



Ipswich Croquet Club



NEWSLETTER

Issue 26

January 2024



January doubles tournament

Congratulations to Valerie and Anita – winners of the January doubles.

Progress at Trinity Park

The club has now been at Trinity for 10 months and we have learnt a lot about lawn care and maintenance. Although there is more to do especially at the top end of courts 2 and 4, we can be justifiably proud of what we have achieved. Compared to other clubs with lawns of similar age we are well ahead thanks mainly to our hardworking volunteers. The club salutes you!

The down side is that well-manicured lawns cost money to maintain. Therefore during 2024 your committee will turn its attention to increasing the club's regular income to ensure high standards and secure the club's future.

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To this end the committee has put together a comprehensive business plan and will launch a marketing campaign to achieve its objectives. The two main sources of income are members' subscriptions and hiring out the facility to institutions such as U3A and Just Good Friends; and to groups and corporates for social, networking and team building events.

Obviously the club's facilities also play an important role in attracting and retaining club members, and attracting group and corporate events. New toilets remain at the top of our list of priorities.

However more about that at our March 3rd AGM. In the meantime we are preparing a summary of the business plan which will be circulated to all members to view prior to 3rd March.

The committee

The most important aspect of the AGM is the chance for members to have their say in who will run the club. The committee could certainly do with more help and is looking to recruit people with hands-on abilities and fresh ideas.

At the AGM both Brian Hunt (Chairperson) and Ria Hunt (Club Secretary) are standing down – Brian is putting himself forward for re-election as an ordinary committee member.

The Chair and Club Secretary are key positions which in an ideal world are filled by people with a thorough knowledge and experience of all aspects of the club and croquet. However in a club of our size such expertise is not often readily available.

Also standing for re-election to the committee are Simon Down and Martin Brown. Val Thurtle has decided not to stand again due to her other commitments. Bernard Button is midterm and will remain Club Treasurer.

We thank those who are stepping down for their much appreciated contribution.

All members are encouraged to give serious consideration as to who they would like to propose for the various positions. Proposal forms will be circulated by Ria. Before nominating anyone please ensure he/she is willing to stand. If you wish to put yourself forward please find a proposer. Finally to help members make a decision, please include a short statement describing the experience and benefits you feel your nominee will bring to the club.

New Members

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Colin de la Rue, John Skinner and Stephen McCrum - our 3 latest members who have joined the club since the last newsletter.

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Matches and tournaments

The new croquet season starts on 1st April and booking for matches and tournaments against other clubs is now open. Most of these events are very friendly and provide a great opportunity to visit other clubs and play different people. There is a variety of singles and team events for different standards of play – so there is something for everyone from novices to experts.

Why not give it a go? If you are interested and would like to enter as an individual or play in the 2 league teams the club has entered, or would like more information, please speak to Brian Hunt (07443 526 553 or 01473 659711).

Message from the club's coach

G.C. Coaching Weather permitting, I hope to start coaching soon. Please let me know if you would like to come to one of the sessions of not more than four persons per session.

They will be held on Saturday mornings and will be for six sessions per person. If you cannot make Saturdays, please discuss this with me to see if we can arrange another time.

Meanwhile I would encourage you to download from Croquet England <http://www.croquet.org.uk>, an article entitled “The Basic Rules of Golf Croquet,” which is easy to understand.

Handicap cards Croquet England suggests that these are checked every year and I shall be doing this shortly. Please ensure that the results of all tournaments, including Club tournaments, in which you have played during the last year, are entered on your card. If you have not played in tournaments before and will be this year, please let me know and I will issue you with a card and a handicap.

Thank you.

Valerie Harding

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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, 10th February for inclusion in the February issue.