

PHYLLIS COURT CROQUET

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31 December - No Play today ~ waterlogging and standing water

25 December - Christmas elves relax after Santa calls time in the workshop

Christmas Day play for Hilary Cowley & Routh Raunkiaer (*photo by Andy Jones*)

21 December (and onwards) - Play today?

After more than a week off with frost, snow and frozen ground, followed by the inevitable waterlogging yeasterday, play only MIGHT be possible today. Please use your discession when inspecting the courts and obvioulsy don't play if conditions are even questionable.

20 December - Requets for payment of Annual Subscriptions (£20) please

Our Annual Subscription of £20 is due on 1 January and our Treasurer Russell Robinson will be delighted to recieve payments in advance of this date. Membership Secretary, Hilary Cowley, circulated the call for payments just after our AGM last week, complete with the crqquet club bank detaisl and payment method(s). Members prompt action will be much apreciated.

20 December -
Waterlogging - NO PLAY today

19 December -
Standing water & waterlogging - NO PLAY today



0757 hours today (photo by Patricia Mulcahy)

14-18 December - Frozen ground & snow covering continues - NO PLAY

Far left - 1030 on Sunday 18th (photo by Paul Franklin)



14 December - Julia Green and Andy Jones are voted onto our 2023 committee at our AGM

Welcome and congratulations to **Julia Green** and **Andy Jones** who were voted onto our committee for 2023 at our AGM today. 31 members braved the sub-zero temperatures to attend in person and the same number again had sent apologies (and all had submitted positive votes to all the pre-circulated resolutions).

Treasurer Russell Robinson attended via a Zoom link, which unfortunately failed to reach others - so apologies if you were affected, and our solution was to record the meeting for later viewing.

Madeleine Probert and Paddy Bunch retired from the committee on rotation and were thanked, in their absence, for their five years of service.

The remaining six on the 2022 committee - Hilary Cowley, Raghu Iyer, Rick Lilley, Patricia Mulcahy, Chris Roberts and Russell Robinson - were all re-elected for another year.

- Immediately after the AGM, the those of the new committee present convened the shortest of meeting (as required by our constitution) to elect the Club Officers - Chris and Russell were elected Chairman and Treasurer respectively and Patricia was voted in to continue the Secretary role she had taken on temporarily from Madeleine two weeks previously.



SCF AC Handicap League trophy for Raghu Iyer's team

Chairman Chris was pleased to formally announce the big news that Raghu Iyer's AC team had become the Southern Federation (SCF) Handicap League Champions.

Chris, having stood down recently as the Chairman of the SCF, asked our only remaining member on that committee, Richard Peperell, to present the trophy to Raghu (photo by Helena Fensome - to come).

Our League Final match was played on 1 Dec ([scroll down](#) for the News entry that describes an excitingly close match) and so just missed of Prizegiving dinner.

12 December - Snow covered frozen courts - NO PLAY today and likely all week

This is our courts at 1000 this morning - Snow now added to our frozen courts (photo by Patricia Mulcahy)



10 December - NO PLAY today (and likely the same tomorrow)

This is our courts at 1000 this morning - Frost coverd and Frozen soild (photo by Paul Franklin)
Given the temperatutes forcast for the remained of the day and tomorrow, "NO PLAY" is very likley.

Here is reminder of our Winter Rules:

WINTER RULES

IMPORTANT - We are all going to have to be very careful with how and when we play in order to protect the courts, otherwise the facility may be withdrawn.

- No play if ground is Frozen or Frosty* - you will have to wait for it to thaw please

**treading on frosted grass seriously damages the grass plant (so don't do it).*

- No play if courts are waterlogged or there is Standing Water - you will have to re-book for another day please

- No jump shots - except at the jump pracice hoop

6 December - Court improvements - taking shape

Here ar today's views of the raised and improved East Boundary of courts 1 & 2.
Significant progress has been madeby.Gardener Mark Beckinsale and assistant Stefan in the last few days.



1 December - East Dorset 1 - 3 Phyllis Court

We are
**Southern Federation
AC Handicap League
Champions!**



Our AC Handicap team beat East Dorset CC (at Poole, near Bournemouth) 3-1 today in the final of the Southern Croquet Federation Handicap League.

The match was in the balance going into the last half hour of three, with the likely result in two of the four rubbers too hard to call.

Rick Lilley was first to finish with a comfortable +9 win for Phyllis Court over East Dorset's Nigel Parkins.

At this point, Robin Coates was behind in his game whilst Roger Goldring held a good lead over for the visitors.

So, if those games went as expected, the match score would be 2-1 to Phyllis Court and the overall match result would hinge on the game between the two no.1 players Chris Roberts for Phyllis Court and David Williams for East Dorset - if Williams could win and tie the match result, the League title would be decided by that 1 v 1 game result, so victory for East Dorset.

Coates pulled his game score a bit closer too but duly lost -3 and so the cliff-hanger finish was on.

Williams uncharacteristically over-cooked a croquet stroke to end a potential decisive turn and let Roberts in for an unexpected run to the finish, but the Phyllis Court man played a straight stroke to his last hoop into the centre peg to snooker himself the most bizarre fashion.

Williams should have sealed an East Dorset victory but, with nerves perhaps getting the better of him, saw his ball stick in the jaws of the penultimate hoop.

With the game and match result hanging in the next shot, Roberts hit his opponent's stricken ball on the full from 15 yards and then completed a regulation finish to win +3 just before the time limit.

For added drama, Goldring's opponent Neil Cleverly finally got a break together for the first time in their game to close the score line in their encounter but Goldring hung on to win +4 on time.

The 3-1 match win for Phyllis Court, won not only the League title but a place in next season's national Secretary's Shield competition which brings together all the Handicap Champions for all the regions.

PCC 'AC' - Chris Roberts (-0.5), Robin Coates (11), Rick Lilley (14), Roger Goldring (18)

- Absent from today's team were regular captain Raghu Iyer and Kevin Ward who had both enjoyed good seasons and contributed to team wins throughout the successful campaign.

2022 Oct

2022 Nov

For our Prizegiving Dinner, click on this 'November' button:

