



New Beginning

The start of the 2023 season has begun! Our new home is a delightful spot, peaceful and surrounded by hedgerows trees and birdsong.

Finally after all these years our croquet is being played on FLAT lawns and I must say it is a pleasure. Our grateful thanks must go to the 'boys' who have made this possible; hard work and determination have brought us to this point and we are, of course, very grateful.

As you can imagine the work continues - moving of the shed, painting the shed, fitting spikes to our flags posts, renewing all the pegs with fresh name tags, organising lawn care etc etc has all gone on behind the scenes. As you can see from the photo several members pitched in to help Geoff with the painting of our shed, which is looking very smart and tidy with lots more room than before. A special thanks to Geoff who has worked wonders, with all the logistics of the move. Geoff quietly and efficiently gets on with things without fuss and we do greatly appreciate all the hard work. Our sub-committee has done us proud and we thank them all very much.



Our lovely new lawns do of course come at a price, and they will need expensive maintenance! We as members must play our part in this. It is essential that before playing or putting up the hoops etc we 'swish' the lawns with the 'swisher' that is in the shed, this is to remove worm castes which if trodden into the grass causes problems – so please if you are first on the scene get swishing, it only takes about ten minutes! We MUST also take great care to wear suitable shoes; NOTHING with heels will be permissible so good flat soles PLEASE.



The excellent photo of the inaugural match shows just how great the first day was. The group in the 'bus shelter' was the gang's attempt at our usual Sunday play – heavy rain stopped

play but coffee and biscuits were enjoyed by all.

- Lynn



*The first game of the first season at Hatfield Peverel
Chairman Neil, Immediate Past Chairman Gill,
accompanied by Club Captain Chris and Jill
(photographer) Joslin 17 April 2023*



Chairman's remarks May Newsletter

Our seamless transition to Hatfield Peverel has taken place. After only two weeks it already feels as if we have been playing croquet there for much longer. Thanks to our friends at the Bowls Club who have made us welcome and attempted to accommodate our wishes we look forward to a long affiliation to HPBC, and who knows we may even lure some of them to join us in the delights of playing with us. To that end we intend to invite them to have an instruction on the intricacies of the game and an opportunity to hit some balls probably at the end of May.

We still have some matters to tidy up on our tenure at HPBC, but thanks to HPBC and the owners of the whole recreation ground, Hatfield Peverel Parish Council, in letting us get playing before all has been finally completed, we can look forward to a long playing season from the outset.

The committee gives apologies for having to keep reminding everyone, of the details of how to conduct ourselves in setting up the games before playing, and other matters that might seem bureaucratic. I am sure you are all aware how it must be for HPBC to have to give up playing outdoors, because of the circumstances they found themselves in, so we wish to do everything possible to continue to enjoy the close relationship we hope to foster with them.

The feedback on the new playing conditions has been very positive. The plans to ensure that we are not hampered by having only two courts instead of four seem to be working, but we intend to review them after a four week trial period. To that end, if you have any suggestions or comments about the arrangements, please let Graham Parker know.

Here's hoping for some better weather, and may you knock your opponents balls away and run the hoops to achieve single figure handicaps in the coming weeks!

Best wishes,

- Neil



The first Roll Up at Hatfield Peverel 18th April 2023; bitterly cold but didn't stop 20 members playing in this inaugural Roll Up

Safeguarding

In accordance with government guidelines and the national Croquet Association (CA) policy, Maldon Croquet Club (MCC) recognizes that it has a duty of care and protection of children under the age of 18 years and vulnerable adults.

I have been appointed as the committee member of MCC responsible for upholding the safeguarding policy and as such I would ask all members to be aware of any abuse to other members or visitors and to report such abuse to me who in consultation with our Chair and the CA Safeguarding Officer will take appropriate action.

A copy of our safeguarding policy is contained on our website in the member's area. This policy is currently being reviewed and updated in accordance with the latest CA guidelines.

- Richard Jones
Safeguarding Officer.





Chair Appeal:

HPBC has a reasonable number of benches positioned around our new lawns, at present it can be a bit on the cold side to sit on these whilst waiting for the next game. The club has a selection of foldable garden chairs that have been donated and are stored in our equipment shed; these can be erected in the bus shelter making the viewing experience much more pleasant. We could do with a few more, so if anyone has a serviceable folding chair they would like to donate to our collection it would be welcome.

Club Clothing:

Logoed products are available via Spectrum Merchandising; they can supply a range of products, male and female polo shirts, softshell jackets and a lightweight unisex waterproof with a heat transfer logo. They will advise on sizing if you require help, members will be responsible for paying Spectrum direct. They are located in Station Road, Maldon, the entrance is adjacent to Maldon Glass opposite the builder merchant Jewsons. They have a link via our website or you can type the following in your internet browser <https://spectrum-merchandising.com/product-category/maldon-croquet-club/>
Telephone: 01621 850462
Club badges are also available via Janet Woods if you would prefer to sew your own badge on at a cost of £6.00.

The Lawns

Our contractors Perspective landscapes have continued with the work on the lawns, scarifying to remove the moss, they have also continued to reduce the cut height, now around 20 mm. They have also applied a moss killer to the lawn so we shall see it turn the moss that is left black, prior to it being scarified out the lawn, hopefully we shall avoid any bare patches as the grass growth begins, it is intended to reduce the cut height gradually to around 10 mm, some hand spot weeding is also planned.

What a change from our old lawns at Forresters , no longer having to compensate for the undulating surface when you take a shot, the surface should continue to improve as the season progresses. We will shortly be testing the irrigation system as well.

Swishing

If you are the first to play on a lawn please ensure you swish the lawn, the swisher is located on some brackets on the rear shelf of our equipment shed.

If you do not remove the worm casts and they get stepped on it makes it difficult for the new grass to grow through and spoils the surface.

- Geoff Macro





Just a small example of work that goes on behind the scenes, thanks to Shirley and all those who supported Geoff with this project.



Here's to a lovely season of proper croquet in the lovely setting at Hatfield Peverel.

Lynn