



CROQUET NORTH VS YORKSHIRE CROQUET INTER-FEDERATION CHALLENGE

SATURDAY 5th October, 2019 at YORK

THE RESULT WAS A DRAW BUT YORKSHIRE RETAIN THE TROPHY



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AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

It seems as if the whole world is in the grip of Covid-19, the Corona Virus and we all wait with baited breathe to see if action by the UK Government heads off further spread of the virus or whether our experience follows that of some other counties.

We are very much in a 'wait & see' stage however the CN Committee did feel it important to publish the 2020 Newsletter, at least in part as we reflect on Croquet last season when what now faces us all was not a consideration at all.

No sooner had Croquet Clubs within CN started the process of discussing what Croquet, if any could be played at their Clubs and under what constraints, than the Government took the decision out of our hands by introducing what has commonly become known as 'lockdown'.

The Croquet Association and Croquet North have already taken the decision to postpone tournaments in the early months of the season. Consequently we await the outcome of Government periodic reviews to see if and when constraints which have so affected normal life and in normal life I do include playing croquet, may be lifted.

It is possible that we will have a 2020 Croquet Season - we live in hope.

Thanks for your commitment to CN in these difficult times.

Dennis
31st March 2020



Chairman's Annual Report
9th March 2020

The 2020 Croquet season will see a number of changes for Croquet North.

Changes in governance, personnel and representation by and for the regional federations, which has been in the planning stage for the past couple of years at the Croquet Association (CA) national level, are now very much in place.

The CA now has an Executive Board and our very own Roger Staples of Middlesbrough Croquet Club is its Chair. Like some other federations we now 'share' a representative on CA Council - Croquet North and Yorkshire Croquet representative is Derek Knight, again someone well known to many players within Croquet North and someone who has already attended meetings of the CN Committee.

As we welcome Derek we also acknowledge the many years of service by Charles Waterfield in a similar capacity. Charles has been on the CA Council and served on many of its committees.

The Croquet Association has agreed a new overall aim.

"Getting more people playing more croquet in more places".

Giving that aim arms and legs, a voice and a structure is really down to all of us croquet players across the country. Someone once said "what matters is what works" and we will in this coming season repeat much of what has worked in the past. Hopefully we will also find new ways of promoting our game.

Sometimes things happen which demonstrate that we are moving in the right direction. In August 2019 I was in Sorrento, Italy and really enjoyed one afternoon on my hotel balcony watching the exploits of England's Ben Stokes in the Ashes match against Australia on Sky TV via my smartphone. Remarkable, I remember thinking "if only croquet had such coverage" Well in February this year I found myself, again on my smartphone, in Memphis USA, watching live coverage of the AC World Championships from Australia and critically, this coverage was by a professional sports station providing multiple camera angles and quality commentary. Wow.

I'm looking forward to the 2020 season - I hope you are also. Dennis Scarr

Dennis Scarr
Chairman

DEVELOPMENT REPORT FOR 2019 SEASON

Two notable events occurred in the year. A 'Croquet Matters' workshop was held which was attended by all the CN clubs. This generated a lot of interest at the time but, to date, no clubs have come forward wanting to have a workshop arranged for their club. This is sad as 'Club Matters' is a wide-ranging tool which offers clubs great scope to improve various aspects of their club.

A demonstration day is being organised for a potential new club at Paddy Freeman Park. As it has its own pool of potential players it should not be a rival to existing clubs. Help to get it off the ground would be appreciated.

Apart from a potential application for a grant for lawn reinstatement, there has been no call on the Development Officer this year.

John Fitzpatrick
CN Development Officer



Secretary's Report for 2019

We completed another successful year of croquet, albeit with some difficulty in attracting sufficient numbers for competitive matches. Congratulations to both Alnmouth and Bamburgh for significantly increasing their member numbers. John Fitzpatrick, who has now relinquished his role as Development Officer, expressed his disappointment that the Newcastle 'Going for Growth' presentation by Dave Gunn had not resulted in any follow up from clubs. However CN are now using the CA website offering under the guidance of Nigel Martin. CN Club Members are encouraged to not only view the website, but use it! More will be added over the coming months - see www.croquetnorth.org.

The CA have completed their structural re-organisation. In October Derek Knight was confirmed as representative on Council for both Yorkshire and the North East (ie CN) and is now a CN Committee Member for his 3 year term of office. Roger Staples is now Chairman of the CA Executive Board and Derek Johnson has taken the role of CN Coaching Officer while also giving notice that he will be standing down as CN GC League Manager.

Divisions 1 and 2 of the GC League were both won by Durham. Ripon won the inaugural Northern League, which embodies the results of Div1 matches but allows play with a wider range of clubs. Durham have been invited to represent CN in the GC Federation League in 2020. The GC Open Singles Championship (Turner Goblet) was well attended. Both Doubles Championships managed to receive the minimum entries but the two Singles GC Championships failed to do so.

Julian Gibson, our AC League Manager, reported that (exceptionally) not all AC League matches were played because of non availability of some players. The difficulties have been discussed and changes will be introduced for 2020. The winning team in 2019 was Tyneside Vickers. York won the EPL but Tyneside were the best placed CN club so will represent the federation in the CA Secretary Shield in 2020. Pendle have stated their intention not to take part in 2020.

Club Report Summaries

In 2018 Alnmouth added 10 to their membership numbers and this year they recruited an additional 17. CN were able to loan equipment to help accommodate the increased number of players which now stands at 46. A third of the membership now play in league matches where the club entered one GC Div 1 team and two GC Div 2 teams and provided strong competition to the eventual winners.

Auckland are working with other parties to improve the lawns. Chilton Bowling Club no longer play and there is a prospect of having a second lawn. Low membership at 13 remains a problem. Jane Pringle had a number of successes, finishing the season in the top 10 of the CA GC Ladies Rankings. See separate item about Jane.

At **Bamburgh** a six week Learn to Play Croquet course resulted in 14 new members bring the total to 35. The club won the CN GC Team event that they host annually and did well in the CN GC Leagues. They now believe they need help to advance further. Of interest is that the club produce their own calendar.

The Head Gardener at **Belsay Hall** continues to fulfil his commitment to improve the lawns. For the first time a version of AC known as Short Croquet was tried, but its popularity is uncertain. In National GC Competitions the club was beaten in the second round of the GC Murphy Shield by Ashby and in the second round of the GC Inter-club by Nottingham. Membership increased to 40 but several do not play.



Croquet Durham has had problems with lawns due to the council mis-applying weedkiller last season, but it is expected that remedial work will be undertaken in time for next season. The club entered teams and players into most CN GC competitions with impressive results. In the national competitions they reached the quarter finals in the Murphy Shield by beating first Pendle and then Nottingham. Representing the Federation in the GC Federation Shield, they defeated Ealing but lost to High Wycombe.

John Paul Moberly had another good year—see separate item.

At **Middlesbrough** membership is 28, all of whom are CA members. The usual club competitions were run :

CA One Ball heat was won by Nigel Roberts (second year running)

CA Adv AC B Level won by Callum Johnson

CA AC Handicap—won by Joe Lennon (Glasgow)

CN GC Open Singles (Turner Goblet)—won by Peter Timms

CN AC Progressive Doubles won by John Fitzpatrick

Tyneside Quaich (Middlesbrough v Tyneside) did not take place.

The usual competitions ran at **Tyneside** except for the CN GC High Bisque Singles because of very low entries. Attendance at GC club sessions is falling despite good overall membership numbers (40). The lawns have deteriorated, so contractors were employed at the end of the season to carry out major remedial work and no play is being permitted during the 2019/2020 winter period. The CA AC Mid-Week Handicap was won by Julian Gibson. In the CA Advanced Week-end the Maugham's repeated last years success with David winning and Alison being runner-up.

David Millener - January 2020

JOHN-PAUL MOBERLY in 2019

Croquet Durham member John-Paul Moberly has had another excellent season. At the GC British Open he was again runner up in the singles competition to Reg Bamford. He won his block in the GC World Championships but then lost his first knockout round on the final hoop. He won the Nottingham Open Tournament and was runner up in the Musk Cup. He led the England team at the Home International Championships to a comfortable victory and led the team to a victory against Spain in the inaugural match. He was in the Durham/North Yorkshire team that came within a hoop of winning the Inter Counties title. He is travelling to New Zealand in January 2020 for the GC World Team Championship.

JANE PRINGLE & CHRIS WOOD in 2019

Jane Pringle (Auckland) and Chris Wood (Tyneside & Belsay Hall) won the Ripon Ladies Doubles. Jane finished runner up in the Ladies Open at Colchester and competed in the Women's World Championships in New Zealand. She finished the season in the top 10 of the CA's GC Ladies rankings.



2019 CROQUET NORTH GOLF CROQUET REPORT

Manager Derek Johnson reports:

Golf Croquet League

GC League Division 1 The league title was retained by Durham by one point with Alnmouth breaking up the hegemony of Durham and Belsay Hall over the last few years by edging Belsay out of second place. Indeed Belsay only managed third on games difference over Bamburgh. Despite inflicting Durham's only loss, a startling 15-3 victory, a loss to Bamburgh and a draw with Auckland denied Alnmouth the title. Teams dropping points against a variety of opponents augurs well for the future of the league and is indicative of a rise in quality, although once again Middlesbrough and Tyneside were the whipping boys with both having to field players with handicaps more appropriate to Division 2 on a regular basis. Middlesbrough passed on the "wooden spoon" to Tyneside this year. One match was not played because of problems with players' availability.

1	Pos.	Team	Pl	W	D	L	Games	Pts
	1	Durham Bede	6	5	0	1	56.0	10
	2	Alnmouth A	6	4	1	1	69.5	9
	3	Belsay Hall Gardens	6	4	0	2	65.5	8
	4	Bamburgh A	6	4	0	2	63.5	8
	5	Auckland	6	2	1	3	50.5	5
	6	Middlesbrough	6	1	0	5	35.0	2
	7	Tyneside Hunters	6	0	0	6	38.0	0

Durham completed the double by taking the Division 2 title as well, with a 100% record from their five matches. Some match results had to be adjusted because low handicap players had competed in Division 2 on level play in contravention of the league rules. Notwithstanding this, it was disappointing that a number of clubs had to field low handicap players to cover absences of regular Division 2 players. Indeed, two matches were not played despite this facility to use low handicap players in extremis.

2	Pos.	Team	Pl	W	D	L	Games	Pts
	1	Durham Cuthbert	5	5	0	0	70.0	10
	2	Alnmouth B	5	3	0	2	51.0	6
	3	Bamburgh B	5	2	0	3	46.0	4
	4	Tyneside Swans	5	2	0	3	42.5	4
	5	Alnmouth C	5	2	0	3	34.0	4
	6	Belsay Hall Castle	5	1	0	4	26.5	2



Northern League	Pos.	Team	Pl	W	D	L	Games	Pts
	1	Ripon	5	5	0	0	62.0	10
	2	Durham Bede	5	4	0	1	47.0	8
	3	Belsay Hall Gardens	5	3	0	2	50.5	6
	4	Auckland	5	2	0	3	42.0	4
	5	Middlesbrough	5	1	0	4	33.0	2
	6	Tyneside Hunters	5	0	0	5	35.5	0

Northern League

Ripon steamrolled their way to the inaugural Northern League title with a 100% record including a 15-3 win against a full-strength Belsay team and a comfortable win against a strong, albeit not quite full-strength, Durham team. The first season of this league seems to have been a success with five CN clubs having a competitive match against new opposition and Ripon getting five new matches for which they have expressed their grateful thanks for being accommodated in such an innovative framework.

GC League Division 1 Trophy - After much fruitless activity it has proved impossible to locate the whereabouts of the trophy for this competition. Auckland won the trophy in 2013, Durham in 2014, Belsay in 2015, 2016 and 2017. Durham won again in 2018 but did not receive the trophy that year, it being already mislaid. The last evidence of its existence that I know of is when I collected it from Eugene in 2013 to pass to Durham. Nobody appears certain of having the trophy since then. I would ask that the CN Committee agree to fund a replacement trophy with all the past winners duly engraved.

CN Singles Championship - After several years of dwindling numbers of entrants it was decided to try playing this competition on handicap play to encourage players of all standards across the Federation to give it a try. Remarkably, this managed to glean even fewer entrants than previously and was not held this year.

CN Open Singles Championship (the Turner Goblet) - Eight players contested this trophy in an American Block on level play. Peter Tymms of Durham emerged triumphant with five wins and a draw with Phil Errington (Belsay) runner-up on four wins and a draw.

CN "High Bisquers" Singles Championship - Only three players entered this competition and it was not held.

CN Doubles Championship - This competition only managed to attract four entries but at least that represented eight players! Andrew Carpenter and Tony McCann of Durham were the winners. This competition has been played using handicaps for some years.

CN "High Bisquers" Doubles Championship - This is a bit of a misnomer because the organisers at Durham have had to set a handicap criterion based on the combined handicaps of both players in a pair that allows low handicap players to bulk-up the numbers. Despite this they only had four entries, all from Durham. Gladys Wills and Tony McCann emerged victorious.

Overview - Despite a well-contested Division 1 competition indicating a rise in the standard of play there is a worrying trend across all competitions that despite the much-trumpeted domination of GC over AC in terms of active participants there are still problems in getting players to come forward for competitive play. Durham were denied a clean sweep of every competition that was held, by Ripon's victory in the Northern League.



AC PROGRESSIVE DOUBLES CN TOURNAMENT 2019

Albert Park, Middlesbrough, on Thu 5th September

Report by Charles Waterfield (Manager)

Won by John Fitzpatrick; runner-up Nigel Durie

Eight competitors, 6 from M'bro, 1 each from Belsay and Tyneside, came to take part in the annual Croquet North AC Progressive Doubles in late summer sunshine. At least we have managed to keep this light-hearted event going (unlike last year), so there needs to be more support from CN Clubs.

Again we used alternate-stroke 14-point handicap doubles; handicap differences between pairs were divided by four. Two lawns only sufficed. Winning pairs moved to the other lawn and then players swapped to new hi-lo partnerships for the next game.

All players accrued hoop (and match) points from their various pairings, the more important being hoop points. Five rounds were played, with 75 minute time-limits, although only one of the matches actually pegged out and there were no draws. Win 2 pts, draw 1 pt, lose 0 pts.

Results

Player	HC	Club	Game	Hoops	Place
John Fitzpatrick	14	M'bro	10	56	1
Nigel Durie	16	M'bro	8	50	2
Derek Johnson	12	Belsay	8	37	3
Nigel Roberts	8	M'bro	4	41	4
Mike Akester	11	M'bro	4	34	5
Terry Vernazza	2.5	Tyneside	2	33	6
Julian Gibson	12	M'bro	2	32	7
Philip Hastings	16	M'bro	2	21	8

COLOUR VISION DEFICIENCY

('colour blindness')

Colour Vision Deficiency is recognised by the CA and articles have appeared in the Croquet Gazette.

If you have this condition then please advise the Event Manager at the time of booking.



CROQUET NORTH VS YORKSHIRE CROQUET - INTER-FED CHALLENGE

SATURDAY 5th October, 2019 at YORK

Dennis Scarr - Manager

INTER FEDERATION CHALLENGE - YORKSHIRE CROQUET VS CROQUET NORTH

Dennis Scarr reporting from York.

The 4th Inter Federation Challenge between Yorkshire Croquet and Croquet North was held at York Croquet Club on Sat 5th October.

The Challenge brings together 8 players representing each Federation in a one day croquet event comprising AC Handicap Doubles, GC level Play Doubles and AC 1 Ball. The aim of the Challenge is to encourage players who might focus most of their croquet playing time on one particular code to step into the world of the "other code".

We gathered at 9.30am for refreshments, a briefing from Manager Ted Flexman of Yorkshire Croquet, to learn details of the morning pairings and the number of bisques given or received. AC Handicap Doubles got the day started. 18 point games with all clips starting on hoop 5 with a 2 hour time limit.

Your correspondent got the first break and threw down the gauntlet by running a long angled hoop one only to be reminded, to the backdrop of hoots of derision from fellow players that "all clips start on hoop 5". The morning saw that game as one of two lost by each Federation leaving the scores all square at 2 all at lunch.

Lunch provided by Yorkshire Croquet maintained the high standard of hospitality associated with Challenge matches as we finalised order of play for the AC 1 Ball. It is entirely up to each Manager to set the order of play for 1 Ball so until both orders of play are shared it is not known whether handicaps are matched or mixed. Today, the majority of handicaps were mixed bringing different challenges to both lower and higher handicap players.

1 hour time limits were applied to 13 point games. No games went to time and when all matches were completed the score was 4 wins each.

GC Level Play Doubles - best of 3 - 45 mins time limit per game would decide the outcome.

After 2 matches were complete, both resulted in 2-0 wins to Croquet North. Perhaps the tide was turning in their favour. The 2 remaining matches were both one game all and entering the third and final game. Croquet North needed one more win to take the overall match; Yorkshire Croquet needing to win both deciding matches to draw,

The first deciding game to finish went to Yorkshire Croquet with all players then gravitating to the lawn hosting the final match. Yorkshire were up 6-5 however Croquet North seemed to be in control of the hoop. Eventually Yorkshire Croquet missed a clearance - hoop to Croquet North - 6-6 and on to hoop 13. Clearance followed clearance until Croquet North jawssed. Yorkshire Croquet failed a long clearance from behind the hoop. Croquet North then failed a clearance on the remaining Yorkshire Croquet ball, leaving Yorkshire Manager Ted Flexman with a three yard angled jump attempt on the hoop to save both the game and the match. He made it !

At the end of the day the two sides could not be separated. A draw was in many ways a fitting result even though some on the Yorkshire side were quick to adopt the Ashes Cricket maxim whereby, in the event of a tie the "trophy" is retained by last years winners, who just happened to be Yorkshire Croquet !

Although it's a team event, individual performances were worthy of note. Mike Akester from Croquet North was the only player to win all his matches in the three formats. Conversely and I'm sure he wont mind me mentioning this !! Callum Johnson was the only player not to win a game in any of the three formats. I'm sure, however, Callum will not allow that to detract from his outstanding season in both AC and GC.

Looking forward to the 2020 event at Middlesbrough already !



CROQUET NORTH OPEN GOLF CROQUET SINGLES
THE TURNER GOBLET

Wednesday 10th July 2019

Manager and reporter: Derek Johnson

Past editions of this competition have managed to attract sufficient numbers for two American Blocks followed by semi-finals for the Block Winners and Runners-Up and a Grand Final. In common with all the other Croquet North Golf Croquet Championships entries were reduced this year and a single American Block was just about viable with the eight entrants, Roger Carpenter and Peter Tymms (Durham), Phil Errington and David Millener (Belsay), Eugene Brady (Auckland), Derek Johnson (Tyneside) and the most welcome representation from Middlesbrough of John Fitzpatrick and Mike Pinchin, the two highest handicappers on 7.

The two outsiders promptly upset the apple cart in the first round of matches with Pinchin beating Johnson (5 handicap) 7-5 and Fitzpatrick getting 19 points on his handicap card by beating Errington (-1) 7-5. These two shared the lead after the first round with the Durham duo of Carpenter and Tymms. Remarkably though, at the end of the second round all eight players were tied with one win and one loss as the surprises kept on coming with Johnson (5) beating Tymms (1) 7-3.

Round 3 saw the Clash Of The Titans between Errington and Tymms which ended all square at 5-5, enabling Johnson, Pinchin and Millener to steal the lead as they all secured a second win. Pinchin sprang an even bigger surprise by beating Carpenter (1) again by 7-5.

In Round 4 Pinchin took sole possession of the lead by beating club-mate Fitzpatrick 7-3 whilst victories for Errington and Tymms saw them share second just a point behind.

Three rounds to go and the big question was whether Mike Pinchin could do a "Leicester City" and hang on for the title. Eugene Brady (3) dented his hopes however with a 7-5 win which allowed Peter Tymms to become the front runner with a comfortable 7-3 win over club-mate Roger Carpenter as his tie with Phil Errington was broken by David Millener's (3) victory by 7-3. This moved Millener up to joint second with Pinchin.

Millener and Pinchin each lost in Round 6 to allow Brady and Carpenter to pull level in a four-way tie on six points. Errington moved into a clear second place in beating Johnson 7-2 but remained two points behind Tymms (7-3 winner over Pinchin). Johnson and Fitzpatrick were off the pace with only four points in joint 7th.

Peter Tymms made no mistake in his final match beating John Fitzpatrick 7-5 to reach 11 points. So Phil Errington's narrow 7-6 win over Mike Pinchin gave him second place on 9. Roger Carpenter broke the four-way tie beating Eugene Brady 7-6 to go clear in third. The other three in the tie all lost their final match allowing Derek Johnson to join them on 6 points by beating David Millener 7-3. This win propelled Derek from 8th with one match to go, to 4th by virtue of who-beat-whom between the four tied players, Derek and Eugene Brady being tied on two wins each and Derek having beaten Eugene.

		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
1	Peter Tymms (1)	7	5	1	1	43	32	11
2	Phil Errington (-1)	7	4	1	2	40	35	9
3	Roger Carpenter (1)	7	4	0	3	39	34	8
4	Derek Johnson (5)	7	3	0	4	34	36	6
5	Eugene Brady (3)	7	3	0	4	39	40	6
6	David Millener (3)	7	3	0	4	33	37	6
7	Mike Pinchin (7)	7	3	0	4	39	41	6
8	John Fitzpatrick (7)	7	2	0	5	33	45	4



CROQUET NORTH GOLF CROQUET HIGH BISQUE DOUBLES

Friday 19 July

Four pairs competed in the GC High Bisque Doubles played at Chester-le-Street.

The format was two sets of all-play-all time-limited handicap games, one set before lunch and the other afterwards (with lawns swapped over).

After a keenly fought day with many close matches, the eventual winners were Gladys Wills (11) and Tony McCann (4) who won three, drew 2 and lost only one match.

Many thanks go to organiser Susan Martin, especially for the delicious apple cake that steadily disappeared through the day.

Nigel Martin

MIDDLESBROUGH C-LEVEL GOLF CROQUET TOURNAMENT

(National Series)

14th July 2019

Manager and reporter: Roger Staples

This year there were 10 entrants from Cumbria, Northumberland, Durham and Yorkshire. Handicaps range from 7 to 14 so Players were put in handicap order and randomly allocated to create 9 blocks of all play all. Time limits were set at 30 minutes per game.

After overnight rain, play started in damp conditions and with generous hoop settings the initial games were quickly despatched and by lunchtime the sun had emerged and the players had a well earned break.

The champion would be decided on the basis of the number of games won and should there be a tie, then the number of hoop points scored and who beat whom will determine the winner. This was beginning to give the manager a serious headache as there were two clear front runners and two others who were not far behind.

The afternoon session started in warm conditions with the lawns drying out rapidly and a soft breeze. Lawn speeds improved and by teatime, the leader board had changed completely. With a final round to be played, it was down to a crunch game - John Fitzpatrick vs Susan I'Anson. Susan prevailed and was declared winner of this years Tournament and is now eligible to play in the National Final to held at Cheltenham 21-22 Sept 2019.

David Cornes was thanked for his sterling efforts as Tournament Referee and players left, some rather fatigued after so many games, but all having enjoyed a pleasant days croquet.

Handicap changes:

Susan I'Anson 8 to 7

For up to date information on competitions and results, please look at the CN Website at:

<http://www.croquetnorth.org.uk>



MIDDLESBROUGH'S AC HANDICAP

27th/28th April 2019

Joe Lennon won the HC Tournament at Albert Park

Manager/Reporter: Charles Waterfield

The visiting competitors came from Crake Valley, Keswick, Glasgow, Sheffield and Tyneside, with five from Middlesbrough (including newly joined Anthony Miller). Handicaps ranged from 0 up to 12.

The tournament involved two blocks of six players, with five pre-drawn rounds played as 18-point games, with 2-hour time-limits; four on the Saturday and one more the next morning. The resulting 'rankings' in each block put competitors in the following order:

A. Joe Lennon (Glasgow), Nigel Roberts (Mbro), David Millener (Tyneside), Derek Johnson (Tyneside), Jim Allcock (Crake), Dennis Scarr (Mbro)

B. Andrew Carpenter (Tyneside), Steve Skelton (Keswick), Mark Simmerson (Sheffield), Andrew Killick (Mbro), Anthony Miller (now Mbro), Julian Gibson (Mbro)

On a much sunnier Sunday afternoon there were six play-off games (26-point, 3 hour) between the corresponding Block A and Block B places, with the following results:

Joe Lennon	beat	Andrew Carpenter	+5
Nigel Roberts	beat	Steve Skelton	+3
Mark Simmerson	beat	David Millener	+9
Derek Johnson	beat	Andrew Killick	+13
Jim Allcock	beat	Anthony Miller	+17
Dennis Scarr	beat	Julian Gibson	+9

Joe has now won the trophy three times (every other year since 2015)!

Handicap changes for:

Steve (7 to 6), Nigel (9 to 8), Julian (12 to 14), Mark (9 to 8)

Croquet is tough. People play for months because the rules are so bizarre. Those crazy English.

Jane Kaczmarek

For up to date information on competitions and results, please look at the CN Website at:

<http://www.croquetnorth.org.uk>



CN ASSOCIATION CROQUET LEAGUE 2019 MANAGERS REPORT

Manager Julian Gibson reports

Tyneside Vickers were the clear winners, ending the season undefeated winning both matches played but also being awarded 2 walkovers. Congratulations to them.

	P	W	D	L	F - A	Points
Tyneside Vickers	4	4	0	0	13.5 - 2.5	8
York	4	2	0	2	8.5 - 7.5	4
Middlesbrough Endeavour	4	1	2	1	7.5 - 8.5	4
Middlesbrough Resolution	4	1	1	2	5 - 11	3
Tyneside Parsons	4	0	1	3	5.5 - 10.5	1

Thanks to all that took part. It was unfortunate that two fixtures were not able to be played resulting in only half a season for the ultimate winners.

CN ASSOCIATION CROQUET LEAGUE 2019 - RESULTS

19 th May	Middlesbrough (Resolution) v York	0 - 4
9 th June	Middlesbrough (Endeavour) v Tyneside (Parsons) Tyneside (Vickers) v York	2 - 2 (w.o.) 0 - 4
21 st July	York V Tyneside (Parsons) Middlesbrough (Resolution) v Middlesbrough (Endeavour)	3 - 1 2 - 2
11 th Aug	Tyneside (Parsons) v Tyneside (Vickers)	1.5 - 2.5
25 th Aug	York v Middlesbrough (Endeavour) Tyneside (Vickers) v Middlesbrough (Resolution)	1.5 - 2.5 4 - 0
8 th Sept	Tyneside (Parsons) v Middlesbrough (Resolution) Middlesbrough (Endeavour) v Tyneside (Vickers)	1 - 3 (w.o.) 0 - 4

It was disappointing that it did not prove possible to complete all the fixtures and several instances of difficulty getting a team out were reported.

It should also be noted that there was an instance of a player representing two teams. It was decided to allow the results to stand as they had no bearing on the outcome of the competition, and it was clearly accidental.

As a result of the above there are some suggestions that have been made to potentially improve matters.

They include

1. Allowing fixtures to be played midweek
2. Changing the format to allow the lower handicap player not to play 2 doubles
3. Making the dates more flexible

Views on the above would be welcome.



MIDDLESBROUGH 'B' LEVEL AC TOURNAMENT

23rd and 24th June 2019

Manager: Dennis Scarr reporting from Middlesbrough.

Our eleventh B level tournament in Albert Park had a full field of 16 competitors drawn from England and Scotland, including a few first timers at this tournament.

Handicaps showed a good, even spread from a very recently achieved - 0.5 to 8. The weather was good for the entire two days which brought the best out of our 4 lawns.

On Saturday we had four seeded blocks of 4 with block winners going forward to their respective Sunday blocks comprising those players who on Saturday had come 1st in each block, those who came 2nd, etc, etc.

Order of play in each block was 1v3 & 2v4, 1v4 & 2v3, 1v2 & 3v4.

In the event of players achieving the same number of wins, block positions were determined by Net Hoops and if necessary head to head results.

Time-limits of 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ hr on day one were reduced to 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ hr the next day, with three rounds each day. All lawns were double-banked.

At close of play on Saturday many of those taking part in the tournament gathered at a local Italian restaurant prior to the Manager returning home to do the block calculations for day two.

Top seeds in 3 of the 4 Saturday blocks failed to make it to the top Sunday block with the second seed in all 3 cases winning out; in one block by winning all 3 games and in 2 other blocks on net hoops.

The top block for day 2 started with an impressive display from Derek Knight keeping Peter Wilson off the lawn in a 26 - 7 win. In the other game after Dennis Scarr stalled with both balls at 1back, Callum Johnson took control winning 26 - 12 TP.

In the second round of games Callum Johnson dominated his match against Peter Wilson winning 26 - 0 TP with Peter not taking croquet. The other game in the second round was more interactive with Dennis Scarr running out winner 26 - 13 against Derek Knight.

The final round in block 1 saw Dennis Scarr win a close match against Peter Wilson 26 - 20 to finish overall second in the tournament.

Derek Knight was in a must win encounter with Callum Johnson in the final match however, Callum was to run out winner 26 - 14 to become a very worthy winner of the tournament.

6 games went to time on day 1 and with a reduced time limit on day 2, 7 games went to time.

Honourable mentions go to

David Warhurst who despite not winning his day 1 block managed an overall 5 wins from 6.

Ian Hall who was the only player to beat Callum in the tournament and that on a Golden Hoop!

George Plant on his first visit to Middlesbrough Croquet Club came away with 4 wins from 6 including a veritable drubbing of David Warhurst!

Nigel Roberts who stepped in at the last minute following a withdrawal. Only managed one win but it was a good one!

Peter Wilson who makes the role of Referee in Charge look effortless!

Catering was provided by Joan Scarr assisted by family members and Roger Staples from the Middlesbrough Club. Participants have confirmed that the catering was a highlight of the tournament!

Handicap Changes:

Callum Johnson 1.5 to 1 (I recall that at this event last year Callum's handicap reduced from 6 to 5. I suspect he may not qualify to play in a B level tournament for much longer!)

Liz Wilson 0.5 to 1

Howard Bowron 2.5 to 3

George Plant 6 to 5

FULL RESULTS

DAY ONE

BLOCK 1

DAVIDWARHURST	16 - 6(T)	HOWARD BOWRON
DENNIS SCARR	25 - 18 (T)	GEORGE PLANT
DAVID WARHURST	3 - 26	GEORGE PLANT
DENNIS SCARR	26 -12	HOWARD BOWRON
DAVID WARHURST	26 - 13	DENNIS SCARR
HOWARD BOWRON	22 - 16 (T)	GEORGE PLANT



BLOCK 2

ANDREW KILLICK	26 - 14	ANTHONY MILLER
DEREK KNIGHT	26 - 6	STEVE SKELTON
ANDREW KILLICK	26 - 1	STEVE SKELTON
DEREK KNIGHT	26 - 14	ANTHONY MILLER
ANDREW KILLICK	10 - 26	DEREK KNIGHT
ANTHONY MILLER	26 - 6	STEVE SKELTON

BLOCK 3

LIZ WILSON	26 - 11	IAN HALL
CALLUM JOHNSON	26 - 3	ROSEMARY S - ROBERTSON
LIZ WILSON	22 - 20 (T)	ROSEMARY S - ROBERTSON
CALLUM JOHNSON	21 - 22 (GH)	IAN HALL
LIZ WILSON	6 - 26	CALLUM JOHNSON
IAN HALL	24 - 22 (T)	ROSEMARY S- ROBERTSON

BLOCK 4

PETER WILSON	26 - 13	LORNA DEWER
TERRY VERNAZZA	26 - 12	NIGEL ROBERTS
PETER WILSON	26 - 2	NIGEL ROBERTS
TERRY VERNAZZA	26 - 10	LORNA DEWER
PETER WILSON	14 - 26	TERRY VERNAZZA
LORNA DEWER	26 - 11	NIGEL ROBERTS

DAY TWO

BLOCK 1

	SCORE	
DEREK KNIGHT	26 - 7	PETER WILSON
CALLUM JOHNSON	26 - 12 TP	DENNIS SCARR
DEREK KNIGHT	13 - 26	DENNIS SCARR
CALLUM JOHNSON	26 - 0 TP	PETER WILSON
DEREK KNIGHT	14 - 26	CALLUM JOHNSON
PETER WILSON	20 - 26	DENNIS SCARR

BLOCK 2

ANDREW KILLICK	5 - 26	DAVID WARHURST
LORNA DEWER	21 - 19 (t)	LIZ WILSON
ANDREW KILLICK	26 - 4	LIZ WILSON
LORNA DEWER	22 - 26	DAVID WARHURST
ANDREW KILLICK	26 - 0	LORNA DEWER
DAVID WARHURST	26 - 4	LIZ WILSON

BLOCK 3

TERRY VERNAZZA	14 - 26	GEORGE PLANT
IAN HALL	24 - 25 (t)	ANTHONY MILLER
TERRY VERNAZZA	21 - 26	ANTHONY MILLER
IAN HALL	20 - 23 (t)	GEORGE PLANT
TERRY VERNAZZA	8 - 26	IAN HALL
GEORGE PLANT	25 - 22 (t)	ANTHONY MILLER

BLOCK 4

HOWARD BOWRON	16 - 24 (t)	NIGEL ROBERTS
R S ROBERTSON	26 - 4	STEVE SKELTON
HOWARD BOWRON	8 - 15 (t)	STEVE SKELTON
R S ROBERTSON	26 - 11	NIGEL ROBERTS
HOWARD BOWRON	23 - 19 (t)	R S ROBERTSON
NIGEL ROBERTS	5 - 21 (t)	STEVE SKELTON



TYNESIDE ADVANCED TOURNAMENT

27th/28th July 2019

David Maugham won all his 7 games, including 2 tp's and 2 failed sxp's to retain the Tyneside Tankard.

Paul Rigge was runner up due to beating David's wife Alison Maugham on 5 wins each. There was an interesting game between David and Alison when he proceeded with a sxp as far as penult, before laying a leave with his clips on penult and peg and Alison on 1 and 1. Alison had a contact (this was a super-advanced game) and she then got her first ball round to 1 back, David missed his lift shot and Alison was going well until she missed a relatively short roquet which then allowed David to pick up the pieces and finish. We were all hoping for a magical moment with a new name on the trophy - ok still Maugham but different initials! Photo shows David receiving the trophy from Derek Watts.

Phil Errington won 4 games, Derek Knight 3 games and Anthony Miller 2 with Ian Hall and Gail Curry 1 each. It was interesting seeing Gail playing again and we wish her good luck in the forthcoming Barlow Bowl tournament.

The players enjoyed the usual delicious lunches and teas supplied by and served by Sheila Watts with her very able helper Nora Burbridge.

Derek Watts

ONE DAY B LEVEL - A. C. ADVANCED TOURNAMENT

And the winner is The Manager !

The early season One Day B Level A.C. Advanced Tournament, for many years managed by Peter McDermott, was held on Sat 13th April at Albert Park, Middlesbrough under new tournament manager Dennis Scarr.

The usual 8 player entry was reduced to 5 this year with handicaps ranging from 0 to 3.5.

The tournament is known to be fast moving with quite testing time limits of 2½ hours with no programmed break for lunch. Despite the relatively tight time allowance only 2 games went to time.

Those taking part were Andrew Killick (0) Dennis Scarr (1) and Roger Staples (2.5) - all Middlesbrough, Terry Vernazza (2.5) from Tyneside and Ian Hall (3.5) from Keswick.

The weather was dry however a chilly breeze hung around from much of the day. In keeping with weather locally over recent days, tea time provided the best weather conditions. The lawns at Middlesbrough were, as ever, excellent.

RESULTS

Andrew Killick	beat	Terry Vernazza 26 - 14
Ian Hall	beat	Roger Staples 24 - 17 (T)
Dennis Scarr	beat	Terry Vernazza 20 - 19 (T)
Andrew Killick	beat	Ian Hall 26 - 12
Dennis Scarr	beat	Roger Staples 26 - 12
Ian Hall	beat	Terry Vernazza 26 - 9
Dennis Scarr	beat	Andrew Killick 26 - 16
Roger Staples	beat	Terry Vernazza 26 - 6

SUMMARY

Dennis Scarr	3/3
Andrew Killick	2/3
Ian Hall	2/3
Roger Staples	1/3
Terry Vernazza	0/4



MIDDLESBROUGH ONE-BALL TOURNAMENT

Albert Park, Saturday 6th April 2019

Report by Charles Waterfield

Won by Nigel Roberts

This year's event, our twelfth, involved ten players from CN clubs, mainly Middlesbrough but also Tyneside, Belsay and Durham. The tournament was as usual a heat in the national charity One-ball, this year the Alzheimer's Society. The weather was cool, to say the least, but the lawns were in good shape for so early in the season.

Handicaps ranged from 0.5 to 18 (those below 2 played off further-reduced HCs) and one-third the bisque difference was used. Time-limits of 40 minutes were never reached. Round-robin draws were selected by the manager.

As we were reduced from the original 12 entries after last-minute cancellations, it was easily possible to play the 9 rounds needed to complete the block. Nigel won all his games and was clear victor (having also won last year's event). Stumps were drawn shortly after 3pm, allowing people to return home for a warming cup of tea!

Final results:

1 st	Nigel Roberts (Mbro)	6 th	Mike Akester (Mbro)
2 nd	Ken Spragg (Mbro)	7 th	Phil Errington (Belsay)
3 rd	John Fitzpatrick (Mbro)	8 th	Terry Vernazza (Tyneside)
4 th	Julian Gibson (Mbro)	9 th	Dennis Scarr (Mbro)
5 th	Andrew Carpenter (Durham)	10 th	David Millener (Tyneside)

CROQUET NORTH ASSOCIATION CROQUET CHAMPIONSHIPS WINNERS

HANDICAP SINGLES

2019 Derek Johnson
2018 Julian Gibson
2017 Roger Staples
2016 John-Paul Moberly
2015 John-Paul Moberly
2014 David Millener
2013 Nigel Roberts
2012 Phil Errington
2011 Dennis Scarr
2010 Dennis Scarr
2009 Eugene Brady
2008 Eugene Brady
2007 Roger Staples
2006 Charles Topaz
2005 Phil Errington
2004 Derek Trotman
2003 Derek Trotman
2002 Phil Errington
2001 John Grant
2000 Geoff Taylor
1999 John Moore
1998 John Moore

ADVANCED SINGLES

2019 Andrew Killick
2018 Phil Errington
2017 Andrew Killick
2016 John-Paul Moberly
2015 Derek Watts
2014 Phil Errington
2013 Phil Errington
2012 Andrew Killick
2011 Phill Scarr
2010 Peter McDermott
2009 Derek Watts
2008 Phil Errington
2007 Charles Waterfield
2006 Phil Errington
2005 Charles Waterfield
2004 Charles Waterfield
2003 Charles Waterfield
2002 John Moore
2001 Geoff Taylor
2000 John Moore
1998 Brian Kennedy

HANDICAP DOUBLES

2019 Terry Vernazza and Alan Thwaite
2018 Andrew Killick and Nigel Roberts
2017 Andrew Killick and Nigel Roberts
2016 John-Paul Moberly and Andrew Killick
2015 Peter and Barbara McDermott
2014 Nigel Roberts and John Parks
2013 Phil Errington and Derek Johnson
2012 Roger Staples and John Fitzpatrick
2011 Eugene Brady and Mike Akester
2010 Derek and Sheila Watts
2009 David Turner and Peter Wallace
2008 David Turner and Peter Wallace
2007 Derek and Sheila Watts
2006 David Turner and Peter Wallace
2005 David Turner and Peter Wallace
2004 Derek and Sheila Watts
2003 David Turner and Peter Wallace
2002 Derek Robinson and Phil Errington
2001 Liz Nisbet and Charles Topaz
2000 Bruce Rannie and John Moore
1999 Derek Robinson and John Grant
1998 Bruce Rannie and John Moore



EAST PENNINE 2019 LEAGUE MANAGERS REPORT

League Manager Julian Gibson reports

York were the clear winners, as they won both matches that they played. Congratulations to them. It was disappointing that despite best efforts, and even setting off to play only to be turned back due to flooded lawns, Pendle were only able to complete 1 match, and have decided to withdraw from next year's competition.

	York	Tyneside	M'Bro	Pendle	Wins	Games
York	X	4	6	0	2	10
Tyneside	3	X	2	4	1	9
Middlesbrough	1	5	X	0	1	6
Pendle	0	3	0	X	0	3

In view of this withdrawal it would appear that the following options (not an exhaustive list) may be possible for next season.

1. Play as a 3 team league
2. Play as a 3 team league with home and away fixtures
3. 3. Introduce another team. It has been suggested that Tyneside may be able to field a second team.

Views on the above would be welcome .

CN AC Knockouts 2019 Manager's report

A total of 16 players entered the three competitions.

The winners were:

Handicap Singles Derek Johnson

Advanced Singles Andrew Killick

Handicap Doubles Terry Vernazza and Alan Thwaite

Congratulations to all. Minimal issues with playing matches occurred, with just one match not played due to ill health. Thanks to all in their efforts to make things go smoothly.

Julian Gibson



CROQUET ASSOCIATION MEMBER CLUBS IN THE NORTH EAST OF ENGLAND

Alnmouth CC

Alnmouth & Lesbury Cricket Ground, NE66 3PX
 Chairman - Derek Gerrard
 Secretary - John Howie
 - greensfield@btinternet.com
 - 01665 714963

Auckland CC

Chilton Miners Welfare Recreation Ground, Chilton Way DL17 0PD
 Chairman - Jane Pringle
 Secretary - Jane Pringle.
 - johndanjanepingle@btinternet.com
 - 01388 834465

Bamburgh CC

bamburghcroquetclub.org.uk
 The Green, Bamburgh Castle, Bamburgh, Northumberland, NE69 7DF
 Chairman - Jamie Edgar
 Secretary - Seonaidh Edgar

Belsay Hall CC

belsaycroquet.org
 Belsay Hall & Castle, Belsay, Ponteland,, Newcastle, NE20 0DX
 Chairman - David Millener
 - davidmillener@aol.co.uk
 Secretary - Position vacant (Contact Chairman)

Croquet Durham

croquetdurham.org.uk
 Chester-le-Street Bowling Club, Riverside Park, Roman Avenue, DH3 3PW.
 Chairman - Roger Carpenter
 Secretary - Madeleine Carpenter
 - thecarpenters@tiscali.co.uk
 - 0191 3864511

Middlesbrough CC

middlesbroughcroquet.org.uk
 Albert Park, Linthorpe Road, Middlesbrough, Location TS5 6LD (park here)
 Chairman - Dennis Scarr
 Secretary - Charles Waterfield
 - cwaterfield41@gmail.com
 - 01642 712551

Tyneside CC

tynesidecroquet.org.uk
 Exhibition Park, Claremont Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 4PZ
 Secretary - Position vacant
 Chairman - Peter Lowe
 - tynesidecroquet.org
 - 07792 958406



CN COMMITTEE FOR 2020

CROQUET NORTH FEDERATION has seven registered clubs. Alnwick, Auckland, Bamburgh, Belsay Hall, Croquet Durham, Middlesbrough and Tyneside.

DENNIS SCARR (07745 018 272) dennisscarr@gmail.com **Chairman of CN Federation** and Chairman of Middlesbrough CC.

DAVID MILLENER davidmiller@aol.co.uk **CN Secretary** and Chairman of Belsay Hall CC and a member of Tyneside CC.

EUGENE BRADY (01388 488 666) eugenematthewbrady@yahoo.co.uk is a member of Auckland CC.

JULIAN GIBSON (07736729127) julianval99@icloud.com is **Manager of the East Pennine League, CN Association Croquet League and Championships** and member of Middlesbrough CC.

COLIN CHUN is Manager of the **CN GC League & Championships** and a member of Belsay Hall CC.

DEREK JOHNSON is **CN Treasurer and Coaching Officer** and a member of Belsay Hall CC and Tyneside CC.

JOHN HOWIE (01665 714 963) greensfield@btinternet.com is Secretary of Alnmouth CC.

ERIC NIXON (01661 852 665) is a member of Belsay Hall CC and Tyneside CC.

ROGER CARPENTER (0191 386 4511) thecarpenters@tiscali.co.uk is Chairman of Croquet Durham.

JOHN FITZPATRICK (01740 621 431) fitzpjh@gmail.com is the **CN Newsletter Editor** and a member of Middlesbrough CC.

TERRY VERNAZZA (07754 522297) tvernazza1@gmail.com is a member of Tyneside CC.

CHARLES WATERFIELD (01642 712 551) cwaterfield41@gmail.com is Secretary of Middlesbrough CC.

DEREK KNIGHT (01759 301013) derekknight997@googlemail.com is the **Croquet North and Yorkshire Federation representative on the Croquet Association Council**.

Please contact any of the Officers or Committee Members if you have queries or suggestions.

NIGEL MARTIN -- nigelmartin41@btinternet.com is the Web Master for CN.

For national and international Croquet News and Tournament Results, and to obtain books or equipment, look at the CA website at www.croquet.org.uk

For Croquet North Results, look at the CN website at www.croquetnorth.org.uk

Bamburgh, Belsay, Durham, Middlesbrough and Tyneside have their own websites.

For Club contact details: See page 19

For up to date information on competitions and results, please look at the CN Website at:

<http://www.croquetnorth.org.uk>



Joe Lennon receiving his trophy from Charles Waterfield for winning the Middlesbrough AC Handicap



Middlesbrough CA One-Ball Tournament
Winner -Nigel Roberts



CN Open Golf Croquet Singles.
'The Turner Goblet'
Winner - Peter Tymms



Tyneside Advanced Tournament 2019
The winner was David Maughan