



For quite a few years now, Maldon Croquet Club has participated in the **All England** competition. We always have several members who enter and go through the preliminaries at home; the winners of the domestic round then go off to represent our club at the next stage of the competition. We have, over the years, had a goodly number of our best players qualify for the final of the competition and they have travelled North, South and over the sea to the Isle of Wight. Our first success was the first ever trip to Ramsgate where Chris, Jean, Pete and Henry all finished in the top six!

So this year Walter Hall and John Ferguson were our representatives, they travelled to the Isle of Wight to face a gruelling weekend of almost non-stop play during the September heat wave. Both our members did



us proud with John, finishing in the top half of the competition.

BUT I AM DELIGHTED TO ANNOUNCE THAT WALTER WAS THE OUTRIGHT WINNER, winning 11 matches over the two days. WELL DONE WALTER MALDON CROQUET CLUB IS VERY PROUD OF YOU!!!





On a separate note, Geoff has asked me to mention that somehow the hoops etc of lawn one are now in the trolley of lawn two. Geoff our hard working groundsman, maintenance man, lawn waterer etc etc knows these things because he carefully measures and tailor makes the holes for the hoops – who knew that had to happen? Geoff did!! SO PLEASE FELLOW MEMBERS BE SURE TO MATCH THE EQUIPMENT WITH THE CORRECT TROLLEY.

Our fun day was a great success, and Diana did an absolutely fantastic job of organising the excellent hog roast. I hope all those who participated in the FUN game enjoyed it – it's quite amazing how a silly event can get very competitive though. Several guests played very well at their first ever experience of croquet. Graham beat John Ferguson in the member's final and Phillip Woods won the guest prize, just pipping Ruby (Jan Hall's granddaughter) at the post –so well done everyone – now get ready for next year!



Some notes for your diary:

September 23rd is our finals day. We are hoping that lots members will attend to lend their support to the finalists. Bring your own picnic, then after the finals are played and the cups presented we will have time to play. The day begins at 10 o'clock and if the weather is kind it should be a fun end of season event. Friends and family are very welcome too of course – the more the merrier.

Diana has arranged our first winter lunch for November 8th at The Peartree Pantry, a lovely little restaurant just five minutes from the club. More details will follow in next month's Newsletter but please keep the date in mind, as Diana has to confirm numbers THREE WEEKS BEFORE THE EVENT.

The bowls club have invited us to attend their Christmas buffet on the 15th December. Everyone attending is asked to bring a plate of food for the buffet – more details next month. We have over the season built up a good friendly rapport with the bowls club, so it would be nice if we made an effort to attend their Christmas event.

- Lynn

Chairman's Report newsletter August 2023

Everyone seems to be finding HPBC an enjoyable experience, even when not playing, the surroundings are very pleasant with wild life flying over and bird song in the hedgerows. Occasional sightings of a young rabbit have taken place, so the necessity to keep the gate shut at all times is important. We all know what happens when two rabbits become friendly!

Membership is holding up with several new members and returning members renewing their membership. I know you will make yourselves known to them and assist them as much as possible. On that point particularly new members, make yourselves familiar with the Website we use for booking lawns. Graham Parker will provide you with the information as to how to log into the site. Lawns can be booked to play with other members or visitors at most times, other than Roll ups, which are open non bookable sessions.

The recent rains and watering has greened up the lawns nicely, but for our sakes, I hope it is dry when we come to play.

- Neil Clark



LEAGUE NEWS

Our Pavilion team, level on points with Colchester missed out on top spot in the last league match of the season by game and hoop difference only

Pavilion travelled to Colchester on 18th August knowing that they had to win by a very challenging and highly unlikely 65 hoops to win the league! Win they did 11 -7 but the hoop margin of 18 was insufficient to enable them to progress to the semi-finals. The team of Tony White, Graham Parker, Neil Clark and Chris Joslin are pictured opposite.



Meanwhile, Lakeside played their final league match of the season



at home against a resurgent Chelmsford Green – despite scoring equally on hoops (99 each) our team went down 8 -10. A hard fought match indeed inspiring Chelmsford’s highly experienced and respected John Scuse to write *“I have been playing in matches for about 18 years and I can honestly say that this was the tightest match I have ever played in. All down to the golden hoop in the last match with hoops evenly shared. Just like every handicap match should finish.”*

Congratulations (and commiserations) to Shirley Wallis, Sue Jackman, Karen Davies and Michael Lager.

Lakeside finished in fourth place in the league but deserved to be higher.

Below are some photos of the bowls/croquet taster day:



Pete and Tony try their hands at Short Mat Bowls



Jane and Graham explaining the intricacies of croquet



Walter wins GC All England Handicap Tournament

Huge congratulations to Walter Hall on an outstanding result in this CA national tournament held this year at Ryde CC, Isle of Wight, a two day event held over the weekend 9th / 10th September.

Walter and John Ferguson had qualified for the Final thanks to their efforts at the Area Finals at Surbiton and previously in the Club knockout at our own courts at Hatfield Peverel. Fourteen players from all over the country took part in the National Final, playing on an "all play all" basis meaning 13 games for each player, 7 on Saturday and 6 on Sunday. That's a lot of high pressure games particularly with the thermometer around the 30c mark on Saturday!!

The handicap range was closely mixed between 4 and 11 so, generally, no big Advantage. Of the 13 games they each played, Walter, playing off 8 won 11 and John, playing off 10 won 6, John finishing mid table. Well done to both of them.

We look forward to seeing the Cup when it is returned to Walter from the engravers.

Ramsgate 2024

Arrangements are underway for the annual friendly match against Ramsgate CC on the weekend of 18th and 19th May 24. Details and an invitation to join this excellent weekend will be circulated in January so just pencil in the date for now.

Lawns

Generally I am pleased with the lawns. The occasional showers and no prolonged sun until this week have helped maintain a reasonable playing surface. The lawns were being watered every other day until this week when I have watered every day whilst the hot weather has returned. I will monitor and adjust as the weather changes. The grass is showing signs of wear on some hoops with runs beginning to show. I have scheduled to move the hoops again on Monday 18th September, weather permitting, hopefully the last time this season. I have booked the lawns out all day.

I am meeting with Perspective Landscapes this weekend to discuss the autumn works and what effect this will have on our playing season. I am keen we improve the central area that had a high moss content and requires seeding.

- Geoff Macro

First Winter lunch

Is booked for the 8th November at The Pear Tree Pantry,
Spring Lane, Hatfield Peverel CM3 2JW. 12 for 12.30pm

Please let me know if there any dietary concerns .

Choose from;	Gammon , egg & chips	£12.95
	Scampi & chips.	£12.95
	Fish and chips	£14.95
	Jacket potato from.	£9.00
	Cheese & bean or bacon & cranberry	
	Bacon & mushroom fusilli	£12.95

Desserts and drinks may be ordered on the day.

Please [let.me](mailto:d.pettitt123@btinternet.com) know by 18th October. Diana Pettitt at d.pettitt123@btinternet.com

- Diana



CLUB COMPETITIONS 2023

Rainbow Handicap

As well as changing the name from COVID to Rainbow this year we also modified the format. The 27 entrants were divided up into 4 blocks with everyone playing everyone else in their block and the top two in each block going through to a knock-out stage. All the block matches were completed on schedule with Jill Joslin, Philippa Hardy-King, Joan Fairclough and Neil Clark winning their blocks. They were joined in the quarter finals by block runners-up Mungo Park, Walter Hall, John Ferguson and Graham Parker. Surprisingly, the runners-up did rather better than the block winners in the quarter finals, and all 4 progressed to the semi-finals. John has qualified for the final by winning his semi-final against Mungo and will be playing Graham, who won a tight game against Walter in the other semi-final.

Forrester Plate handicap doubles

In previous years this has been a level play knock-out tournament with the pairings decided by the tournament organiser on a high – low handicap basis. We changed this year to a handicap tournament with most people selecting their own partners. To guarantee that everyone would play more than one game, we also introduced a block stage. The 16 pairs who entered this year were divided into 4 blocks, with the winners of each block progressing to the semi-finals. The semi-final draw was:
Maggy Dixon & John Ferguson vs Ken Hazell & Michael Lager
Karen Davies & Sue Jackman vs Graham & Jenny Parker
Maggy & John and Graham & Jenny won these matches and will meet in the final.

Georgie Clark Memorial Vase

The format of this competition was unchanged this year. 18 entrants competed in a straightforward level play knock-out. All matches up to the quarter final stage have been completed, leaving just the semi-finals (Joan Fairclough vs Graham Parker and John Ferguson vs Pete Howe) and final to be played.

Finals Day

The exact timings have yet to be agreed but we expect that all 3 finals will be played on the morning of Saturday 23rd September. We are hoping for a big crowd to watch the games and celebrate our first season at HPBC.

Advantage score counters

I've noticed this season that a number of players from other clubs were using purpose-made Advantage score counters to keep track of scores during handicap games. They seemed very happy with them and I've now found out that they're sold by Brookwood Croquet. The counters are described at <https://brookwoodcroquet.co.uk/advantage-golf-croquet-counters/> or you could go straight to their online store at <https://brookwoodcroquet.sumupstore.com/products>

There are various models and colours available. The cheapest sells for £12 including delivery. For £3 more you can get the deluxe model, pictured opposite, which lets you set the ball colour for each side. And for £2 more you can get your name printed on it. I've bought one and it works well.



They also sell a variety of other products. The Club has bought a "Starting Scores Table with Slider" to help our scorers at matches and for general use by members. They also sell a GC computer game, which we will not be buying, but might interest anyone who gets withdrawal symptoms over the winter.

Graham