



# Ipswich Croquet Club Newsletter

Issue 10

September 2021

**No stone unturned.** In our effort to acquire a new location for the club we have left no stone unturned. We sent scouts all over the UK in search of new accommodation. The response has been remarkable – often a testament to imagination and ingenuity as is evident in this recent communication.

Hi,

We have found the ideal lawns for our ambitious club with ideal weather to keep the lawns well-watered at no cost. As an added bonus the lawns are mowed using a sustainable source of low cost labour – ‘baa baa’

With best wishes from a wind and rain lashed Skye

Lizzie and Bernard

## ***Relocation progress***

### ***Ipswich Sports Club***

Initially this was the best offer we had received. ISC has excellent facilities and is well located. We weighed the Pros and Cons of losing our independence to become an integral part of ISC and on the information we had at the time concluded the Pros had it.

However ISC’s subsequent tardiness in progressing negotiations, together with its apparent reluctance to share information while making up its mind, leaves a big question mark over the type of relationship we would have and the desirability of being run by an organisation apparently happy to keep us in the dark despite constant prodding.

Furthermore the area on offer is for 2 courts (possibly 3 at a squeeze) which would limit future development of the croquet facility.

### Trinity Park

The area on offer at Trinity Park is at present void of facilities and out of sight from passing traffic. However Trinity Park has plans to develop this land to include a sports and camping area with shared toilets, showers etc. In addition water and electricity will be connected directly to our pavilion and courts.

The land is flat and well drained reducing the costs of lawn creation. There is room for 4 full sized courts and a pavilion large enough to incorporate a toilet, a small kitchen and an annex in which to entertain visiting teams.

At Fynn Valley our courts are below standard for AC or for hosting regional and national competitions. Trinity Park gives us an opportunity to change Ipswich Croquet Club from a second rate croquet club to a/the major East Anglia club large enough to cater for both social and competitive play.

With an eye to the future Trinity Park now appears to provide us with the most opportunity. We have submitted a planning application for four courts. Trinity Park is drawing up an agreement for discussion, and as soon as planning is granted (expected shortly) they are happy for us to proceed with lawn preparation without further delay.

### **Winter quarters**

Unfortunately neither ISC nor Trinity Park have suitable areas on which to create temporary winter quarters while new lawns are being established. We estimate the new lawns will be ready for play by 1<sup>st</sup> August next year.

Your committee has a few possibilities in the pipe line and continues to search and investigate. However at the moment we have no news to report. Despite Fynn Valley's initial reluctance to extend our agreement, we will ask them to reconsider a temporary arrangement once we are committed to a permanent move.

**We will endeavour to keep you informed of progress as it happens.**

### **Finals Day 17<sup>th</sup> October**

Finals Day is primarily a social get-together at the end of the summer season and a chance to catch up with other members. There will also be an opportunity to participate in light-hearted competition. We hope as many members as possible will attend for all or part of the day.

### In the past

Finals Day was an opportunity to watch the finals being played for the club's various cups and trophies. Unfortunately due to the recent decline in members playing tournaments and competitions, and in particular Association Croquet, many of these trophies have become redundant.

We hope this will be rectified when we move to a new home with better lawns and facilities.

### 2021 Programme

Throughout the day you can try your hand at 'running the longest hoop' and 'the longest jump through a hoop'.

10.00	Final of the Victory Cup
10.00	Draw for the traditional Finals Day Speed Doubles tournament
10.15	Speed Doubles tournament starts
12.30 to 13.00	Lunch break (bring your own food and drink and share if you feel so inclined)
13.00	Speed Doubles resumes
15.00	Presentation of trophies and prizes
15.30	Depart for the Westerfield Railway for a social drink, tea etc. and if you are still feeling energetic participate in a friendly game of Boule (Pentanque)

### ***Christmas Lunch***

The Railway's Christmas menu is now on display in the pavilion. A date is yet to be decided but as soon as it has been we will email the menu and pre-order form to all members. The price for 2 courses is £18.50, 3 courses £22.50 and a £10 deposit is required. All members and their partners are welcome.

### ***Members News***

Congratulations to our new members Gary and Mandy on their marriage. We wish them all the very best for a long and happy life together.