

# In The Loop



Issue 11 July 2017

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

## Property Working Group Update

By the General Committee

There have been over 30 proposals from members to the Property Working Group. We would like to thank people for taking the time to complete their proposals.

The proposals have been very varied and have not only offered opinions regarding the Lower and Middle Pavilions but also have put forward many other ideas for other parts of the Estate and, indeed, how we work as a club.

The next step will be to group these proposals into themes and then to issue a questionnaire to obtain the views of voting members on these themes. This will enable us to better evaluate the proposals.

Please help us to take your views into account when evaluating the proposals by completing the questionnaire either by email or, for those without email, by hard copy.

**Many thanks.**

### Inside The Loop

<b>Our Beautiful Club</b>	2
<b>Changes to Membership Categories</b>	3
<b>Long Live the South West Croquet Academy</b>	3
<b>Croquet</b>	4
<b>Bridge</b>	7
<b>Know Your Onions?</b>	8
<b>August Tournament Dinner</b>	8
<b>Budleigh in Bloom</b>	8
<b>Stories from the Archives</b>	9

## Mary Goodhart 1926 – 2017

By Elaine Marsh



The enormous debt of gratitude Budleigh Croquet Club owes to Mary was reflected in the high number of club members who attended her funeral on 25th April. On retiring to Budleigh in 1986, she and her sister Joyce joined the Croquet Club and threw themselves into the game and the life of the Club with their customary enthusiasm and energy. Mary served as Croquet Chairman twice (from 1995–96 and 1997–2000), and as Club Chairman (1998–2000). She was also Tournament Secretary from 1997–2008 and Secretary for all Budleigh's fixtures in the South West Federation Leagues until as recently as 2015. It is believed she may have performed this last function for as long as 20 years.

Mary had attended St Paul's Girls School and secretarial college before enjoying a successful career with Anglo-Iranian Oil

Continued on page 2

Mary Goodhart (continued from page 1)

(subsequently BP). As she was in a reserved occupation, her ambition to join the Wrens was thwarted until after the War. She then served in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. At some point later, Mary had the honour of being appointed as Deputy Lieutenant for London. The two sisters were also wine buffs as well as incorrigible theatre-goers and travellers who visited every continent except Antarctica.

Budleigh visitors of the 1990s and 2000s will also have been saddened to hear of her death. Jane Hull (Cheltenham and Kington Langley Croquet Clubs) speaks for them all with this affectionate tribute.

*'I have happy memories of the many years when she was part and parcel of my visits to Budleigh. Both she and her sister Joyce were stalwarts of the Budleigh Club for many years, the very essence of what the Club and indeed the game of croquet was all about. When I first took the plunge to play away from home it was Mary who greeted me with such warmth and enthusiasm. She and Joyce were to be seen from first thing in the morning until last thing at night doing everything to ensure the well-being of us visitors. They organised the Tournament Dinners, gathering up the waifs and strays on to their table so that no one felt left out. Mary was an inveterate talker and I so much enjoyed her tales, including her experiences as a Wren after the war. She was so pretty with a lovely smile and I imagined her looking quite striking in her uniform! One of the joys of playing in croquet tournaments is the pleasure of meeting other players; Mary was for me rather special.'*

## Our Beautiful Club

By Alison Maddaford (Chairman)

As I write it is a perfect June day in Budleigh – bright sunshine and a warm gentle breeze. The lawns are busy with practice, friendly games, league matches of every level, competitions and the regular roll ups. It is encouraging to see all the lawns so well used. The lawns are in excellent condition due to the efforts of our groundsman, Richard Quelch. You will have seen him around so any comments of appreciation I am sure will be most welcome.

The grounds are looking absolutely fantastic due to the hard work of some very dedicated members sourcing, planting and watering the new plants and also undertaking the delightful (?) task of weeding and clearing. The Escallonia hedges are flowering and showing signs of strong growth.

As mentioned by past chairman, Peter Hardcastle, the cost of this 'beautification' is covered by a very generous donation by Gill Needham. The monies have not come out of subscriptions – a concern expressed by some – at a time when the General Committee is making efforts to address the increasing operating deficit.

The House Committee are looking to update the furniture in the club room as one of the donation projects. We have also been able to replace the curtains in the club room and fix vertical blinds in the South Room.

**Thank you to everyone involved in any way to make the grounds look so good. It is noted and appreciated.**

## Changes to Membership Categories

By Sheena Hemmings

At the recent EGM, the club agreed to make 2 changes to membership categories with immediate effect.

**Family membership** – Any Full member can now convert to being a Family member. This will entitle you to register two named family members between the ages of 10 and 17, who are then permitted to play with you present at no extra cost. Please contact the Membership Secretary (Ray Virr) if you wish to change to being a Family member.

**Restricted Membership** – Any Restricted members may now play after 4pm daily, and on 2 specified and agreed dates of the week and at any time if playing a Club Competition match.

If you have any questions on these changes, please contact Sheena Hemmings.

## Long Live the South West Croquet Academy

By Judith Moore

This year I chose three courses, two to help me improve my AC play and one to find out what GC is all about.

Firstly I'd like to say how impressed I was by the administration, from the ease of booking, the welcome on arrival and the provision of decent lunches to the contingency plans when the weather turned nasty.

The coaches were Dave Kibble and Roger Mills, aided and abetted by skilled volunteer club members. Anyone who has been coached by Dave or Roger will know how committed they are

and that their enthusiasm is contagious. Excellent handouts and audio visuals accompanied Roger's course along with a great deal of humour. And Dave wasn't going to let us go home until we could all do jump shots!

We lived in Nottingham until a couple of years ago and I occasionally went on croquet courses at the Southwick Croquet Academy near Brighton. This involved much travelling and expense and a lot of us just couldn't do it. So I was delighted when, as we moved to Budleigh, a new Academy appeared at our own club!

I feel I've learnt a lot this year and am now looking forward to next year's courses.



Dave Kibble

# Croquet

By Jack Smith

## Competitive Play

### AC League Matches

Several of the season's League matches have already been played, with some very encouraging results in some quarters. As I write, my wife Maureen has returned home with a big grin on a very tanned face having just completed two out of two match wins for the 'B' AC team. Apparently, it is the first time in a long while that anyone can remember beating Sidmouth in this league. And on a swelteringly hot day too! The Intermediates are doing better this year too, winning two out of three so far, and only just missing out against Cornwall. The Advanced (Parkstone Trophy) team have yet to play any matches, so hopefully will take some inspiration from the B's and Intermediates. Here's hoping the Federation team, who have one win and two losses to date, can achieve success in their remaining three games against Lym Valley, Sidmouth and Nailsea South.

### GC League Matches

We have mixed fortunes with our GC teams. The High Handicap and Level play teams have won both their two matches played to date. The two handicap teams have not fared quite so well so far. The South East team met some stiff competition from Nailsea and Dowlish Wake. The South West team lost to Plymouth, then won against Cornwall Rosevear, and drew against Cornwall Porthpean.

### Tournaments

A number of Internal and CA Tournaments at Budleigh have already been held and Budleigh Players have featured nicely in other competitions too. I won't list the winners yet as it will leave me nothing to say at the end of the year, but you know who you are! However, it is worth mentioning Wendy Dominquez, Judith Moore and Peter Moore, who have fared well in competitions at locations well away from the club. Anyone who is a bit nervous about entering competitions at other clubs should really talk to these members who will assure them its not as scary as you think and is a great way to gain experience. Pluck up courage and have a go – I might, when I get back to playing croquet again on a regular basis!

### Internal Competitions

Hopefully those of you that are croquet members will have started playing some games in the block or knockout competitions that you have entered. Do please remember that, for competitions involving blocks, there is a deadline. Depending on the number in your block, you must have played at least one or two other competitors in each competition by the 23rd July. If in doubt, check with the manager of the competition.

Before I leave the subject of competitive play, I really would like to say a big thanks to all the volunteers who help make the events run so smoothly. The feedback I get from visiting players really makes me proud. Budleigh isn't just a venue for a Tournament. It puts on a truly memorable event for all the entrants, so that they will return in future years. **THANK YOU!**

## August Tournament Dinner

The August Tournament Dinner, which will be a delicious summer buffet, will be held on Thursday 3rd August. It is open to anyone who enjoys good food and great company, not just event players. So if you want to join us at table that evening put the date in your diary. Details are on the noticeboards. My thanks to the Bridge section who will vacate their usual room that evening.

## South West Croquet Academy

The current programme of courses at the South West Croquet Academy (SWCA) here at Budleigh now draws to a close. There are some thoughts about an Autumn programme but, as always, availability of people to organise and run them is an issue. So we must wait and see what develops. There is currently also some debate about where club coaching, South West Federation roving coaches, coaching pods and Academies fit into the overall scene of Croquet and what elements are best served by each of those options. Watch this space.....

The most popular SWCA course by far was Roger Mills' "Mastering Three and Four Ball Breaks Course", which was aimed at existing AC players wishing to develop their game. It was so heavily subscribed we added more sessions to meet the demand. Kindly, Roger managed to fit the extra days into his busy schedule. Oddly, his introduction to AC – "AC the Easy Way, for beginners and improvers" – proved less popular and the course still had a number of places available when it started. The Golf Croquet Courses were as popular as ever and we had a lot of delegates who wanted the basics. Perhaps a lot of the smaller clubs do not have the coaches available to satisfy this demand? Certainly the SWCA does provide a valuable income stream for the club, so it is important we get the balance of courses and use of our facilities right so that members gain overall from its activities.

The lack of demand for a beginners course for Association Croquet might be symptomatic of the decline in people taking up that code. The preference seems to be for Golf Croquet, which is quicker to get started and to play. Perhaps it's a sign of the times – people are under pressure to fit more and more "things to do" in their daily lives and demand "immediacy". I realise I am straying into controversial territory here, but I would like to know why more members are not attracted to the game. I now thoroughly enjoy playing both codes. However, when I first started playing croquet I needed to be "bullied and cajoled" into taking up AC. My excuse was that I wanted to get to grips with GC first. On reflection, I'm glad that I was "bullied and cajoled" as I really enjoy the challenges and variety of play that AC offers and might not have taken it up without such encouragement. Perhaps the rise in popularity of Short Croquet goes some way to overcoming some of the perceived drawbacks to AC. It can certainly be much shorter and faster than a full AC game – although I do remember seeing some AC tournament games that lasted less than 45 minutes!

## Lawn Booking

A change in the way this system works has unfortunately prevented it from working properly. There will be a new system in place in the very near future which will be much simpler to use. James Homer will email all members when the new system is running.

Continued on page 6

## Other news from the Croquet Section

We were asked by the CA if we would be interested in hosting the World Golf Croquet Championships here in 2019. Our initial reaction was that it would be very prestigious for the club and put Budleigh very much at the top of the pile, as well as useful publicity for recruitment etc. We set up a small working party to look more closely at the pros and cons, and to gain a better understanding of what it entailed. Reluctantly it was decided that we would decline the offer. We would struggle to get the resources required and the disruption and inconvenience to members would be considerable. It was also unlikely to make a significant beneficial difference to club finances when all the costs were taken into consideration.

The other significant action the croquet committee have been involved with is to provide input into a review of our governing body, the CA, in terms of its governance and organisation. Although we would all rather be playing croquet, it was important to contribute to this because it will undoubtedly impact how our sport develops and how clubs such as ours are supported within the world of croquet.

We have also been involved in a dialogue with the CA regarding remuneration for tournament lawn hire. It's early days, but the analysis that has been undertaken by this club gives us a sound basis for reaching a realistic figure, hopefully in the not too distant future.

Finally it may not be widely known among newer members, but did you know that Brian Shorney, the CA Chairman, is a member of this club? So, we have a direct tap into the "boss" if we need it!

## Forthcoming Tournaments

The following tournaments are scheduled over the next few months:

10 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup> July	The CA Seniors
29 <sup>th</sup> July	The GC A/B/C Levels Tournament
30 <sup>th</sup> July – 5 <sup>th</sup> August	The August Tournament
19 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> August	GC "B" Level Tournament
23 <sup>rd</sup> – 25 <sup>th</sup> August	The Broad Thomas Cup
31 <sup>st</sup> August – 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	The CA Challenge and Gilby
9 <sup>th</sup> and 10 <sup>th</sup> September	The Alan Marsh One Ball Competition
12 <sup>th</sup> and 13 <sup>th</sup> October	The Short Croquet Open Singles. This is a new event on the Croquet Calendar and is open to all players across the UK (and further – if they want to come!)

**Some of these tournaments are still open for entries – watch out for details in emails and on sign up sheets.**

# Bridge

By Sue Beresford

## Committee

The Bridge Committee members for 2017–2018 are as follows:

Sue Beresford (Chairman),  
Lesley Standen (Deputy Chairman),  
Rosemary Ormerod (Secretary),  
Rupert Ormerod,  
Sandra Shaw,  
Janey Bruce,  
Barbara Mellor (co-opted)  
Maurice Gwatkin (co-opted)

## Competitions

Congratulations to the following trophy winners of the 2016–2017 competitions:

Stuart Tibbitts & Tessa Slow (1 <sup>st</sup> equal)	Tuesday evening Duplicate
Maureen Smith & Sandra Shaw (1 <sup>st</sup> equal)	Wednesday afternoon Duplicate
Peter and Jackie Hardcastle (1 <sup>st</sup> equal)	Thursday evening Duplicate
Sheila Newcombe	Tuesday & Thursday Duplicate (Handicap).

The 2017–2018 competitions are underway from April 2017.

## Wednesday Bridge Sessions

From 7<sup>th</sup> June to the beginning of September 2017, due to the low turnout in the summer months, the Wednesday afternoon bridge sessions will not be duplicate. We are running these sessions on the basis of players turning up with a partner and deciding on the day whether they wish to play Rubber or Chicago bridge. We will continue to monitor this and will revert to duplicate if demand increases. In any event we plan to revert to Duplicate bridge in September.

### January 2018 Bridge Holiday

A reservation has been made at the Royal Hotel in Woolacombe for the annual Bridge holiday for the weekend Friday 26<sup>th</sup> to Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2018. The cost of this is £105 per person for the three nights dinner bed and breakfast. (£5 per night supplement for single room occupancy). £25 per person deposit is required. Firming up on the booking and payment of deposits will need to be by beginning of September if this venue is to be retained. If you wish to be included in the holiday please sign up on the sheet on the noticeboard.

Have a good summer. Details of our Autumn/Winter events will appear in the next edition of In The Loop. If you have any suggestions please let me know.

**KNOW YOUR ONIONS?  
ENJOY GOOD FOOD?  
GOOD HOST/HOSTESS?**

**By the General Committee**

This could be your opportunity to make a real difference to the club!

We are looking for a very special person to be our **Catering Coordinator**.

The task - which is largely administrative - is to ensure that suitable catering arrangements are in place for croquet and club-wide events.

Catering may be provided in a number of different ways - by in-house volunteers, commercial caterers or by buying in food from outside suppliers.

The Coordinator will assess the best way to provide catering for each event on the basis of numbers and any specific needs and liaise with whoever is providing the food or buying it in.

For the next few months the focus will be on the remaining tournaments to be held this season. In future the role will expand to include the SWCA and club events such as dinners, barbecues etc.

If you think you may be able to help, why not find out more before making any commitment? Please contact Phillip Shaw, the Tournament Secretary - who is aware of tournament requirements and the needs of the SWCA - to discuss the croquet aspects of the role as this is the immediate need. Phillip can be contacted on 01395 442684 - [xwep@btinternet.com](mailto:xwep@btinternet.com)

**August Tournament Dinner**

**Thursday August 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**A Delicious Summer Buffet - Open to Everyone**

**For details see the noticeboards**

**Budleigh in Bloom**

**Club grounds and gardens awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> prize in section!**

**Many thanks and congratulations to all those involved.**

# Stories from the Archives

By Sheila Jelley

## Dr Robert Walker M.R.A.C.S., L.A.C., M.D. (1835–1916)

Dr Robert Walker was one of the first committee members of the Budleigh Salterton Archery & Lawn Tennis Club in 1885, with General Goodwyn as Chairman. He continued to serve the Club continually from that time being Honorary Secretary in 1904, Vice President 1905, President in 1909 & Honorary Secretary again in 1910.

Born in 1835 near Kendal in Westmorland to a farming family, he trained in the Medical Profession. He gained licences for Midwifery, Surgery, Society of Apothecaries and as an M.D. from University of St Andrews in 1862.

The first mention of Dr Walker in Budleigh Salterton is from a newspaper article dated 15<sup>th</sup> January 1867 which refers to a Ball that took place on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> January in The Public Rooms (West Hill). The Ball was under the patronage of Mr G P Neave (see ITL October 2015) and was attended by many others from Budleigh Salterton as well as Sidmouth & Exmouth. 'The dancing was kept up with spirit until an early hour on Friday morning'.

He was an eminent figure in Budleigh life and was one of the instigators of the building of the Cottage Hospital in 1887. Budleigh Salterton wanted to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria and although several ideas were put forward to the Jubilee Committee, the building of a hospital was the favourite by a long way. Funds were set up and the Foundation Stone was laid on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March 1888 when Dr Walker gave a vote of thanks to all those involved with the project. In 1904, while riding his bike down Smart's Hill, he collided with a milk cart and was heavily thrown. He was assisted to his abode where Dr Evans treated him. He was the Medical Superintendent at the V A D Hospital, Greenbushes, from 1914 until his death in 1916. His name crops up in many places helping Budleigh families with his medical expertise.

In his personal life, his first wife Agnes Ann Airey whom he married in 1868, lived in Fore Street next door to the Ross family who were also greatly involved with our club (Ross Cup). Sadly Agnes died in April 1888 – soon after the Cottage Hospital foundation stone event. This must have been a stressful time for him. In 1890 he married an Australian widow, Margaret Wilkinson, by whom he had two sons, Miles and Arthur, who both served in WW1. Miles unfortunately died of Influenza in December 1918 having served with the Army Service Corps. Arthur was a Captain in the 11<sup>th</sup> Welsh Regiment. He was wounded, and returned home. One of his sons is still alive in Canada. From 1890 the Walkers lived at 7 East Terrace where Mrs Walker continued to live until at least 1923. She died in 1940 and is buried with her husband in St Peter's Burial Ground, Moor Lane.

Continued on page 10

Dr. Walker's funeral took place "amid manifestations of respect and sympathy. He had resided in Salterton for over 50 years. He was highly esteemed'. The attendees included many names held in the Club's archives as well as many other residents. His eldest son Miles attended but Arthur was serving in Salonika and was not present.

Dr. Walker is one of many of our illustrious members who features in one of our earliest photos taken in the early 1880s. The photograph is displayed in the Clubhouse as well as on the recent displays that Pat Peters has produced to show some of the history of the Club. He is the bearded gentleman indicated by the top arrow.



## Miss Callender – An Update

In the April 2016 issue of 'In the Loop' Brian Hooper wrote an article on Miss Callender (later Mrs Frederick Williams) and was concerned that she was listed as a cook living in Exeter in 1911. I have now established that she was living with her mother Hannah Callender in Sunset, Station Road, Budleigh Salterton at that time and was still a lady of private means. After her marriage in 1912 to Frederick Williams of The Firs, the couple continued to live at 'Sunset' Station Road, until their deaths in the 1920s and are buried in St Peter's Burial Ground, Moor Lane.

Miss Callender is also in the photograph, sitting on the grass and indicated by the bottom arrow.