



The 2023 season is about to draw to a close. I hope I speak for everyone when I say that our first year at Wickham Bishops has been just great. Our new home is a tranquil picturesque place and our season has allowed us to enjoy both the surroundings and mostly good weather – especially in the last few weeks.



Finals Day Spectators.

2023 also saw our first winner of the ALL ENGLAND competition, at last Maldon Croquet Club has a winner of an important and prestigious competition – well done Walter - who didn't 'just' win he won by a massive margin leaving all the opposition in his wake!! Let's hope that next year we have even more of our number who qualify.

Both our Hog Roast day with the fun games and our finals day were blessed with lovely sunny days and I hope enjoyed by all who attended.

We now face a season without croquet, what on earth will we do with ourselves? Don't forget that we are part of the bowls club so maybe some of our number could give bowling a try during the winter. Meanwhile Geoff's work will continue

during the off season, and he and the 'lawn man' will be working to improve the grass for 2024.

Next season we will have the benefit of the use of the very nice kitchen, which means that when sitting out or just taking a break we can make ourselves coffee or tea at the cost of a massive fifty pence per cup. Diana has now stocked our allocated cupboards with everything required for a hot drink so we hope everyone will take advantage of the facility.

Diana has booked our first winter lunch at The Peartree Pantry, a lovely little restaurant just down the road from the club. So our first lunch is the 8th November 12.00 for 12.30 see you then I hope.



Finals Day Spectators.

I wish you all a happy healthy winter and look forward to seeing everyone again in the spring or at the lunches.

Best wishes

- Lynn



From the Chair

October sees our first playing season at Hatfield Peverel drawing to a close. Work on the Courts is being carried out that will improve the surface for next year. I think you will agree that this has been a good year for Maldon Croquet Club, with a giant leap forward in the experience of playing on flat lawns. Other Clubs visiting us have been impressed and we have gained a joining member with an existing membership at another Club, who will be playing at both, welcome to him and the other new members that joined us this year.

The Finals day was well supported and a big thank you to all those of you that made it possible. An innovation was to present the Trophies to the winners on the day. We have been victims of our own success as an evening venue with a meal was not possible due to our numbers. You may have to get in early to book places for our winter social gatherings with a meal at lunchtimes.

The Bowls Club have made us very welcome and we have recently had joint committee meetings to discuss matters that affect both our Clubs. This have been very constructive, and thanks to the manner in which you have all gone out of your way to be mindful of the Bowls Club being also on site, has established a welcoming and friendly atmosphere. We now have limited access to the kitchen with our own cupboard and hot drinks materials. A donation towards this is required when we have a 'Cuppa' to assist HPBC in making this facility available. A joint Christmas Party is scheduled for the afternoon of 15 December in the Clubhouse to which we are all invited, so I hope as many of you that are able will be there.

Neil Clark

FINALS DAY 2023

A fine autumn day, Saturday 23rd September heralded Finals Day, the culmination of well supported Club competitions at our new home. Many thanks to Graham Parker who organised all three competitions from beginning to end – no easy task.



First up, the Rainbow Handicap Singles Trophy played throughout on Advantage rules for the first time. Twenty four members started out at the beginning of the season commencing with four "all play all" blocks leading on to the knock out stage and to the final where John Ferguson played against Graham Parker. John, clearly fired up from the All England Finals the weekend before, won the trophy 7-3 after a close game.



Next up, the Forrester Plate Pairs. This year partners could be chosen and the Hi/Low arrangement was dispensed with but all games handicapped on Advantage rules. A well supported tournament spanning a large part of the season saw sixteen pairs compete, first in the "all play all" block



stage and then to the knock out stages and to the final where Maggie Dixon and John Ferguson took on Jenny and Graham Parker with Maggie and John winning 7-3



And finally, the Georgie Clark Memorial Vase Knockout Tournament, a singles, level play (not handicap) competition entered this year by eighteen members. This is the longest standing of our competitions and is in memory of founder member Georgie Clark who I am sure would have been delighted to see the tournament played in great spirit on excellent courts. Graham Parker played Pete Howe in the final. Pete won the trophy 7-5 after a hard fought game.

*All the trophy winners including Walter Hall with his ALL ENGLAND GC HANDICAP TROPHY
Well done everybody*

Commiserations to Graham who played in all three finals but left empty handed !!

It was good to see over half the club present to watch the finals played out with a large number staying on for a picnic in beautiful weather followed by the usual Saturday afternoon roll up.



FRIENDLY MATCH AGAINST WEST MERSEA CC

The inaugural friendly was played on a rather damp September day but in very good humour.

Sixteen Maldon members who mostly haven't played for the Club played against twelve members of the new Mersea club. It wasn't about winning but after an early scare we did !!

We hope to repeat this event and hopefully make it an annual match.





How many croquet players does it take to put up a gazebo?????

