



Ipswich Croquet Club

NEWSLETTER

Issue 12

August 2022

Trinity Park

After early disappointments and frustrating bureaucratic delays, your committee is delighted to report that it has at last agreed terms and signed a 25 year lease for a 1.61 acre site at Trinity Park (the Suffolk Showground) on the north side of the Bucklesham Road.

Here planning consent has been granted to construct 4 full sized irrigated courts with club pavilion, equipment store, toilet facilities and ample parking. Mains water, electricity and Wi-Fi will be laid on. There is also sufficient space to extend the club's accommodation if needed at a later date.

This new facility, which will be open 7 days a week, will give the club a secure home and tremendous opportunities for the future.

Our aim is to create the best lawns in East Anglia and place ICC among the top croquet venues in the UK, eventually hosting district, national and perhaps even international matches and tournaments; but most importantly a place where our members can enjoy playing socially, or competitively if they so wish.

The construction of the new facility will be paid for from our own savings (we have set aside £40K) plus grants, sponsorships and initially an interest free loan from the Croquet Association. The money required to maintain the lawns and the facility in the future will come from the club's annual income.

ICC believes in affordable croquet for its members and will therefore look to increase its income by increasing the number of members, hiring the courts out to more associations/societies such as U3A and Just Good Friends, hosting more corporate and group events and acquiring sponsors.

Unfortunately we have missed much of the grass growing season. Nevertheless work on the new site will start as soon as possible and with a generous helping of good luck we might be able to move this autumn.

(Continued)

If you would like more information about the new site or the lease, please don't hesitate to ask a member of the Trinity Park subcommittee. (Brian Hunt, Bernard Button, Martin Brown)

Nacton Playing Field

Nacton has very kindly offered to extend our agreement so we can stay where we are until our new site is ready.

Rebranding the club

The club's new venue marks the start of a new era for ICC. The opportunities that four full sized top quality lawns will provide makes this an ideal time to rebrand and present ICC as a club fit for the 21st century - one worthy of investment grants and sponsorships.

As part of the marketing strategy to relaunch ICC we commissioned a new logo which is displayed at the top of this newsletter. Although the club boasts a long and distinguished history, outside of the immediate world of croquet ICC remains almost unknown.

The brief therefore was not to produce an emblem to run alongside the name but to enhance the name itself in a memorable and easily identifiable form. After intense committee scrutiny this design was trialled at the Suffolk Show where it received a most encouraging response. It is intentionally quite different and we hope you like it.

Tournaments

We would like to see more of the higher handicaps and newer members enter our Wednesday morning tournaments – they are not intensely competitive but good fun and a chance to get to know and play with other members. Singles tournaments are played on the second Wednesday of each month, and doubles on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Any committee member will be happy to tell you more about them (Brian Hunt, Ria Hunt, Bernard Button, Martin Brown, Simon Down, Simon Holloway).

This season's Tournament Results

Congratulations to the following winners.

13/04	Singles	Brian Hunt
27/04	Doubles	Ruth Parrett and Paul Homer
11/05	Singles	Brian Hunt
25/05	Doubles	Ria Hunt and Simon Riley
08/06	Singles	Chris Minett
22/06	Doubles	Lucy Ratcliffe and Simon Riley
13/07	Singles	Brian Hunt
27/07	Doubles	Tim Parrett and Martin Brown

The full results are published in the '*Members Area*' of our website.

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Matches

Until we get our own grounds the number of matches we are able to enter is limited. However this summer we are taking part in 'The Very Local League'.

Match Fixtures

01/07	Mid Suffolk	Away	Winners Mid Suffolk (8/3)
14/07	Unity	Home	Unity (7/4)
27/07	Colchester	Home (match played away)	Colchester (7/4)
11/08	Mid Suffolk	Home	
23/08	Unity	Away	
09/09	Colchester	Away	

Participants and their results are published in the 'Members Area' of our website.

If anyone would like to play in a match, please speak to Brian Hunt.

Coaching

Valerie Harding is a qualified Croquet Association coach and has agreed to come out of retirement for a short while to give, especially to the newer members, a better understanding of our sport, its tactics and shot making.

She is happy to help individuals or groups. Valerie's preferred method of coaching is to watch you play and intervene with help and suggestions. To arrange to meet Valerie please contact her direct (email: hardingvalerie233@gmail.com or tel: 01394 246 876).

We highly recommend coaching session(s) with Valerie and they are free!

Social Events

Over recent years the club's social events have all but ground to a halt for many reasons not least the pandemic. However it is now time to rebuild this side of the club's activities and we invite all members to submit their suggestions. In the first instance please send them to Ria (email: croquetclub.ipswich@gmail.com) who will pass them to committee. Alternatively you can submit your suggestions in the 'Suggestion Box' in the 'Members Area' of our website.

Newsletter

Several members have requested that we increase the frequency of the newsletter to keep you more up to date with the events of the club. We have therefore decided to make it a monthly publication and should there be something of exceptional importance we will issue an interim supplement. We would also encourage members to become regular visitors to our website, especially the 'Members Area', where news is updated more frequently.

If you have any news, personal or otherwise that you feel would be of interest to others, please let editor know, and likewise if there is a topic you would like us to cover (editor's contact details bottom page 1). Please also feel free to submit your own articles.

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Suggestion Box

The following was submitted in the July suggestion box.

I feel that what the Club lacks, sadly, is communication between the Committee and the Members. We have not had a newsletter since January, unless I have missed one.

Perhaps one of the Committee Members could run a newsletter every two months or so. This would keep us up to date on the progression of our new grounds, and perhaps included could be, not only the winners of Club tournaments on Wednesdays, but also details of League matches. Who was in the team and how they did! May be a bit of information from the C.A Magazine. What help will be needed when the time to move comes.

We have many new Members who know very little about croquet, and apart from telling them which ball to hit and where, they are given little information about the bigger picture of the game we all enjoy.

Please keep the suggestions coming – we are listening!

In the next issue

Included in the next issue will be:

- Progress at Trinity Park
- How members can help the club move forward
- Golf Croquet Advantage Play

...and hopefully information and articles submitted by members!

We would appreciate your feedback. If you have any comments about this or future newsletters please send them to the editor.

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