



Guildford & Godalming Croquet Club

(Croquet section of BSCL)

Brief report on activities during 2020

1 Covid-19

Croquet, which lends itself to social distancing, has been less seriously affected than many other sports. Social play between our members, and internal competitions, were possible, but many planned matches and tournaments had to be cancelled, though one tournament was able to be played in late August. Neil Humphreys, pictured, from Sussex County CC won the CARA Cup, presented by tournament manager Mike Huxley.



Our income stream was severely affected by the cancellation of tournaments, but a Sport England grant in the spring/summer helped to keep us afloat. The outcome is that the Croquet Club has weathered that particular storm and will survive.

2 Membership

Membership numbers dipped in the spring, as we were unable to run our normal National Croquet Day recruiting event. Despite that, we managed to attract new members through the season and are now back to a membership of just over 60.

3 Events planned for 2021

As things stand, we are optimistic about being able to offer a full set of tournaments and inter-club matches in 2021, given that the competitive season effectively starts in May, by which time pandemic problems may have eased. These tournaments attract players from a wide swathe of the country to one- or two-day competitions, making a useful contribution to club funds and also enhancing its status. Additionally, the club has been selected as the host for two events of national importance in 2021.

- Golf Croquet World Team Championship (Tier 3). This is a four-day tournament between national sides, postponed from 2020 as a result of the pandemic. As things stand currently, teams from Mexico, Portugal, Iran and one other are expected in late July.
- The Association Croquet Treasurer's Tankard competition. Eight of the top association croquet players in the UK will battle it out over four days in mid-September for a coveted trophy. This is the second time Guildford and Godalming have hosted this particular competition.

4 Development

Our lawns have suffered greatly from lengthy droughts in the past three years. We cannot allow this to continue if we are to maintain acceptable playing conditions and are currently approaching Guildford Borough Council regarding the installation of an irrigation scheme involving pop-up sprinklers round each of the croquet lawns.

5 ... and finally

We wish the Rugby Club all the best for the forthcoming year. Everything has been exceedingly difficult in 2020. We empathise and hope that 2021 will bring all of us in BSCL the success we are working towards.

Mike Huxley: 30 Nov 2020