

# BAKEWELL CROQUET CLUB

## AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2023

Our reasonably long-playing season, which began on April 17<sup>th</sup> this year, is now ending. We finish this week on Thursday November 9<sup>th</sup>, which is not dissimilar to that of November 10<sup>th</sup> in 2022. I had hoped we would have a few more dry days to play croquet before then, but the recent weather conspired against that. We will end the last playing session with a more elaborate tea than the usual cup of tea and biscuit(s). I hope as many of you as possible will be able to attend that session.

The biggest change for our Club this year has been to move lawn two and locate it next to lawn one, with lawn one rotated through 90 degrees. Both lawns are now similar for play, and both still have their slopes and quirks, but no slope is as bad as those on lawn two in its previous position. An additional benefit to us, although not to Bakewell Cricket Club, as sadly that Club had to fold, due to lack of playing members, is that our restrictions on when we are allowed to mow and the depth to which we can cut, have both been removed. Apart from a large patch of weeds on lawn one, I think both lawns have been running well.



Layout of the two lawns for 2023. Source: Jean Peters

### Members

We have had a good year although the weather has been a little mixed. We will end this playing season with 49 playing and two social members. The loss of Dorothy recently was very sad, and she will be sorely missed. She has been a great contributor to the Club for many years, initially as a player, and latterly as a social member, when she could no longer play because of a shoulder injury. Three members did not rejoin

this year, but we welcomed back Jo and three new members, Lesley, Gaynor, and Andy.

### On the lawns

#### Matches

##### *East Midlands League*

In the EMFCC league, congratulations are due to our first team, who won all their matches this year. This means that their sojourn in Division two has only been for one year, and they will move back into Division one next year. We wish them every success next year in Division one.



Bakewell first team vs Nottingham. Source: George Wolfe

The B team, having been promoted from the third Division last year, held their own in Division 2 finishing 5<sup>th</sup> out of eight. So, they should stay in Division two next year. The Club philosophy is that the B team is open to all players. Anyone is welcome to play either in one match just for the experience, or to play regularly for the team. There is one factor potentially limiting the continuation of the B team, next year. We need a volunteer to run that team, basically to arrange dates for matches with other teams in the division, and to prepare a three-person team, plus timekeeper for home matches, from very willing volunteers.

#### *Friendlies*

Chris Shepley has organised many friendly matches this year and is to be congratulated on persuading many of the more social players to play in these friendlies. We have played matches both at home and away with Brodsworth, St Elphin's, Buxton, and Darley Dale.



Friendly match with Buxton. Source: Jean Peters

### Tournaments

We held our two internal Club tournaments for the Founder's Cup and the Chairman's Cup, both well organised by Rosie Glass and well attended. The weather was kind, we had an amazing choice for lunch, thanks to contributions from everyone. We congratulate both the winner of the Founder's cup, Chris Shepley...



Chris receiving the Founder's Cup. Source: Rosie Glass

...and the winner of the Chairman's Cup, Bill Robinson.



Bill receiving the Chairman's Cup. Source: Rosie Glass

### Singles League

The singles league has been run very efficiently again this year by Ruth Barnes. The winner and runner-up in the first division, at the end of the season are:

Winner: David Park, runner up: Ruth Barnes

Unfortunately, inclement weather and possibly holidays and other activities resulted in neither Division 2 nor 3 being fully completed, and therefore there are no definitive results for these.

It is, however, good to see so many of our Club members playing in these singles matches.

### Croquet Coaching

A number of coaching sessions were held this year and were well attended. We have three qualified coaches in the Club: Jenny Emby, Bill Robinson, and myself. If you would like any advice on play and/or tactics or a coaching session, for either Golf (all of us) or Association (Bill and Jenny), just ask, we would be happy to help.

### Other Croquet Events and Activities

#### During the playing season

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. Both events had reasonable weather, record numbers attending and were thoroughly enjoyable. Although the lawns are not to national standards or even as level as the recreation ground, socializing and the meal afterwards make up for that.



Croquet and barbecue at Oaksedge



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



.....and tea afterwards. Source: Nichola Edmunds and Jean Peters

### Outside the playing season

During January and February, we traditionally have two walks followed by lunch at a local hostelry.

This year in January, George Wolfe led a walk from Calver to Eyam and back, followed by lunch at the Derwentwater Arms, Calver.



January Walk. Source: Kathryn Bistany

In February, John Boyle walked us up to Nelson's monument on Birchen Edge, with lunch afterwards at the Robin Hood, Baslow.



February Walk. Source: Kathryn Bistany

## Coming Next

### Walks

Walks are being planned for both January and February 2024. The format is a short morning walk about 3-4 miles long, somewhere local in the Peak District. The walk usually starts from a pub and finishes there with lunch. Members who do not wish to walk join the walkers for lunch. More details on dates, times and locations will follow.

### Indoor Croquet

Also, in January and February we have Saturday afternoon indoor croquet! Peter Blackburn kindly organises this and it takes place at Fittism, a gym in Bakewell. Further details will follow nearer the time.

Finally, two firm dates for your diaries.

- The Club's **Annual General Meeting in 2024** is on **Tuesday March 5th**, with tea and coffee at 7pm, followed by the formal meeting at 7.30pm. The meeting is at the Friends' Meeting House, Bakewell.
- The **Club's annual dinner** is on **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024** at the Derwentwater Arms, Calver.

Jean Peters  
6<sup>th</sup> November 2023