

# In The Loop



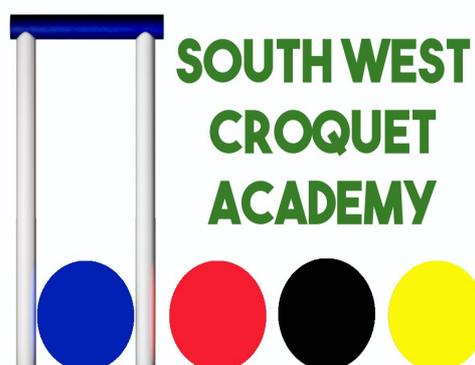
Issue 9 January 2017

*Budleigh Salterton Croquet Club*  
Tel: 01395 442548 [www.budleighcroquet.org](http://www.budleighcroquet.org)

## Do you want to improve your Croquet?

By Alison Maddaford

We have finalised an exciting programme of South West Croquet Academy courses for 2017 – see the course schedule and descriptions which have been sent out with this newsletter. We have picked up on the feedback from the 2016 season and hope you will all find something to tempt you. We are delighted that many of the coaches from 2016 are returning to us. Their courses are not repeats but are covering wider aspects of their particular area of expertise. Course notes are normally provided at the end of the day(s) so you will have plenty of information to help you practise your new skills!



There are handicap guides to help you select the most appropriate courses. However these are only guides – if you want to you can sign up for courses below your handicap (to give you inspiration for improvement) or above your handicap (perhaps for a revision and recap of skills).

The new website is now live and available for courses to be booked. Some eager players have already done so!

If you have any general queries please contact any of us on the working group – Jack Smith, Maureen Smith Peter Moore, Tim Joy, Dave Tompsett, Alison Maddaford, or text/ring 07821458447 or email [enquiries@southwestcroquetacademy.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@southwestcroquetacademy.co.uk)

We are privileged to have the South West Croquet Academy based in our own club. It is one of only three Academies in the country. We have engaged excellent coaches who are prepared to travel, give their time and share their expertise with us – so do make the most of this unique opportunity!

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## Club Open Days

Thursday 20th and Saturday 22nd April

Please put these dates in your diaries now!

Do bring your friends and neighbours along to try croquet, bowls and bridge.

We are looking for new photographs of people from all sections as we wish to refresh our posters, website and displays. These can be anything club-related such as from normal club sessions, competitions, events, or with family and friends.

Please contact Sheena Hemmings ([sheena.hemmings@googlemail.com](mailto:sheena.hemmings@googlemail.com)) if you have any queries about the Open Days or if you have any photographs that we could use.

## Club Pavilions

By Peter Hardcastle

Your General Committee is sometimes accused of not publicising actions that affect members. So here is advance notice of something you may be interested in. You may have noticed that the Club Middle and Lower Pavilions are both looking a bit tired. Our RICS budget for the Planned Maintenance Programme for these buildings is some £64,000 over the period 2015 – 2019. The Lower Pavilion is little used. The roof on the Middle Pavilion would require complete replacement if there was a problem with it. The tiles are so weak that they would crack under the weight of ladders and builders. So the General Committee is going to ask you at the Club AGM, which is on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2017, to authorise them to set up a study on the future options for these buildings. The study group would report their findings to the membership for a decision on action.

**BSCC Annual General  
Meeting  
29<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

# Croquet

By Adam Wimshurst

The Chairmanship of the Croquet Committee has now changed to Jack Smith, but while Jack recovers from his recent ill health, Adam Wimshurst continues in the role as Acting Chairman until early in January 2017 and consequentially writes this article.

Since the last issue of In The Loop, two particular events have taken place:

## Short Croquet Tournament

This successful tournament took place on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> October. 20 teams of four from clubs across the South West met over the two days. Like the similar tournament at Nailsea in April, this is an increasingly popular tournament with clubs clamouring to enter. Space is limited and we have been asked to consider increasing the number of full-sized lawns used to six, rather than the original four. Our lawns were looking spectacular and impressed the participants, a number of whom had never visited us before.

There were twenty teams split into four divisions. Our team, composed of Judith Moore, David White, Maureen Smith and Geraldine O'Boyle, was in division 3 where we came equal second with Kington Langley out of five. The division was won by Camerton & Peasedown (near Bath).

## Receipt of the High Handicap GC Trophy

The High Handicap GC trophy was presented to us at the SWF AGM. We were the first winners of this new trophy which, together with its plaque (for permanent keeping), is displayed on the mantel piece above the fireplace in the main room of the Clubhouse.

## Through the Winter

The winter season is in full swing with the warm weather inviting large numbers to come along to roll-ups. A number of winter members have also joined us from Sidmouth and are very welcome.

## The 2017 Season

The 2017 season will open on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April with the now customary meeting followed by the One-Ball doubles tournament where GC and AC players are paired together as much as possible. This is always a very enjoyable opening to the season.

As is widely known now, all croquet playing members will automatically become individual members of the Croquet Association (CA) from the 2017 season. Details are summarised in a separate article on page 5.

Later in April the season sets a cracking pace with a number of competitions and tournaments – see page 4 for details.

## Croquet continued

### High Bisquers AC tournament

Sat/Sun 8th/9th April

Budleigh

For AC players with handicaps between 16 and 24. Five 18 point games are played over the two days. This tournament enables one to hone one's skills at the start of the season. Details will be published in the SWAN and may be obtained from Phillip Shaw.

### Short Croquet tournament

Sat/Sun 22nd/23rd April

Nailsea

Once again we have entered a team of four into this tournament. We had hoped to enter two teams but numbers have restricted us. As yet, the day to which we will be allotted has not been indicated.

### B – Level Advanced Weekend

Fri–Sun 21st–23rd April

Budleigh

A highly recommended season–start tournament for AC players with handicaps from 1 to 8 inclusive. Details will be in the CA Fixtures book and can also be obtained from Phillip Shaw.

### Charity One Ball Singles Tournament

Final – Sun 7th May

Surbiton

This year the tournament will be in aid of Parkinson's, UK. Budleigh has volunteered to run a heat to select a finalist as last year and we have provisionally set aside **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April** for this. Entry will be a minimum of £5 per person. Last year we collected substantially over £100 and we hope to at least match that this year. Details will be issued nearer to the event.

## An exciting April

In addition to the above events, the SWCA will be holding five two–day courses during April which, together with two Open Days (20th & 22nd), makes for a busy but exciting first month of the season.

# Membership of the Croquet Association

By Adam Wimshurst

This article provides an update on Club membership of the Croquet Association and consequential individual membership.

As has been already indicated, the Croquet Association (CA) is changing its structure so that all Federations and most Clubs will become members of the CA. Individual members of these clubs (such as the croquet players in Budleigh) will automatically become members of the CA. Up until now CA membership has had two categories: Tournament Member, enabling one to play in CA tournaments and Non Tournament members which is self-explanatory, though such members could play in their first CA tournament without being a Tournament Member.

From Season 2017 Individual membership categories will change to two main forms. In summary these are:

**Standard Member** – This is automatically conferred free on all members of CA member clubs once the new database is implemented (delayed until the second half of 2017). Despite the delay all members of Budleigh (and other CA clubs) will be able to play in CA tournaments from the beginning of 2017 for the standard charge of an extra £5 per tournament day above that of the Premium Member. In addition standard members will get an edition of the Croquet Gazette 6 times a year.

**Premium Member** – This is broadly similar to the old Tournament Membership and provides a reduced rate entry to tournaments ( i.e. without the £5/day mentioned above) and priority entry where a tournament is oversubscribed. As well as the Gazette, Premium members will get the Fixtures book. The subscription rates are too numerous to indicate here, but typically are £40 a year if paid by direct debit. This category is worthwhile particularly if you are likely to play in CA tournaments for more than 6–8 days per year.

Once the database is implemented, towards the end of 2017, we will be asked to send details of all croquet members for entry into the database. Details will be secure and are likely to be limited to address, email and phone, croquet qualifications and handicaps. The CA believe that this will be a valuable tool for club use. A member will be able to opt out of having their details held on the database.

Full details on these changes are, of course, on the CA website and may also be found in the September issue of the Croquet Gazette.

## Bridge

By Sue Beresford

A very Happy New Year for 2017 to you all and a warm thank you for your support and help during 2016.

2016 has been very successful and culminated in our annual Christmas Party where, as ever, the food surpassed the Great British Bake Off. This photograph is of the duplicate winners at the party with the N/S winners Andrew Kingsnorth and Rosemary Ormerod on my right and the E/W winners Joanna Healing and Wendy Bell on my left.



Please get your new diaries out and make a note of the following events so far planned for 2017. Sign-up sheets with more details will be put on the notice board nearer to each event.

### TEAMS

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February  
Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April

### DEVON AIR AMBULANCE CHARITY SIMULTANEOUS PAIRS

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March

### BRIDGE TEAS

Saturday January 14<sup>th</sup>  
Saturday February 18<sup>th</sup>  
Saturday March 18<sup>th</sup>

### KEITH PONSFORD SEMINARS 2017

Keith Ponsford has agreed to run his ever popular seminars from 10am to 12.30pm on the following dates:

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February  
Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February  
Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February  
Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February  
Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March  
Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March

### Bridge Classes

You will be pleased to learn that in Spring 2017 Rosemary Ormerod is planning to continue her successful Bridge classes at the club.

The next 10 sessions for beginners (10am to 12 noon) and improvers (2pm to 4pm) will run from 9<sup>th</sup> March through to 18<sup>th</sup> May, missing out 13<sup>th</sup> April.

A programme will shortly be available and you may wish to drop in for particular sessions/topics on the improvers course.

For further details, please contact Rosemary on [rosemaryormerod@gmail.com](mailto:rosemaryormerod@gmail.com) or telephone 01395 267 237

# Bowls

By Tony Barnes

Greetings from the Bowls section, may we wish you all good health and happiness throughout 2017.

Recently the section decided that it would like to experience an extreme sport and thought that Extreme Ironing might well fit the bill. Go on Google it!

It was thought that an Extreme Ironing expedition to the top of Hay Tor might just be acceptable, more news and details will follow later.

During the winter many members of the Bowls Section go to "that place over the road" where they have 2 indoor bowls rinks, for those who don't know indoor rinks are full length but not quite as wide as outdoor greens, this does result in the occasional collision! The playing surface is a heavy duty woven material which is stretched tightly over a wooden base. This makes the surface very fast and the bowls actually follow the manufacturer's designed path, not something that you can rely upon when playing on grass. This makes indoor bowls something of a challenge, if you approach it with the same gusto as outdoors your bowl ends up somewhere in Lyme Bay (or it would if there weren't any backstops!).

Many players adapt quite quickly, sadly it takes me 27-28 weeks to adapt which is very unfortunate as the season only lasts 26 weeks. However there is always the belief that next week will be better and that's what gets me up early in the morning. It seldom actually is better but who knows? Next Week?

Croquet players - imagine trying to play croquet on a shiny table cloth that has been stretched over a marble floor, this will give you a good idea.

On the first Wednesday in November we held our annual lunch and trophy presentation. East Devon Golf Club did us proud and just over 30 people enjoyed a three course lunch followed by trophies which were presented by Keith Stidder. Brain Summers seemed to take a lot of them home this year and there is no truth in the rumour that he had to hire a van to get them all home and similarly it is not true that he has had to hire a cleaner to come in each week to clean them.

Congratulations to all the winners, the rest of us will have to try hard to prise these prizes away from them in the coming year.

The winter teas are well attended and it was nice to see a few, less, familiar faces at our December meeting.

## **Bowls Section - Breaking News!**

**Sadly the Extreme Ironing expedition to Hay Tor has had to be cancelled - None of the men knew what an Ironing Board and Iron were.**

## Situations Vacant

**The Estates Committee currently has two vacancies:**

### **Assistant Estates Manager**

This role will involve working with the Estates Manager Rob Weeks to become familiar with all aspects of grounds management. This will include liaison with the Groundsman, the General and Croquet Committees, volunteers, outside suppliers, contractors and consultants; preparation of budgets, estimates and specifications; and ensuring that regular maintenance of all machinery, equipment and irrigation system is carried out as necessary.

The role will probably suit someone with an engineering or agronomic background who has some experience of project management and who is prepared to commit to developing his or her knowledge in this vital aspect of the Club's operations.

### **Buildings Maintenance Supervisor**

This position will involve looking after all aspects of buildings maintenance on our site. The role would need someone with previous experience of building construction or maintenance and who is prepared to work as part of a team on the Estates Committee.

If you think you could be interested in either of these roles, please contact Rob for further details.

### **Club Secretary**

The current Secretary is retiring at the AGM in late March.

Over the last 3 months many of the duties of this role have been re-allocated to others, leaving the following essential areas:

- Managing General Committee meetings
- Maintaining club wide communication
- Ensuring adequate filing, mostly computer or web based, of club related documents.

The person we need is someone with enthusiasm and energy and with the ability to work in a team.

If you might be interested or would like more information, please contact James Homer on 07772778367 or via email to [jhomer1805@gmail.com](mailto:jhomer1805@gmail.com)

### **Competitions Secretary**

David Hicks is stepping down as Croquet Competitions Secretary, having put a lot of effort and diligence into developing the job over the past few years. On behalf of the Croquet Committee, I would like to thank David for his work.

This means the club is now looking for someone to take on that role. It is crucial that the role is filled as soon as possible. It should appeal to a number of our competitive players and as David has carefully defined exactly what is involved – and when – it should not be difficult to take on.

Anyone who wants to see competition games continue in 2017 and might be willing to take the job on, should contact Jack Smith (2017 Croquet Chairman) by phone or email for more details.

## A Budleigh 'Best Kept Secret'

By Rosemary Bradshaw

Most of us have heard that expression in relation to our club and indeed it has been used in BSCC publicity material more than once. The pleasant surprise which many first time visitors express makes us realise the very special ambience of the whole place. We all know our excellent lawns but what about our buildings which were much appreciated by the Devonshire Association during their 'Day in Budleigh' a year or two ago? Here is a chronological list taken from Dr Ralph Bucknall's 'The First Hundred Years' which sets out what happened when.

**1870** – The First Pavilion, no longer in existence, was sited where the tarmac is in front of the present Middle Pavilion. See the picture below.

**1890** – The New Pavilion was built. This is now the Middle Pavilion. Until recently it was called 'The Players' Pavilion'. At around the same time, the Tool Shed was built which is at present used for storage.

**1906** – Dressing rooms were built, mainly for tennis players, as tennis was very prominent at that time. The Tool Shed became the Secretary's Office.

**1922** – The first stage of the Clubhouse was built. The architect was Mr Hatchard Smith, who was also a member.

**1923** – The dressing rooms were extended at both ends to the rear, probably for lavatories.

**1930** – The Bridge Room was added to Clubhouse.

**1934** – The Veranda was built onto the Pavilion.

**1936** – The Old Secretary's Office became the Bowls Shed.

**1937** – The Small Bridge Room (now the South Room) was added to the Clubhouse.

**1942** – Nissan Huts were built on two of the Tennis courts.

**1956** – A New Secretary's Office was built on the Clubhouse verandah.

**1965** – The Verandah Bridge Room was built.

**1970** – This was the centenary of the first Pavilion (and perhaps of the Club). It passed unnoticed!

To access Dr Bucknall's History and others go to 'About us' on the website, then to History and finally to History Documents. Hard copies of some of these are in a folder which is currently located inside the cupboard near the window in the Main Club Room.

PS We mustn't forget the stable for the pony – more about that another time.

