

AC Competitions report 2021

After a lapse of 1 season the Croquet North championships were held again this year, and the majority of the usual suspects played. Results were as follows

Advanced Singles(6 entries)

Dennis Scarr beat Andrew Killick in the final

Handicap Singles (10 entries)

Roger Stapes beat Terry Vernazza in the final

Handicap Doubles

Phil Errington and Derek Johnson beat Eric Nixon and David Milliner in the final

Congratulations to all, and thanks to Nigel for keeping the website up to date with the results.

Croquet North interclub.

Due to the late start York declined to participate this year, but we look forward to them rejoining us next season.

In their absence it was decided that a match be held between Tyneside and Middlesbrough to determine the winners, the match being held at Tyneside.

The original plan was for the two teams from each club to play a match to decide the finalists. This proved possible at Tyneside but not Middlesbrough with the result that the final was played between a Middlesbrough composite and Tyneside Parsons.

The final result was a win by Middlesbrough by 4 – 0.

EPL

This league was also reduced to a match between Tyneside and Middlesbrough following the withdrawal of the York team.

The match was held at Middlesbrough, with the final result being a Middlesbrough win by 4 – 3.

Thanks to all who took part in a difficult year for the competitions, and here's hoping for a return to some sort of normality for next year.

Julian Gibson—Oct 2021

Backworth Golf Croquet Club Report 2021

We played much of the season under covid restrictions but did manage to reintroduce club days part way through and eventually returned to double banking as restrictions eased further. Despite The years difficulties we have still seen a slight increase membership numbers over the last 12 months.

Our usual calendar of social events and competitions was severely curtailed but we did manage to hold the annual barbeque in August which was a great success, helped by the new caterers at Backworth Hall, who proved to be excellent.

We were very happy to be invited to a friendly match at Ripon in July

Helen Barbour, Sue Caygill, Ron Davy, David Livingstone, Tony McCann, Don Morton, Jack Shotton and George Towes made up the team with Brenda Livingstone stepping in as a substitute towards the end. It was a very enjoyable day with brilliant weather and a close run match with Ripon winning by 9 hoops overall.

David Livingstone, Tony McCann and Don Morton also entered the Turner Goblet this year.

Tony has also played in numerous other competitions throughout the year as detailed in the report from Durham, of which he is also a member.

The club continues to play on our winter lawns, weather permitting, throughout the rest of the year.

We look forward to next season and hopefully the opportunity to meet and perhaps play some friendly matches with some of the other CN clubs.

Don Morton.

2021 Report to Croquet North from Tyneside Croquet Club from Peter Lowe

Committee: Peter Lowe (Chair and temporary Secretary), Derek Johnson (Treasurer), Sheila Best, Pat Memory. Julie Scott, Alison Okell, Dave Okell and Sheila Walker.

CN Representative Terry Vernazza

Tenure Promised documentation confirming that the club has a secure long term lease on its facilities has not yet been received from our landlords.

Finance. Commercial hire of the lawns, as last year, fell prey to Covid-19 precautions, denying again this income to the club. The pandemic also prevented lawn watering after expensive repairs in Autumn, 2020 and this, together with a drought, caused remission in the Pavilion Lawn surface that will require that the costly costly seeding and top dressing are repeated. However, membership income has marginally improved and a successful mallet road show brought in agency fees on the sale of a number of mallets.

Covid-19. Attendance and playing precautions were relaxed early in the season following government guidelines.

Membership The majority of members who joined at reduced fee during the previous season rejoined this April and membership now stands at one Honorary, 38 Full, one Country and two Associates. Attendance at club sessions has improved particularly among golf players where paucity of participation had been particularly disappointing. Encouraging was the extent to which newcomers to the club entered internal competitions contributing to almost all of them taking place.

Maintenance of lawns and surrounds. As described under Finance the quality of the lawns has deteriorated mainly due to circumstances beyond the control of the club. The Clock lawn has uneven grass density and some moss but the Pavilion Lawn has developed many large bare patches of uneven soil. At the beginning of October, over a dozen members responded to an appeal and worked hard for several hours cutting back the hedges and trimming the undergrowth around the lawns. Professional tining and scarification is due shortly and reseeding and top dressing of the Pavilion Lawn will be done early next Spring.

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Club Competitions and Local Leagues.

Golf. TCC competed with very limited success in the Southern Section of the CN League but did not enter teams in any national competition. Jane Pringle won the Roger Russell (this year played as a knock-out) and Peter Mattinson and May Hall the Club Doubles. The Caroline Wallace Ladies Doubles was won by Ruth Carey partnering Sheila Best in one game and May Hall in the other. Covid restrictions in early season left insufficient time for the Ivy Court Golf Handicap.

—Association. Due to the state of the lawns and the risks of Covid, TCC did not host as has been customary the National Weekend Advanced or Midweek Handicap competitions. Teams played in modified versions of the CN and East Pennine Leagues, in the Mary Rose (defeated in Round Two), the Longman Cup and the Secretaries Shield (reaching the Quarter finals in both)

Terry Vernazza won the Advanced Singles, Eric Nixon the Handicap Singles, Alan Thwaite and Terry the Handicap Doubles and Dave Okell the One Ball.

Peter Lowe