

EDLTCC CROQUET SECTION

ONE- DAY C-LEVEL GC TOURNAMENT 29.06.22

This level-play event - open to up to 16 players with handicaps 7 and above - was previously generally known as the 'High-bisquers. This year it was played in accordance with the format required by the CA for its C-level national series. It therefore provided some experience should the Committee wish to apply to be included in that series in future years.

The CA format was for four seeded blocks of four players, all play all in the morning. The top two from each block proceeded to a knockout for the cup, the bottom two to a knockout for the plate. All paces from 1 to 16 would be determined. No draws were allowed, and time-limiting was discouraged.

The possibility of inviting members from other local clubs had been in reserve, but all places were filled from the Club's own membership. Very experienced 'old-timers' mingled with 2021 joiners to play on a day of perfect croquet weather.

The administration of the new format proved challenging, despite meticulous preparation by Gary. However, the day moved forward smoothly with the co-operation of all players and there was little for the manager or a referee to do. Play proceeded with some dispatch, and time limits were never required.

Ultimately the handicaps and seeding proved effective, with three of the four 7-handicappers making it to the quarter finals. To her surprise and delight Moira Steadman won the plate. The worthy finalists were Marion Nagle and Simon Parvin who played under the watchful eyes of almost every other player. Despite that pressure their game was focussed and very even and was won – as so often happens – with a spectacular shot on the 13th hoop. Simon's shot from hoop 12 sidled into hoop 13 from the back and was deemed through by the referee. Marian's only possibility, clearing it from her positions after hoop 12, proved a bridge too far leaving Simon the worthy winner.

An enormous thanks to Gary for his work in preparation and on the day. Thanks also to Keith for interrupting his own game to referee at difficult points. And of course to all the players who played with such enthusiasm, dispatch and good spirits.

David Haddrell

Manager (nominally)