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# PHYLLIS COURT CROQUET

News

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## 2 February - Buying your own first mallet / upgrading your existing mallet

As trailed in my 23 January e-mail, I am now pleased to announce:

#### 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

## 1 February - 28 February (approx.) - COURTS CLOSED

Mark, Emma and their staff made good use of any dry days in the month and started well with the re-turfing of the GC start corers of Courts 1, 2 and 3 (the first time such work has been done). They followed this with general re-seeding and some levelling work which hopefully everyone will notice in the season ahead.

#### 31 January - Popular rush to play before February closure

Members made very good use of the reduced court capacity in the final two weeks of January, as the February closures loomed.

The hoops were removed today and will all be refurbished and re-painted during the closed period so as to be spick and span for our planned re-opening in March and a full season beyond.

#### 14 January - e-mail to all members:

Firstly, welcome to our new members: Alastiar Broom, Barbara Broom, Gary Butler, Dick Cowan, Sue Cox, Mary Hunnings, Paul Huinnings, Elizabeth Hunter, Jane Landau, Sandra Lee, Stuart Lee, Irene Lindsay, Alan Lindsay, Sylvia Newman, Mike Steinle, Maralyn Sturgeon, Hilary Taylor, Doug Tonks, Sue Williams, Carol Wissett.

We know that there are others in the process of joining us too.

## FEBRUARY COURT IMPROVEMENTS (and closure)

It has been great to see a good number of you playing in self-booked and weekly mix-in sessions on Tuesdays (AC) and Thursdays (GC).

What fun it has been to be able to keep playing right round into January!

It is undoubtedly due to the work and influence of our new(ish) grounds team, lead by Mark and Emma, that we have ben able to return to a winter play offering.

Mark has discussed with Rick (our committee member i/c courts liaison) and I some encouraging plans for the husbandry of our courts.

In particular, he will be seeking to improve the drainage generally and the fairly recently arrived Court 1 central area that has become prone to puddling.

General levelling improvements and the building up and re-turfing of the GC start corners are multi-day projects planned for the early spring.

For this, Mark has requested (and your committee have agreed) that all the courts will be closed for February so that the extensive work required can be undertaken on any days where the

weather allows this. I am confident that you will be content that this inconvenience will be worth it for the benefit that we will reap from march onwards.

So our courts will be closed between 1 - 28 February

(with the exact date of re-opening to be advised - I will of course, keep you informed about that)

## 1 January - Courts open throughout January

Happy New year everyone!

Our central 'Court 5' and smaller Court 3 will remain open for play throughout January but maintenance work is likely for a period after that.

#### 1 January (reminder) - 2021 - 2022 committee roles asigned

## 1 January (reminder)

## **WINTER RULES**

IMPROTANT - 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 frosty\* you will have to wait for it to thaw
- \* treading on frosted grass seriously damages the grass plant (so don't do it).
- No play if it's waterlogged you will have to re-book for another day
- No jump shots