

# BAKEWELL CROQUET CLUB

## AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2022

Our playing season is drawing to an end. There cannot be many more dry days for croquet, although we played into November in 2021!!

### Members

I think we have had a good year so far with supportive members and plenty of croquet play available. Forty-two members renewed their membership with the Club after the 2022 AGM in March, and we have welcomed six new members during the playing season: James Churchill, Martin Emery, Bob Jackson, David and Sue Park, and Andy and Eleanor Roberts. This makes us one of the largest memberships among the East Midlands Federation of Croquet Clubs. We also have three social members, who, for assorted reasons do not play croquet now, but are on our mailing list, kept informed of what is happening at the Club and are welcome to join in any social events. It has been good to see them in the Pavilion at home matches and our Club tournaments.

### On the lawns

#### Matches

##### *East Midlands League*

In the EMFCC league our first team met stiff opposition in the second division so held their position but were unable to move back to Division 1. The B team have had a spectacular year, coming top of Division 3, so they should join the A team in Division 2 next year, unless the structure is rearranged, to cater for any change in the number of teams wishing to play in the league in 2023. Whether the B team will stay in Division 2 remains to be seen, as we have a history of promotion and then relegation! George Wolfe and Dorothy Evans have done a sterling job organising, respectively the A and B teams.

#### *Friendlies*

In the previous two years we held very few friendly matches because of Covid restrictions, but this year we have enjoyed several. Chris Shepley kindly agreed to organise our friendly matches this year. He has been on a steep learning curve with no acts to follow from the previous two years and has done an amazing job. We have played matches both at home and away. A first was a three-way match on our lawns with

Bakewell, Darley Dale, and St Elphins. With teams of six players, each Club player played with a Club player from another Club and against a similar pair. Without bragging, the Bakewell team won the highest number of hoops overall, on the day and everyone appeared to enjoy the event. Something to repeat next year?? Another first, was an invite from Brodsworth Croquet Club, for an excellent game, in an already known setting.



Some of the players in our 3-way match with St Elphins and Darley Dale. Photo, courtesy of Ann Riley



A friendly match with Darley Dale Croquet Club, at Darley Dale. Photo, courtesy Jenny Emby

#### Tournaments

We held our two internal Club tournaments for the Founder's Cup and the Chairman's Cup, well organised by Rosie Glass. The new start time of 11am worked well for the first tournament. Unfortunately, we had to start even earlier for the second tournament as a cricket club had booked the ground from 1pm. Everything was finished by 1pm, and then the cricket club did not turn up to

play! However, it showed that with good organisation from Rosie we can get through a tournament very quickly if necessary. The winners of the two cups are both members who have not won before, although Martin Emery could not have done so as he only joined us late this season. Our congratulations to Ruth Barnes and Martin Emery who won the Founder's Cup and Chairman's Cup, respectively.



Ruth Barnes winner of the Founder's Cup.  
Photo, courtesy Jenny Emby



Martin Emery winner of the Chairman's Cup.  
Photo, courtesy Ann Riley



Croquet tournament in progress at Bakewell Recreation Ground. Photo, courtesy Jenny Emby

### Singles League

The singles league has been run very efficiently again this year by Ruth Barnes and, from what I have observed, members have been keen to play their games. The winners of the three divisions for the first half of the season were Tim Spray, George Wolfe, and David Park. The singles league for the second half of the playing season, will finish at the end of this playing session.

### Croquet Coaching

We held no formal coaching sessions this year. However, at the request of Ashford in the Water WI ladies, Ruth Barnes, Jenny Emby, Ann Riley, George Wolfe, and myself, gave a group of ladies a quick introduction to golf croquet with some coaching. A coached game was then played. Our reward for this was a delicious strawberry tea and also a glass of fizz to toast the new King.



Croquet with Ashford in the Water WI ladies.... Photo, courtesy Ruth Barnes



... and tea afterwards. Photo, courtesy Jenny Emby

### Other Croquet Events and Activities

#### Social Croquet

Both the Oaksedge Barbecue with Croquet on Jean and David Peters' field and Tea with Croquet in Anne and Tim Spray's garden took place. Based on the numbers participating, these two events



are 'not to be missed' occasions. Even if the croquet is a little underwhelming, the meals afterwards are exceptionally enjoyable.



Croquet at Ann and Tim's .....



.....and tea afterwards, Photos, courtesy of Jenny Emby

### Coming Next

Our playing season is drawing to a close, as the lawns become too wet or muddy for play, Last year we were able to play into November, we may or may not achieve that this year. When the committee make the decision that the lawns are no longer playable, members will receive an email with the last date of play. At that last session play will end with more than a cup of tea and a biscuit. We invite all members to join us in the Pavilion,

bringing something edible to share, as in the tournament events.

The Club does not then go into hibernation until next Summer. In January and February there will be a morning walk somewhere fairly local in the Peak District, and about 3-4 miles long. The two walks will start at a pub and finish there for lunch. Members who do not wish to walk, can then join with the walkers for a social lunch. More details on dates, times and locations will follow.

We also hope to play some winter indoor croquet at Fittism, as in previous years.

Finally, a date for your diary. Bakewell Croquet Club's **Annual General Meeting** in **2023** is on **Wednesday March 8th**, with tea and coffee at 7pm, followed by the formal meeting at 7.30pm. The meeting is at the Friends' Meeting House, Bakewell.

Jean Peters  
8<sup>th</sup> October, 2022