

CROQUET NORTH AGM 2023

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN

As we approach the new season here in the Croquet North Federation area we face challenges. Many of the challenges are not unique to our Federation. I am involved in a monthly Zoom gathering of Federation Chairs across the country and often the issues we face are common. With the exception of the 'Premier League' Croquet Clubs most Federations carry Committee vacancies as do some Clubs. Rising costs, difficulties with landlords, limited success in attracting new Members / players and an increasing tendency towards 'social play' which impacts on League structures are commonplace.

In recognising these challenges the Croquet Association has promoted a number of initiatives – some of which have included putting people in place to lead and in other cases quite extensive notes / documents appear on the CA Web Site to assist.

Many of the issues we face in Croquet North were seen on the horizon a few years ago. We have had a good number of individuals who have certainly 'gone the extra mile' to support Croquet in the North. We cannot expect these individuals to step up again so its up to us – the current Official, players, coaches, referees and generally the people who make sure things happen so croquet can be played to do what we can.

Ive said before just before the season starts we can get a bit gloomy about our prospects but as soon as that first roquet is made or the first hoop of the season is run everything looks a lot better !

At the National level the Croquet Association will shortly become Croquet England as part of a range of measures designed to see our Sport better placed with regard to the profile of croquet and also hopefully provide improved access to funding.

2022 was my final year as Croquet North / Yorkshire Croquet representative on the CA Council. I did not seek a further term and as yet no nominations have come forward from either CN or Yorkshire so we are effectively without representation on Council.

I trust you have a good season – good fun and good croquet.

Dennis Scarr

Chairman

March 2023