

Would you like fun, gentle exercise, fresh air and good company? If so, read on!

Another year and another croquet season is round the corner. Fortunately Bookham u3a has a thriving croquet membership but we would love to welcome new and (dare I say) younger members.

We play at Polesden Lacey, for croquet, surely one of the most beautiful locations in the country. OK, the lawns may not be up to championship standard (neither are we) but the views more than make up for it.



There are about sixty members in the overall croquet group, divided into six groups, playing Monday to Thursday in two hour sessions. Membership of the National Trust is advised, otherwise you would need to pay at each entry to Polesden.

4



Some groups play Golf Croquet and others Association. There will be at least one Taster Session in April where you can come and swing a mallet to try out the game without having to join a group. Lessons for Golf Croquet will be provided before joining a group. Should you wish to go on to play Association, lessons can be arranged. All equipment is provided, most members eventually buy their own mallet but this is not obligatory. Of course you might already know how to play croquet in which case come and join us!

We don't have a dress code, flat shoes/trainers and trousers/shorts is about it. We have two tournaments for those who wish to participate, a first year player has been known to win! An annual picnic beside the lawn makes a sociable Sunday during the season.

Interested? We hope so! If so, please contact our membership secretary, Peter Jackson either by phone or email. Peter can answer any queries you may have.

tel: 01372 721649 email:

peterj6060@gmail.com

You'll be made very welcome and there's nothing to lose by coming to give it a try! There will be group members at the February and March u3a meetings; you're welcome to approach them with



any queries.

On these pages are photos from our Association Tournament last year, featuring winners Roland Cunningham and Martin Pulsford. David took over from Martin last year and now administers the group overall.

So we look forward to the 2024 season, and a good summer is



forecast, perfect to be at Polesden Lacey. As ever, we thank them for the use of the area which transforms from winter sleep to the croquet lawns from which locals and visitors alike take so much pleasure.

Val Cross



5