Charlton Croquet Club
End of Season Newsletter

The 2026 season is now drawing to a close but we can look back on a very successful time on the lawn as we have celebrated our 20th Anniversary.

Amongst other things, the season will be remembered for the periods of very hot weather at times – even preventing us from playing croquet – unthinkable! Our lawn inevitably suffered like many others but has recovered very well and thanks to Mike Case and James Thow for diligently watering the lawn during the really dry periods

The lawn will now be scarified, aerated and seeded in preparation for next season, in part by Club volunteers and also Lawntech, our specialist contractor. The Clubhouse has been refurbished and made rain-proof, a job masterminded by Gary Williams to whom we extend our thanks.

We have been delighted to welcome a number of new members during the season who have brought with them an enthusiasm for the game and we hope that you have enjoyed your first season with us. We now have 54 members including our first Junior Member, Brewis Thow, and hope to attract more new members in 2027.

On the lawn, the Club afternoons have been well supported with, at times, three games taking place at the same time – a challenge but adding to the enjoyment of the afternoon. In addition to our regular competitions, we introduced a ladder tournament to golf croquet this year which has successfully "topped and tailed" the season and will no doubt be repeated next year. Congratulations to all the competition winners who will receive their trophies at the Annual Dinner.

We have enjoyed a number of social events during the year with the Quiz Night, "Fizz on the Lawn", the Club outing to Camerton and Peasedown Croquet Club, Finals Day and friendly matches. These events do require diligent organisation behind the scenes and many thanks to all those involved in ensuring smooth running on the day. Our social events culminate with the Gala Annual Dinner on Friday 30th October which will include the trophy presentations and a Grand Prize Draw.

On the administrative front we have been successful in registering with HMRC as a Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC). We are unable to register as a charity as we do not meet the income threshold required and CASC is the next best status enabling us to claim Gift Aid on donations and enhance our status when applying for grants in the future. That future involves us in looking for a new venue as our current lease expires in January 2031. We are in ongoing discussions with two potential landlords and will keep members informed as and when developments occur.

Finally, I have mentioned some of the volunteer work which goes into ensuring the smooth running of the Club. Many thanks are due to all those who have helped during the season and especially to your hardworking (but small) Committee. As we move forward in expanding the Club, and particularly when we identify our new location and all the work associated with the development of new facilities, we will need to strengthen our Committee structure with people of varying skills and experience. I would therefore encourage all Members to consider whether you could play a part in the running and development of the Club in the future. Please contact me if you would like to discuss what would be involved and the contribution you could make.

Finally, finally, thank you to everyone for your support this season – I hope you have enjoyed it and I look forward to another successful season in 2027.

Keith Gudgeon
Chairman
October 2026