

BAKEWELL CROQUET CLUB

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2019

The weather has not been as kind to us, croquet players, as it was in 2018. I hope that everyone played as much croquet as they could, weather permitting. Unfortunately, the season is now drawing to an end, but we will keep the lawns open as long as the weather and lawns allow. You will receive an email when the lawns are no longer fit for play and the playing season is over.

Overall, the Croquet Club has had a good season with lots of activity, both on and off the lawns.

Members

We were very sorry to lose two members this year. Bob Nursaw sadly passed away in September. Several members were able to attend the service of thanksgiving for his life at the Methodist Church.

Steve Marsh moved to Scotland in September, although at present he plans to visit Bakewell each month to continue guitar lessons with his students. Season and weather permitting he also hopes to play croquet on a Monday.

On the lawns

Matches

East Midlands League

The A team played six and the B team seven East Midlands league matches against other Clubs and both teams finished just below the middle of their league. Thanks to Alan Reeves and Dorothy Evans for all their hard work in organizing the teams and matches and to Ruth Barnes and her helpers, for organizing the refreshments for each home match. The Club policy for players in the B team matches is that any member is welcome to play, irrespective of standard. If you would like to have a go next season, please let Dorothy know.

Orme Shield and Coors Cup

A three member team entered this annual event organised by Ashby Croquet Club. It was a pleasant day of croquet, but our team did not come back to Bakewell with the shield!!

Friendlies

The Club has played several friendly matches, some both at home and away, against St Elphins, Darley Dale Croquet Club, Southall and the U3A in Sheffield. Our Club policy for all home friendlies is that doubles pairs comprise one member from each Club against a similar combination. Unfortunately, the weather conspired to prevent the combined bowling and croquet matches arranged with Hathersage and Bakewell Bowling Clubs this year. Hopefully we will be luckier next year. Thanks to Steve Marsh for organizing these matches. Now Steve has moved away from Bakewell, if the friendlies are to continue next year, the Club is looking for a replacement volunteer to arrange them – please consider if you could take on this role.



A friendly match with Bakewell and U3A players

Tournaments

The two Club tournaments for the Founder's Cup and the Chairman's Cup were once again very successful, with plenty of players, and



particularly for the second event, very good weather. Congratulations to Alan Reeves (Founder's Cup) and George Wolfe (Chairman's Cup). Thanks to Jill Schmidt for all her hard work in organizing these two events.

The founder of the Club winning the Founder's Cup!

Other Croquet Events

Members of Golding House were welcomed again this year to a morning of croquet. Thanks to Alan Reeves for organizing this and to the members who came to help. We also provided croquet for the Guides, Brownies and Rainbows, who held an activity evening event in Bakewell Recreation ground.

Croquet Coaching

A one-hour golf croquet coaching session was held in August and was well attended. We hope to arrange more coaching sessions for 2020.

Visit to Ripon

The annual two visits to Ripon were well supported by 24 people in April/ May and 18 in October. The format for each visit is as much croquet as anyone wants to play over the visit, on flat lawns with short grass (a little muddy in October), lots of laughter and camaraderie, and a very pleasant evening meal at a local Italian restaurant.



Ripon in May 2019



Ripon in October, cool but dry – most of the time.

Social Croquet

We have had the usual social croquet events this year, Brodsworth, the Oaksedge Barbecue, and Tim and Ann's croquet and tea. The weather was mixed but did not upset the enjoyment of each event.



The Oaksedge Barbecue, in brilliant sunshine



Croquet and tea at Ann and Tim's

Other issues

Lawns and Mowing

We are allowed to mow the croquet lawns at the beginning of each week and this enables us to play on newly cut lawns on Mondays. The Recreation staff mow the whole Recreation Ground usually on a Thursday.

We need a team of two each week. Mowing takes approximately one to one and a half hours. If you think you could help with the mowing at any time, please tell Tim Spray, who organises the mowing rota.

Parking

The more restrictive parking arrangements for the Recreation Ground prompted the Committee to explore the possibility of allocating parking spaces for members living outside Bakewell, who needed one, with spare places owned by Bakewell members. This new system has worked well this year and our thanks to all the local members who are providing additional parking. We anticipate that a similar system will continue next year unless arrangements need to be changed.

Croquet Committee

The croquet committee have had a good year. Following the AGM we started the season with a temporary treasurer, myself, supported by the previous treasurer, Allen Flatman. However, Rita Reed volunteered to take on the role, and following an extra-ordinary committee meeting in which she was elected onto the Committee and then elected Treasurer, she is now fully settled into the role. Given the formidable task with the bank to change names and signatories, I hope she will remain treasurer for several years. The committee meets three times a year and its predominant roles are to manage the finances, ensure the lawns are playable and have an overview of the Club activities and functions.

Don't forget

Walks

The Club's winter walks will take place on Saturday 11th January 2020 and Thursday 13th February 2020, so please put these dates in your diary. Alan Reeves will email members with further details and a request to confirm nearer the time. The format is a short walk followed by lunch at a local pub. Members are invited to walk and eat or just join the walkers for lunch.

Winter Croquet

As in past years we will be holding soup and croquet sessions at FITTISM, Bakewell over the winter. The sessions will start in January, the price is the same as last year, £6 for a bowl of homemade soup and bread plus

afternoon 'indoor' croquet (sort of!). Peter Blackburn will email the start date and time for arrival nearer the time.

Club Annual General Meeting

The 2020 AGM will be held on Wednesday 4th March, in the Friends Meeting Rooms, as last year, with tea and coffee available from 7pm.

Croquet Dinner

The Croquet Dinner is on Wednesday 11th March at Bakewell Golf Club. Details will follow, closer to the time.