

The 2023 Academy programme has been agreed and is about to be published on the Academy and SECF websites.

Numbers of Academy attendees were close to 200 for the 2022 season.

As well as Southwick courses, we introduced outreach 'Hub Club' courses at Guildford and Godalming CC and Royal Tunbridge Wells CC for 2022 which proved successful. It is hoped that future courses will include Coaching and Referees Qualification Courses at these venues.

Five Club Coaches attended a CQC at SCCC and most have attained their 'home club' status.

A combined Academy/WCF 'international' GC Referees Qualification Course was held at Guildford and Godalming in July - this coincided with the Tier3 GC Team World Championships held there. New referees from Mexico, Portugal and the Czech Republic were qualified along with two local Brits (Ealing CC and G&G CC, both attained the highest marks of the group).

Entries for our Winter programme have attracted over 60 entries - the courses are a modular Introduction to AC Course which Frances Low will lead - she is doing great work to regenerate AC.

The other Courses are GC Workshops and a CQC in the Spring - 14 entries already for this.

I visited Ivychurch CC back in the spring of 2022. A very keen Club, they are sending two players to Southwick for the CQC - hopefully this will generate a good standard of play in their area.

I visited Croquet East (Mile End) in September and followed up with a visit (by them) to Southwick. They are a young, diverse group with heaps of enthusiasm and are looking for a decent playing area. A local University has a court which is being looked at. Watch this space!

Advantage Play GC has been preferred over 'extra turn' handicap play by the CA for 2023. The Southern Federation trialled Advantage Play two seasons ago through the variant's inventor, Roy Tilcock (Ryde CC).

It was agreed that our Federation Clubs would adopt Advantage Play next season (at least for league games) and therefore need some guidance as to how the game should be played - importantly in a universal way. I will set up some Zoom and on court sessions over the winter to inform Clubs (mainly through their Coaches and Team Captains) with Roy at the helm.

As Safeguarding Officer, I will liaise with Ron Carter, learn more about the role and share information with Croquet Clubs in our Fed so that they can elect their own SO - a requirement of the CA for 2023.

Richard Carline  
*November 2022*