

Review of our 2017 Season

As I write in January, mallets swinging on the Polesden lawns seem distant but as the days get longer we anticipate the 2018 season with relish.

Play started in April, continuing to the sad day in October when the mallets were put away for winter. Many happy hours during those summer months were spent on the lawns at Polesden. In May, experienced players had a day's coaching courtesy of the excellent coaches from Surbiton Croquet Club and a picnic lunch made it a social occasion too. Our own singles Golf Croquet tournament was won by Frank Cross in June and July's Inter U3A Tournament was won by - yes - Bookham! It was a great day, tense for some though! September and our own Doubles Tournament - this is another happy social occasion when players of mixed experience are paired together. The winners were Val Shelton and Averina Snow. Excellent pairing, Val is a long standing member and Averina joined the Beginner's group in April so especially well done. Another beginner, Viv Bignall, was a runner up, all very exciting.

June also saw some of us in Martin and Trudi's lovely garden where we played fun croquet in between the picnics and chat. A trip to Surbiton Croquet Club, playing on their superb lawns, was enjoyed by members in July.

The Beginner's Group of twelve players finished the season still with twelve in it and what a group it was. There was much fun and camaraderie and I'm sure that everyone will carry on into various groups for this coming season. Martin had prepared lesson plans throughout the season and I think the fact that Averina jointly won a tournament proved that they worked - well that and her natural ability!

And now for the advertising.... There will be a "taster" session in April for U3A members who think that croquet might be a game for them but would like to try it before signing up for a group. Equipment is supplied and it's free providing you are a member of the National Trust. Full details will be on the boards at the February and March meetings or you can phone Martin Pulsford on 01372 453565. Please bear in mind that

this and Beginner's group membership has to be restricted to about twelve so first ones signing get the mallets!

The Croquet Group would like to thank: the National Trust for such a beautiful setting in which to play (a winter walk to look at the lawns show them to be in very good condition): to those group members who set up and/or white line the lawns on a rota basis: to the members of Surbiton Croquet club for their coaching and opening their facilities to us and to Martin and Trudi for hosting the summer picnic. Finally, a special thank you to Martin who does so much work for the group "behind the scenes" and we all enjoy the result. Roll on April!