE RETURNING TO FORRESTERS FOR ANY FURTHER EVENTS ONCE THE FINALS ARE OVER AND WE LEAVE FOR THE BBQ.

Please fellow members contact Diana and get your names on the list for what promises to be a very enjoyable meeting with other croquet players.

- Lynn

Chairman's Comments

The long hot summer continues and despite some occasional downpours the lawns are still 'challenging', our Club members have been developing skills unknown to other Croquet Clubs. If you wish to end up in front of a hoop at a distance, aim at least 6 feet to the left or right! Despite this there has been good attendances at Roll ups and our inter Club games have been completed on time. The last match of the East Anglian Croquet Federation League took place on 26 August and our Club Captain no doubt will update you on this elsewhere in the Newsletter.

Our Finals Day is on the 18 September when our season's competitions will be decided. I hope to see as many as possible attending, to support our fellow club Members who have battled though the heat to reach this point.

As you will be aware the equipment hut has been broken into again with nothing stolen fortunately. We have scrapped the 'Honesty Box' system for mallet hire or guest visitors, so the likelihood of petty theft of



small amounts of money can be avoided. A report to the Police has been made, which they file in the event other break-ins in the area are linked.

It has been pleasing to welcome some new members this season, and although some have played before, the ability displayed by them in the trying conditions has been remarkable, well done! No obvious changes to the Forrester Park Golf Complex have taken place, as yet under the new ownership and our understanding is that there are no immediate plans that will affect us, but that long term plans concerning a football presence form part of a strategy for the future.



Maldon Croquet Club has had a long and successful partnership with the Forrester Park Complex and look forward to that continuing under the new management.

- Neil Clark

CLUB CAPTAIN'S NOTES – SEPTEMBER 22

East Anglian Croquet Federation Handicap League

The matches in the Eastern section which have been played through the season have now been completed and the table below says it all:

2022 MATCH RESULTS

Winner: Unity (Sudbury)

Results vs.:	Unity	Maldon Pavilion	Colchester	Maldon Lakeside	Chelmsford	Southchurch	POINTS	GAME DIFF	NET HOOPS	PLACE
Unity (Sudbury)		9-1 [hoops: 67-36]	9-9 [hoops: 109-101]	10-0 [hoops: 70-33]	14-4 [hoops: 114-79]	12-6 [hoops: 108-87]	9	+34	+132	1
Maldon Pavilion	1-9 [hoops: 36-67]		14-4 [hoops: 114-76]	13-5 [hoops: 118-77]	11-7 [hoops: 108-83]	10-8 [hoops: 110-98]	8	+16	+85	2
Colchester	9-9 [hoops: 101-109]	4-14 [hoops: 76-114]		13-5 [hoops: 118-84]	10-8 [hoops: 110-95]	11-7 [hoops: 107-96]	7	+4	+14	3
Maldon Lakeside	0-10 [hoops: 33-70]	5-13 [hoops: 77-118]	5-13 [hoops: 84-118]		15-3 [hoops: 117-89]	14-4 [hoops: 107-70]	4	-4	-47	4
Chelmsford	4-14 [hoops: 79-114]	7-11 [hoops: 83-108]	8-10 [hoops: 95-110]	3-15 [hoops: 89-117]		15-3 [hoops: 115-83]	2	-16	-71	5
Southchurch	6-12 [hoops: 87-108]	8-10 [hoops: 98-110]	7-11 [hoops: 96-107]	4-14 [hoops: 70-107]	3-15 [hoops: 83-115]		0	-34	-113	6

After leading the Table throughout this long hot summer, **Pavilion** represented by Tony White, Graham Parker and Chris Joslin, were beaten to the finishing post by Unity, Sudbury at the last gasp. The match on 26th August was played on Unity's level (!!!!) green (!!!!) and lush (!!!!) Court (they only have the one). An enjoyable, hard fought match, played in good spirit, just a pity about the result (9-1) but Unity were a deserved winner and we wish them luck in the semi-final at Newport (against Newport).



Meanwhile **Lakeside**, represented by Joan Fairclough, Michael Lager, Karen Davis and Jill Joslin entertained Southchurch on 19th August on the slopes of Forrester Park having failed to find a more suitable alternative venue. **Lakeside** completed a well-deserved and comprehensive win (14-4) over Southchurch. Our thanks to our scorers Gill Stone and Gill Woods for scoring and keeping a close eye on timing

All in all a successful season (Pavilion second, Lakeside fourth) of league competition played by our two teams who flew the Maldon flag with skill, sportsmanship and enthusiasm. Well done to all 19 squad members.



Club Competitions

Vice-captain Graham tells me that all three internal competitions ie Covid, Georgie Clark and Forrester Plate are going to plan with the Finals to be played on Finals Day on 18th September.

Highly noteworthy is the success of Mungo Park, one of our very newest members, who has overcome what looked like a very tough draw in the Georgie Clark (level play !!), defeating Tony White, Pete Howe and last year's winner Michael Lager on the way to the final.

FINALS DAY- SUNDAY 18th SEPTEMBER

A message to All Members

First final 10.00am, followed by second and third finals. Please come and watch or join in the Roll Up which will also start at 10.00am.





Advantage Croquet

The two familiarisation sessions, introduced, organised and run by Graham, have been very well supported by thirty members who played two full singles games with a question and answer session in the break between. Where is the golden hoop? – not necessarily where it was with extra turns! (it could be hoop 13, 14 or even 15). Is there a time limit? – No ! Why have I got all these coloured pegs? – you really do need them to count the number of hoops you have run. How do I know how many hoops I've got to run? – look at the handicap table. Sounds complicated? – not really, you just need to try it.

We now have the Friendly Doubles Handicap Tournament using the rules of Advantage Croquet. Starting in early September, 22 members have entered and look forward to a fun end to the season.

- Chris Joslin, Club Captain

Lawns

Well what a difference we have experienced this year to how the lawns looked and played this time last year! Not that surprising given the lack of rainfall the South East of England has suffered. Looking at the photographs of the lawns they are unrecognisable from what we were playing on last season. Without a method of watering the lawns if we continue to have dry summers, I am sorry to say, this will become the norm.

Moving the hoops to new positions was an absolute nightmare; the ground was so hard that it actually broke the jig used to keep the legs in the correct position whilst inserting them. If a stone is encountered it becomes very difficult to maintain the correct gap on the hoop legs. As usual the rabbits have returned to dig due to the dry conditions.

The original lawn 4 has never recovered from the weed killing and the seed that was planted did not germinate due to the dry weather. Significant cracks have opened on the surface making the lawn unusable.

Looking to the future we will be discussing with our external contractors, Skippers, a programme of works to be carried out this autumn and spring for lawn improvements.

Any work is a risk as to what the weather has in store, and we will need to monitor what is predicted to ensure we stand the best chance of and what is planned being successful.

Wheelbarrow

The appeal for a wheelbarrow in our last newsletter was responded to by [Peter Marvin](#), who has donated a second hand one to the club. Thanks Peter, it will come in very useful when lawn maintenance is carried out.





Club Clothing

The club has arranged with Spectrum Merchandising to supply a range of logoed products for the club. They can supply male and female polo shirts, soft-shell jackets and a lightweight unisex waterproof with a heat transfer logo applied.

You can purchase items direct from Spectrum yourself without having to go through anyone at the club.

The products available can be viewed at the following web site; this has sizing details and pricing information. Paste the following link into your browser and you should be directed to the web site.

<https://spectrum-merchandising.com/product-category/maldon-croquet-club/>

Spectrum will advise members on sizing if you are unsure of your requirements, payments for items should be made direct to Spectrum.

They are located at 1a Station Road, Maldon, Essex, CM9 4LQ. The entrance is between Maldon Glass and the Old Railway Station, opposite Jewsons. Telephone number 01621 850462.

We also have a link on the club website to Spectrum.

Club Badges

Embroidered club badges are available if you would like to sew them on to any garments yourself. These are 85 mm tall and on a cloth backing, and look the same as the club logo, available via Philippa Hardy-King at a cost of £6.00 each.

- Geoff Macro