



Cygnets

February 2018



Offspring of SWAN The e-Newsletter for the South West Federation of Croquet Clubs

Please send your queries, suggestions and feedback to us: lindawithani@hotmail.com

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Welcome

Hello again everyone and as we begin to emerge from our winter hideaways, it's time to think ahead to the new season.

We're particularly pleased to welcome Neil Morrison to the SWF committee - he takes on the Treasurer's role and will be a real asset to the team.

Many of us will have been working hard through winter - sorting out league teams, club competitions, reading up on our tactics and maybe even a swing or two of our mallets in the back garden (not in the lounge please - think of the china!).

As you will have seen, our handicapping workshops have been arranged and are filling up nicely, so if your club hasn't arranged for anyone to be there yet, please let me know asap. There is more space at Budleigh than Cheltenham at the moment so if you have the option, it would be helpful if you could book for that.

The booking form may be found on p6 of this newsletter and if you'd like the full information, then email me (as above) and I'll send it to you.



Handicapping workshop dates:

Cheltenham: Sunday 11th March

Budleigh: Sunday 18th March

Both start at 9.30 for registration and coffee and are suitable for AC and GC aspiring and actual handicappers.

Deadline for registration: 5th March

GDPR

Another acronym for us to get our heads around - thank goodness there's only 26 letters in our alphabet.

GDPR refers to the General Data Protection Regulations which come in to force on 25th May.

It is basically updating the existing Data Protection Act but there will be implications for how the CA, Federations and Clubs manage data about our members and others.

There has been some mention of this in the Croquet Gazette but we are still seeking clear guidance on what exactly we need to do and will share this with you as soon as we can - in the meantime if you've seen any clear guidance then we'd love you to share it with us.



Amazing club people



In the last issue of Cygnet you will have read about CA Diploma awards and that Mo Boys at Camerton & Peasedown had received one.

Information about these awards may be found on the CA website and are often featured in the Croquet Gazette, but it is nice to be able to celebrate these locally as well.

We don't have the time to keep tabs on these ourselves so would welcome contributions from you, the clubs, direct.

We were pleased therefore to receive this from Kingston Maurward who had their own reason to celebrate as Tess Burt also received the Diploma - this is the citation presented by the club:

Tess Burt has given outstanding service to croquet for almost thirty years, both at her home club but also further afield. Her primary contributions are extensive coaching, enthusiasm and encouragement for club and AC and GC game development, and raising interest overall. Tess sets high standards vis-à-vis match discipline and fairness and she is a qualified GC referee.

Tess joined KMCC in the late 1980s, about the time the club was founded. She took up AC shortly afterwards. In the 1990s she was an active member of the KMCC Committee, and has frequently represented the club at the SWF AGM.

She coached extensively both at KMCC and at East Dorset Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club, where for many years she ran an annual tournament for GC high handicappers. She also coached the Somerset WI ladies, who now run an annual, regional tournament.

Tess also regularly held coaching and training sessions at Denham College in Oxfordshire (the WI UK's educational establishment). She helped set up the Wareham croquet club.

Tess continues to be an enthusiastic and selfless ambassadress. Having celebrated her 80th birthday, she is still playing in UK tournaments, is captain of the KMCC GC Level Play Team, and runs an annual Dorset WI competition.

Congratulations are also extended to Eileen Magee, who has been awarded the British Empire Medal in the Queen's New Year's Honours List 2018.

The citation is for services to Cheltenham Croquet Club and the community in Hartpury, Gloucestershire.

All club members and any visitor to Cheltenham CC will know of Eileen's tireless work on the committee, maintaining the flowerbeds, and her excellent catering.

The BEM is awarded for a 'hands-on' service to the local community that has made a significant difference.

Coaching in 2018

At the beginning of the season, clubs will be making arrangements for AC and GC coaching during the season. Many clubs will be able to run their coaching using their own coaches.

But for clubs who have no qualified coaches, Richard Jackson, the Federation Coaching Officer, has a list of qualified coaches who may be able to help. He is also aware that several small clubs without a CA qualified coach have members who are carrying on informal coaching at their own clubs.

Richard would welcome contact with such coaches, so that he can have a fuller picture of coaching activity in the federation, and also facilitate such informal coaches, if they so desire, becoming qualified coaches.

He may be contacted via: richard.jackson@yahoo.co.uk

CA National Development Officer Questionnaire

National Development Officer, Dave Gunn, is doing a grand job keeping the five working groups fixed on their tasks and you can read his latest update in the Croquet Gazette.

A questionnaire has been sent to all club secretaries in the country seeking views on player recruitment, retention and development, and on encouraging volunteers within clubs.

If you haven't seen this, then please contact Dave for your copy.

Ros and Linda are collating the responses - Ros for player recruitment etc, and Linda for volunteering.

We've received a couple of dozen responses so far and the responses are really helpful - so please do send in your club's views as soon as possible.

Our new website

We're making progress on this - Alison Jones is being very patient with us as we search for a common language to describe what we'd like - it shouldn't be too long before it's up and running. We'll keep you posted.

We'd like it to be as interesting as possible and would particularly welcome your photos - a suitable caption would be helpful - send them to me at the address at the top of this newsletter.



Contacts changes

Cheltenham: The new Secretary is Darryl Whitehead - darryl.whitehead@gmail.com
Tel: 01242 227512.

Please remember to let us know if **your** contacts change.



CA & SWF Subsidies Announced for Coaches & Referees Courses

The CA and SWF have recently confirmed details of their policies for reimbursing some of the costs for players wanting to qualify as a Coach or Referee.

For a CA member who attends an approved course to become a Coach or Referee (either AC or GC), the CA offers a subsidy of £25.00 and the SWF will also help towards 50% of the member's travel costs at 40p per mile.

The SWCA's 4 courses in April are all CA approved, and so qualify for these subsidies:

- the CTC (Coaches Training Course) on April 4-5 is for both AC and GC players who want to become a Club Coach – the first step in the process of becoming a qualified coach
- the CQC (Coaches Qualification Course) on April 5-6 is for both AC and GC players who want to become a Grade 1 Coach
- the AC Laws & Referees Course on April 16-18
- the GC Rules & Referees Course on April 21-22

As you might expect, there is some small print. To qualify for the CA subsidy, a member must take the relevant exam (but, you don't have to pass it to claim!) and can only claim the subsidy once for the same course. The SWF travel assistance is available to members of full member SWF clubs, and is paid only when the member obtains the relevant qualification.

The SWCA's courses are led by some of the UK's foremost coaches – Dave Kibble, Marcus Evans and Dr Ian Vincent – so there has never been a better opportunity to try for one of these qualifications!

For full details of these courses and to reserve a place, please visit the SWCA's website:

www.southwestcroquetacademy.co.uk

Any queries, or for more information on these courses, then please call Roger Mills on 01395 512250

Handicapping Workshops

Delegate Entry Form

These are two identical workshops so that you can choose the most convenient venue.

Please indicate which workshop your delegate/s will be attending

Sunday 11th March 2018 at Cheltenham Croquet Club	
Sunday 18th March 2018 at Budleigh Salterton Croquet Club	

Name of delegate	Email address	Name of club represented	Lunch required

A light lunch (soup and roll) will be available to those who book in advance at £3 per head at Cheltenham. There's the Cheltenham Pram for teas and coffees - 50p a cup.

At Budleigh there will be a £3 charge for teas / coffees and cake. Lunch will be available for £5.75 - this will be prepared and brought in from a local restaurant.

Lunches must be pre-booked and all charges are payable on the day.

An application may be made towards travel costs of attending the course

- This will be calculated on a mileage rate of 20p per mile
- This may be claimed for one car only for each club

Please email this entry form to: lindawithani@hotmail.com

Or by post to:

Linda Shaw
21 Grove Ave
Coombe Dingle
Bristol
BS9 2RP

Tel: 077 857 861 47



That's all for now folks!