CSE - Development Officer's report - Nov 2026

At the start of the year, I continued my quest to make contact with a wide range of clubs within the federation, particularly those who I have not spoken to before. Clubs based in Kent were a particular focus. Each club has its individual characteristics, but the common theme is invariably state of their lawns, marketing strategies and other means boosting membership. The more people I talk to the more ideas I have to share.

I would like to thank everyone who took the time to talk to me and welcome questions / concerns / ideas from all our clubs. I plan to talk to / visit more clubs next year.

Clubs contacted / visited include Ramsgate, Canterbury, Dulwich, Croqueteers, Ivychurch, Ealing, Rottingdean, Bexhill, Caterham and West London.

One of the goals I encourage every club to achieve is a 10% increase in membership, year on year. I'm pleased to say I already know of one who has done better than that. I have all the data for last year (based on returns each club makes to the CE when paying subs) and will shortly compare them to this year's figures. Perhaps I will publish a league table!

Struggling bowls clubs have been another opportunity. Discussion took place with Ravenscourt Park (near Hammersmith) and East Sheen (near Richmond). Both are at a very early stage. I also heard recently about a bowls club in Eastbourne with similar difficulties and understand some discussion has taken place with nearby Compton club. If anyone hears of other struggling bowls clubs in the region, please let me know.

I am sorry to report that Medway CC (forced to vacate their lawns in June 2024 after 33 years) have not had any success in finding a new site. They have generously lent some of their equipment to the newly established Bexhill club and more to Canterbury CC. It would be wonderful if Medway could get going again. If any CSE club has a connection in the Aylesford area that just might know of somewhere, please let me know.

With regard to Grants made by Croquet England, Sussex CC received payment following their successful application for funds last year. Phase 1 of the project has been a great success. In the past couple of months, I have been assisting with the preparation of two new grant applications. The first is for Ealing to install a new irrigation system. The second is for Rottingdean to build a new clubhouse.

Douglas Shand