Croquet South East

Chairman's Report 2026

As the 2026 season draws to an end we have to reflect on a very difficult year weather wise. Extreme heat and lack of rainfall have dominated the summer and it looks like this may well be the pattern for years to come. Those managing croquet lawns have had to adapt to these conditions and water sprinkling systems are now a common requirement.

Despite the difficult conditions, croquet continued with all our tournaments and leagues being completed as scheduled. In June the Short Croquet Teams Competition was hosted by Ealing with the Club coming out as winners. In early July our very popular Ladies Day took place with Chichester and Fishbourne coming out the winners by one point over Dulwich.

South East Challenge South was played at Southwick in July with Sussex County CC as the winners. The Northern equivalent played at Surbiton in August saw Cheam take the title beating Reigate Priory in the final.

Lastly The GC Carnival Day took place in August. 12 teams took part with Lodsworth coming out the winners in singles and doubles.

We would still like to see more teams taking part in these tournaments to get back to pre-Covid levels. These are all teams events and it is a great way to promote your club and play against other clubs in the Federation.

The Federation Leagues were all completed and the winners will appear in our usual Role of Honour to be sent around to all Clubs. Congratulations to all the winners and to all clubs thank you for taking part.

On the International and National front the prestigious AC MacRobertson Shield (AC World Team Championships) took place across clubs in the Federation namely Hurlingham, Roehampton, Surbiton and Sussex County with the England team coming out as the winners. This is a four yearly event with the next venue being New Zealand in 2030.

The final of the European GC Club League took place in Ireland in October with Roehampton being runners up to a club from Spain. Roehampton also took part in the CqE AC Inter Club Competition coming out as the overall winners.

Sussex County were winners of the national Short Croquet Competition and from Hampstead Heath Leonard Taylor was the winner of the GC C Level final.

Croquet England saw a new Chair of Trustees being appointed this year with Carol Driver from Purley Bury taking over from Samir Patel. Andy Dalby-Welsh has now been in post as CEO for a year and he is implementing the five year strategy and a major restructuring is taking place. A new executive team has been appointed and the standing committees have been revamped. I continue as the CqE Trustee for the Weald Counties covering part of our Federation with Samir Patel as the Trustee for the Western Home Counties covering the remainder.

Our region is still well represented at the highest levels of the sport.

As regards the Federation I would like to thank the committee for their continued support during 2026. It must be remembered that virtually all the work both nationally, regionally and at club level is carried out by volunteers giving up their time in the support of Croquet.

Sadly Richard Carline, our Coaching Officer, has had to resign for person reasons and I would like to thank him for all the work he has done for clubs over the years. We are grateful to Rob Harper for agreeing to takeover this role.

The Federation not only runs the leagues and tournaments but supports clubs in our region in other ways. Dougla Shand our Development Officer has been in touch many clubs and supports applications for funding to Croquet England. Also the Federation helps by subsidising individuals who undertake referee and coaching courses through the Academy.

Hopefully the winter season will be fairly mild and we can continue to play croquet. I look forward to seeing many of you during the rest of 2026 and into 2027.

Andrew Stewart

Chair – Croquet South East.

November 2026.