



Ipswich Croquet Club



NEWSLETTER

Issue 22

July 2023

Progress at Trinity Park

Mowing After a couple of unforeseen delays, we are now the proud owners of a Brilliant (that's the name) lawn mower with trailing seat.



This is a 24" reconditioned Atco Royale that has been specifically modified for croquet lawns. It should greatly improve lawn speed and is capable, once the grass is properly established, of cutting to 3mm which is international championship standard.

However we are still looking for volunteers to assist with the mowing. Until now we owe a great deal of thanks to just 3 or 4 people. To attract more volunteers the committee is prepared to consider refunding mileage expenses for those who have travelled some distance and who carry out a full mowing session.

Lawn condition

Our continued nightly watering is starting to pay dividends. The grass is maturing well, and has received most complimentary comments from Duncan Hector. Duncan advises croquet clubs throughout the UK on lawn care and construction, and has arguably one of the best croquet courts in the country at his home in Great Dunham, Norfolk.

Continued...

It is now time for the summer feed and a dose of weed killer which, weather permitting, we intend to complete within the next week or so. If you have a spare hour or two please don't hesitate to put your name forward to help with these reasonably easy tasks – it would be greatly appreciated.

New toilets



The next stage of our site development is to install toilet facilities and drainage. This requires approval by building regulations and additional planning consent. We hope these do not cause prolonged delays, and we will keep you informed of progress.

Catering We would like to remind all members that tea, coffee, chocolate, sugar and powdered milk (if you prefer fresh please bring your own) are available in the pavilion's kitchen unit, together with crockery and cutlery. Kettle/drinking water is available from the tap on the side of the water tank. Please help yourselves and offer a cuppa to your guests. However, we do ask that you do your own washing up before going home.

The committee is looking to provide a small fridge – if you have one to donate that would be even better! The provision of a sink unit and other kitchen equipment is being considered as part of the next phase of development, and as funds become available.

Opening Day 23rd September

The committee has decided on a “soft” opening for members, those involved with the site development and a few special guests to celebrate moving to the new site – full details will be made available nearer the time.

A more grand affair is planned for when we open all four courts. By which time the lawn should be in excellent playing condition, proper toilet facilities installed and the club will have something special to show off to the croquet world, potential new members and the wider public.

Coaching

On behalf of the club we would like to thank Valerie Harding for her sterling work with regard to coaching. Valerie will be taking a short well-earned break from the regular coaching sessions during August.

In the meantime she hopes that those who have attended her sessions will keep up the good work and increase their enjoyment of the game.

Some members have expressed an interest in Association Croquet (AC). In the wider world of croquet this is still seen by many to be 'proper croquet'. As a croquet club we are keen to encourage both Golf and Association.

A notice will be put up in the pavilion. If you are interest in learning more about AC please put your name down and we will organise a few introductory sessions.

Social events

Lunch at Flex Café on the last Wednesday of each month provides a great opportunity to socialise with members outside of one's own playing circle.

Last month the first of these lunches was most enjoyable and we hope more will join in as the event becomes more established. The second lunch is this Wednesday and if you have not already booked and would like to join us, please let Ria know without delay.



The committee is considering other social events and welcomes your ideas.

Tournaments, Cups and matches

June Tournaments

The half day singles handicap was won by Valerie Harding with David Wright the runner up.

July Tournaments

The all day Sunday singles was won by Ria Hunt and Simon Riley was the runner up.

The half day Wednesday singles was won by Richard Watts with Martin Hart coming a close second.

Many thanks to all who entered and congratulations to the winners and runners up.

The July doubles tournament will be held this Wednesday 26th July and we believe there is still room for more entries. If you have not yet entered and wish to do so please contact Simon Holloway ASAP.

Victory cup Just one more game to complete round 1. This must be played by 31st July and round 2 is to be completed by Saturday, 30th September.

Interclub Matches

The Club Secretary has written to all neighbouring croquet clubs inviting them to friendly matches both home and away. As yet there has been no response but we will keep you informed.

The **Very Local League** (VLL) consists of home and away handicap matches between Colchester, Mid Suffolk (Thurston), Unity (Sudbury) and Ipswich. Teas are provided by the home team.

If you fancy having a go please add your name to the VLL list in the pavilion – previous match experience is not necessary. A team will be selected from this list. For more information please speak to/text/email Brian Hunt.

The final details of these matches are to be confirmed. Provisional dates are:

Round 1.

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| 1. Thurs 3 rd or Fri 4 th August | Ipswich (Home) v. Mid Suffolk (Away) |
| 2. Friday, 18 th August | Mid Suffolk (Home) v. Ipswich (Away) |
| 3. Friday, 4 th August | Unity v. Colchester |
| 4. Friday, 18 th August | Colchester v. Unity |

Round 2.

The winners of 1 and 2 will play the winners of 3 and 4 and likewise the losers.

5. Friday, 1st September
6. Friday, 15th September

The first match is only 2 weeks away. Please enter ASAP.

Reminders



1. The combination of padlock on the road gate has reverted to 4 digits '3110'
2. A list of odd jobs to be done is on the noticeboard in the pavilion - your help is always appreciated.
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.

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, 5th August for inclusion in the August issue.