



# NEWSLETTER

Issue 13

September 2022

## *Trinity Park Update*

Wednesday, 17th August 2022 was the day we had all been waiting for. The day when at last work started on the construction of our new croquet facility at Trinity Park.



The morning was hot and dry and the contractors faced desert like conditions. The 'field top maker', the machine which planes off all existing organic matter, created a veritable dust storm into which for a while the collecting vehicles completely disappeared.

Then, much to the relief of all, the skies opened, the dust settled and everyone was refreshed albeit very wet.

The clearing work continued on Thursday. Then on Friday and Monday the top soil was loosened to allow any rain to soak in and make life easier for the levelling process which is scheduled to start week commencing 5th September.

From the footprints in the newly exposed sandy soil it became apparent that the rabbits were having a grand time.

So while we wait for the laser grader to start levelling, the contractors will make a start on the rabbit fencing. This 300 metre long fence will surround the entire playing area and hopefully keep the little beggars out.

*(Continued)*



## *Moving the pavilion*

Our Trinity Park contractors do not want the pavilion on site until the ground has been levelled. However as soon as levelling is complete the pavilion will be moved.

At that stage we will need volunteers to dismantle it (some have already signed up), load it onto the transporter at Fynn Valley and unload at Trinity Park. Trinity Park has generously offered to provide the transport saving us a considerable expense.

Further help will then be needed to re-assemble and repair the pavilion—a new roof is almost inevitable. We will be in touch with all members when dates are known. In the main the help needed will be for lifting and carrying—a bit at a time for most of us—and to provide tea and refreshments for the labourers.

## *Help going forward*

A new facility with 4 quality lawns means that our membership capacity and ability to host more tournaments, matches and events will be greatly increased. In turn this means more work for the committee and its supporters.

A list of areas where help will be needed is being compiled and will be circulated. If, in the meantime, you have any particular skills and/or experience which you feel would benefit the club, and are willing to give us some of your time, please get in touch with the Brian Hunt (Chair).

## *A Date for your diary*    **THURSDAY, 1st DECEMBER**

Talking about Christmas lunch in the height of summer doesn't seem right. However the hospitality industry have started taking bookings.

Last year The Railway, Westerfield looked after us very well with good food and good service. The lunch was enjoyed by all who attended and so we have booked the Railway again for this year.

Brian Hunt is this year's organiser so please let him know if you would like to attend. The menu will be circulated as soon as it is published. A £10 deposit will be required with order.

## *Tournaments*

We would like to repeat our plea in the last newsletter for more members to take part in these very friendly and casual tournaments. Particularly the doubles tournaments which are at present running at only 50% capacity.

**Doubles** tournaments take place on the 4th Wednesday of each month and are run by Simon Holloway.

**Singles** tournaments take place on the 2nd Wednesday of each month and are run by Martin Brown.

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You can also enter any tournament from the *Members page* of our website or by emailing: croquetclub.ipswich@gmail.com,

### ***This month's tournament results***

Congratulations to the winners.

10/08                Singles                Chris Minett

24/08                Doubles                Brian Hunt & Simon Holloway

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

## ***Match Results***

'The Very Local League'.

### ***Match Fixtures***

01/07                Mid Suffolk                Away

14/07                Unity                Home

27/07                Colchester                Home (match played away)

11/08                Mid Suffolk                Home

23/08                Unity                Away

09/09                Colchester                Away

### ***Winners***

Mid Suffolk (8/3)

Unity (7/4)

Colchester (7/4)

*To be re-arranged*

Unity (10/1)

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.

## ***Advantage Golf Croquet***

For some time now, the Croquet Association has had serious concerns about Golf Croquet handicap play. The system of free turns changes the strategy of the game. How free turns are used can become more important than the tactics and skilled shot making that form the very basis of Golf Croquet. In effect Handicap Golf Croquet can become an entirely different game to that of level play.

Advantage Golf Croquet is the CA's answer. The CA's intention is to eventually replace the free turn system altogether. Trials of Advantage play started some 2 years ago and, although clubs have been slow to take it up, it is likely in the foreseeable future to become the only handicap system for interclub matches.

So what is Advantage Golf Croquet?

Well to start there are no free turns. As with the old handicap system each hoop run scores 1 point and the game is won by the first player to score 7. However in Advantage play each player has a starting score based on their index (handicap). Therefore the number of hoops each player has to run to reach a score of 7 and win the game is not necessarily the same.

As already mentioned the starting score is determined by a player's handicap. A chart, similar in style to the one used to calculate points won in level play, determines each player's starting score.

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For example the chart shows that if a 10 handicapper plays a 5 handicapper, the 10 handicapper has a starting score of +1 (this means this player needs to only run 6 hoops to reach a score of 7 and win), and the 5 handicapper has a starting score of -2 (this means he/she has to run 9 hoops to reach a score of 7 and win).

In doubles the handicaps of both players in each team are added together and then halved.

Clearly the club needs to trial Advantage GC before jumping to conclusions. Perhaps with the consent of all players on the day we should trial Advantage at one of our forthcoming in-house tournaments.

## *Coaching*

We would like to remind members that Valerie Harding is offering coaching in Golf Croquet. To arrange to meet Valerie please contact her direct (email: [hardingvalerie233@gmail.com](mailto:hardingvalerie233@gmail.com) or tel: 01394 246 876).

Monday mornings can be a good time for coaching—the courts are often free.

## *Suggestion Box*

There were no suggestion submitted in August.

Please keep the suggestions coming—we are listening.

## *In the next issue*

- Progress at Trinity Park
- How you can help your committee

**Is there a topic you would like covered?**

END

*We would appreciate your feedback. If you have any comments about this or future newsletters or would like an article published in a newsletter please contact the editor—contact details at the bottom of the front page.*