



Cygnets

November 2018



www.swfcroquet.org.uk

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

Please circulate to all your Club members

Please remember that we send Cygnets to our club contacts and ask them to pass them on to individual club members - ideally putting a hard copy on the club noticeboard as well. But Cygnets is also available shortly after publication on-line on our website.

Please send your articles, notice of events, courses queries, suggestions and feedback to us: lindawithani@hotmail.com

Welcome to the first edition of Cygnets in quite a while - it's been a busy summer one way and another and let's hope we've all luxuriated in our successes and relegated our failures to their proper place - lessons learned!

This is the final issue before our AGM on November 18th. Full details of the agenda and proposals have been sent to all member club contacts and may be found on the SWF website.

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League Teams entry form

This has been circulated to all club contacts and should be returned to John Grimshaw by 2nd December 2018. It is reproduced on p8 of this newsletter

And while we're on the subject of League play, it is now fairly well-established practice in GC that players' handicap cards are made available to the captains of both sides. We would like to see this become more widespread in AC games as well - so let's all remember to do this in 2019.

SWAN

A reminder that articles for SWAN should be sent to Maureen as soon as possible together with up to date league team contacts: editor@swfcroquet.org.uk

Now we have both SWAN and Cygnet, we are reflecting on their respective roles and we'd appreciate your views on this. The sort of things that have been going through our minds are:

- SWAN is an invaluable guide to League fixtures - a summary of the past year and a taster of things to come
 - Bearing in mind the cost of production would it be as useful if it were only available on line or should we continue to produce hard copies?
 - Contact details may change during the year - should we maintain an online version which is more accurate in this respect?
 - Do you have any ideas for the sort of articles and information you would like to see in SWAN (and Cygnet)?
 - And finally, Maureen will be contacting each club to establish how many copies they need - if you haven't heard from her, please send her an email with your estimated need

Budleigh Salterton's Short Croquet Festival - over a hundred players compete

Thanks to Judith Moore for this report and photos.

As the days shorten and the temperature drops the faster-paced versions of croquet come into their own - like Twenty20 cricket rather than the five day Test. "Short Croquet" (SC) is one of the most exciting of these, played on smaller lawns with brisk time limits ensuring lively action. Budleigh has taken a lead in encouraging players from across the South West to adopt this format and prolong their playing season.

This year we again hosted both an individual SC championship (9 & 10 October) open to players nationwide and the Autumn leg of the South West teams' championship (12 - 14 October). With 24 players in the former and 100 in the latter we were delighted to host a splendid week of croquet at a time when in earlier years people had been polishing their mallets and dreaming of the Spring!

A particular strength of SC is a handicap system that allows players of all levels to compete on equal terms. Handicaps in the events spanned the complete range from 10 bisques to 3 compulsory peels; ages ranged from 18 to 88!

The two-day individual event featured entries ranging from seasoned internationals to virtual beginners. It was won by Martin Wicks of Taunton Deane in his first season of serious tournament play, beating in the final Peter Mallen of Budleigh. We will see much more of Martin.



Photo: Martin Wicks receives the Rosemary Bradshaw Salver from Rosemary Bradshaw

At the weekend we switched to team competition with 25 teams of 4 representing 15 clubs across the South West. In response to the growing popularity of this form of croquet the South West Federation has added a fifth division to the league and gone from two to three days of competition. Sadly, the October sunshine which had blessed the singles was over and storms lashed the club; but the players showed dogged determination and almost no playing time was lost to the weather.

Budleigh's two teams performed splendidly. Our senior squad, the Roquets, won division 2; the Rushes, in division 4, placed second only one point behind the winners.

Short Croquet Individual results: 1st & winner of the Rosemary Bradshaw Salver, Martin Wicks (Taunton Deane); 2nd Peter Mallen (Budleigh); 3rd Peter Moore (Budleigh); 4th Bob Burnett (Cornwall)

Short Croquet teams results:

- ✓ Division 5 was won by Parkstone by 1 game (3 teams tied for 2nd place)
- ✓ Division 4 was won by Weston Super Mare beating Budleigh Salterton Rushes by 1 game
- ✓ Division 3 was won by Exeter B after penalty shoot-out with Kington Langley B)
- ✓ Division 2 was won by Budleigh Salterton Roquets beating Cornwall and Camerton & Peasedown by 1 game
- ✓ Division 1 was won by Sidmouth Fortfield for the second year running beating Nailsea Trendlewood by 1 game.



A good time was had by all despite the weather and a number of competitors from other clubs were inspired to take up winter membership at Budleigh - we have a special half price offer this year for players living more than 25 miles from the club (see website for details / contact).

Photo: Budleigh Salterton Roquets win second division. Judith Heaney, Brian Shorney, James Homer, Alison Maddaford, with team captain Judith Moore.

We're looking for somewhere to meet

We anticipate welcoming new members to the committee after the AGM and will be reviewing our meetings' venue. At the moment we meet at Bleadon near Weston super Mare CC, but this may no longer be the most convenient place.

Do you have any suggestions or dare we ask - would we be able to hold our meetings at your club? We meet 3-4 times a year. The meetings start at 10.00 and we enjoy having lunch together.



Do let us know if you can help.

SWF bank account

Each treasurer should now have been notified by our Treasurer, Neil, that we have a new bank account and each club has been given a unique reference for identification purposes - so please check that your club Treasurer has received and recorded this information somewhere.

Neil asks that the old Barclay's details are removed from your records and replaced with those below. All payments should now be made to the NatWest account.

Bank: National Westminster Bank

Account name: The South West Federation of Croquet Clubs

Code: 52-21-30

Account Number: 31451594

Handicapping Workshops update



Following the two well-attended workshops at Cheltenham and Nailsea, we are planning a further workshop to pick up from the one which was abandoned at Budleigh due to heavy snow. Clubs will be notified of the new date and venue when details are confirmed. Also, anyone unable to attend the Cheltenham or Nailsea workshops will be welcome to attend this one.

The workshops ended with an aim of clubs working to support each other with the guidance of CA Handicappers and we are keen to receive feedback to see how far this has developed and what further help or input is needed. By now, all clubs should have at least one club handicapper - preferably one for AC and one for GC. It is only by every club having an informed and active club handicapper that we can ensure fair play across the country.

If your club is struggling to achieve this, please contact Robert Moss 01395 446215.

Chess-Clock Croquet

Well, what on earth is that? - it's an idea being discussed nationally which we may be interested in developing for AC games in the SW. It's a sort of cross between Speed Croquet (a doubles game on small lawns when each side has 25 mins lawn time) and Wharrad turns - to save my brain perhaps you could look that up if you haven't come across them before.

Each player has a set amount of lawn time - their clock starts when they go on the lawn and stops when they come off. It's designed it appears to encourage playing with 'due despatch'.

There are lots of questions around it:

- Is an independent time keeper needed
- What happens when one player runs out of time
- Could it be used for doubles games
- Etc etc

So what are your views?

Coaching

A couple of months ago, Richard Jackson, our Coaching Liaison officer, contacted all coaches in the region with a short questionnaire to establish the sort of coaching that has been undertaken during the year and what needs there might be.

He has not had replies from everyone so the questionnaire is reproduced on p9 of this newsletter - please get back to him if you haven't already done so.

One reason for the lack of response is that not all coaches completed our Privacy Statement enabling us to keep your contact details and use them for such purposes. If you think this applies to you, then please complete the statement which may be found on p10 - 12 of this newsletter.

Let's be nice

Sad to relate but the SWF committee learned of two incidents of inconsiderate behaviour during 2018.

The first concerned the cancelling of a League match on the morning of the event when the visiting team had already started its journey. The other related to a complaint about 'slow play'.

We can't get away from the fact that unfortunate things sometimes happen and that from time to time difficult issues need to be addressed. But do let's be sensitive to peoples' feelings and remember how we would feel in the same situation.



Encouraging High Bisquers and Competitive Play

A recurring theme for clubs seems to be encouraging new players (or even longer-standing players) into competitive play within the club, in League play and at tournaments, where entries do appear to be falling - perhaps croquet players are less keen to travel for various reasons.

Cheltenham contacted us about this and is thinking of ways it can encourage this in the region. It ran a successful 18-point High Bisquers' tournament earlier in the year and is considering whether or not to run it next spring - possibly along B League lines so it would be played from a base handicap so each player has bisques.

This prompted us to think about national B and C level events in AC and GC and how to encourage local players to enter these.

Details are published in the CA Fixtures book and often clubs undertake their own publicity especially locally in order to increase the entry. We are happy to promote these in SWAN and Cygnet and would encourage clubs holding such events to promote them widely themselves.

Do share your thoughts, experience and suggestions with us.

Do you know any rapid improvers?

In case the article in the Gazette passed you by or has slipped your mind, Alison Jones (now Maugham), International Performance Director, is looking for rapid AC improvers - e.g. those reaching a handicap of 5 within a couple of years of starting play.

If you know of anyone that falls within this category, do suggest they get in touch with Alison: alison@alisonswbsites.co.uk



This doubles as our Xmas card to you!

SWF and SWCA - there is a difference

At fairly regular intervals we receive email enquiries about courses which normally turn out to be being run by the South West Croquet Academy and not by the South West Federation.

SWCA is an independent coaching and training facility based in the South West approved and endorsed by the CA. We are however looking forward to it becoming an affiliate member of the SWF

It would be really helpful if you could double check who the organiser is before making contact - we have no more information than you do about courses being run by other organisations.

National Croquet Day 2019

National Croquet Day in 2019 will be on May 12th

Grants to clubs - a reminder

We have a small amount of money to support clubs etc - may be found on p13 - 14 of this newsletter

Political clout?

Bristol CC enjoyed a visit from Darren Jones, their local MP back in May. Chair Ray Ransom writes:

In May we received an invitation from Darren Jones, our local MP, to attend the inaugural meeting of a business group which he was forming.

We declined the invitation but took the opportunity to invite him to our Club and he visited on 21 June.



We had some discussion about the problems faced by small sports clubs over coffee and finished with a short game of Golf Croquet. Darren proved to be an excellent hoop runner and finished on the winning side, later posting his visit on his Facebook page.

Thanks to Bristol member, Mike Chan, for the photo

South West Croquet Academy

Robert Moss, in his new capacity as a committee member of the Academy, talks to Roger Mills about the South West Croquet Academy and its programme for next year

Robert: The SWCA is now in its 3rd year, how has the Academy developed over this time?

Roger: The Academy started in 2015 focusing on offering a wide range of coaching courses, with a philosophy of 'Learn from the Best' - so we have always tried to bring in some of the UK's top coaches. We have been lucky to have had great support from these coaches, and next year is no exception! But we have started branching out and offering courses to support what I call the 'infrastructure' of the game - so in 2019, we will be offering courses to qualify new coaches and referees, as well as a brand-new course for players wanting to manage tournaments. In this way, I think we are using our skills to help develop croquet in the South West.

Will there be courses for everyone - GC and AC players of all standards?

Absolutely! GC players are well catered for with several courses from Stephen Custance-Baker; Stephen's courses this year were exceptionally well received. For AC players, we are introducing new tactics courses, as so many players tell me this is the area where they want the most help. And any adventurous players out there can come on the new Get Peeling! course. For A and low B class players there is a unique opportunity to spend a day being coached by Ian Burrige, who created the GB team coaching programme.

There is a growing interest in Short Croquet in the South West, and the game has its own special requirements; are you able to offer anything for these players?

Yes, we are Short Croquet fans here! We will be running two courses - for high handicap players and for more experienced players. And if there are any GC players who want to give Short Croquet a try, then to help them do this, we are offering them two *free* introductory lessons to get them up to speed before the course.

It all sounds very exciting. Is there anything else our readers would be interested to know?

Yes! I should mention two workshops that we are running for coaches and referees. For a long time I have been concerned that once someone qualifies as a coach they are just left to their own devices, as there is no provision for 'coaching of coaches'. This is something we are hoping to address by running a workshop for coaches. Similarly, referees currently get no further training so there will be something for them, too.

The SWCA's 2019 Programme will be available on its website in late November 2018:

www.southwestcroquetacademy.co.uk



That's all for now folks!



**THE SOUTH WEST FEDERATION OF CROQUET CLUBS
2019 COMPETITIONS
REPLY SHEET**

**Please return this form to the League Secretary within 14 days of the AGM
i.e. by 2nd December 2018**

League Secretary:

John Grimshaw, 54 Rowden Road, Chippenham, Wilts SN15 2AX

johnandjulieg@talktalk.net

Name of contact	Name of club
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Competition	Number of teams
ADVANCED LEAGUE (Division 1)	
ADVANCED LEAGUE (Division 2)	
ADVANCED LEAGUE (Division 3)	
FEDERATION LEAGUE	
INTERMEDIATE LEAGUE	
“B” LEAGUE	
GOLF CROQUET HANDICAP LEAGUE	
GOLF CROQUET LEVEL PLAY LEAGUE	
GOLF HIGH HANDICAP LEAGUE	

Person to whom correspondence concerning competitions should be sent.		
Name		
Address		
Tel		
Email		
May this be circulated to all Tournament secretaries?	Yes	No

Who is your club handicapper?	AC	GC
Name		
Tel		
Email		

Would you like to enter the following events?

SWF SHORT CROQUET TEAM EVENT (TEAM OF 4) at Nailsea CC on April 12/13/14 April 2019	Number of teams	
SWF SHORT CROQUET TEAM EVENT (TEAM OF 4) at Budleigh Salterton CC October 2019. Dates to be confirmed.	Number of teams	

Coaching Questionnaire

Hi all SWF Coaches!

At this time of year, I have to prepare a report for the SWF about coaching activities in the region this year and proposals for next year. I also need to update my list of SWF Coaches.

It would be helpful if you could provide information by answering any of the following questions that you find relevant. This can be done most conveniently by reply to this email and editing in your answers. The SWF AGM is on November 18th, so please could you reply as soon as possible so that I can include the information provided.

This year replies have been a bit slow in coming in - one reason for the lack of response is that not all coaches completed our Privacy Statement enabling us to keep your contact details and use them for such purposes.

If you think this applies to you, then please complete the privacy statement on p13 and return it to me. Similarly, if you would prefer not to receive emails from me in future about croquet coaching in the South-West, please let me know.

But first of all: If your club does not have a CA qualified coach, please could a suitable member of your committee respond to questions 4 and 7 - and also whether you would like any help with your coaching in 2019

For this year:

1. Have you upgraded your CA coaching qualification this year? (If so, please indicate any new qualification)?
2. Have you undertaken any coaching in this year within your club?
3. Have you undertaken any coaching this year outside your club? (If so, please indicate where, GC or AC and the nature of the coaching)?
4. Did your club run a beginners course this year? If so, how many people completed the course?

For 2019:

1. Would you like to upgrade your croquet coaching qualification in 2018? If so what grade would you like to achieve?
2. Would you be prepared to undertake some coaching outside your club in 2018?
3. (If so, please indicate GC or AC and the nature of the coaching)?
4. Do you know anyone who might be interested in becoming a Club Coach in 2019. (Dave Kibble will probably be able to run a Coach Qualification Course in the area if enough people are interested).
5. Any other helpful comments?

Richard Jackson

richard.jackson@yahoo.co.uk

SWF Privacy Notice

Introduction

This Privacy Notice describes how the South West Federation of Croquet Clubs (SWF) processes personal information (“the data”) it holds about you, or that you are about to share with it.

The SWF will endeavour to meet its obligations under the General Data Protection Regulation (“GDPR”) to process your information fairly. This Statement outlines what data we handle and outlines your rights if you object to how we treat your information.

The controller of the data is the SWF which is an unincorporated association of its members.

The SWF has not appointed a Data Protection Officer under GDPR: its committee is collectively responsible for its obligations.

The data is processed by SWF members acting in a voluntary capacity on its behalf and by internet service providers hosting its website and e-mail services.

Data processed by the SWF will be held on servers held in the UK, European Union or countries which have equivalent data protection safeguards.

Please address all queries and concerns relating to this Notice to:

- The Secretary
- Contact details for the current post holder may be found on the SWF website: www.swfcroquet.org.uk

Purpose and Lawful Basis for Processing

The SWF processes (or will process) information about you in order to administer your membership and / or support our activities. These include:

- Dissemination of information e.g.
 - Publication of SWAN
 - Publication of Cygnet
 - SWF website
- Publicising achievements and news e.g.
 - Results
 - Awards

The lawful basis for holding membership records is to fulfil the contract with you as a member (or potential member) of the SWF. More generally, the basis for the processing described above is that it is in the legitimate interests of the SWF in pursuit of the aims stated in our Constitution, yourself and/or the sport more widely.

Sources of Personal Data

The primary source for information about the SWF's members, tournament players and visitors is the people themselves. For those who are members of the Croquet Association, information may also be taken from its website.

If you do not provide the information required by the SWF to become a member, enter a tournament or visit the club then you will be unable to do so.

Categories of Personal Data

The SWF may hold and process the following categories of personal data about our current or potential members, League teams, Coaches, Referees, tournament players and visitors:

- Name
- Contact Details e.g.
 - Email
 - Postal address
 - Social media address
 - Telephone number
- Financial information relating to subscriptions and other transactions
- Handicaps, rankings and qualifications
- Information relating to committee membership or other service to the club
- Competition and tournament entries, management and results, including selection for and participation in club teams
- Photographs

We do not record what GDPR refers to as 'special categories of personal data' and do not undertake any personal profiling activities.

Software may be used to produce draws and orders of play for tournaments, but otherwise no automated decision-making software is used by the SWF.

We may also hold data relating to contracts with third parties

Information Sharing

Unless we have a legal obligation to do so, the SWF will not share your personal information with any other party, including other members, without your express and verifiable permission.

Retention Periods

Data about you will be deleted six years after you last had financial dealings with the club except where required for archiving purposes e.g.

- Results of tournaments and club competitions
- Records of club activity, such as minute books and membership lists

Your Rights

If you want to see the data held about you, you should contact the Secretary in the first instance.

You have the right to object to how the SWF processes your personal information. In particular, you can request that your contact details are not shown in published membership lists.

You also have the right to access, correct, and, in some cases, delete and restrict the use to which your information is put. In addition, you have the right to complain to the SWF and to the Information Commissioner at <http://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us>

Agreement

All SWF Club Contacts (i.e. the person to whom Cygnet is sent), League Team Contacts and others providing personal data to the SWF must complete this form and return it (hard copy or electronically) to the Secretary:

Linda Shaw
21 Grove Avenue, Bristol, BS9 2RP
lindawithani@hotmail.com

I have read and understood SWF's Privacy Notice.

I agree to its terms.

Signed

Name

Club

Date

SWF Support for New Clubs Guidance

Primary purpose

To encourage and support the establishment of new clubs or clubs which have been in existence for under 24 months.

If there are sufficient funds, consideration will be given to applications from more established clubs undertaking developmental work.

Amount to be made available

After an initial amount of money allocated for this purpose, further additions of up to £500 per annum to keep the total available to the region of £2000. These figures to be reviewed annually.

What constitutes a new or potential club?

A group of people who have formed, or want to start a croquet club.

Advice.

The Federation Development Officer (FDO) will suggest:

- they form a committee of at least a Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer
- they open a bank account in the new club's name
- they should have identified a suitable piece of land

The FDO should be satisfied that

- the plans for the new club are workable
- the emergent club can demonstrate that there is a need for a new club which will not adversely affect any existing club/s in the area
- there is a sufficiently large population to sustain potential membership

Possible areas for help

The club or FDO may identify a need and could be for such things as

- enabling expenses - such as professional fees (e.g. Planning Permission)
- help with start-up costs (e.g. advertising, fliers)

How much can be requested?

The purpose of these grants is for small, supporting, aid.

Normally we would expect applications for no more than £500 though the committee has the authority to consider all applications on their merits.

If in any year grant requests exceed the total money available, priority will normally be given to those clubs who have already done the most to help themselves.

Consideration will also be given to a new club in a “croquet desert” i.e. well away from the nearest established croquet club.

Applications

Initial contact should be to the FDO who will give advice and assist with the written application which will then be forwarded by the FDO to the South West Federation Committee.

Before submitting the application, the club must have joined the SWF.

By contacting the FDO, the club will also have been made aware of other bodies from whom grants should be sought e.g.

- by joining the CA, a start-up set of equipment can be requested
- further support available from the CA e.g. coaching, handicapping

Further information

- Those wanting to start a new club should be put in touch with other clubs nearby.
- If they are part of a multi-sport club, there should be some security of tenure.
- Clubs are expected to accept responsibility for raising most of the funds themselves.
- However, a grant from the local federation and from the CA will often trigger other grants from, for example, Sport England.

Payment of grants

When the committee has agreed the award of a grant, the club will be informed in writing of:

- the amount offered
- the time this offer remains valid
- that it will be paid on production of the invoice for the work or items purchased.

Policy agreed: March 2018

To be reviewed: March 2019