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The
Committee member
i/c this web site is:
Chris Roberts
079 7378 7710
info@kickphoto.co.uk

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PHYLLIS COURT CROQUET

News

25 March - Please ware Whites from 1 April

Please wear WHITES for 1 April (this does not apply to beginners training) - if you happen to forget, please do play anyway and remember next time

Also, the Winter rules will no longer apply and so jump shots will be permitted.

- please only attempt jump shots of you can do them without damaging the court.

Damage to the court MUST BE REPAIRED immediately (there is a small repair fork on the pavilion notice board).

27 March - 'CALL FOR ENTRIES' for the 10+ Singles day-tournament on Wednesday 6 April - (for the Green Ball trophy)

Here is something new for most of you!

Please come to our FREE "Introduction to Advantage Golf Croquet" this coming Thursday or Friday.

Our handicap season-long competition, handicap tournaments and inter-club league games will be run under the Advantage GC system this year, so please take advantage of this opportunity to try it out.

Advantage GC. does away with 'extra turns' for the weaker player, who instead receives a 'head-start' on the scoreboard.

So, rather than starting at 0-0, the starting scores are adjusted to give both players a 50% chance of winning.

Qualified coaches Frances, Russell and I will be on-hand to assist and you will play at least two games with different strength opponents.

This is a golden opportunity not to be missed and EVERYONE is very encouraged to come along (especially if you have recently entered our Handicap Singles competition).

Please e-mail Chris back right away with which session you would like to attend:

Thursday 31 March 1000 - 1200

or

Thursday 31 March 1200 - 1400

or

Friday 1 April 1000 - 1200

or

Friday 1 April 1200 - 1400

25 March - 'CALL FOR ENTRIES' for the 10+ Singles day-tournament on Wednesday 6 April - (for the Green Ball trophy)

- This one is lieu of the twice postponed tournament last year.

- Sorry for the short notice of this one, which was due to having to fix-up a cup match with opponents first.

The 'allocation date' for this will be - Wednesday 30 March (that's in just 5 days time) - so you need to get your entries in BEFORE that date.

23 March - SAD NEWS, 'Smokey' Eades

R.S.'Smokey' Eades (1920 - 2022)

With sadness I have to report the death of our President, R.S. 'Smokey' Eades, on 25 February 2022, at the age of 102.

Smokey joined Phyllis Court Croquet Club in 1967, had been our President since 2011 and continued playing occasional Golf Croquet until approximately 2012. In more recent years, he was an infrequent visitor to the club but followed its exploits keenly and it was always a pleasure to bring him to Phyllis Court to present 'Smokey's Cup' to the winner of our annual National B-Level Series tournament, a duty he last performed in 2017.

Smokey was well known in the Croquet Association as a player and administrator, amongst players of a by gone era especially, and he remained a member of our governing body until his last day.

A full obituary is being prepared by Brian Bucknall and me, and this will appear in The Croquet Gazette, and in a future news item, in due course.

Smokey left no close family; Joan is wife of 79 years having pre-deceased him two weeks short of her own centenary. The date of the funeral is yet to be announced. It is likely to be held locally and a good presence of longer standing Croquet Club members is expected.

*Chris Roberts
Chairman, Phyllis Court Croquet Club*

21 March - Beginners Training Courses started today

The first players in the 'Class of 2022' took to the courts today, and over 30 others will be put through their paces under the tutelage of Helena Fensome, Julia Green, Tony Peperell and Russell Robinson (diary co-ordinator).

Enjoyment is the name of the game for our very welcome new members and we wish you all well as your croquet careers start here.

20 March - National Team Competition fixtures for your diaries

Phyllis Court teams are taking part in the following National knock-out competitions this year, and these first round fixtures have been arranged.

Mon 4 April home	PCC v High Wycombe	CA Inter-Club Championship (Top tier)
Tues 3 May home	PCC v Ashby, Leicestershire	CA Inter-Club Shield (Second tier)
Sun 10 July away	PCC v Dowlish Wake, Somerset	CA Federations Shield (Handicap)

19 March - 23 mallets bought at the Mike Percival Mallets day

There was a super turn-out of would be mallet buyers today with over 40 croquet players calling by during the day.

23 players went home having placed orders for a new croquet mallet and one other player bought a new shaft only.

Phyllis Court members dominated the throng, but mallets were also bought by visiting players from High Wycombe, Blewbury and Caversham.

Advice from Mike Percival and Chris Roberts was readily taken and some took mallets on to the courts to try.

A few lucky people got a mallet to take home there and then, whilst others can expect orders to be fulfilled by Mike in the coming weeks.

If you missed the opportunity, here is a link to the Mike Percival Mallets website: <https://croquetmallets.co.uk/index.html>

REMINDER - Buying your own first mallet / upgrading your existing mallet

As announced in my e-mail of 2 February:

Mallet Maker, Mike Percival will be visiting Phyllis Court on Saturday 19 March

Mike will be in attendance from approx. 1030 to 1530 and I will be there too with advice on the best mallet to suit you.

- There will be mallets to buy on the day.
- There will also be examples of Mike's full range of bespoke hand-made models to order.
- Mike is an enthusiast for beautiful and unusual woods, and he also has a range of striking all-aluminium mallets if you are looking for something a little different!

To whet your appetite, here is a link to the Mike Percival Mallets website: <https://croquetmallets.co.uk/index.html>

14 March - Colman and Roberts shine in South Africa

Frances Colman and Chris Roberts far exceeded their expectations in finishing runners-up to South African National Team pair in the doubles final of the Rainbow International Tournament, Somerset West (nr. Cape Town), South Africa in early March.

The Phyllis Court duo beat International players Lionel Tibble & David Wise, and two-time World Champion Reg Bamford and his partner on the way to their final.

In the Singles, Roberts reached the quarter-finals, won the first game against Bamford but lost the match 2-1, as the latter then strolled on to an easy tournament win.

Colman and Roberts performed well in the preceding AC tournament as well, again finishing runners up in the doubles event.

1 March - Season-long Competitions - Enter now!

(e-mail to all members)

As previously heralded, we are offering the same four levels of competitions as last season but 2022 also sees the welcome return of the Doubles events as well.

Competitions are banded for different skills level based on players' handicaps.

The majority of our members have handicaps of 10 or more, meaning that you are eligible for any of the competitions

You can look up your handicap on our website here: [https://www.pcc.org.uk/membership/handicap](#) (or e-mail me, and I'll tell you!)

The full list of competitions is displayed on the entry form along with details of how to pay the modest £5 entry fees.

The Handicap Singles will be played to the new 'Advantage GC' rules (in which weaker players are given a head-start on the scoreboard rather than 'extra turns') - and I will write again spartanly about this shortly.

So, there really is something here for all levels of ability and so we do hope that everyone will get involved - new and previously reluctant players are especially encouraged.

Let's make this another record season for participation!

New members last year - please enter the 10+, 7+ and Handicap/Advantage competitions - it's not as daunting as you might think: Trust me, I'm a croquet player (= honest person).

Attached is an:

- (1) An ENTRY FORM
- (2) An explanation sheet
- (3) A guide to handicap play (for those new to this type of croquet)
- (4) PCC Competitions and Tournaments - regulations

Please, please get in touch if you would like any advice about which competitions you should enter - I (Chris) will be please to help and encourage you.

Please reward the efforts of your organisers by supporting these competitions with your entry.

1 March - Courts re-open right on time!

As hoped, our courts re-opened today and thanks to the efforts of committee members Rick Lilley and Russell Robinson who undertook all the hop setting, we are now back to your two large courts configuration (Courts 1 & 2), supported by the smaller court 3 as before. we hope that Court 4 will be brought back into action in mid-spring.

Hugh thanks also go to Mark, Emma and their grounds staff for all the work undertaken throughout the February closure period.

We have re-furbished and newly-painted hoops in place now for you all to enjoy and be proud of.

So, all that we are waiting for is YOU - please book to play in the usual way by dropping an e-mail to me (Chris) - see the big yellow box, top left of the HOME page.