

RSCC Newsletter October 2024



As I write this letter, I pause and turn to look out of the window; it's raining and I think "Oh no, Club Afternoon, I don't fancy it somehow." Then I realise, "oh joy oh rapture, the seasons at an end, so no croquet." I don't suppose I will think that way for long. Give it a week or two and I will be champing at the bit wanting to dig out my mallet and have a game.

For any of you that follow the Facebook page you might have seen a New Zealand club, Takapuna, figures from time to time. They've said if I care to pop along, they'd be happy to give me a game. I'll think about it!

So, here we are at the season's end and the next thing I want to do is to touch my forelock and respectfully step aside for Chairman Ted.

Autumn really has arrived.

It is time to put your whites in the wash, pick the mud and grass out of your shoes and restore them to a loving condition, gently clean your mallet, maybe give it a wax polish or a treat of Danish Oil. Why? Because sooner than you know it Spring will be upon us and our brilliant next season of joyful friendly supportive croquet will start!!

In the meanwhile, when the moment and opportunity arise, we shall be doing the same to the lawns, the Shevillion and the mower and all our equipment. When Reg is back from his sunny Cyprus holiday we shall be working with him on the technical matters, some of the team have already started finishing the hedges where machines can't reach, tidying up the interior of the shed and putting the boards into winter storage for now.



With Reg we hope to do some deep scarifying and more levelling and reseeding on crucial parts around hoop approaches and areas where rain puddles. Fingers crossed our lawn improvements will continue without busting the bank.

We hope to keep our croquet community together through the coffee mornings and Christmas lunch and will keep in touch as much as we can.

In the meantime, do think about your game as you stroke your mallet and tell it it is not forgotten. Think about your good shots and the fun partnerships you had and the prospect of more singles games as well, where you can deliver the old one-two to an opponent, a brilliant clearing shot and then a calm and sweet run of the hoop and another step on the way to seven and a moment of modest achievement.

Here's wishing modest achievements as well as startling success!

Ted

Thank you for that Ted, I must say that great strides have already been made in putting the Club to bed for the winter. The white boundary boards have been stowed away, the inside of the Shevilion has been tidied up and as Ted mentioned the hedges have been trimmed.

Regarding modest achievements and startling success, I must mention Robert who has had a great season, winning two C level competitions, being runner up in the Crake Valley B Level and competing in the C Level National Finals down in Watford. In recognition of this performance Rob has also been awarded the Clubs Most improved player award. Rob has also managed our Friendly Matches. Sue and Michael have also had a good season competing in B Level Competitions.



This letter would not be complete without mentioning the Maggie Cowman Cup, our two-day charity event, now in its third year, which has raised £1,335 for the Freeman Heart and Lung Transplant Association.

we had to retrieve it from the road beyond the hedge. Indeed, the wind persisted throughout the day, and we had to collapse the gazebo.

Apart from any excitement on the lawns, on the second day, the gazebo sheltering the competition admin base blew away in the very strong wind and



As to excitement on the court, Progressive Doubles was played at quite a pace, each game lasting only 22 minutes and 30 seconds. Daphne and Ted emerged victorious.

After the play was over, then came the BBQ, Ted presiding over the flames.

Day 2 was for an all play all singles which was won by Jo-Ann, who won 6 out of her 7 games, a splendid performance!



Progressive Doubles Champs Ted and Daphne being awarded their medals by Kerry



The Champ, Jo-Ann, receiving the cup from Ted, last year's winner

The opening picture is a snap of our new corner flags. Thank you to Mary and Ted's village blacksmith! Smart and ready for next year.

Our website has now been in operation for several years. Michael is keen to have it reviewed and has asked if we could all have a look at it and if you think there are areas where improvements could be made, or there is something you would like to see on the website, please tell Michael; the same applies to the booking system.

Yes, the 2024 season is but a memory, but looking forward to 2025, Michael informs me that Belsay Hall CC has approached three YCF Clubs suggesting that Belsay would like to do a tour next June visiting each club for a one-day Friendly Doubles Match. They will visit us on Monday 23rd June next year.

That's about all I have to say except to remind you about Coffee Mornings, the first Thursday of the month at The Olive Tree at Tate's, and that we hope to have a Christmas Lunch, details to follow.



Best wishes,

Roger