

South East Croquet Federation

Chairman's Report 2021

This Annual General Meeting marks the end of my first year as Chairman of the Federation after I took over from Bill Arliss in 2020. Although we still faced some challenges we did see a return to something like normality in 2021 following the almost complete shut down in Federation activities the previous year. It was very pleasing to see however that although we were not able to run our major tournaments in 2020 croquet was a sport that managed to continue when lockdowns allowed and clubs attracted new members in some cases in significant numbers.

All our Tournaments were completed successfully in 2021 and congratulations must go to Guildford and Godalming for winning the Association Croquet Teams Day, Canterbury for winning the One Ball Competition and Sussex County the Association Croquet Ladies Day. As for Golf Croquet The Southern Challenge produced some very close finishes with Dulwich triumphing in Division 1, Surbiton in Division 2 (North) and Littlehampton in Division 2 (South). The Golf Croquet Ladies Day was won by Surbiton and at the Golf Croquet Teams Day in August the Doubles Competition was won by Reigate Priory and the Singles event by Guildford and Godalming.

You can find the provisional dates for the Federation's 2022 Tournaments on our website and we are looking for a record entry next year. We would particularly like to see clubs that have not entered these tournaments before giving them a go as well as entering some of the Leagues run by the Federation.

Speaking of the Leagues John Low will give a report on these later. I know that some clubs faced difficulties in completing matches during 2021 and in some cases withdrew and this was understandable in the circumstances but hopefully next year these problems will be behind us. Congratulations to all the winners.

As regards Inter County Competitions we had two clubs representing us in the Association Secretaries Shield, Hampstead Heath and Sussex County.

Unfortunately they met in the first round and then Hampstead Heath went on to be defeated by the eventual winners Sheffield. As for the GC Federation Shield Sussex County got through to the final where they were beaten 4 games to three by Phyllis Court.

The Federation does not just exist to run Leagues and Tournaments but we are very keen to help and support clubs as and when needed. So if your club needs some advice or has a problem then please contact us. All the contact details are on the website. We are particularly keen on seeing coaching developed across the Federation and I would ask you to encourage your club members to attend the courses run by the Academy at Sussex County. I know that they are looking to set up hubs at other clubs in the Federation area so that attendees do not have so much travelling. Check their website for details. It would be good if every club had a trained coach and referee and to this end the Federation along with the CA continues to subsidise courses for those who complete the training as a coach or referee.

I would also draw your attention to the Croquet Matters initiative put in place by the CA which helps clubs to focus on issues that may be facing them and helps to find the best course of action to resolve them. Details are on the CA website.

The Federation's own website has been revamped during the year thanks to Jon Diamond and please check it regularly at www.southeastcroquet.org.uk for up to date news and information. Please also have a look at our Facebook page @croquetsoutheast.

I must thank all the Federation Committee for their help and support during the year. Sadly two members are retiring at this AGM. Linda Gavigan who has been Public Relations Officer and Ian Cobbold as our Development Officer. Both will be missed although Ian stays on the committee as a CA representative. We thank them both for all they have done on behalf of the Federation. We are still looking for replacements for these important roles so if you or any of your club members feel they could help then please get in contact.

I must also mention at this point Jonathan Isaacs who stood down from the CA Council at their recent AGM and was awarded the Croquet Association medal, their highest award, for all his considerable work for croquet over many years. Luckily for us he is staying on the Federation Committee and is heavily involved with the Academy so we will be seeing plenty of him. Congratulations Jonathan and thank you for all your support.

It is always disappointing when another croquet season comes to an end but hopefully we will get some play during the winter months. 2022 promises to be an exciting year with the GC World Championships returning to Sussex and

being hosted by Sussex County Club next summer. During the winter we hope to run some more webinars possibly focusing on the important subjects of safeguarding and diversity. However if there are subjects you would like us to cover then please let us know.

Thank you for your continued support and look forward to seeing you in 2022.