



Walter and Jean, both shown in these happy photos, are holding their respective awards won this year. Jean's is the well-deserved acknowledgment from the croquet association for the years she has devoted to croquet. I am sure lots of our members, me included, remember how much Jean encouraged us to become croquet players. Henry and I first met her at Drapers when we went for a 'taster' event, within a few years Jean, Henry, Chris, and Pete all played in the All England competition. Jean's enthusiasm for the game has always remained a terrific asset for our club –long may it continue.

A chance meeting with Tony one Sunday morning meant that Walter learned that he could obtain the two items displayed in the photo. Tony told Walter of his entitlement, and within a couple of weeks both the medal and the certificate arrived. How nice to have further evidence of his fantastic achievement back in the summer.

Well done to both our highly successful members.

Our first winter lunch was a great success and very well attended and it was great to see everyone. Our next lunch will be at The Ship in Tiptree on the 5th of December Diana has already got a good number of takers so we can look forward to another happy day! Thanks to Diana for all the organisation that goes on behind the scenes to get these events up and running!

On the 15th December there is a planned 'party' in the bowls clubhouse, and we have been invited to share their annual Christmas celebration. It would be really good if as many croquet players as possible came along to this event – all that is required is that you bring along some nibbles and any drinks you wish – though I think tea and coffee will be available. Friendly interaction between the bowls players and us can only be good for both clubs, so hope to see you there.

When the season ended in October I misguidedly thought that the Newsletter would take a winter break. But no! the committee continue to meet, Chairman, Captain and I still have things to report so herewith is the November issue – please let there be nothing to report in December as Christmas looms and my life gets busier and busier (thank God).

Lynn

Chairman's Newsletter report November 2023

Despite the termination of outdoor playing of Croquet for this year, your committee is still actively furthering the interests of the Club. As most of you are aware, traditionally we have endeavoured to keep in touch with each other over the winter, by arranging social luncheons. In the run up to Christmas we have one in November and a further one in December, details of which have been circulated by Diana Pettitt. There is also a joint social occasion with the Bowls Club in their Clubhouse, in December.

There has been a recent meeting between representatives of the Parish council, HPBC and ourselves, to discuss our long term future when our initial two year lease expires. All were agreed that the presence of the Croquet Club has been a positive development for the Bowls Club and Hatfield Peverel and District residents in general. The provision of a new community facility of a sport available to old and young alike has been welcomed. This augurs well for us





being able to make a permanent home at the Keith Bigden Memorial Ground. Arising out of the meeting, we have also been invited to attend the next assembly of all the users of the Memorial Ground, where practical matters can be discussed affecting all participants.

Best wishes to you all and thank you for the support you have given to the Club this year.

Neil Clark

The Boys Guttering

A work party lead by Geoff cleaned out the gutters to the lawn. Over 500 feet of the bottom lining was taken up for the winter months, the vertical sides cleared of moss and gutters brushed out.

Here you can see Geoff, Richard and Neil busily working while Chris took the photos!



Chris

Well done boys!

