

Back
to
Home
page

Home

For older
NEWS
click here:

Older news

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PHYLLIS COURT CROQUET

News



26 December - Oxfordshire now under Tier 4 restrictions

Today sees Oxfordshire move into Tier 4 Covid-19 restrictions and the Phyllis Court Main Club building is closed. The club grounds and croquet court remain open as do the Findlay Suite toilets.

You may only meet with one other person* in an outdoor location.
- Consequently only **1 Singles Game** will be permitted and any time.

(*unless in your household or support 'bubble')

25 December - Merry Christmas everyone

Mid-December - Members enjoying regular play

Regular play now taking place most days with the ratioring in place - 2 plays in any 5 days.

4 December - Time to renew your Croquet Club membership please

Membership Secretary Madeleine Probert has e-mailed all members with a call to all please renew your Croquet Club memberships. These are due on 1 January but please amke Madeleine's life easier and renew without further prompt - It's just £20.

3 December - Wet courts prevent play on first day back

The headline says it all - and it rained all day today, so there will be no play tomorrow (Friday) either.

2 December - Rick and Chris site hoops in 'Court 5' configuration, ready for play tomorrow

New committee member Rick Lilley (who has taken on the Courts and equipment brief) and new Chairman Chris Roberts, spent the morning measuring-up a court and sited the hoops ready for play tomorrow. Because of the wet areas at the river end of court 1 and the car park end of court 2, we have set up **JUST ONE COURT** in the middle which we are calling '**COURT 5**'. Jack the Gardened was seen mowing the courts this afternoon and will hopefully apply lines first thing tomorrow. Several members have made bookings which have now all been squeezed onto this new Court 5 which is now open for other bookings. The forecast for tomorrow looks grim, but hopefully some pay will be possible.

1 December - Chemical treatment was applied to courts today, ahead of Club re-opening

A chemical treatment was applied to the croquet courts (and the rest of the grounds) today. This is to hopefully rid us of the chafer bug problem so that the crows will have nothing to dig for.

27 November - Croquet can be played at Phyllis Court from Thursday 3 December

Here as promised is the good news – Croquet can be played at Phyllis Court from Thursday 3 December.

Lockdown finishes the day before but we (Rick and Chris) do not have access to the courts and equipment until the Wednesday, and we will need that day to re-site the hoops and put everything else in place for you to play safely. Play will only be possible on Thursday if the weather has been kind and Jack the Gardener has been able to cut the grass - if not the first day for play will be postponed.

Rules for Winter play:

- No play if ground is frosty - you will have to wait for it to thaw
- No play if it's waterlogged - you will have to re-book for another day
- No jump shots
- all play must be pre-booked (see below) - Early starts at weekends are suspended, no play before 1000 on any day
- Give way to and respect Jack the Gardener if his work on the courts over-runs. Please stay outside the playing area until he has finished (even if it's your booking time, he won't be long).
- Keep an eye on the Croquet Club website - www.pcccroquet.co.uk - for information about court closures. We will try to update it daily to save you a wasted trip, but this will not always be possible.

REALLY IMPORTANT STUFF

We must clearly demonstrate social distancing on the courts at all times – remember we are very much 'on show' so please everyone play your part well.

PCC Chief Executive Chris Hogan wrote an 'In Touch' message about the main club re-opening – it details NEW RULES for the clubhouse during Tier 2 restrictions.

Court bookings are now open. - book and ENJOT!

27 November - AGM and your new committee - more detail

Your committee decided that they would hold their first meeting sooner than usual (two days ago fact), and so it seemed sensible to delay writing to you all until after that.

So, who are your committee for 2020-21?

We said a big thank you and farewell to Diana Zatouroff and welcomed aboard new committee members Hilary Cowley and Rick Lilley.

We also thanked last year's Chairman Madeleine Probert for her sterling work in this most difficult of years, and although she did not wish to remain in the Chairman role, it is very pleasingly indeed that she did wish to continue on the committee.

Chris Roberts was elected by the committee to serve as Chairman for the coming year and here now is the full committee with their designated roles:

Chairman, GC, publicity & website .. – Chris Roberts
Secretary – Roger Goldring
Treasurer – Russell Robinson
Membership Secretary – Madeleine Probert
AC Organiser – Raghu Iyer
Special Projects – Paddy Bunch
Players' Representative – Hilary Cowley
Courts & Equipment – Rick Lilley

For contact details of these lovely people, please see the 'About our Club' page (click on the link button in the menu, top left)



Chris Roberts



Roger Goldring



Russell Robinson



Madeleine Probert



Raghu Iyer



Paddy Bunch



Hilary Cowley



Rick Lilley

So there it is, you have to put up with me as Chairman!

You can expect late night written e-mails, lots of encouragement to play at every opportunity, and much of plugging of our website!

- Regards, Chris

19 November - AGM and your new committee - Chris Roberts returns to the Chair

Members will know that due to social gathering restrictions and then the second lockdown, our 2020 AGM 'took place' by e-mail correspondence and for the sake of our constitution was then 'deemed to have taken place' on Monday this week (16 November).

I am pleased to say that Secretary Roger Goldring reported that the number of votes cast for the resolutions put forward to the AGM exceeded that which is required to make the meeting quorate.

He also reported that your votes approved all of those resolutions, mostly unanimously, with the only two 'No' votes cast against the membership fee increase only.

The membership also approved all the candidates standing for election to our committee as w said good-by and thank you for a job well done to Dianna Zatouroff who was not seeking re-election.

I am delighted to welcome two new members to your committee - Hilary Cowley and Rick Lilley - who join continuing committee members: Paddy Bunch, Roger Goldring, Raghu Iyer, Madeleine Probert, Chris Roberts and Russell Robinson as your committee for 2020-21.

Immediately post the AGM, the new committee convened a short formal meeting (on Zoom) to elect the three Officers of our Club, as required by our constitution. The result of that was that the following were elected to office.

Chairman - Chris Roberts

Secretary - Roger Goldring

Treasurer - Russell Robinson

The remaining committee posts will be assigned at the first full meeting on Wednesday next week (25th).

4 November - Croquet Clubs to close for 28 days from 5th November

This evening the Croquet Association (CA) posted this advice to member clubs on its website:

"Despite lobbying by the CA and other individual recreational sports, the regulations for the Covid-19 lockdown that starts at 00.01 on Thursday, 5th November, for 28 days, appear to require croquet clubs in England to close, along with other outdoor sports amenities.

In the absence of any official support for a contrary interpretation, the CA's Coronavirus Task Force strongly advises clubs to cease play for that period.

However, its understanding is that lawn maintenance, whether by employed staff, contractors or volunteers, can continue."

PCC management (CEO Chris Hogan) had previously stated that they were waiting for announcements from sports governing bodies covering the activities played at the Club. Accordingly, there will be no croquet at Phyllis Court until 2 December at the earliest.

4 November - No play likely during Lockdown:

It seems very unlikely that croquet will be permitted under the Lockdown rules that the UK Government propose, and on which Parliament will vote this afternoon. Announcements from Croquet Association and PCC management are expected shortly.

2 November - Reaction to the PM's lockdown announcement (31 October)

The Croquet Association issued this holding statement yesterday (1 Oct):

"The UK Government yesterday evening (31st October) announced a one-month lockdown in England, starting at midnight on Thursday 5th November and running until Wednesday 2nd December.

These new measures will see the closure of hospitality and non-essential retail. People can continue to exercise for unlimited periods outdoors, either with people from their own households or on a one-to-one basis with one person from another household.

The CA will endeavour to establish the exact restrictions on croquet clubs and their facilities and as the information becomes available we will communicate definitive guidance.

In the meantime please continue to consult our website news pages ([click here](#))

This includes our Advice document which will be reviewed and refreshed at the earliest opportunity.

Our best wishes to you and your families. Please stay safe and well. - Croquet Association (CA) Coronavirus Task Force"

Additionally, and most importantly

You will have seen the e-mailed message sent to all PCC members by **PCC Chief Executive Chris Hogan** today. The relevant passage for Croquet is this:

"With regards to outdoor sporting activities such as tennis, croquet, kayaking and rowing we will be monitoring the governing bodies guidance on these which may or may not be able to continue and we will update you once we have confirmation."

As you can see, there is much activity by the decision makers at local and national level, and one expects further announcements from both very shortly.

28 October - Croquet stars again tomorrow - under 'Winter Rules'

Croquet Chairman Madeleine Probert had great pleasure in announcing that we will be able to resume play from tomorrow morning.

This followed protracted negotiations with the Main Club, who, members will remember, had been resistant to 'Winter Play' for fear of possible damage to our courts.

In an e-mail to all members, Madeleine stressed that we must all be sensible with our decisions to play or not if the ground is wet, and certainly not venture onto the courts if they are waterlogged.

Various other 'Winter Rules' were publicised, chiefly that flat soled shoes are still required, whites are not and there are to be no jump shots played until further notice.

Members are requested to abide by these rules, in the knowledge that if they are not followed, the Winter Playing facility may be withdrawn by the Main Club.

Also today, Russell Robinson and Chris Roberts sited the hoops in 'winter positions' (to preserve the ground at the 'normal positions') on Courts 1 and 2.

Court bookings will be as before - by e-mail to Chris Roberts - and will be displayed for all to see on the bookings page of this website (accessed via the big yellow box on the front page).

30 October - Play at last

Six members took up the opportunity to book courts and play today as croquet returned after a month lay-off at Phyllis Court. Courts 1 & 2 were surprisingly firm given the previous two-day rain. However, there is now severe crow damage on much of both courts 3 and 4, making both completely unplayable. Estates Manager Andy Brown says chemical spraying will take place next week (aimed at killing off the chafer bugs which are the crow's food source)

29 October - No play on our first day back

Sadly no play was possible today, our 're-opening day' due to the court conditions resulting from rain all day.