



Ipswich Croquet Club

NEWSLETTER

Issue 23

September 2023



Drawing of a game of "pell-mell" between *Frederick V of the Palatinate* and *Frederick Henry, Prince of Orange*, by *Adriaen van de Venne*, c. 1620–1626.

The game of "Pell-mell" or Pall Mall is considered a precursor to Croquet. It was primarily played on an earth surface or cockle shells crushed into an earth surface – the lawn mower was not invented until the 1830s.

Progress at Trinity Park

Tempus fugit! It is six months since we moved to Trinity Park and the end of croquet's summer season is already in sight. We have now completed the summer lawn dressing and the first weed killing treatment. The turf is maturing better than expected and the courts are looking good.

However the feet of the boundary boards that divide the courts are leaving imprints and killing the grass. To prevent this we ask that from now on at the end of each session these boards are moved off the lawn to the side boundaries, and please ensure that they are positioned so as not to impede the pop-up sprinklers.

Continued...

Home-start in Suffolk - Sports Day 14th Sept.

Home-Start in Suffolk aims to give children the best possible start in life. It offers friendship and informal support to parents with young children 0-11.



Throughout the year, Home-start holds fund raising events and on Thursday, 14th September it will hold its first sports day at Trinity Park where local businesses and organisations have been invited to form teams and compete in various activities.

In addition to track events there will be individual challenges to test peoples' skills including croquet, netball, football, archery and golf.

ICC is delighted to support Home-start Suffolk and thanks it for the opportunity to showcase our club to local businesses as a potential venue for group and corporate events.

Opening day 23rd September

We would like to remind those who have not yet replied to the invitation that they should do so preferably before this Sunday, 10th September. This would greatly assist the organisers.

By now all those members who have replied in the affirmative should have received a request to bring a paper plate with buffet items to share. However if you are still not sure what to bring please contact Val Thurtle, Cilla Steed or Ria Hunt. If you have folding chairs or tables they too will be very helpful.

We will be setting up the buffet at 12.30 PM, and at 1 'o' clock the chairman, Brian Hunt, will give a welcoming speech to members and guests, and propose a bubbly toast to the success of our new venue.

After the buffet the courts will be open to all – especially guests – to play Golf Croquet. Because we expect a good number of people we ask that after one game those playing give way to those waiting to play.

Coaching

After a short and well deserved break, Valerie Harding is back offering free coaching on Thursday and Saturday mornings between 10 and 12.

To arrange a session please contact Valerie on 01394 246 876 or hardingvalerie233@gmail.com

The Croquet Gazette publishes tips on how to improve your game. Below are 9 points extracted from the latest issue.

1. *Keep an eye on the whole lawn quickly assessing the position of all four balls.*
2. *As you walk to the spot from which you will approach your strike ball in line with your objective, make up your mind what shot you will play.*
3. *Arrive at your strike position and play that shot. Do not change your mind; trust your instinct.*
4. *Indecision and changes of mind lead to poor strokes.*
5. *Think ahead. Before the last shot was played, you should already have a plan as to how to play your next shot. The plan may well have to be altered as a result of what has just happened, but having a plan is much better than no plan!*
6. *The brain is a wonderful thing. It can consider, analyse, and decide; and do all this at speed. Trust it.*
7. *Many of the shots we play in G.C are obvious; position for hoop, run hoop, or deal with the next ball to play, remove a danger ball, take advantage of a poorly placed ball, take or keep control of the hoop approach area.*
8. *In Doubles Games long discussion is unsettling and counterproductive. If you have a lower handicap don't always tell your partner what to do. Ask "What do you think?" Then support them. They will probably play their own idea better rather than a complicated alternative of yours.*
9. *Finally, keep it light and friendly.*

Social events

The next lunch at Flex Café will be held on Wednesday 27th September – turn up any time from 12 PM to 2 PM. This is a great opportunity to socialise with other members and, should you so wish, quiz attending committee members.

As always any suggestions you have for other get-togethers or social events are most welcome.

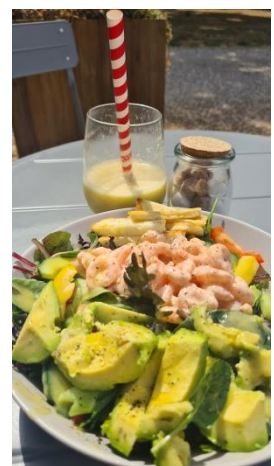
Tournaments, Cups and matches

In-house Tournaments

The all day Sunday singles tournaments in August and September were cancelled due to a lack of support. We hope October will generate more interest.

Congratulations to the winners of the following in-house tournaments:

- July Wednesday singles Richard Watts
- August Wednesday singles Michael Hills
- July Wednesday doubles Valerie Harding & Peter Mee



There are still places left in both September's singles and doubles tournaments. You can enter these handicap tournaments via the website or by entering your name on the lists in the pavilion. These are friendly events and all are welcome regardless of handicap or experience.

Victory cup Round 2 is now completed. Round 3 must be played by 30th September.

The Very Local League (VLL) in round 1. ICC, having won its away match, was a very close runner up to Mid Suffolk (Thurston). We now play Colchester at home on Friday, 8th September, and away on Friday, 15th September (to be confirmed).

Reminders



Site address **IP10 0AA**
what3words/// **waitress.escorting.landlords**

1. There are always jobs to be done to maintain the grounds and pavilion. If you are able to help please contact Martin Brown 07780 704 792, or croquetclub.ipswich@gmail.com
2. We still need volunteers for occasional mowing. If you can help please add your name to the roster in the pavilion.
3. Please feel free to use the suggestion box on the Members Page of our website. Among other things we are still looking for your suggestions with regard to social events.
4. Please don't forget to move the court dividing boundary boards off the lawn to the side boundaries after every session.

END

We would like your feedback. If you have any comments about this or other newsletters or would like to contribute to the newsletter please contact the editor—contact details at the bottom of this page. Copy and photographs should be submitted by Friday, 22nd September for inclusion in the October issue.