

Report to AGM on Leagues and Tournaments

Leagues

First I would like to formally announce and congratulate the winners of the 2023 Leagues:

Association Croquet A-League	
Association Croquet U-League	Hampstead Heath
Association Croquet B-League	Dulwich
Association Croquet S-League	Reigate Priory
Golf Croquet Level League	Woking
Golf Croquet Restricted League	Sussex County
Golf Croquet Handicap East League	Bromley
Golf Croquet Handicap West League	West Worthing

These results are on the website.

There have been a few difficulties over the season and my apologies for the errors which were mine. Jon Diamond and I are actively working on providing an improved website experience for next season.

Thank you to all the club league contacts for ensuring information got passed around, teams chosen and arrangements for matches made. Club Secretaries: please ensure I know who the contacts are and am told if they change during the season.

The landscape of croquet has changed significantly over the last decade or so, with the growth of GC and – for those of us who play it – the sad reduction in AC. More people are playing GC for pleasure, which is a good thing, and certainly good for the balance sheets of clubs.

Earlier this summer I undertook some research in the Federation to see what the issues were that were preventing more members taking part in leagues and tournaments and as a result of that and other input, the Committee is making a number of proposals which will be put to you at the AGM and which I won't rehearse here. Whatever the outcome of those proposals however, I do strongly believe we need to focus the efforts of the Federation on the grassroots players and that should include encouraging more members who currently do not play competitively to see the enjoyment of doing so.

Should you wish me to do so I am prepared to continue organising the Leagues for the Federation for a further year; however, I do not see myself doing so for much longer so if anyone is interested and willing to take on this role in the future that would be very welcome.

Tournaments

Congratulations to all those clubs who won one or more of our summer tournament season, all the results of which are on the website.

AC Doubles Weekend	Medway
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Southern Challenge Division 1	Sussex County
Southern Challenge Division 2 North	Cheam
Southern Challenge Division 2 South	Compton
AC Ladies Day	Sussex County
GC Ladies Day	Compton
GC Carnival Singles	Compton
GC Carnival Doubles	Rother Valley
Short Croquet (at Ealing)	Ealing

You will notice that again this year we had no One Ball competition. However we did have a new tournament: short croquet (a version of AC). Thanks very much to Ealing who hosted and did all the arrangements – and appropriately won the event. We didn't get many entries from within the Federation but it was opened to other clubs in North London in neighbouring Federations and can certainly be judged a great success.

Thank you to all those who took part and to all our Managers who ran them: Bill Arliss, Andrew Stewart, Frances Low, Robyn Clark, Tony Elliott and Martin Burger. Without Managers, tournaments do not happen! I would particularly like to thank Bill (and to welcome him back) for managing and revamping our GC Teams Day to become the Carnival Day and hope those who took part enjoyed the experience, even if the weather had forgotten to join in.

As I indicated above, we are actively looking at what we offer as a Federation and are proposing a number of changes which will be discussed and voted at the AGM.

I originally stood in for Jonathan to administer our tournament programme when he was engaged in the World Championships and this is the last year I will take on this role. However I am pleased to say we have another volunteer who I hope you will approve in this meeting.

John Low

27 October 2023