

PHYLLIS COURT CROQUET

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31 July - Ian Norris wins Handicap Singles Tournament no.1

Ian Norris saw off all comers and their collective 31 'extra turns' in winning our Handicap Singles Tournament no.1, in searing heat today at Phyllis Court. He dropped just one game all day when Robin Coates held back his extra turns until the last hoop of their morning game. Tournament newcomers Hugh Baylis and Carl Billson had contrasting debuts with the Baylis struggling in the morning but finding his form later on, and Billson experiencing the exact opposite fortunes. Tight morning blocks were decided on net hoops when both ended in three-way ties, with the unlucky Billson and Michael Christmas missing out on qualification for the afternoons senior block. Delia Norris succumbed to the heat of the day and retired from the senior block after one game, but husband Ian revelled in the sunshine and was unbeaten in the afternoon for the tournament win with defeats of Coates and the returning form of Madeleine Probert. The two finishers qualify for the National Final of the All England Handicap competition (to be played at Hamptworth on 12-13 September. congratulations to (1) Ian Norris and (2) Robin Coates.

There was a well deserved handicap reduction for:
Ian Norris 0 to -1 (automatic reduction)

27 July - Fensome retains 80+ Tournament title just, as Pitkeathley returns

Hot favourite Mike Fensome won the Phyllis Court Croquet internal Veterans 80+ Tournament between the showers today but he didn't have it all his own way by any means. Fensome retained the title that he won in 2019, in the first year he was eligible, and was again the youngest field of seven that included nonagenarian Ray Broadhead as its senior. Liz Toms valiantly represented the fairer sex and will hopefully act as a recruiting sergeant for other women players to enter next year; she was joined by fellow debutant by Mike Sayer who only started his croquet career last year. The morning block games went with the seedings by handicap and produced two very close semi-final ties from which Fensome emerged the 7-5 victor over Michael Christmas and Bill Pitkeathley endured some last hoop drama in getting past Don Rutherford 7-6. It was good to see Pitkeathley returned after lockdown and getting straight back into competitive action with a new grip and top of the range Dave Trimmer mallet. In the final, Pitkeathley made light of his higher handicap 7 status and matched scratch player Fensome hoop for hoop and actually lead 4-3 at the half-way point. Fensome's canny ball placement wrestled the lead back at hoop nine and, after good contests at the next three hoops, he wrapped up the game and tournament 7-5.

There was a well deserved handicap reduction for:
Bill Pitkeathley 7 to 6 (automatic reduction)

23 July - Nottingham's Beaumont wins - Phyllis Court's Colman is third Day 2

PCC/High Wycombe hosted AC 8+ Advanced tournament (at High Wycombe)

Andrew Beaumont (Nottingham CC) was rewarded today for his great effort in travelling so far, with caravan in tow, when he won our nationally advertised AC 8+ Tournament, jointly hosted by Phyllis Court and High Wycombe. He beat Harwell's Peter Allan in a pivotal match and remained unbeaten in all his five games, in which he beat all the other front runners. Allan was second of four wins and Phyllis Court's Frances Colman was third with three victories. Full results will appear here shortly:

22 July - Frances Colman and Raghu Iyer still in the hunt

Day 1

PCC/High Wycombe hosted AC 8+ Advanced tournament

At the half-way stage of the nationally advertised AC 8+ Tournament, jointly hosted by Phyllis Court and High Wycombe, home players Frances Colman and Raghu Iyer had both recorded one win and one loss, after a lovely day at our club.

The Phyllis Court pair are halted overnight at the mid-point of the game between them.

Peter Allan (Harwell) and Andrew Beaumont (Nottingham) are undefeated and share the lead of the eight player field.

Play resumes for Day 2 at High Wycombe CC.