



Ipswich Croquet Club

# NEWSLETTER

Issue 24

October 2023

## *23<sup>rd</sup> September 2023 - a day to remember*



On Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2023 ICC celebrated the opening of its new croquet facility at Bucklesham Road. The sun shone warmly on members past and present plus their friends who, after a short speech from the Chairman, toasted the success of the new club before tucking into the excellent buffet provided by the members – many thanks!

During the morning and afternoon all 36 who attended were invited to play. The enjoyment of playing on good courts and the sense of achievement was palpable. The club has much to be proud of.

### *Finals Day*

The unusually high number of members away on holiday did not detract from the enjoyment of another beautifully warm and sunny day of croquet and socialising.

6 pairs competed for the traditional finals day Speed Trophy with a well-earned victory going to Lesley Horrocks and Mary Saunders – congratulations.

Unfortunately the Victory Cup final had to be played earlier as the worthy winner, Simon Riley, was unable to attend on the day. Well done Simon; and thank you to all those who took part in this competition during the summer season.

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Once the hoops had been put away many partook in the more recent tradition of a finals day drink at the Levington Ship. Finding a parking space proved difficult but most were successful and enjoyed rounding off the season in style and in good company.

### ***Home Start Sports Day***

On Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> September we hosted a croquet challenge at the Home Start Sports Day, Trinity Park. In glorious sunshine 13 corporates battled it out to become “Suffolk Sports Day Champions”. The event was a huge success and raised £4,800 to support Suffolk families.

The croquet challenge was also a great success with several participating corporates showing keen interest in ICC hosting team building and networking events next year. We will follow this up.

### ***Croquet England CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation)***

Earlier this month the Croquet Association (CA) held its last AGM and a resolution was passed to transfer all its remaining liabilities, obligations, and powers to Croquet England.

Croquet England becomes our new governing body and its more robust legal structure will allow it to act in its own name. Together with its recently acquired charitable status, this opens more avenues for improved commercial deals, sponsorship, and fund-raising.

### ***Why a change of name?***



The Croquet Association was formed in 1896. Since then numerous independent Associations have sprung up around the world including in Ireland, Wales, and Scotland. The new name ‘Croquet England’ is now seen to be more appropriate.



### ***So what does Croquet England do?***

- It develops the Laws of Croquet in collaboration with the World Croquet Federation
- Trains and approves referees
- Sets training standards and appoints Training Academies
- Recognises contribution and achievement at both club and member level

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### ***It supports Member Clubs by***

- Providing grants, loans and other practical assistance for new, developing and established clubs.
- Providing Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance for all member clubs
- Publishing information to assist coaches, managers, groundsmen, and all aspects of club management
- Promoting media coverage for the game

### ***It supports players by***

- Publishing a monthly Newsletter
- Publishing the Croquet Gazette, its bi-monthly magazine
- Developing and maintaining its website
- Training and approving a national network of coaches for all playing abilities
- Publishing equipment, training and tactical information
- Developing and supporting aspiring international players
- Running award schemes to encourage enterprising play and recognising the most improved players

### ***It promotes competition by***

- Co-ordinating and publishing the national tournament calendar
- Organising championship events and national inter-club competitions
- Working with the World Croquet Federation in scheduling International events and supporting their organisation through our clubs
- Selecting and supporting national teams and assisting players representing us at home and abroad
- Supervising the handicapping and player ranking systems

### ***ICC is a Member Club of Croquet England***

ICC members automatically become Standard Members of Croquet England at no extra cost. CE's Newsletter and Croquet Gazette are full of interesting and useful information. However to receive these publications and the other player benefits mentioned above, your permission to share your contact details with Croquet England is needed – and recommended.

As a member club we have also benefitted from a £5,000 grant to develop our new facility at Trinity Park, plus a £5,000 interest free loan and a promise of further support for further development.

### ***New Members***

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to all 9 of this year's new comers.

It is however important that we continue with our recruitment drive, and we ask that all current members help us by spreading the word at every opportunity.

The future of the club depends on us successfully promoting our sport to people of all ages and backgrounds.





Most of the world's top players started very young. So getting the family involved is a great way forward. Please remember that to encourage the very young to take up croquet, school age children and grandchildren of members are very welcome to play free of charge when accompanied by said members.

### ***Lunch at Flex***

Lunch at the Flex Café on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month is starting to prove quite popular. The table is booked from 12 noon to 2 PM. In order to ensure good service we would encourage those wishing to attend to let the organiser know in good time (Tuesday prior by lunchtime at the very latest), and if possible with a pre-order. Menus are posted in the pavilion.

The organiser is normally Ria. However this month (the lunch is on the 24<sup>th</sup>) Lucy Ratcliffe has kindly volunteered to step in while Ria is on holiday. Lucy can be contacted on **07901 544 568** or by email: [lucybird.ratcliffe@icloud.com](mailto:lucybird.ratcliffe@icloud.com)

### ***Tournaments and Matches***

***All-day singles tournament.*** Once again the October all-day singles tournament was cancelled due to lack of support. The committee is now considering how it might open this tournament up to neighbouring clubs who have shown interest. Brian Hunt, who has overall responsibility for all tournaments and matches, will be in touch shortly.

***October's half day doubles tournament.*** It is not too late - there are still places left for next Wednesday's doubles tournament (25/10/2023). As usual entries are based on first come first served. If you would like to join this tournament please contact Simon Holloway without delay. *Tel/text: 07973 712 255 or  
Email: [simonr.holloway@gmail.com](mailto:simonr.holloway@gmail.com)*

***Very Local League (VLL).*** On the 8<sup>th</sup> September we were at home to Colchester. Unfortunately, after a most enjoyable day, we came second (Ipswich 2, Colchester 9)

On 29<sup>th</sup> September we played the last of this season's VLL matches away to Colchester. This was a very close fought match which we won (Ipswich 6, Colchester 5)

***Wednesday singles tournaments.*** In future these tournaments will be run by Brian Hunt. As always you can enter via the website, the pavilion notice board or by contacting Brian direct. *Tel/text: 07879 696 544 or  
Email: [brianria@btinternet.com](mailto:brianria@btinternet.com)*

### ***Suggestion Box***

We received the following 3 suggestions from members in September's Suggestion Box

1. A member suggested that in addition to the suggestion box on the website, an actual box should be installed in the pavilion. Thanks - this is now in hand.

2. A member observed that without proper toilet facilities, attracting new members, corporate and group events, and hosting inter-club matches and tournaments could prove difficult.

He/she suggested that, rather than delay the installation of proper toilet facilities, the committee should consider approaching members to help with financial bridging to speed up this project. Loans would be repaid from the grant which will be released on completion of the work.

Again many thanks – this has been put to the committee.

3. A member has experienced difficulties signing into the Members Page on our website. If you have had a similar experience please contact Martin Brown who will try to resolve any issues.

*Tel: 07780 704 792 or email: martinbrown.mb21@gmail.com*

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*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, 27<sup>th</sup> October for inclusion in the November issue.*