

Ludlow Castle Croquet Club

Annual General Meeting 2022

held at the croquet Club Monday 4th April at 1300hrs

Chair's report

It was truly an eventful season with, yet again, further major flooding in January impacting the lawns and the equipment stores when the mowers were totally submerged. The warning from the Environment Agency came after the event which meant there was no time to move the mowers. It became clear that the Allett was no longer sufficient as the principal machine and that it would need replacing.

(There is a comprehensive article in the CA magazine, Croquet Gazette, See p9 of issue 395 from February 2022.)

Alternative options were considered, and different mowers tested. The club wanted a quality mower that was able to provide a lower cut to improve the quality of the lawns but at the same time raising the funds in a way that did not impose an unreasonable burden on the club. A combination of club funds, a donation and a grant from the Croquet Association together with both a grant and loan from the Ludlow Castle Tennis Club. The loan is to be repaid over a maximum of three years.

COVID impacted play but this was mitigated by playing four lawns.

Coaching for both GC and AC took place and handicaps reviewed for all AC players. A particular thank you to Brian Christmas and Brian Shorney.

There was little interest in participation in competitions in the Federation but social competitions were enjoyed and more will be scheduled for 2022. The weekly schedule worked well and will be continued though members will be encouraged to use the booking system and play outside the club sessions.

We were very pleased to welcome new members and the total number of members has increased. The subscription has been retained at £60.

In addition to me, Nick Young, Rosemary, and Mo will be stepping down from the committee. Many thanks to them for their contribution.

Also, a big thank you to all members for their contributions, but particularly those who shoulder the work on the lawns and the regular mowing.

John Aitken

March 2022