

# Report on Federation Leagues and Tournaments 2022

## Leagues

With two exceptions to comment on, I would say that 2022 was a fairly average year for the Federation Leagues and represented largely a recovery from the dip post-Covid last season.

As a matter of interest I have tabulated the entries since 2013 (the year the GC handicap league was split into two parts).

### League Entries by Year

League	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	Average	Median
A		5		6	6	6	5	6	5	6	5.6	6
U	13	12		14	14	15	15	14	14	16	14.1	14
B	10	9		11	14	16	15	16	15	13	13.2	14
S	4	5		5	7						5.3	5
GL	7	8		9	9	10	8	6	6	7	7.8	8
GR	11	10		11	12	10	8	11	12	10	10.6	11
GHE	17	16		16	17	17	17	16	16	14	16.2	16
GHW	16	14		16	17	17	18	14	16	15	15.9	16

The AC A league did not take place this season as there were insufficient entries; I am not convinced that it will continue next season either. The AC B league, although slightly better than in 2021, nevertheless is down on its historic level. Both are no doubt related to the gradual decline of AC in our clubs generally. I have heard from a number of clubs saying they fear they will not be able to enter an AC team next season (lack of AC players or players too old for competition) so I would say the outlook is poor for AC leagues. What I would say is that if you are having difficulty raising a team for the B or U league, do please consider the S league which only requires 3 players and one lawn, and has no handicap limit.

I can now formally announce the winners of each league:

AC U league – Reigate Priory

AC B league – Ember

AC S league – Cheam

GC Level league – Sussex County (A team)

GC Restricted league -Ealing

GC Handicap league East – Reigate Priory

GC Handicap league West – Chichester & Fishbourne

Congratulations to all those winners.

Our Federation nominee in the CA Federations Shield (for GC) will be Chichester & Fishbourne and in the Secretary's Shield (for AC) will be Reigate Priory. Can I remind

those clubs to enter please or to let me know if they cannot do so. The deadline (allocation date) is 6 March 2023.

There is one amendment to league rules proposed for next season and this relates to the means of dealing with handicap in the two handicap leagues and is precipitated by the CA decision to use Advantage format for the Federation Shield and the All-England Handicap competitions. This will be discussed and voted on at the AGM.

I would like to thank all the League Contacts for their work in organising their clubs' matches this season and hope they will feel able to continue next year. A lot goes into the League Programme and it would not be successful without their commitment.

## **Tournaments**

This season we had two new competitions in the calendar; an Advantage GC competition at Littlehampton and a Short Croquet competition at Ealing. Sadly neither event took place, and although there are probably different reasons for each, one common thread, for which I take responsibility, is our failure to advertise and promote our tournaments effectively. We will try to do much better next season. Many thanks to both Littlehampton and Ealing for offering to host the two competitions.

I can now formally announce the tournament winners:

AC Teams Doubles – Purley Bury  
GC Teams Day – Reigate Priory  
Southern Challenge Division 1 - Ryde  
Southern Challenge Division 2 North - Surbiton  
Southern Challenge Division 2 South - Ryde  
Ladies GC Teams Day - Surbiton  
Ladies AC Teams Day – Surbiton

Congratulations to all those winners.

To improve the way we handle competitions entries the Committee has decided that the dates for entering will be pushed further into the season rather than effectively being at registration, so that clubs have more opportunities to sort out their teams and commitments; hopefully this will encourage more clubs to take part; The closing dates are not yet fixed but are likely to be about two weeks before each competition.

I have told the Committee I am prepared to continue managing the Leagues and Tournaments programme for a further year.

*John Low*