

## **Bakewell Croquet Club AGM, Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

### **Chair's Report**

The 2023-24 year, in many respects, has been one of traditional croquet routine. The weather was mixed and some members may have played less frequently than in previous years. However, whilst we started a little later than usual. on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April, we were able to play until November 9<sup>th</sup>. We ended the season with forty-nine members, having lost three but regaining Jo and welcoming three others, Lesley, Gaynor, and Andy.

I think that our biggest success of this past year has been the relocation of lawn two to lie parallel to lawn one, rotated by ninety degrees. This has increased our ability to socialize whilst playing and to change playing partnerships more easily between games. Both lawns have their idiosyncrasies, lumps, and bumps, and in that respect, I think that neither one is better than the other, but both are better than the previous lawn two. It is sad that Bakewell Cricket Club had to close, but I think it very unlikely that we would have achieved the change in our lawns had they still been functioning.

Other successes include the winning of Division two in the East Midlands Croquet League by our A team and their consequent promotion back to Division one. We wish them every success for this coming year. Our B team held its own in Division two, ending fifth out of eight teams, and will remain in the that division this coming season. We also played friendly matches both home and away with four other Clubs. Finally, the singles league was well supported although poor weather prevented the playing of some matches towards the end of the playing season.

Social events have not been neglected. We again held our Croquet dinner, at the Derwentwater Arms, Calver, the Oaksedge barbecue and Palterton tea, plus a little croquet with the last two events. More croquet took place in the winter at Fitism, and this required vastly different skills compared to hitting a ball on a 35-yard-long grass lawn. Two walks were planned but whilst unfortunately storms in January precluded that walk, the lunch was able to go ahead. The weather was kinder in February, and we had a very enjoyable walk around the Longshaw Estate, followed by lunch.

Very sadly, we lost two of our previous and long serving members. Judith Clay was a founder member of the Club in 2005 and played up until Covid. Sadly, her mobility deteriorated, and she did not rejoin after Covid. Dorothy Evans again was a member for many years and even after she was no longer able to play because of a severe shoulder injury, she continued to run the League B team until last year.

This Club could not run as well as it does without the input of our members who perform many tasks for the Club throughout the year. So I would like to offer my thanks not only to the members of the committee, but also to the mowers, teamakers, and individuals who manage the Club website, the Club dinner, indoor croquet, the teams and matches, ground and equipment maintenance and hoop setting, to name but some of the tasks carried out.

I am standing down as Chair at this AGM, I have enjoyed being able to contribute to the ongoing success of the Club and wish it many more successful years.