



Our 2023 season rolls on with the lawns looking much better (thanks to Geoff's dedicated watering) with lots of matches/games being played. Our new venue is proving to be very popular and successful with all its obvious advantages.

I have no idea what has happened to Peter Rabbit but I am sure Geoff is fully aware of the visitor's status – hopefully Peter left before drastic measures were needed. Further to that subject it is vitally important that the entrance gate is kept firmly closed at all times.

There was a minor problem with the club house key so please everyone ALWAYS leave the key in our key safe at all times, do not leave in the door and never forget to lock the door. Or the key safe if you are the last one to leave even if the bowlers are present, and please check that toilet lights are OUT before you lock up!

Our very efficient secretary, Janet, has now assessed the results of the question of timings for our roll up matches. She had a goodly number of replies and the consensus was that these matches will continue in the time honoured tradition of **30 MINUTES DURATION**. As these sessions have always been about socialising as well as croquet this result seems fitting.

At our committee meeting we discussed the coaching situation, whilst our better players are always willing and very able to help our newest recruits, it was suggested that perhaps someone out there might like to go on a weekend coaching course?? Whilst learning to teach others, one's own game is much improved on these courses – let Janet our secretary know if you require more details.

MCC are hoping to organise a joint taster day with the bowls club, we feel it would be nice if some of our members tried bowling whilst the bowlers tried croquet more details later should we manage to arrange this.

All details regarding our BBQ and finals day will be contained in Diana's article below. Please try to support these events which should be fun for everyone, as we plan to have some fun games to play on the day – let's hope the weather is kind to us!

Lynn



Several of these spectacular birds, were circling the lawns during the match against south church.



Chairman's comments July Newsletter

The playing season is now well under way in our new home at Hatfield Peverel. The weather seems to want a repeat of last summer, but this time we have irrigation to assist the grass to grow and thrive. I don't think anyone has regrets about our old home at Forrester Park, which seems like a distant memory. No doubt the cracks there have started to open up and the balls would be rolling down the slope under their own volition, if we were still there. The feedback from members has been very positive and technical skills are improving as we cast aside those little tricks we learned on the unique courts at Great Totham. The times the ball would roll into the hoop and just as one went to claim the hoop, the ball rolled back again!

The committee has been busy devising a programme of internal Club Competitions and putting out the Lakeside and Pavilion Teams in the regional league. We played our first home game recently when we hosted Southchurch. They were very complimentary about our new Courts. On the social side you will be hearing about some events we will be holding in the near future as the summer progresses.

We have welcomed several visitors and some new members, and I am sure you will make yourselves known to them, and assist them if they are new to Croquet.

We are still finalising our arrangements with Hatfield Peverel Bowls Club, and they have been extremely helpful in making our transition as painless as possible. They have not made any negative comments, but it must be some cause of regret that they can no longer play outdoors, due to a lack of members wishing to do so. Please chat to any members of HPBC that you come into contact with. It may well be that as they see us playing they may be tempted to have a go, and we will be only too happy to accommodate them in this.

Best wishes,
Neil

Handicap League

With three rounds of six now played our two teams are doing very well with Pavilion in second place and Lakeside in third - all to play for!

2023 MATCH RESULTS

Results vs.:	Colchester	Maldon Pavilion	Maldon Lakeside	Chelmsford (Blue)	Chelmsford (Green)	Southchurch	POINTS	GAME DIFF	NET HOOPS	PLACE
Colchester		Round 5	[21 Jul]	17-1 [hoops: 122-58]	10-8 [hoops: 107-101]	14-4 [hoops: 115-79]	6	+28	+106	
Maldon Pavilion	Round 5		11-7 [hoops: 106-97]	[4 Aug]	14-4 [hoops: 116-99]	12-6 [hoops: 115-91]	6	+20	+50	
Maldon Lakeside	[21 Jul]	7-11 [hoops: 97-106]		12-6 [hoops: 109-98]	[18 Aug]	13-5 [hoops: 115-90]	4	+10	+27	
Chelmsford (Blue)	1-17 [hoops: 58-122]	[4 Aug]	6-12 [hoops: 98-109]		10-8 [hoops: 105-104]	[25 Aug]	2	-20	-74	
Chelmsford (Green)	8-10 [hoops: 101-107]	4-14 [hoops: 99-116]	[18 Aug]	8-10 [hoops: 104-105]		Round 4	0	-14	-24	
Southchurch	4-14 [hoops: 79-115]	6-12 [hoops: 91-115]	5-13 [hoops: 90-115]	[25 Aug]	Round 4		0	-24	-85	



Lakeside with two excellent results away at Southchurch and Chelmsford look to extend their winning run when they host Colchester on 21st July - no roll up that day so go along to HP and support the team - Joan Fairclough, Shirley Wallis, Karen Davies and Richard Jones will be pleased to see you!

It is believed that the Lakeside photographer was on leave for these matches! 😊

Meanwhile Pavilion, with a good win at Chelmsford hosted Southchurch at home on 7th July, the first ever visiting croquet team to play at HPBC.

Neil Clark, John Hustwick, Chris Joslin and Graham Parker at Chelmsford.



John Hustwick, Jean Healey, Graham Parker and Neil Clark - hosting the first ever visiting team at HP.



An emphatic win for Pavilion and beautiful weather too.

Followed by tea and excellent cakes baked by Diana, greatly appreciated by all!





All England

Our club heats have been completed - John Ferguson, Graham Parker and Chris Joslin will fly the Maldon flag at Surbiton when they compete in the Area Finals on 31st July. Thank you to everyone who entered the Club heats making it a really close fought tournament.

Group A	TW	WH	JF	JW	Games Won	Nett Hoops
Tony White (4)		6	6	7	1	+3
Walter Hall (10)	7		3	7	2	-1
John Ferguson (12)	7	7		7	3	+6
Janet Woods (12)	2	4	6		0	-8

Group B	GP	NC	ML	MD		
Graham Parker (6)		7	6	7	2	+1
Neil Clark (7)	6		7	6	1	+3
Michael Lager (11)	7	2		7	2	-3
Maggy Dixon (12)	6	7	6		1	-1

Group C	CJ	SJ	JF	MP		
Chris Joslin (7)		7	7	7	3	+9
Sue Jackman (10)	5		4	7	1	+2
Joan Fairclough (10)	4	7		7	2	+4
Mungo Park (11)	3	4	4		0	-7

Meanwhile back on our lawn at HP, which is looking very much improved with daily irrigation and with thanks to Geoff Macro and Pete Howe for the hours they spend on our behalf, our domestic tournaments are progressing well. The first round heats of the Rainbow (singles) played under Advantage rules are nearing completion and the Forrester Plate (pairs) (also Advantage rules) is underway. Next up is the Georgie Clark (singles, level play) and Graham Parker awaits your entry !!

- Chris

Lawns

Perspective are continuing with the summer programme of lawn maintenance with two to three cuts per week. They are intending to treat the lawns again with slow release fertilizer and carry out spot weeding in the coming week. We also plan to carry out some hand weeding to improve the playing surface. We are making good use of the watering system. This is now used every day and, along with a wetting agent applied to the grass, has made a significant difference to the playing surface. At present there is no forecast of any significant rainfall.



It has been reported that some members are lifting the equipment trolleys onto the lawns at the end of play to collect the hoops and posts, **please do not do this** as the wheels and the trolley support can damage the lawn.



No trolleys on the lawns

Hoops

The top of the carrots (the angled bits on the bottom of the hoop) do not have to be level with the lawn surface, they can be 12 mm ($\frac{1}{2}$ ") above the lawn surface when putting the hoops out. If the hoop is too low or loose sand is available in the rear shed to insert into the hole to pack it out. A mallet may then be required to insert the hoop correctly.

- Geoff Macro

Catering

I have booked Millins for the BBQ on Sunday 20th August. The cost will be the same as last year at £18.00 per person.

Finals day is on September 23rd with a bring your own picnic.

I shall be away on holiday for most of October so unable to arrange an Autumn lunch, however Chris assures me the committee can organise a lunch without us. I shall arrange a Winter lunch for November.

- Diana