



NEWSLETTER

November 2016

You could be reading on your Club notice board. You may have received it as an email attachment from your Club's SECF contact. Or you may have encountered it in some other way. In any event, the Secretary again welcomes you to an update of the fascinations of croquet in the South East Federation.

Your Committee has been as active as ever this year. They are:

Bill Arliss (Sussex County: Chairman and Tournament Manager);

Jon Diamond (Royal Tunbridge Wells: Webmaster);

Michael Hague (Woking: Development Officer);

Richard Hilditch (Hampstead Heath: Leagues Organiser);

Jon Isaacs (Sussex County: Coaching Officer);

Roger Loram (Ramsgate and Canterbury: Kent Representative);

David Mooney (Roehampton and Surbiton: CA Representative);

George Noble (Surbiton and Hunstanton: Lawns Officer and caterer);

John Reddish (Dulwich and Norwich: Secretary);

Hilary Smith (Compton: Treasurer).

Your attention is drawn to the web site at www.southeastcroquet.org.uk. This contains details of the Federation's current activities and some of its illustrious history. We have a new and dynamic Webmaster who will dazzle you with a multiplicity of dazzling things.

A copy of the draft Calendar for 2017 will be prepared soon. If you have any Club event that you would wish to advertise as being open to non-members, please communicate with the Secretary by email at info@southeastcroquet.org.uk.

SECF tournaments for 2017

The dates for the usual programme of have been fixed as follows:

AC Teams Weekend: Sat/Sun 20/21 May at **Southwick**

One Ball Teams Tournament: Sat 17 June at **Roehampton**

Ladies Day: Wed 6 July at **Southwick**

The Southern Challenge Division One: Sat/Sun 1/2 July at **Southwick**

The Southern Challenge Division Two North: Sat/Sun 1/2 July at **Surbiton**

The Southern Challenge Division Two South: Sat/Sun 8/9 July at **Southwick**

Golf Croquet Day: Sun 6 Aug at **Southwick**

Entries are encouraged for all events. You will be able to register when the forms are sent out in January 2017.

New events?

We are planning two new tournaments and you may already have been asked for your views. We may be holding a **Ladies GC Day at Southwick** (subject to the level of interest shown and the availability of a suitable date in the 2017 calendar). Some have suggested that this is a retrograde step since men and women (or ladies and gentlemen) should be encouraged to play on equal terms. We are not seeking to undermine this principle and men will be able to play a full part in this proposed tournament by undertaking the catering.

The second proposal (for 2018) is a **Festival of Croquet** featuring the champions of member clubs in both AC and GC. The format will be quite complicated (and, it seems, controversial) but will probably involve a Club Team of 6 players.

If you wish to share your views about these proposals (to add to those who already have) please send an email to info@southeastcroquet.org.uk.

The Roll of Honour

Congratulations should be extended to the following winners of the 2016 Leagues:

Association A League **Dulwich**

Association U League **Medway**

Association B League **Merton**

Golf Level League **Woking**

Golf Level R League **Merton**

Golf Handicap League **Preston Park**

(from the West Division who beat **Reigate Priory** from the East 6-3 in the play-off in September)

The Association Croquet Team Doubles Tournament (for club teams of 4) at Southwick was won by **Sussex County B**, with **Sussex County A** as runners up.

The 27th annual Ladies' Day was held at Southwick. Winners of the (politically incorrect) Shield were **Sussex Sizzlers** with **Purley Bury Queen Bees** runners up.

Division One of the fifth annual Southern Challenge was, as usual, contested at Southwick. For the first time, the winners of the Division were not **Dulwich**. The strong **Ramsgate** team (featuring international stars Tobi Savage and James Goodbun) prevailed and the overseas competitors from **Ryde** were runners up.

Division Two North (at Surbiton) was won by **Cheam** with **Woking** as runners-up. Division Two South at (Southwick) was won by **Rottingdean** from **Sussex County 2** and **Littlehampton**.

The winners of the Golf Croquet Team Competitions held at Southwick in August were **Sussex County 1** (Doubles) and **Dulwich 1** (Singles).

A new League?

The vexed question of one-court clubs' participation in league competitions raised its rather unattractive head again this year. There were also some concerns about the format in the B League. A solution could be the introduction of a new 3-person league along the lines of the league in the northern part of East Anglia (won this year by Norwich). The Secretary has already solicited expressions of interest. If you would like to add to them please send him an email at info@southeastcroquet.org.uk.

Development news

Guildford and Godalming, with their new four-lawn facility, successfully hosted the third tier tournament of the World GC Team Championship in May. They constructed their new pavilion on the site of the old bowling club shack in June and hope to conclude an eventful year by completing the instillation of water and sewerage links. The club will have to raise around £15,000 to install electricity. The transformation of this club into a first class croquet location has been achieved in a very short period of time due to good and energetic leadership and dedicated self help from its members.

The last 4 of **Sussex County's** 11 courts planned for refurbishment were completed in August and the grass on them had taken well. The next major project might be a new clubhouse but that is probably far in the future.

Cobdown Sports Ground, the home of **Medway**, is now owned by Marpaul Sports and is now called 'K Sports Cobdown'. The change of ownership has resulted in a great improvement in the maintenance of the lawns. The irrigation system had been repaired and the club has bought itself an expensive and excellent mower. The new owners have a vision of all the various sports mixing together in the bar and playing each others' sports.

A revised application by **Lodsworth** for a CA grant for a slightly more modest and cheaper pavilion has been submitted to the CA Development Committee. With financial support from the CA and the Federation, the pavilion should be in place for the start of the 2017 season

Worthing's two courts have been moved at Field Place to a location within this well used recreational area which is much more conspicuous to the passing public. Funds were raised to build a modest club house adjacent to the new and well maintained courts. This was officially opened in June.

West Worthing have applied for a CA grant for a new pavilion to replace the old shed given by **Woking** to the club 5 years ago. The project will be partly funded by a loan from the main club to be repaid by a levy of £20 on croquet membership annual subscriptions until the loan is paid off.

Canterbury have been given three completely new courts protected by a rabbit proof fencing, costing about £20,000, These were paid for by the parent club. The croquet club is submitting, to the CA, an

application for a grant to erect a modest wooden pavilion which, together with a rented “portaloo”, will complete a vastly improved playing facility.

Compton are submitting an application for a CA grant to help to refurbish its old and dilapidated clubhouse.

Finchley Victoria have added a croquet section to the bowling club. One of the greens will be for the exclusive use of the croquet players. A well attended grand opening took place in August with valuable support from members from **Watford, Ealing** and **Hampstead Heath**. The facilities available are outstanding. They include a recently constructed brick pavilion and extensive outbuildings. The initial ground work has been carried out expertly by Barry Bargroff, the bowling club’s Publicity and Marketing Officer. However, there are issues which may hinder the development of this croquet section. Michael Hague is usually able to find an experienced croquet player to provide the necessary leadership but no one has yet surfaced in Finchley. The second problem is that the council charge £120 per member for the use of the facility and its maintenance. The section is hoping for a degree of flexibility in order to be able to offer reduced initial fees to new croquet members.

The Federation will be making grants, of £500 each, to **Compton; Canterbury; West Worthing** and **Lodsworth** towards the cost of their pavilions; (all subject to the approval by the CA of the applications already made to them for grants). A practice has developed of making Federation grants to supplement grants made by the CA. This is sensible because it allows the Federation to rely upon the investigations and assessments made by the CA Committee. However, the Federation has the power to make grants to Clubs who have not applied to the CA and will do so in appropriate cases

Coaching at the Academy in 2017

The Academy had had a good year, bearing in mind the competition. Attendees were only slightly down on 2015 (244 compared with 262). 2017 will be the 10th year for Academy Courses. From small beginnings in 2007, The Croquet Academy has become a leading world centre for croquet coaching - with courses run both for UK and WCF overseas clubs.

The programme for 2017 is as follows (individual CA members receive discount of £10):

Dates	Course	Cost	Ideal Hcp	Leader
18 Mar	GC Referees Refresher Workshop	£45	n/a	Martin French
7 Apr	Croquet Psychology – Get the mindset edge	£60	n/a	Rich Waterman
11-12 Apr	AC Introduction & Development in Advanced Play	£70	6-14	Nigel Polhill
18-19 Apr	Perfecting your AC Stroke & Break Play	£70	5-9	Cliff Jones
21-23 Apr	AC Triple Peel Course	£100	4 and under	Cliff Jones
25-26 Apr	GC Rules & Referees Course * First day only without exam - £45	£70*	n/a	Daphne Gaitley
25-26 Apr	AC Beginners & Improvers Course	£70	18+	Clive Hayton

28 Apr	GC Beginners & High Handicappers	£45	10+	Janet Hoptroff
28 Apr	A simple Guide to Tournament and Competition Management	£45	n/a	John Low
2 May	GC Improvers Course	£45	4-9	Daphne Gaitley
2-3 May	AC Development Course in Handicap Play	£70	12-18	Clive Hayton
10-11 May	Coaches Training Course	£70	n/a	Daphne Gaitley
13 May	GC Advanced Play Course	£50	4 & Under	Lionel Tibble
22 May	GC Coached Games Day	£45	6+	Daphne Gaitley
14-15 June	AC Beginners' & Improvers Follow Up Course	£70	18+	Clive Hayton & Frances Low
30 June	GC Coached High Bisque Tournament	£35	10+	Jonathan Isaacs
31 Jul – 1 Aug	AC High Bisque Tournament (with coaching advice between games)	£45	14-20	Frances Low

And finally – this is quite important

2017 AGM - Save the date

The **Annual General Meeting** of the Federation will be held on **Sunday 26 February 2017** at **Surbiton** Croquet Club, Alexandra Drive, Surbiton, KT5 9AA. The meeting will commence at 10.45 a.m. and will be followed by lunch. You will receive an invitation to disclose how many from your Club will be attending the meeting and the lunch and a copy of the formal agenda nearer the time.

A merry Christmas and a happy New Year to you all.