



**With the sad news that we have to leave Forrester Park at the end of the season, your Committee continues to work hard to ensure that the Club will be continuing a full programme of croquet in 2023.**

**Full focus is on securing a new home albeit and possibly temporary, while a more permanent home is established. We will of course keep everyone informed as we progress.**

**Meanwhile continue to make the most of the season.**

**Neil Clark  
Chairman**

Two holidays in three months sounds so idyllic. Germany first and I came home with Covid. Last month off to Rhodes and I have come home with food poisoning which is proving very hard to get rid of. So apologies for the delay in getting this Newsletter published, but with the help of my lovely granddaughter Emily here it is at last. Sorry!

Lynn



## **Chairman's Comments October 2022**

The playing season is still in full swing at the time of writing but traditionally October sees us hanging up our mallets at some time in the month. I keep harking on about the long hot dry summer, but as we know unwatered grass is not ideal for Croquet, but despite this, there has been plenty of playing by members whether in particular groups, Rollups and League games. Many more recent players have come on in leaps and bounds and we look forward to expanding the choice of players putting themselves forward to be part of the squads for our Pavilion and Lakeside teams.

The names of our teams puzzled me at first, but apparently when the Club was set up at Draper's Farm Sports Field at Heybridge, the lawns were on the outfield of the Cricket Club. As there was a 'Pavilion' and a 'Lake' the names were adopted for the two teams.

Another tradition that was established, which newer members may not be aware of, is to meet socially in the Winter for a lunchtime meal once a month, usually at Pubs which provide good meals at a reasonable price. Details of this appear elsewhere in the Newsletter. Our Presentation evening in November will be a special evening, which I hope as many of you are able, will attend for an enjoyable meal and evening together, reminiscing no doubt about the record breaking summer, and more solemn matters of national importance that have affected our lives.

Neil



## CLUB CAPTAIN'S NOTES – OCTOBER 22

### INTER CLUB TOURNAMENT 16<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER

This annual add day event hosted and managed by Colchester is a four way level play match between teams (of four) from Colchester, Chelmsford, Maldon and Southchurch; as always a most enjoyable event. Our team of Al Brown, Joan Fairclough, John Hustwick and Chris Joslin competed well, Chris reaching the quarter finals but Al flying the Maldon flag and stealing the limelight, was the outright winner. Very well done Al.

Al here with runner up Judith Hand, Chelmsford



### FINALS DAY - SUNDAY 18<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER



Well, despite all the forethought, the Finals did not quite go to plan. A mixture of health issues and personal commitments conspired together to upset the best placed plans “of mice and men!!”

The **Georgie Clark Vase Final** had to be played a few days prior to Finals Day but despite that a number of members gathered to witness an excellent game between Al Brown and Mungo Park, the culmination of this year’s singles level play knockout tournament. With a handicap of 1, Al definitely was the bookies odds on favourite but the crowd were well aware that Mungo, handicap 12, had beaten low handicappers Pete Howe and Tony White and last year’s winner Michael Lager on his way to the final. Ground conditions proved challenging but in the end Al’s experience shone through and he ran out the worthy winner 7-3 of a very sporting game.



The final of the **Covid Handicap Tournament**, the third year since its inception and probably the last using Extra Turns, was the only final that could be played on Finals Day. Finalists Graham Parker (handicap 6) and Chris Joslin (7) endeavoured to master the ground conditions although it seemed to both players and spectators alike that hoop 8 would never be run but eventually..... it was and Chris ran out the winner 7-2 in an entertaining (well mostly !) game.

As I write, the **Forrester Plate Doubles Tournament** is yet to reach the final stage but it is hoped that that can be played before the end of the season weather permitting.



## ADVANTAGE CROQUET

The **Advantage Croquet Doubles Tournament** has now reached the play off stage with the winners of Group A (Martin Ridsdale / Graham Parker) Group B (Janet Hall / Pete Howe) and Group C ( Sue Jackman / Karen Davies) seeking to win this new Club tournament designed to try out the new rules which are likely to come into use in 2023 and which will replace Extra Turns.

## RAMSGATE 2023

The response date has now passed and Gill Stone reports that we have a very satisfactory number of 26 members keen to play on Ramsgate's excellent courts <https://croquetramsgate.co.uk/> while enjoying staying for the weekend at The Pegwell Bay Hotel. A note will be circulated when hotel bookings have been confirmed.

- Chris Joslin, Club Captain





## The Lawns

The break in the drought has made a noticeable difference to the lawns; the rain has made them greener and a lot slower than they have been. They are still presenting an additional challenge to play on as they appear to have developed small bumps that can send your ball off the intended line.

## Club clothing

Last month's newsletter had details of how to order club clothing with logos from Spectrum Merchandising, please note the prices shown on the web site do not include VAT.

The self-sew on badges are £6 inclusive of VAT and available via Phillippa.

- Geoff Macro

## Winter Lunch

I am pleased that places for our first Winter lunch at The White Horse, Mundon on the **18th October** are now full. Please contact Diana directly on [d.pettitt123@btinternet.com](mailto:d.pettitt123@btinternet.com) to check for last minute cancellations.

## Presentation Evening

Our next major event is the presentation evening at **The Bull., Great Totham on the evening of Friday 18th November**. I will be sending out the menu in two weeks to enable you can choose one, two or three courses although desserts and coffee may be chosen on the evening.

