



Ramsgate

In May we had our annual visit to Ramsgate Croquet Club. This is always a great trip and we are warmly welcomed by the members. Ramsgate club is very well appointed and they look after us very well both on the lawns and by providing us with delicious lunches and afternoon cake. As you will see Jean took pictures of all our three man teams. We did well in the friendly match but sadly we lost again, how lovely it will be when we can announce MCC won! However, we learn a lot from their very talented players and the competition is always played in very good spirit. Thanks to Gill Stone who though unable to come this year, worked hard to book and arrange the holiday, and thanks to Chris who supported Gill, and who made the whole competition happen by organising our teams and by liaising with the Ramsgate representative.

The Teams



Our new season is now well underway on our lovely flat lawns in their tranquil setting. Despite some reservations regarding only having two lawns our new system seems to be working very well and some very enjoyable croquet has been going along very nicely.

In his usual unobtrusive and low profile way Geoff is doing the club proud by putting in a lot of work. He is of course in constant touch with the 'lawn man' and when anything needs attending to he steps up and takes measures to remedy any problems, like turning up one evening to ensure that the middle of the lawns get a nice drink, as he decided that the automatic watering system wasn't reaching the middle due to windy conditions, our chairman Neil kindly met Geoff that evening just to keep him company, good for Neil! We do appreciate all your efforts Geoff.

Maldon Croquet Club has always been about socialising and enjoying a relaxed game of croquet long may that happy atmosphere continue as we enter the start of competitions.



A Visitor...

Somehow a very cute baby rabbit has found its way into the lawn area. Now whilst he/she is very cute, considerably damage could be done to the (very expensive) lawns by these critters whose nature is to dig holes, heaven forbid that we might turn up one morning to find our precious lawns sporting holes. The theory is that perhaps someone left the gate open or ajar which allowed 'Peter' access. Please fellow members ALWAYS close the wire gate. Whilst we cannot be sure that this was the rabbit's way in we have to ensure that that way in is definitely always closed. Peter's future hangs in the balance, personally I hope he finds his way out of that area and is never seen again.



Lynn

Chairman's Newsletter report

The playing season is now well under way at our new home at Hatfield Peverel. I have found it a new experience after Forrester Park as I trust you all have. The arrangements for Roll ups appear to be working well with some more popular sessions than others. Providing everyone is managing to enjoy their croquet we have achieved our objective. Our weekend at Ramsgate was once again a very pleasant experience being made very welcome by Ramsgate Croquet Club. The courts were still in great condition to provide top class play, so no excuses to blame some of those missed shots! All the games were played in a friendly manner and it was the taking part that was the main objective, rather than winning. (Apologies to our Club Captain!)

A big thank you to Chris Joslin and Gill Stone for organising the weekend on our behalf. We have an invitation for next year we can look forward to.

Internal and external competitions are under way, and there may be a few surprise results with the new 'advantage' scoring system.

Another thank you to all those members that donated their bar card money from Forrester Park to the Club. As you know our move to HPBC means our overheads have gone up, so this is very helpful towards keeping the books balanced.

Neil Clark

Handicap League

The first league match ever to be played at Hatfield Peverel took place on 9th May when our two teams Pavilion and Lakeside played each other. A very close, competitive match played under the Advantage rules and under threatening skies saw Pavilion come out the eventual winner 11-7 but with a narrow hoop margin 106-97.

Pictured (attached below) Lakeside - Joan Fairclough, Sue Jackman, Jill Joslin, Neil Bush Pavilion Graham Parker, Pete Howe, Chris Joslin, Neil Clark

Many thanks to Philippa HK and Mary B for scoring and getting to grips with the Advantage scoring system.

Pete H was Master Chef of the day providing superb homemade cakes for all.





After completion of Round 1, the Eastern League Table looks like this - way to go!

2023 MATCH RESULTS

Results vs.:	Colchester	Maldon Pavilion	Chelmsford (Blue)	Chelmsford (Green)	Maldon Lakeside	Southchurch	POINTS	GAME DIFF	NET HOOPS	PLACE
Colchester		Round 5	Round 2	[30 Jun]	[21 Jul]	14-4 [hoops: 115-79]	2	+10	+36	
Maldon Pavilion	Round 5		[4 Aug]	[23 Jun]	11-7 [hoops: 106-97]	[7 Jul]	2	+4	+9	
Chelmsford (Blue)	Round 2	[4 Aug]		10-8 [hoops: 105-104]	[16 Jun]	[25 Aug]	2	+2	+1	
Chelmsford (Green)	[30 Jun]	[23 Jun]	8-10 [hoops: 104-105]		[18 Aug]	Round 4	0	-2	-1	
Maldon Lakeside	[21 Jul]	7-11 [hoops: 97-106]	[16 Jun]	[18 Aug]		Round 2	0	-4	-9	
Southchurch	4-14 [hoops: 79-115]	[7 Jul]	[25 Aug]	Round 4	Round 2		0	-10	-36	

RAMSGATE 23

Twenty four members thoroughly enjoyed our annual weekend with our friends at Ramsgate CC

Well-watered and fed at the Pegwell Bay Hotet thanks to the organisation of Gill Stone over the preceding months, under sunny (well mostly) skies but with a typically chilly breeze the friendly two day match on 13/14 May was played over six rounds. The Advantage system of scoring produced many close games on RCC's excellent courts but at the end of the day Ramsgate came out clear winners.



Pictured (right), my Man of the Match, Dave Brown with team mates Sue and Jill who won their final game with a brilliant jump shot by Dave on the golden hoop!!

But at the end of the day it was clear that yet again we had to leave the Little Cup in the safe hands of RCC - well there's always next year!! ?





Tuesday 6th June

Lakeside had a brilliant result today away to Southchurch winning 13 - 5 ; 5 all at the lunch break, Lakeside winning all 8 in the afternoon - something in the sandwiches guys?!

And no less than eight 7-6's 7 of which Lakeside won wow!

Many congratulations to our team - Joan Fairclough, Sue Jackman, Shirley Wallis and Neil Bush



The Lawns

You will notice that the hoops have been moved on the lawns, although the surface of the lawn is good through the hoops due to the dry weather and the constant hits the hoops take from the balls they have become loose, the only remedy is to move them.

Please take care when putting the hoops out, do not insert them too far into the ground, it will probably require a tap with the mallet to install and the hoop lifter at the end of the session to remove them. Please do not kick the hoops to loosen them.

Our contractors Perspective Landscapes have continued with the work on the lawns, and do not plan to reduce the cut height any further. Despite having turned on the watering system the current dry weather is having its effect on the lawns and in places it has been hard for the water to penetrate the surface, this is being treated to improve the situation. I am sure you will all have noticed that in some places the lawn is lightning fast and only requires the smallest of taps.



Footware

I know it is very tempting to wear open-toed sandals during the hot weather but this is not a good idea whilst playing croquet, all too easily a ball can ricochet and hit your foot causing an injury. Please respect the clubs requirement to wear closed toed shoes.

PLEASE if anyone has any collapsible chairs that they no longer require MCC would be very grateful to have them in the shed, for use during matches and social events

Geoff Macro



Note for your diary...

Diana in her usual efficient manner has already booked our September 'hog roast'. As before Millins the local Tiptree butcher is providing us with excellent food. More details later - it would be excellent to see as many members as possible attending this event, our first major social occasion at Hatfield Peverel.

Lynn

