



Ipswich Croquet Club Newsletter

Issue 9

August 2021

Brian Hunt -Chairman- writes

First of all, apologies for there being such a delay since the last newsletter. The delay was caused because the committee has been waiting for positive news about our move and, regrettably, this still remains the case.

After the AGM, a move to Bramford Golf Club seemed to be the way forward. Negotiations were going well and it got to the point where contracts were being drawn up. At this point, firstly, the committee discovered that there were concerns with the golf club and secondly the charge we were going to be asked to pay for rent was suddenly considerably increased. The committee felt that there was no choice but to walk away.

It was then decided to follow up an offer made by one of the Board of the Ipswich Sports Club for a site in Tuddenham Road. In principle, the croquet club would become part of the ISC organisation, but would retain autonomy as far as croquet was concerned. Negotiations have been on hold for two months now, as the founder member of the ISC and a board member has been ill in hospital. A further complication has arisen, as the ISC has received a counter offer from a school, for the same piece of land. The good news is that the Club Manager is on our side, as is the Board member who made the initial contact.

We also have a plan B in case Ipswich Sports Club does not come good. Trinity Park plans to develop a sporting and camping complex on the outskirts of the park, which eventually will have its own facilities. We have already submitted a planning application for 4 lawns, and expect an answer next month. With our newly acquired funds we believe Trinity Park can be made into a good playable location by July/August next year.

Fynn Valley have asked us to move out by the beginning of November. If you know of any sports facility, that may have a suitable area for a temporary lawn, we could use from November onwards, please let us know.

Financially, the club is in a very fortunate position, with over £30,000 funds available. We believe that this will be sufficient to support the move to a new home and other liabilities.

At this point I should tell you that one of our committee, David Wicks is about to undergo treatment for leukaemia. We understand that the prognosis is very positive, and we wish him all the very best and a speedy recovery.

Martin Brown – Membership Secretary- writes:

Members News

Best wishes to ICC Juniors

The day has finally come for our young members to move on. We would like to thank them for the considerable contribution they have made to our club and congratulate them on their many achievements in the world of croquet.

Albie, Eden, Henry and Ryan all attended Farlingaye High School where Jarrod Coutts (New Zealand international croquet player) introduced them to our sport and coached them to a very high standard. When he returned to New Zealand his good work was carried on by Celia Pearce.

Among the many achievements Albie and Eden competed in the last Under 21 World GC Championships in Nottingham - Albie made it to the last 16. Ryan, Eden and Albie won the National Schools AC championships and Albie was runner up in the Junior AC championships. Henry reached the C Level GC national finals and finished in the top five. After the recent East Anglia Open, Albie's handicap was reduced to **-2**; very well done.

Now Albie is off to Shoeburyness to take up an apprenticeship with QinetiQ, Eden is going to Lincoln University to study medicine and Henry takes up an apprenticeship with BT at Hatfield. We are extremely sorry to see them go and wish them every success in their new careers. If at any time they find themselves back in this area we hope they will drop in for a game or three.

Phil Eardley

Congratulations to Phil on his CA appointment as AC International Performance Director. We wish him every success.

David Wicks

Congratulations to David for winning the Peterborough AC Handicap.

Valerie Harding

We were delighted to hear that Valerie decided to stay in the area and has moved to Felixstowe. We wish her ever happiness in her new home. Valerie is an experienced and particularly wily croquet player and we now look forward to many more challenging games.

Saturday mornings

Much of our success in signing up new members can be attributed to our Saturday morning Taster Sessions. However, we have decided to put recruitment advertising on hold while we sort out the club's relocation. We will continue to offer these sessions to any interested party but as from this Saturday open them up to all members as additional Club Sessions - we are aware that some members find attending on weekdays difficult.

Social Events

Vineyard Visit (September)

Simon Holloway is organising a vineyard visit in September. This promises to be a great day out. If such an excursion would interest you please let Simon know so he has an idea of numbers involved. (simonr.holloway@gmail.com).

Finals Day (Sunday 17th October)

This event will start at 10AM and all members are welcome to join us on this social occasion. Full details will be published on our website and in the pavilion.

The programme includes The Speed Doubles Tournament and the Victory Cup final. The Speed Doubles is open to all members, but limited to 16 people. If you wish to participate and avoid disappointment let the organiser (Brian Hunt) know as soon as possible. Also for a bit of fun we will be running the 'Longest Hoop' and 'Longest Jump Shot' competitions.

To round off the day we propose to repair to The Westerfield Railway for a social drink, and for those who are still feeling energetic, a game of petanque (boule).

Christmas lunch

We have placed an initial booking at the Westerfield Railway for our Christmas Lunch. They can cater for up to 90 people. As soon as their Christmas menu is available (the end of this month) we will circulate it with a proposed date.

If anyone has news or would like to contribute to the next newsletter please contact the editor Ria Hunt at croquetclub.ipswich@gmail.com