



# CROQUET

GAZETTE

Issue 397 | June 2022

## CHARITY ONE-BALL CHAMPIONSHIP BROKE THE RECORDS... AGAIN

MEMORIAL PEELS  
TOURNAMENT

CROQUET GOES LIVE

'OPENING DOORS'  
CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED

WCF GC WORLD  
CHAMPIONSHIP  
RETURNS TO  
SOUTHWICK





# HIBISCUS COLUMN

**I**f a lone magpie flies out of a hedge within a mile of your home, should you turn back? Say you're going to an event alarmingly called Champion of Champions. The winner of your club's relevant qualifier didn't fancy it. The beaten finalist is a schoolteacher. The conqueror in the third place play off is representing another club. Blewbury Croquet Club must have had doubts about nominating the losing semi finalist from the AC handicap Prebendal Cup. I can't say I wasn't tempted to turn back, but I didn't.

Tournament play for inexperienced players comes with conflicting possibilities. Should you haemorrhage bisques to set up the sacred four ball break, lose the plot and present your opponent with the perfect layout? Or should you try to think outside the box?

The four ball break can so easily spiral to defeat. The experts promote it diligently: why wouldn't they? In a not very distant future, they'll be devouring your pioneers and pivots: at the hoops, their balls won't touch the sides. You'll be starved of lawn time until their first clip is on the peg. Your second bite at the cherry induces bisque fever. Use them and lose them as the opponent's second ball sweeps imperiously towards the winning post. Is there scope for another approach? Given sufficiently awkward placements,

skilled opponents may miss. They may get rattled and miss again. Think about using bisques to set challenges or traps. Enticement is integral to croquet. Impose a bisque curfew when you're down to three. The nervous finisher needs a cushion for the end game: walk away rather than falling on your sword. Be patient. The results may surprise you. The Southern Croquet Federation's Champions Day took place at Hamptworth, part of a golf complex south of Salisbury. Chris Roberts, from Phyllis Court, did the honours, matching opponents using randomly drawn playing cards. 'Please don't let it be Aston Wade', I muttered. Aged 20, the medical student from Exeter University is Britain's GC champion and a croquet legend.

The gods listened and delivered a scratch player from the Isle of Wight locked into a start from hell. Later in the day, he would live up to his handicap, but not before 11am. Next up a wily operator who took no prisoners. In the afternoon, two time out victories against superior talent. Then the astonishing announcement: the final will be between Aston Wade, unbeaten with four wins, and Minty Clinch, with three. Despite the discrepancy, whoever won the final would lift the trophy. It wasn't me. A travesty if it had been because Aston and I are on different planets, but it was closer than you'd expect.

Next up, tuition, a residential course hosted by Cliff Jones, at the progressive Newport Croquet Club and the Premier Inn in Saffron Walden. Over three sunny April days, I and my 11 fellow travellers learned a lot from a man who knows it all. Implementing it back home resulted in a spectacular dip in form.

Is that surprising? Realigned feet, lowered eyes - 'see the ball miss, hear it hit' - works, but only when meticulously observed. Re read the notes, set up the shots, hope graft will trigger craft. Head for another tournament to see if it has. Mine was the Latham Cup, hosted by Bristol Croquet Club, a city sophisticate with three flat immaculate courts and classy facilities. No time limits: peg out is the only goal.

The organiser is Dave Kibble, scratch, local, in charge, so naturally I drew him first. Lunch came and went as we played on and on. My nine hour stint ended as the sun set over the Bristol Channel. A loss to Dave, and two wins. The reality check came the next day: two more losses that might have been wins without clumsy basics.

Cheltenham's Wendy Wu took home handsome silverware donated back in 1981. Her strategies were unorthodox and creative, her execution dazzlingly crisp. Plenty of food for thought...

**I Minty Clinch**



The Croquet Association  
Issue 397 | June 2022



Front cover:  
Charity One-Ball  
Championship  
**PHOTOGRAPH**  
Rob Edlin-White

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# WELCOME



**T**he 2022 season is now in full swing and the tournament reports are beginning to arrive. Some of the articles in this

issue have already appeared on the CA website, but with additional images and in some cases a little more 'colour' added to the reports. We hope they will make for enjoyable, encouraging and inspired reading material.

As the CA welcomes new member clubs, so too is the CA being joined by new, enthusiastic and promising players. In turn, the tournament entries are flourishing. Wherever you are and whatever your handicap, there will be a competition for you in the calendar.

Seek out a nearby club tournament, watch the international matches and enjoy all aspects of the sport, both on and off the court.

Whilst we work hard to encourage new players to the sport, let's not forget the non-playing members of our community. We know you are out there and we know that this magazine clutters up your coffee tables. We thank you for your patience, and hope that some of the articles and our new puzzle section might go a little way to giving something back to you.

**I CA Editorial Team**

## TUNNEL OF TIME

<https://www.croquet.org.uk/?p=ca/gazette&Action=Issues> where past Gazettes can be found on the CA website. Currently there are scans of the Gazette back to Issue 154 from December 1979. The intention is to place all the Gazettes from 1953, when the current numbering system started, on the CA website.

### 10 YEARS AGO

June 2012 Gazette (#338) reported Reg Bamford had retained The WCF AC World Championship title in Australia, beating Robert Fletcher in the final. Jonathan Isaacs reported on first five years of Croquet Academy at Sussex County CC. The club had a tradition as a coaching centre running courses on behalf of South East Croquet Federation and Summer School. By using extra resource of the CA, they would be ideal as a centre of excellence for croquet coaching. The 2012 CA Survey Report was covered in detail by Kevin Carter. This was the third quinquennial survey of croquet players. The main key findings included that there had been a major demographic shift over the previous five years in that 81% of all new recruits were over 60 and the median age was 65 and that 49% of the new recruits were non-competitive. Furthermore the median age of all croquet players had risen to 68. It will be interesting to see how this compares with the 2022 survey that took place recently.

### 20 YEARS AGO

The July 2002 Gazette (#280) contained a two page article by James Hawkins about croquet on TV. James discussed the problems with televising it and the attempts that had been made in the past, such as the Short Croquet international event held by Granada Television and shown live on a purpose build court at their studios in Manchester in 1986. Viewing figures had been reasonable, but the costs of having a 35-strong crew and seven cameras must have been huge.

### 30 YEARS AGO

The July/August 1992 Gazette (#222) reported that the CA aimed to establish a National Croquet Centre at Rowheath, Bournville, Birmingham to be used for coaching and other national courses. The plan was to have four full size courts, one half size grass court and two half-size artificial surfaces. Included in the specification was provision for floodlighting and automatic irrigation together with a pavilion and office accommodation that

could provide for a future transfer of the CA's administrative function should that be deemed desirable in the future. Unfortunately nothing was ever built.

### 40 YEARS AGO

July 1982 Gazette (#166) contained an Announcement of the Test Team. The Great Britain team to travel to Australia later this year was recently announced by the selection committee of the CA and is as follows: David Openshaw (Harrow Oak) - Captain, Andrew Hope (Cheltenham) - Player/Manager, Stephen Mulliner (Roehampton), Martin Murray (Cheltenham), William Prichard (Cheltenham), Keith Wylie (Parkstone). The Gazette reported that the team would be away from about 25 October to 12 December, which is a lot longer than the current schedule. Test matches were played against Australia and New Zealand in Sydney, Adelaide and Melbourne, with a warm up match in Perth against Western Australia.

**I Chris Williams, CA Archivist**



## CROQUET SHOWSTOPPER

**S**ussex hosted West Worthing on 17 May in a friendly.

We offered them either cake or a hog roast. They replied that they all had a sweet tooth so we came up with this cake.

Note - the baker wishes to remain anonymous in case s/he is flooded with requests.

**I Munchy Mike (Team Capt)**

PHOTOGRAPH Sarah Patton



**L**ast Autumn, we consulted on the future legal status of the Croquet Association. You collectively provided 24,000 words of feedback and there has been much work over the last six months to analyse these, obtain further legal advice, and to create the detail of our future plans. After much discussion, Council is proposing that we apply to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and has drafted a constitution for a new body – Croquet England. It has become apparent that the current legal status of the CA has become less and less credible.

Incorporation addresses this by limiting the liability of volunteers and enabling Croquet England to enter into contracts as an organisation, and being more readily recognised by third parties. Becoming a charity, “for the advancement of amateur sport for public benefit”, confers a number of taxation advantages. There are legal requirements associated with such a status but many – such as a legal obligation to only do things which further our objects, or to ensure financial resilience – should be seen as good governance rather than limitations. It will also be a further step toward achieving compliance with Sport England regulations for National Governing Bodies. The next formal step is for members to vote on a motion to submit an application to the Charity Commission based on a new draft constitution. This will take place at a Special General Meeting to take place over the coming weeks. The details of this, along with the draft constitution and supporting documents, should have been published before you read this, so please look at the website if you’ve not seen those. We’re sure that a number of you will have further questions, and so in order to give you an opportunity to ask those before the deadline for postal votes, we will be holding a virtual members forum. Again, look at the website for details.

**Samir Patel**  
Chairman of Council

**S**hortly before going to press Quiller Barrett announced that he will be retiring from office as President of the Croquet Association later this year. The service he has given croquet over many years has been immense and will certainly be a hard act to follow. Quiller was introduced to the world of croquet before World War 2. As a young lad he used to follow his Grandmother round the croquet lawns at Penarth studiously moving the clips from hoop to hoop. He had a successful career in Publishing including many years as a Director. Croquet came back into his life in the 1960’s when his publishing house gave him the task of editing a book called Know The Game: Croquet. At the time he was greatly assisted by two legends of the croquet world, William Omerod & John Solomon. Know The Game has since been updated again (with much involvement from Quiller), to include Golf as well as Association Croquet, and is still regarded as an ideal publication for those starting to play the sport.

During the second half of the last century Quiller’s sporting life centred around Gliding and Hot Air Ballooning. He became involved in the sport’s governance, becoming Chairman of the British Gliding Association as well as Chair of World Air Sports Federation (equivalent to the World Croquet Federation). This experience stood him in good stead when he ventured into the world of Croquet. Quiller joined Ealing Croquet Club in 1990 and then also joined Surbiton. He quickly became involved in the administration of the game by joining his Club and the South East Croquet Federation Committees. More recently he joined Watford Croquet Club where he has been an active member for several years. In 1997 he was elected to the CA Council and was soon appointed to chair a Constitution Working Party. This implemented a new structure of Functional Committees reporting into a Management Committee, which in turn reported into the CA Council. The later body consisting of senior officers of the Association and Federation representatives, in addition to directly elected members. In 1999 Quiller was invited to become Vice Chairman of Council and Chairman of the Management Committee. This was quite a major change to the running of the Association. Under the old structure Council consisted mainly of the country’s top tournament players. Quiller was an 8 handicap Association



PHOTOGRAPH Samir Patel

player who brought a totally different set of skills to the CA. Quiller represented successful corporate practices and extensive experience, having chaired two sport’s governing bodies very similar to our own and above all he represented the rank and file croquet player who enjoys both competitive and social play. Quiller was Chairman of Council from 2001 – 2003 and during that time had to find a new headquarters for the Association. The Hurlingham Club (our former headquarters) decided that they needed our space for improvements to their own facilities. Three clubs - Surbiton, Sussex County and Cheltenham offered facilities and following a tendering process Council decided to accept Cheltenham’s tender. During his tenure he introduced the CA Diploma and what a popular idea that has become. After Quiller retired from Council he concentrated on his game and was seen at many venues across the country enjoying his love of Association Croquet coupled with convivial conversation with like minded people. We now move forward to 2009 when the President at the time, Bernard Neal, decided it was time to retire, which triggered an election for his successor.

Quiller was somewhat reluctantly persuaded to stand by Bernard Neal and was duly elected President of the Croquet Association. To say that Quiller’s term of office as President was active would be an understatement. Apart from being a member of Council and responsible for chairing the Croquet Association AGM, he has represented the CA by travelling to many venues throughout our domain, presenting trophies and awards and organising his team of Vice Presidents to share the load. There is one other major role for the President and that is to advise the Chairman of Council as appropriate. As Chairman of Council from 2019 – 2021 I personally found his sound advice invaluable. He brought experience, clear thinking and was always there to help when the going got tough. This was certainly the case when the CA were in the process of modifying the structure, fighting through the pandemic and actively considering moving to charitable status. I, for one, cannot thank Quiller enough: his strengths, his marvellous sense of humour and his endless enthusiasm will be sadly missed. He will be a very hard act to follow.

**Jonathan Isaacs**  
Past Chairman of Council

## BURSARY AWARDS FOR 2022 HAVE BEEN MADE UNDER THE CA SCHEME

**T**he CA Bursary Scheme was formulated last year to provide financial support for potential international players of both Association and Golf Croquet.

It is primarily intended to assist players under the age of 25 who wish to take part in tournaments and other challenging croquet activities to improve their performance and require assistance with the costs involved.

Preference is given to applicants who are

under 25 but older players may also apply. Preference is also given to applicants who satisfy the Funding Committee that they reasonably require financial support but financial disclosure is not required.

On 18 May 2022 awards amounting in total to £2,100 were made by the Funding Committee.

- The recipients were:
- Euan Burrige (Nottingham)
  - Jack Good (Bury)
  - Callum Johnson (York)

- Aston Wade (Hamptworth)
- Albie Willett (Colchester)

Details of the Scheme may be found: <https://www.croquet.org.uk/?p=ca/schemes/BursaryScheme>

**John Reddish**  
Chairman of the Funding Committee



## COLES CHAMPIONSHIP

**T**his year's Coles Championship started with sixteen players fully seeded and eager to begin at the Cheltenham lawns. Most of



the players had already participated in tournaments this season. With everyone already played in, it was set to be a good competition for all. The rainfall on the second day of the tournament created slow and testing conditions. Any players who hadn't filled up on their carbohydrates were about to feel the strain. It was no surprise that the spectators witnessed quite a few peeling turns from the minus players, who of course ended up in the later stages of the tournament. James Death was top seed and, as



predicted, flew through to the final dropping just one game to David Goacher. Second seed Mark Suter was on the right track until he met David Maugham in the Semi Final. By the time Maugham made it through to the final, he also had only dropped just one game in the tournament to Suter.

The final was played on the famous lawn 8 in front of the newly refurbished Cheltenham Tea Room. While the other players enjoyed their last few games, the final ended after three fairly quick wins to David Maugham.

The spectators were then able to watch the plate final between James Galpin and Joel Taylor. Joel had arrived after the initial stages of the tournament to play in the Plate only. Going into the final with 100% wins he finished as well as he started, completing another tidy TP for the win.

## WESTERN CHAMPIONSHIP

**H**op-a-long, the resident cheeky seagull mascot, made himself comfortable on the edges of lawn three at the East Dorset Lawn

Tennis & Croquet Club, all ready to watch some championship action. This year the tournament only attracted six entries, so the normally three day tournament was dropped to just two days, with one half of the knockout going straight into the semi-final. This best of three match was between David (The Beast) Maugham and Richard (The Whirlwind) Smith. Between them they whipped up a bit of a storm in the first game, which showed a fair amount of interaction scoring +23 and +18 to David, seeing him sail into the final. A spectator with a mallet stepped in to play a couple of plate games to keep the lawns busy whilst David waited for his big final. The final was then played between David Maugham and Duncan Reeve,

where this time it was Duncan's time to shine. The best of five final was played with Super Advanced rules and it quickly became clear that Duncan was on great form, winning the first game swiftly +17. The peeling turns then started, thrilling the croquet fanatics on courtside but making commentary to the nearby interested tennis folk slightly problematic. Although the tournament was fairly under-subscribed, the lunch time were healthy as the players were joined by family members from nearby towns. And as always, the members and catering team at this fabulous multi-sport club gave us all a warm welcomed. As the final continued David took the second game with a clean +26tp sweep, but it was Duncan who really was the Champion of the day winning the final two games +26tp and +10otp. "He just didn't miss" said David.



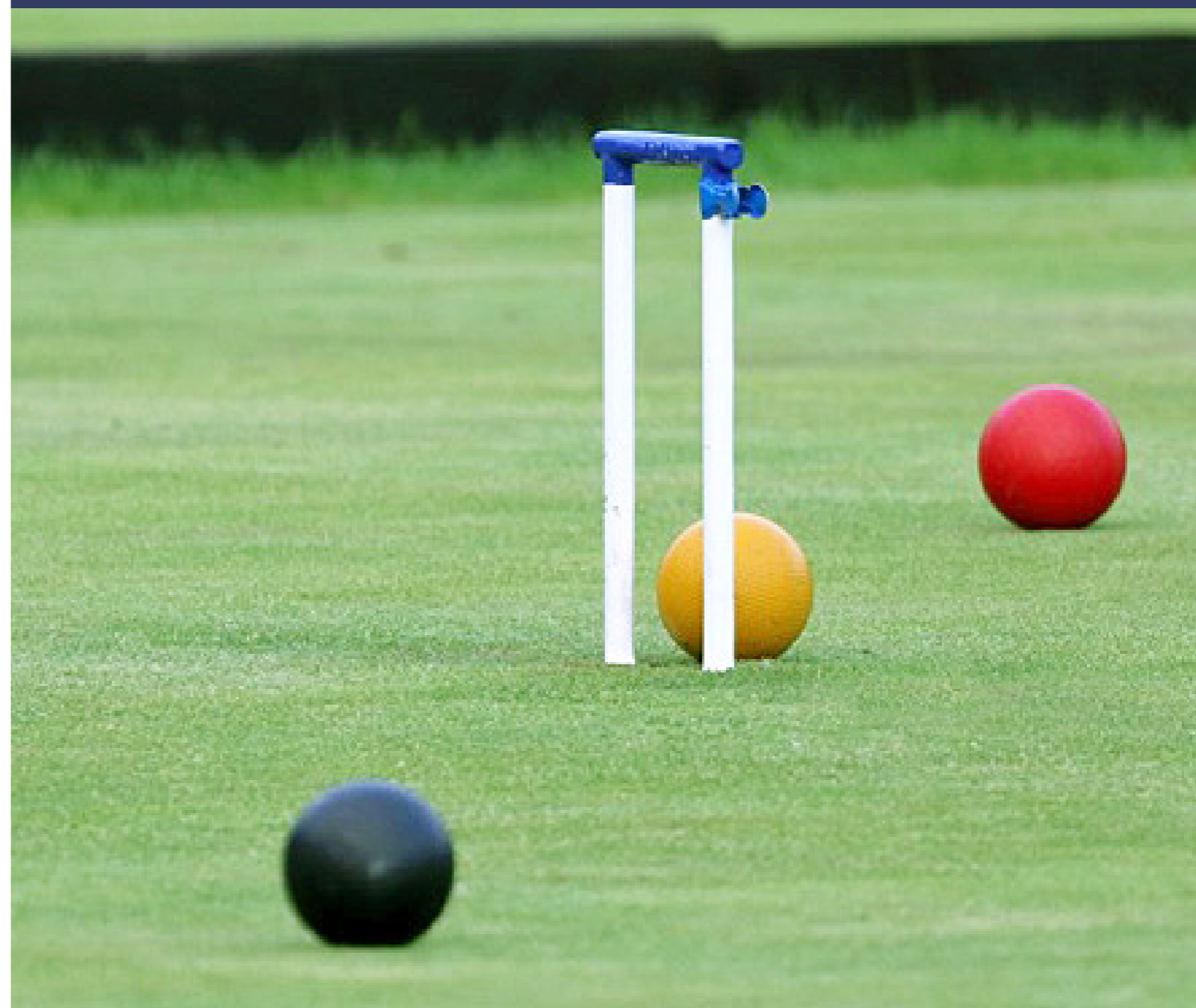
The Plate final was won by local player Jonathan Powe and the entertainment provided by Top Turn Tom (Tom Weston), who treated us all to his home-made magic disappearing head illusion, with his glamorous assistant to hand.



*Clockwise: Resident Seagull; Duncan Reeve; Jonathan Powe; Richard Smith*



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# CHARITY ONE-BALL CHAMPIONSHIP REGIONAL FINALS: 7-8 MAY 2022

**T**his year we had two Regional Finals for the annual one-ball competition. The addition of a more northern final enabled and encouraged more qualifiers from the North and Midlands to anticipate.

At Nottingham, we had 17 players, after three late withdrawals. This was the first time that Nottingham had hosted a regional final, and they did so very adroitly. It was fitting that one of its members won. Mark Innes (20), only started croquet last year and was playing off the maximum handicap, but he is clearly a natural and very competitive. He finished unbeaten, with 8/8. The runner-up spot was down to a play-off between Cathy Dance (14), of York, and Fiona Whittaker (20), of Bowdon, the former winning on the last shot of the match.

It was clearly a day for the higher handicapped players over the elite players, with Eugene Chang (-5) and Callum Johnson (-4) down the field, along with the very first winner, Anthony Miller, in 1994, when it was called the 'Winchester One-Ball', and before it was a charity event.

Surbiton's better established final had 44 players and was the largest and probably also the strongest ever assembled. Not only were there four minus players, we also had four previous winners of the Charity OB Championship. It should be especially mentioned that we welcomed three qualifiers from Carrickmines, who flew over to take part in the day.

The winner was James Galpin (-5), of Nailsea, who started off well and then just got better. We had not seen such accurate shooting and hooping since Rutger Beijderwellen (-10) two decades ago. James spent the whole day seeing off other unbeaten competitors, including two great newcomers in Gareth Hobby (20) of Caversham and Brenda Hawkins (20) of Compton. The tea-time final was played between James and Diana Wilson (14), of Roehampton, also in her second year of croquet and who was the only other player by then within touching distance of the leader. Diana played with great touch and more than a few bisques, to get within three hoops of James but that was not enough. The finalists received their trophies from CA president, Quiller Barrett.

This year's Charity One-Ball championship again broke records. We had 48 heats, with just under 600 playing. Thanks to the new Nottingham regional final, 61 competed in the two finals together.

Provisionally, we raised £8149, plus a further £1010 in Gift Aid for MIND, the mental health charity (except for the contribution from Ireland, which instead went to an equivalent local charity). Next year, we hope for even more heats and players and, of course, cash raised for a good cause!

**| Kevin Carter**

PHOTOGRAPHS Eugene Chang

# 2022 MEMORIAL PEELS TOURNAMENT 12-15 MAY 2022, NOTTINGHAM CC

**M**any Nottingham regulars with 6 visitors, ladies handicaps from 10 to 24 and the mens handicaps, 1 to 20 contested the Peels

Memorial trophies. Players enjoyed dry sunny conditions with strong gusting winds on the first two days, Saturday and Sunday were dry, sunny and very warm with hardly any wind. There was a slight threat of a shower during the singles finals that quickly disappeared.

All games were played with a 3 hour time limit. Twelve couples entered the mixed doubles knockout.

**SEMI-FINALS:** David Magee + Eileen Magee (h/c 5) **+1T** beat John Bee + Wendy Spencer-Smith (h/c 16.5). Omied Hallam + Phillipa Hallam (h/c 6.5) **+13T** beat Ian Vincent + Diana Plant (h/c 8)

**FINAL:** Omied + Phillipa **+10T** beat

David + Eileen. Both the Ladies and Mens Singles, base 10, were run as a Flexible Swiss with the top four players progressing to a knockout. Ten ladies contested the Ladies Singles.

**SEMI-FINALS:** Wendy Spencer-Smith (h/c 24) **+2T** beat Diana Plant (h/c 16). Phillipa Hallam (h/c 14) **+1T** beat Eileen Magee (h/c 10).

**FINAL:** Wendy **+4T** beat Phillipa. 17 men contested the Mens Singles.

**SEMI-FINALS:** Mark Innes (h/c 20) **+9T** beat Mick Owens (h/c 18). Omied Hallam (h/c -1) **+7** beat Charles Ostler (h/c 2.5)

**FINAL:** Mark **+26** beat Omied. Patricia Duke-Cox, a CA Vice-President, thanked the players and all background club members for making the tournament a very enjoyable CA event, before presenting the winners' trophies.

Mark Innes attained a Bronze Merit Award.

At the end, automatic handicap changes were noted for: Diana Plant (14), Mark Innes (16) & Wendy Spencer-Smith (22). As ever, the catering team came up trumps with a splendid selection of lunches and teas. A Saturday evening Thai takeaway was enjoyed by the majority of players, thanks to Diana. Groundsman Charlie Paget must be congratulated for the preparation of all seven lawns. The two new lawns played slightly slower than the main 5 lawns but were very flat & true. Mark Innes certainly noticed lawn 1 played much faster on Sunday's final after Charlie had been out with the mower early that morning.

**| Bob Thompson**



Eugene Chang



Rob Edlin-White



Rob Edlin-White



Rob Edlin-White

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Rob Edlin-White



Eugene Chang

## Charity One-Ball Championship

	Charity	Heats	Participants	Amount Raised	Gift Aid	Winner of Final(s)
2007	Cancer Research UK	9	170	£693		Tudor Jenkins (18)
2008	Cancer Research UK	17	216	£901		Barry Gould (6)
2009	Macmillan Cancer Support	17	287	£1280	£167	Graham Gale (2.5)
2010	Macmillan Cancer Support	19	266	£1263	£132	Roger Barnacle (18)
2011	Breast Cancer Campaign	27	363	£2198	£498	Sara Anderson (18)
2012	Breast Cancer Campaign	28	358	£2499	£586	Andrew Rutland (24)
2013	Prostate Cancer UK	29	389	£2742	£646	Libby Howard-Blood (22)
2014	Prostate Cancer UK	28	413	£2793	£682	Richard Thurlow (24)
2015	Bowel Cancer UK	29	429	£3021	£750	Andrew Killick (1.5)
2016	Myeloma UK	32	419	£3505	£662	Nigel Trotter (14)
2017	Parkinsons UK	35	489	£4148	£636	Richard Jones (15)
2018	Downs Syndrome Assoc.	37	497	£4471	£903	Margaret Murray (15)
2019	Alzheimer's Society	44	588	£5860	£1010	Cliff Hunter (12)
2020	Macmillan Cancer Support	18	214	£3733	£588	Michael Broadway (12)
2021	British Heart Foundation	36	454	£6626	£1058	Joel Taylor (-1.5)
2022	MIND	48	597	£8149	£1010	Nottingham: Mark Innes (20) Surbiton: James Galpin (-5)
<b>TOTALS</b>				<b>£53,882</b>	<b>£9,328</b>	

## BUSY START TO THE SEASON FOR FYLDE CROQUET

**F**ylde Croquet Club, based in Blackpool, Lancashire, has had a busy start to the 2022 season.

Scott Benton, MP for Blackpool South, officially opened our 35th playing season on Tuesday 12th April. Club Chair, Liz Wilson, welcomed Scott and his companions, local Councillor Bradley Mitchell, Parliamentary Case Worker Gary Robinson and Peter Malpas of Lancashire Conservatives, with a brief description of the Club and North West regional activity. After a fizzy toast to the Club's fortunes, applauded by around 40 Members, Paul Rigge, Chair of the North West Federation coached and refereed the visitors in a short game of Golf doubles.

Much hilarity and shouts of "give it some welly" accompanied the game and jump shots were even attempted by the visitors. Scott said he was pleased to be an Honorary Member and hoped to return as it was the best half hour of fun he had had in a while.

On his Facebook Page later, Scott posted a photo of the happy event and wrote 'Fantastic game with Fylde Croquet Club. Friendly and fun atmosphere welcoming all abilities. Fully recommend going along if you haven't played before!'

Fylde attended Fairhaven Lake Open Day in April. This day highlighted various sports in the area, including archery, tennis, bowling, judo and of course croquet. Fylde started its life at Fairhaven Lake and at the last open day in 2019 Phil Snowden joined us, and went on to win at the All England A/C Finals in Sidmouth last year. Let's hope some of the 2022 intake can emulate Phil's achievements.



Blackpool South MP Scott Benton officially opening the 2022 season.

## CROQUET ON TV

**T**he Netflix programme Bridgerton has been a huge hit with millions of viewers and the publicity material for the second series features the main characters playing croquet (or pall mall as it was then). The TV series is based on books by Julia Quinn so Fylde contacted a local bookshop, Storytellers, Inc and they agreed to do a Bridgerton themed window display. Mallets, balls, hoops and pegs were used together with the Bridgerton books to create an interesting and attention grabbing display. Members of Fylde Croquet were on hand on the May Day Weekend to chat to customers and generate interest. The event was publicised on both Storytellers, Inc and Fylde's websites and twitter feeds.



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## OBITUARIES

### “SMOKEY” EADES

8 JANUARY 1920 -  
25 FEBRUARY 2022



**R**onald W. Eades, universally known as Smokey, died aged 102. He was a prominent CA player throughout the second half of the 20th century. Sadly his wife, Joan, died in 2021 only a few weeks short of their 80th wedding anniversary and her 100th birthday. They lived in Maidenhead from 1961 until Joan's death when Smokey moved into care. Smokey's well-supported funeral was held at Maidenhead Crematorium on 7 April. Smokey was a member of Phyllis Court CC and served on the committee many times. His final office was that of President. He joined the club in 1965 playing AC following closure of his previous club at Maidenhead. From his late 80s he played a little GC and donated a cup for a GC competition. At the age of 97 he still was able to attend the competition and present the trophy. He served on Council from 1983 to 1991 as Development Officer for the South.

He was an engaging character being tall with white hair, a prominent moustache and a charming personality. He was articulate, humorous and very knowledgeable of AC. He had a low handicap and was well-known on the tournament circuit particularly at Colchester. He once said his wife had threatened divorce because of his frequent absences at tournaments so he was having to cut back on them. He regularly smoked cigars and occasionally a pipe whilst playing a game and after lunch would often bring a pint of beer to accompany afternoon games. He disobeyed all the health rules yet was never troubled by illness.

Smokey was born in the West

Midlands and lost his father to Spanish flu before his first birthday. His mother opened a drapers shop and was able to send him as a boarder to Solihull School from the age of 8. He had a successful school career excelling in sport, debating and English Literature. After leaving school at age 17 he worked in local industry for a short time before joining the South Staffordshire Regiment in 1940 as a second lieutenant. He once said he had served in the rescue boats at Dunkirk but never mentioned other war activities where he reached the rank of captain. Around 1943 he suffered an injury which affected his hearing and necessitated a long spell in hospital. After the war he joined the Unilever Group eventually becoming Commercial Director of the Cooked Meats Division. He is mentioned in Claude Littner's (of The Apprentice fame) autobiography as being his boss when Claude also worked for Unilever. Smokey would occasionally explain the finer points of croquet to him. When Smokey retired from Unilever he became chairman of Hygrade Foods in Wiltshire, another meat processing company.

It is not known for certain how he gained his nickname. He once told me it had resulted from him setting fire to his school but the school has no record of such an incident. A business source said it came from him frequently setting fire to his waste paper basket by emptying the ash from his pipe into it. He married at the young age of 21 because of the war and he and Joan remained a devoted couple. There were no children. They loved dining out together and with friends and were very much bon viveurs.

**Brian G. Bucknall**

## LETTERS

### FIVE A DAY

I think it was Sir Bobby Charlton, when asked why European footballers seem to be so much better than the home grown talent, stated that it was because they practice skills, whereas we just want to play Five Aside.

I keep suggesting to my beginners that, when they come to the club, they should practice a skill for the first twenty minutes. There was an example the other day of a member exercising their democratic right to ignore my advice. This player had turned up a little late for the "roll-up" only to discover that all had been paired up. There were lots of unoccupied lawns but he went home.

So in such circumstances the following could have been his "FIVE a DAY":

1. Alignment : stand astride the white line and check that your swing is still in order.
  2. Long Shots: play some long shots adjusting for differing lengths
  3. Hoop Runs: straight and angled. Earn "Brownie Points" from the Lawn Manager by not spending too long at the same hoop.
  4. Clearance shots or Hits In: set yourself a target of hitting x number of balls in five minutes
  5. "Croquet" the ball into the corner or yard line to set up a rush; or practice blocking shots.
- An hour later you're sitting at home reading the latest Croquet Gazette. That wasn't too much to ask was it?

**Klim Seabright**

READERS ARE REMINDED THAT THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THE LETTERS PAGES OF THE GAZETTE ARE THOSE OF THE AUTHORS ONLY, AND NOT THOSE OF THEIR CLUBS, UNLESS SPECIFICALLY INDICATED.

### 10/50/100 YEARS

I am in complete agreement with 'Campbell' regarding 10/50/100 years ago and these snippets have been regular conversation pieces during get-togethers with fellow players.

How else for instance would we have known about our much loved, and missed, William Ormerod winning tournaments that he first won 50 years ago!

Come on editorial bring it back please.

**David Williams  
East Dorset**

### GRAEME'S GANG

The April issue had a profile of Graeme Kerr at Hove Beach BUT the photo only showed his arse.

Here's a fun one of Graeme for the May issue. Taken at last summer's "Witches of Southwick (Sussex CCC) v Hove Beach" Croquet Match - Super Drinks Party on Hove Seafront.

**Mike Akester  
Dev Officer  
SECF and Hove Beach Member**



### THE 2022 MACROBERTSON SHIELD

Just for the record a couple of comments regarding the above article in "Croquet" #396 April 2022.

The B & W photo "The way it was in 1963" is actually the combined teams at Warleigh Croquet club in Melbourne for the 1969 series.

"first close family members" Jacques and Don Jr Fournier 2000. Cliff and Alan Anderson, father and son were in the 1974 NZ team.

There were several husband and wife team members, prior

to 2000.

1927/28 Cyril & Elizabeth Miller Australia.  
1956 Clem & Rene Watkins, and Gordon & Margaret Rowling New Zealand.  
1963 Les & Cassie Middlemiss New Zealand.  
1969 Keith & Hazel Woollett New Zealand.

And since 2000...

2014 Chris & Jenny Clarke New Zealand.

**John Prince**

### 100 YEARS AGO

Chris Williams' new column is entertaining and informative but could his selections also quote from older issues of the Gazette? The formality of language and terms of address used 100 years ago (as illustrated in your former

archive piece) add their quaint charm to the historic relevance of the topics brought to light from a very different world.

**Peter Lowe  
Tyneside CC**

### GOLF CROQUET REVISITED

Golf Croquet has been around for a long while - from Victorian times (even before the forming of the CA!) and mentioned by Robert Graves who played Golf Croquet at Oxford whilst recovering from wounds in 1918. However, today the game has, it seems, become something played mainly by those aged over sixty. Why is this?

I believe that to get more young people engaged in the game it is, in modern PR terms, necessary to rename Golf Croquet as SPORT CROQUET - much more thrilling! What do you think?

**Tony Lee  
Norwich CC**

### GAZETTE BACK NUMBERS

I am having a clearout and intend to dispose of my copies of the Croquet Gazette - almost every issue from mid-2002 to the end of 2017. I'm happy to give these to any CA member who would like them, at no charge.

Please email me for details at:  
[chrisdaniels1962@gmail.com](mailto:chrisdaniels1962@gmail.com)

**Chris Daniels**

## The Corner 1 cannon in Short Croquet

The principles of Corner 1 cannons in SC are exactly the same as for full lawn croquet, but the slightly different lawn proportions mean a small change is needed in the angles. Let's assume Blue was already on the Corner 1 spot, and that now, playing Red, you rush Yellow into the same corner. Red must take croquet from Yellow, giving you three balls together.

Yellow goes on the yard line touching Blue. Take Red and line it up touching Yellow so that Yellow points directly at hoop 2. Now move Blue to touch the right hand side of Yellow, setting it to form a right angle.

The line of aim is a matter of personal choice. Aiming at the peg, or at hoop 6, both work well. The natural pull on Yellow will ensure it moves slightly to the right and should mean it finishes up nicely placed as a good hoop 2 pioneer. Blue meanwhile will have been cannoned to near hoop 1, ready for you to take croquet and play a hoop approach shot.

The lawn proportions in SC mean the Corner 1 cannon is easier to set up and easier to play reliably than in full lawn croquet. A little practice should be enough to determine the strength of shot needed.

## The SC Calendar

Many Federations now run SC leagues, SC tournaments or both, and these are a great way of playing this fast, enjoyable version of AC against different opponents. Why not try one of the Fixtures Calendar SC tournaments? Blewbury in Oxfordshire is following up its May one-day SC event with another on 6 August. York's two-day Viking Challenge, the biggest SC event in the Calendar, is on 10-11 September. Both offer friendly competition, several games in a day and a warm welcome. This makes them ideal not only for SC enthusiasts, but also for players trying SC for the first time, and for players looking to enter their first tournament. If the lure of several shorter games tempts you, this is a great way to take the plunge into SC tournament croquet in a friendly and supportive atmosphere.

## More on SC Doubles handicaps

The handy bisque calculator by Brian Wainman, Plymouth CC, takes the hard work out of determining SC Doubles handicaps. Go to <https://chc.eu.pythonanywhere.com/> Enter the details... and, magically, there's the answer.

## John Harris Coaching Committee Chair



19-year-old Wendy Robertson starts her second season with a Short Croquet hoop approach shot

# SHORT CROQUET DEBUTANTE

If you fear the gradual disappearance of Association Croquet then fear not, I believe there is hope and it is called SHORT CROQUET (SC).

Before I explain myself I should issue a disclaimer... I play and enjoy both sports. When I started to play Croquet the coaching was exclusively about AC. I rather suspect that, had I uttered the word "golf", I would receive some strange looks and be invited to take up Bowls!

I decided to dip my toe into the SC sport by playing at Nailsea on one of the divisional team events, which was held over 3 days (2 Divisions per day but held as three separate events). A similar event is held at Budleigh in the Autumn.

Congratulations to Nailsea Croquet Club (NCC) on their usual warm welcome and well prepared lawns. Admiration to NCC for all the extra work (and expense?) That goes into preparing 8 SC lawns.

Massive admiration for John Grimshaw for managing and playing in such a well ordered event. It was a bit like that thing where you rub your stomach with one hand while patting your head with the other hand... every 75 minutes.

By now dear reader you can probably tell that I was enjoying the experience.

Yes, I know that my fellow players in the North will be saying "has he only just discovered SC?"

We have been playing it for years "

What a turn out! Teams

had come from all over the South West. The Geographers among you will know that Penzance is a 'blankety blank' (= 1 Chain) long way from Nailsea. 8 lawns double banked all day and that was just one of the three days.

15 Clubs had entered teams so my guess is that, by Autumn, a very high number of South West Clubs will have been involved!

If you have played at Nailsea you will know that parking is limited. There was a rumour going the rounds that the club is planning under lawn parking but I reckon that rumour started around the 1st April. If you start your first game with secondaries then you know that you will move lawns but play with secondaries all day and your hoop one will always be hoop 3. Great idea. I experienced hardly any delay due to double banking. No inhibitions about borrowing a player to make up a four - I played for Bath B side. Peeling for those with low handicaps was another good idea. What about other suggestions to attract more low handicappers? No Yard Line? A C and D Baulk? A Chess Clock? Suggestions to the Editor.

I am certainly looking forward to my next SC experience.

## Klim Seabright Cheltenham Croquet Club

# PENRITH CLUB LAUNCHES 'OPENING DOORS' CAMPAIGN

There were Triple Peels aplenty at Dalemain House near Penrith on Saturday 14th May. This was perhaps no more than expected at the annual International Marmalade Festival. Since 2005 marmalade enthusiasts have raised over £270,000 for hospice at home charities.

An article in the CA Gazette, last December, alerted Penrith CC members about a new category this year allowing entries made from any three citrus fruits - the Triple Peel.

Inspired by the CA Opening Doors initiative we seized the opportunity to set out two temporary lawns in front of the magnificent Georgian façade at Dalemain House. The local press published an article about our forthcoming croquet showcase. On the day newly purchased banner flags fluttered gently under warm Cumbrian skies, - much to everyone's great relief!

We knew this event attracts a large number of visitors. Awards for marmalade



makers, both domestic and artisan, from across the UK and abroad would ensure a ready supply of people wanting to take up our invitation to 'have a go' at croquet. Even with wide wire hoops, the playing conditions were tricky on a very bumpy lawn. We adopted double banked five hoop golf croquet as the way to provide

a good experience of croquet, whilst keeping things moving. Participants were handed an invitation to visit our club lawns and play more croquet at Taster Sessions in late May. Several people from outside the area asked about clubs where they live.

One visitor from Sweden, supposedly a croquet player, was surprised to see our lawn layout only had one peg. He called it a 'crown'. Only when Paddington Bear arrived asking about croquet in Peru did we struggle to provide an answer. Undeterred by a 'hard stare' we offered Paddington a mallet and he graciously accepted being photographed with club members and visitors.

Did we win any gold medals for our Triple Peels? No, but several members did win Silver and Bronze awards for their marmalade entries.

Did we open doors for people to try croquet. We certainly did.

## Howard Bowron Chairman Penrith CC

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arenas, bowling green's along with other surfaces that need irrigation systems.

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# THOMAS MAYNE REID (1818-1883)

FINAL PART

## HOME AGAIN

The Captain and Mrs Reid lived in Ross-on-Wye where Reid resumed writing. His work included short stories and revisions of some of his earlier novels. He wrote "The Death Shot" at this time and his work appeared in The Penny Illustrated Paper. In March 1873 he was caricatured as one of the "Men of the Day" in Vanity Fair, subtitled "Impossible Romance"

By now Reid was very disabled and increasingly depressed and was possibly addicted to opiates. He never revealed how much croquet he actually played but it is reasonable to suppose that the game had, for some time, been more than he could manage. Back in England, he was again hospitalised, this time in Matlock, Derbyshire, at a "water-cure sanatorium", where he was also treated for "acute melancholia." In October 1874, an abscess formed on his wounded leg and thereafter he was unable to walk without the aid of crutches.

In 1876, seeking the tranquillity of rural life, he and his wife moved to a small farm near Pontshill in Herefordshire, on the border of the Forest of Dean. They lived there for 7 years. Enamoured of the countryside and particularly keen on the people of the Forest, Reid travelled the area in a pony and trap, often driving 30 miles in a day. As a keen naturalist, he made copious notes on the flora and fauna and he spent time in getting to know the people of the Forest and the Wye Valley. On his many trips into the Forest, just four miles from his home, he often passed the remains of the ruined castle

at Ruardean. When he discovered that the beautifully situated building was razed during the Civil War, he began to formulate "the intricate and exciting romance that became his last novel, "No Quarter!" Mr Doug McLean, a local publisher and founder of "The Forest Bookshop", republished "No Quarter!", in 2011.

On 26 May 1876, the Birmingham Daily Post, reported that Mayne Reid was then one of the most popular of authors in the country, with "some half dozen of his novels having been translated and printed in from 3,000 to 4,000 copies". Many of his novels were also serialised in publications throughout the UK, one example being "Gwen Wynn, A Romance of the Wye" (1877), which was serialised in 10 provincial newspapers, including the Sheffield Independent.

From 6 April 1881, for ten months, Reid was joint editor, with John Latey, of The Boys' Illustrated News. He wrote "The Lost Mountain; a Tale of Sonora" for that publication. At about this time, Reid's invention began to desert him and he became less popular. However, "No Quarter!" is remembered fondly by some critics. According to Mr McLean, "the tale romps around and through the Forest into Gloucester, to Bristol and back to the Forest. It is a tale of heroes who are the Foresters and the Parliamentarians, and of his arch-villain Prince Rupert, commander of the royalist cavalry".

## DECLINE AND FALL

Reid's decline into obscurity is puzzling to his admirers. Mr McLean suggests that his radical politics did not endear him

to the imperialist influencers of the late 19th century or that his once popular, pioneering 'ripping yarn' style of writing had run its course. His views and his literary genre may simply have fallen out of fashion with a new generation of increasingly educated late-Victorians, whose tastes were different.

Reid had been very popular around the world. In his autobiography, President Teddy Roosevelt credited him as a major early inspiration. Russell Miller, in his biography of Arthur Conan Doyle, said that Mayne Reid was one of Conan Doyle's favourite childhood authors and a great influence on his writings. His tales of the American West captivated children everywhere, including Europe and Russia. Anton Chekhov mentions him in his "Island, a Journey to Sakhalin" (1894). Vladimir Nabokov recalled "The Headless Horseman" as a favourite adventure novel of his childhood years. Czeslaw Milosz, the Polish-American poet and diplomat, who won the 1980 Nobel Prize for Literature, cited Russian translations of Reid as well-remembered early reading material. A chapter on Reid appears in his Emperor of the Earth (1976) collection of essays. D.H. Lawrence has Henry Grenfel, his main character in "The Fox", reading "a Captain Mayne Reid."

In 1883 Reid moved to Maida Hill, the fashionable area to the west of St John's Wood in London, because of his declining health. His last novel, "No Quarter!" and his last boys' book, "The Land of Fire," were published after his death, aged 65, on 22 October 1883.

He is buried in Kensal Green Cemetery.

# OBITUARIES

## DEREK BUXTON 1936-2022

Derek Buxton, a stalwart of Ashby Croquet Club for decades, sadly passed away on April 8th at the age of 85.

Derek started playing croquet in the mid-1990s with his wife Eileen, when Ashby CC was still based at Hood Park in the town and we mostly played the Association version of the game, specifically short croquet due to our limited lawn space at the time.

Croquet formed a major part of Derek's life over the next 25 years, regularly playing in AC and GC tournaments up and down the country, and inter-club matches. He was a member of Ashby's winning squads in 1997 National Short Croquet team competition and 2010 Secretary's Shield.

Derek was a key member of the Ashby CC committee where he served as secretary for many years, and he also held various posts at Federation level in the East Midlands including Chairman and GC Leagues Manager. He took on numerous valued roles in the club including running tournaments; helping with lawn maintenance; organising Ashby teams for various national competitions; running taster sessions for outside groups; and passing on his croquet skills and encouragement to new players including a promising 16-year-old Rachel Rowe, now Gee. Derek was awarded a CA Diploma in 2005 for his services to croquet. Derek was also a familiar face at Nottingham CC where he regularly played competitively. Despite his failing health in the last year, we are delighted that Derek was able to continue playing social games of GC



Derek playing in Ashby's 2011 AC tournament in which he finished runner-up

right up until the end of our recent winter season in late-February. Although a bit unsteady on his feet, the quality of many of his shots was still exceptional. Derek was a true gentleman, and his name will live on in Ashby's internal AC advanced competition which in recent years we have named in his honour in the form of the splendid glass Derek Buxton Trophy.

Our condolences go to Eileen and family.

Richard Sanville

# HURLINGHAM PITCH INVASION



Aston Wade triumphed against strong opposition in the top block at the Hurlingham May Weekend tournament. In the process, he gained a handicap reduction to -1 and a gold merit award (Aston – please note: Your first TP should not be that tidy!)

All 4 blocks were stronger than usual this year. Things were always likely to be tight in Block B where the handicaps ranged from 0.5 to -0.5. Indeed, it all came down to a game in the final round in which Tudor Jenkins beat Anthony Dix. Charlie Martin dropped just one game on his way to victory in Block C, and Guy Hewitt did similar in Block D.

There were a few spectators throughout the weekend. By far the keenest of these were the geese; not always content with a view on the side lines and occasionally wandering across the lawns for a closer view of the action.

# GLOUCESTER UNIVERSITY AT CHELTENHAM

Journalism students from the University of Gloucestershire got to grips with a new sport at Cheltenham Croquet Club.

Sixteen first years from the nearby university campus spent two hours learning the basics of croquet. Course leader Paul Wiltshire came up

with the idea because the students' next assessment is to do a series of first person writing pieces - including one about a new experience.

"I'm also always looking for new ways of getting us out of the classroom and newsroom, and into the fresh air. "It was a great way for them to bond -

and the weather really helped." Cheltenham's head Coach, Sarah Hayes, and her two assistants came up with prizes for the best students.

Paul added: "Sarah was a great host, and we were made to feel very welcome."





# CROQUET GOES LIVE!

**W**atch out world wide web, here comes croquet! The Croquet Association are excited to announce that they have teamed up with Belly Up Sports, an American based team of sports presenters, who will be watching and commenting live at our very own Inter-county Championships. A live interview with Beatrice McGlen, CA Executive Board Chair and Paul Hetherington, CA Marketing Director can be found on their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/BellyUpSports/> Jason and Andrew, the Belly Up presenters, quiz Beatrice and Paul all about our sport, and not just about hitting balls. They wanted the story behind the sport. Paul recalls a previous inter-county event where his own team captain couldn't buy beer at the local supermarket, due to the stock being cleared out minutes before by Nottingham player James Death. It's not

just a Pimms sport these days. Hopefully the local shops will stock up on the Ale and Malbec to help the players relax after their fierce competition.

*Belly Up Sports' creation came by two friends who were tired of the mainstream sports media. They wanted to create a platform where content creators, of all sorts, could have the freedom to cover sports how they wanted. Without the boring "News" feel. They wanted a melting pot of talent from all levels of experience. Shying away from no one, as they built this small company.*

*Now, four and a half years later, Belly Up Sports has three fully operational websites, over 70 podcasts, over 80 writers, and a college accredited internship program. Belly Up Sports has grown in its manpower and media capability with media credentials to cover*

*professional and college sports events. This year the fantasy sports group will be attending and hosting a booth at the Fantasy Football Expo in Canton, Ohio this August.*



## OXFORD STUDENT CROQUET IS BACK WITH ENTHUSIASM!

PHOTOGRAPH Dr Ian Plummer: Beginners at the Oxford University lawns

**W**ith Covid restrictions over, 196 teams (784 students) have entered this year's Oxford University inter-collegiate (coppers) competition. Teams of four players from the same college play two AC doubles matches with one game played on their own college lawn and the other away. Some colleges have entered as many as 15 teams. This gives a huge number of young people exposure to croquet, not only the players but the other

students watching as they lounge in their college quads. Whilst previously we have had up to 512 teams enter, this is a marvellous entry given the momentum lost in the past two years. Cuppers was not played in 2020 and was restricted to 32 teams last year. Again we are most pleased to have the Croquet Association sponsoring cuppers and supporting student croquet. The University Association Croquet Club has already hosted a well attended

demonstration match accompanied by an expert commentary and started its familiar programme of high intensity free coaching sessions led by Dr Ian Plummer. Hopeful players attend to learn the secrets of the game to gain an advantage in the early rounds of the cuppers competition. Cuppers is played as a knock-out competition over the next 8 weeks of the very short Oxford summer term.

**Dr Ian Plummer**  
[ian.plummer@balliol.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ian.plummer@balliol.ox.ac.uk)

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# HURLINGHAM CUP UP FOR GRABS

**N**ow in its second year of its revised format, the magnificent Hurlingham Cup, first awarded in 1922, is up for grabs in 2022 due to a Mac Squad weekend having been fixed for the same weekend involving last year's winner (James Death) and runner-up (Samir Patel). The Hurlingham Cup will be contested on the Club's front lawns at the end of the annual Hurlingham Tournament. The Cup is an open advanced AC tournament, run in a Championship format over three days (12-14 August), and offers the opportunity to win a 12 bottle case of "Grand Vin de Bordeaux" (and a runner's up magnum) as well as the magnificent cup (pictured here). There is also a flexible Swiss plate event which runs concurrently. Full details can be found in the CA fixtures calendar.



## SURBITON 'B' 14-15 MAY 2022

**C**liff Jones rolled back the years to win the 2022 Surbiton 'Super-B', for players on scratch and above. Cliff played very well, retaining all his trademark accuracy, honed over many years as a minus player. He remained unbeaten with 6/6, after a final against Liz Farrow.

23 lined up for the tournament – not full for the first time in many years, continuing the unhappy trend of fewer players in AC handicap and B-level events. At lunchtime on the second day the top four from the swiss went into a knock-out, in which Cliff beat David Boyd and Liz beat Andrew Dutton. The remainder continued the swiss competition, with Andy Dibben securing the Best-of-the-Rest prize.

Perhaps quality, too, is in retreat, since in easy conditions, not many TP attempts got very far. The unluckiest was Cliff's three peels before a failure to finish. Only Barry Holland went all the way and, with this being his first in competition, he won his gold badge.

Players had come from as far afield as Ramsgate, Kenilworth and Madrid to enjoy Surbiton's hospitality and fine lawns, and a rather wet sunday.



**PHOTOGRAPH** Charlie Martin: *Clockwise:* Barry Holland awarded Gold AC Merit Award; Barry; Cliff Jones, left, with Chris Osmond (Surbiton catering supremo, who was invited to present the prizes) and mangler, Kevin Carter

## ENGLAND AC HOME INTERNATIONAL TEAM SELECTED

The England team for the AC Home Internationals at Carrickmines on 11-12 June has been selected.

**Sam Murray**  
Chairman,  
AC Selection  
Committee

**The team is:**

- David Maugham (captain)
- Andy Myers
- Dominic Nunns
- Nigel Polhill
- Aston Wade

Myers, Polhill, and Wade are making their debuts in the event.

*Clockwise -*  
PHOTOGRAPH Samir Patel: Dominic Nunns.  
PHOTOGRAPH Nigel Polhill: Sarah Patton: David Maugham.  
PHOTOGRAPH Andy Myers: Samir Patel:  
Aston Wade.



## GC ENGLAND TEAM SELECTION ENGLAND VS. SPAIN TEST MATCH 17-19 JUNE AT HURLINGHAM

**T**he CA GC selectors are pleased to announce that the following players have been selected to represent England in the above test match. Congratulations all.

- JP Moberly (captain)
- Richard Bilton
- Aston Wade
- Stuart M Smith
- Stephen Mulliner
- Will Gee

**They are** (and also clockwise photographs);

**Lionel Tibble**  
Chairman GC Selectors



## EAST ANGLIAN GC CHAMPS 7-8 MAY AT COLCHESTER CC

**E**uan Burrige managed to foil his dad's bid for a hat-trick of wins in the event with a 7-4 7-6 victory over Ian in the final. Ian had earlier overcome Rachel Gee in one

semi-final, Rachel having won 13 out of 14 games in her block with a very impressive net hoop difference of +50. Ian and Rachel were still playing hoop 5 in game 1 of their match when Euan completed a

7-1, 7-2 demolition of John Noble in the other semi-final. John had played well to edge out Richard Bilton in a head to head final block game.  
**Ian Burrige**

## It's all in the detail

Natural turf sports surfaces come in many different forms. There are many types of grasses to suit all of these various circumstances. There are even more variations on what you will see if you dig down and look at the soil profile of what the grasses are growing in. In very many cases, that will be the natural soil that was there and in the same form it was before someone decided to put a sports pitch onto it. But a good sports turf agronomist understands the things about that profile that make for the most appropriate surface, and the healthiest grass growth, for whatever sport they are dealing with. They will also know the things to do to improve the situation if it needs it. This might mean installing drainage of an appropriate type, top dressing, fertilising etc, all of the tools available to grounds staff and sports turf contractors.

There is a way of installing what

we at Agrostis consider to be the ideal method for growing healthy and vigorous sports turf. This was developed originally for golf greens but we have utilised this for very many types of sport, from croquet to rugby, with tremendous success. Of course, grass selection varies with the sport and location, and the maintenance requirements differ very widely, but the profile, down to around 18 inches, is identical in each case. Jubilee Seeds are able to advise you on what grass species would be best

suited to your soil profile and your desired finished pitch. So, if you want the 'best' croquet lawn, we would always recommend this method of construction. You need irrigation facilities to water what is a very sandy and free-draining profile, but with that in place you can put such a lawn just about anywhere, provided you get the sunshine!  
**For guidance on croquet lawn maintenance and construction talk to the experts at Agrostis. T: 01359 259361 E: info@agrostis.co.uk www.agrostis.co.uk.**  
**For guidance on the perfect croquet lawn seed mix talk to the experts at Jubilee Seeds & Turf. T: 01531 825 299 E: sales@jubileeseeds.co.uk www.jubileeseeds.co.uk**





# GC WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP RETURNS TO SOUTHWICK

**3** years ago the croquet community witnessed a stunning spectacle of Golf Croquet on the refurbished lawns at Southwick, when Ben Rothman (US) won the WCF GC World Championship.

Those lucky enough to witness the final were treated to some of the finest Golf Croquet ever witnessed. For us mere mortals a successful jump shot gives us a thrill but one that cleared the centre peg, opponent balls and went through hoop 12 was a site to behold.

At the closing ceremony in 2019 the WCF flag was handed over to New Zealand as the next hosts. Little did we know what was coming round the corner with the pandemic.

New Zealand was in total lockdown and by the second half of 2021 it was becoming apparent that New Zealand felt they were unable to host the Championship.

The WCF (World Croquet Federation) considered their options and approached Southwick to see if they would be prepared to host the championship again. Southwick agreed and an organising committee was quickly formed to get the show on the road.

## PLANS FOR THE 2022 CHAMPIONSHIP

The Qualifier will be held at Compton Croquet Club in Eastbourne, East Sussex from Monday 25 – Thursday 28 July 2022.

The main event will be held at Sussex County Croquet Club, Southwick between Saturday 30 July & Sunday 7 August 2022 with an opening ceremony on Friday 29 July.

This time the main event will be held at one location allowing for an event capacity of 64 players. There will be 8 blocks of 8 players and the top 4 players from each block will qualify for the knockout stage which will start on Thursday 4th August.

## COME AND WATCH THE CHAMPIONSHIP

Southwick have excellent facilities to watch this event and visitors will be very welcome.

Entry fee will be £10 per day including a programme or £25 for a season ticket covering the whole period from Friday 29 July – Sunday 7 August.

Parking will be readily available close to the ground and full details of the event including maps and parking details can be found on the event website: [www.gcworlds2022.org](http://www.gcworlds2022.org)

The club has a fully licenced bar. Food and snacks will also be available, including a barbeque. There will be an Exhibitor Marquee where various items of croquet equipment will be available for sale including new and second hand mallets and World Championship merchandise including shirts and caps. At the 2019 Championship some visiting clubs organised mini buses – a great option to consider especially if you want to enjoy the odd drink.



# HIGH NOON AT BUDLEIGH

**T**he “Best in the West” is an informal, pre-season warm-up one day GC tournament for minus handicap players in the South-West region. This year was slightly different with Stephen Mulliner invited as a special guest, and Lionel Tibble kindly standing in for a last-minute withdrawal. Eight players took part in an ‘All play All’ format, handicap range -2 to -5.

## HOW THE WEST WAS WON...

With the town full of mallet slingers, Sheriff Mulliner was quick to lay down the law, four wins in four games. ‘Line-Dancing’ Lionel was barn dancing along, taking out James ‘The Kid’ Galpin in round three - but Sheriff Mulliner arrested his progress in round four, 7/6. (Mulliner/Tibble).

Back on the homestead, Tim ‘Jolly Rancher’ Jolliff was ploughing in with a steady performance, halting the hoedown for ‘Line-Dancing’ Lionel in round five with a 7/1 win (Jolliff/Tibble).

A mixed roll of the dice for ‘Snake- Eyes’ Smith, four golden hoop games from seven. ‘Shotgun’ Steve let a couple of early leads turn into losses, both players ending on three wins apiece. James ‘The Kid’ Galpin ambushed the Sheriff with a brazen 7/2 win in round five,

(Galpin/Mulliner). James “Rooster” Goodbun and Jonathan ‘Bull Dog’ Powe had sour whiskey most of the day, but sobered up when it mattered most. ‘Rooster’ Goodbun took out ‘The Kid’ Galpin 7/5, which bought James ‘The Kid’ Galpin into the corral with 5 wins.

The final gunfight of Jonathan ‘Bull Dog’ Powe and Sheriff Mulliner, saw a stand-off at hoop 13 with the Sheriff gunned down 7/6 (Powe/Mulliner).

With five wins each, ‘Jolly Rancher’ Jolliff, James ‘The Kid’, and Sheriff Mulliner had to split the beans between them...

- 1st : Top Gunslinger : James ‘The Kid’ Galpin 5 wins +15 hoops
- 2nd : Sharp Shooter : Sheriff Mulliner, 5 wins + 9 hoops
- 3rd : Both Barrels : Tim ‘Jolly Rancher’ Jolliff, 5 wins +3

If any bandits, with minus handicaps, want to join the showdown next year, contact Lasso Lou at: [mrsijsmith@outlook.com](mailto:mrsijsmith@outlook.com)

Footnote : Huge thanks to John O’Gorman, the groundsman, and Budleigh volunteers, for their generosity in preparing and allowing the use of four courts for the day. And, thank you to the Budleigh members who came along to enjoy the shindig!

Winner, James Galpin PHOTOGRAPH Jayne Ellery, BSCC

**THE BEST IN THE WEST**  
SATURDAY 26TH MARCH 2022  
BUDLEIGH SALTERTON CROQUET CLUB

Jonathan ‘Bull Dog’ Powe      James ‘The Kid’ Galpin  
Stuart ‘Snake Eyes’ Smith  
Steve ‘Shotgun’ Leonard      Tim ‘Jolly Rancher’ Jolliff  
James ‘Rooster’ Goodbun      Ryan ‘The Rodeo’ Cabbie

**Special Guest**  
Sheriff Mulliner

Y’all welcome to watch the shoot out.  
Our best players in the South West in action.  
One day GC tournament

9.30am ish start  
4.00pm ish finish

Manager Lasso Lou



# GC RULES COMMITTEE

Congratulations to the following who have been appointed GC referees.

**EXAMINING GC REFEREE**  
Ian Shore      High Wycombe

**GC REFEREE**  
Edwin Bone      Eynsham

Michael Bowker	High Wycombe
Tom Grievson	Chester
Andrew Jackson	Guildford and Godalming
Martin Tovey	Craig Y Don
Chris Webley	High Wycombe

**Ian Cobbold**  
GC Rules Committee Chair

# SIDMOUTH GC CHAMPIONSHIP (ENSC QUALIFIER) - 23/24 APRIL 2022

**A**s the earliest ENSC qualifying event in the season's calendar, the Sidmouth GC Championship has not been held since 2019 due

to the pandemic restrictions over the last two years. Fate played a hand again for 2022, with an unfortunate chemical mix-up error resulting in some damage to the grass courts.

Changes to chemical storage protocols were implemented immediately, and subsequent hard work by the ground staff and volunteers over the last few weeks have seen Sidmouth's lawns recover significantly and all future planned tournaments will be unaffected.

At this time, rather than offer Championship players a sub-standard playing surface, Sidmouth called upon their neighbours, Budleigh Salterton Croquet Club in their hour of need.

Budleigh generously agreed to host the tournament on Sidmouth's behalf, showing the great camaraderie and support that exists in the croquet community. Budleigh's club members are thanked for giving up the majority of their courts for the weekend, as 'B' Level and 'C' Level Series Tournaments were also happening at the same time.

The Championship format was the usual two blocks of 8 players followed by a knock-out. As in previous years, the tournament attracted a strong field led by Stephen Mulliner and the current holder Jonathan Powe.

In Saturday's block play, Block A finished in ranking order, Stephen Mulliner, Stuart M. Smith, Tim Russell and Tim Jolliff going forward to the main knockout. Mulliner dropped two games, Richard Brooks 7/5 and Tim Russell 7/6, and had a near-miss against Stuart M. Smith when he was forced to run hoop 13 from an angled position from the back boundary to take a narrow win of 7/6. (Mulliner/Smith). This added a little twist on what was to come.

The third seed in Block B, Steve Leonard, came in first with 6 wins and only a 6/7 loss against Jonathan Powe. Powe also had 6 wins but came up short against

Nick Archer, losing 4/7. Leonard, Powe and Archer were joined by 6th seed Guy Scurfield progressing to the main knockout.

Sunday dawned with the threat of rain, but this soon cleared away to a bright Spring day, perfect croquet weather. Mulliner v Scurfield, Powe v Russell and Smith v Archer finished their respective Quarter Finals 2/0, (Mulliner, Powe and Smith prevailing), with Leonard succeeding over Jolliff 2/1.

The Semi-Finals were a much longer affair. Mulliner went down to Powe 5/7 in the first, with a reversal of fortunes in the second game, 7/3 to Mulliner. Smith beat Leonard 7/1 followed with a much tighter second game, losing 6/7 (Smith/Leonard). Both Semi Finals entered the deciding third games with strong, considered play from all, eventually Mulliner took the win over Powe 7/4 and Smith over Leonard 7/6.

Meanwhile, the Bowl play-offs saw success for Guy Scurfield 2/1 over Tim Russell and Nick Archer 2/1 over Tim Jolliff. Scurfield and Archer took the Bowl Final to a close finish with Archer taking victory on the golden hoop in game three. Six players competed in the Plate Block with an on-form Chris Roberts demonstrating some good clearance and hoop running play. Roberts won all 5 games and entered the Plate Semi-Final against the young Sam Cuthbert. Cuthbert showed confidence and composure, gaining a well earned victory 7/5 (Cuthbert/Roberts) and a place in the Plate Final. The other Semi-Final was between Richard Brooks and David Goacher, with the latter player taking a narrow 7/6 win.

The Plate Final was an interesting game between Cuthbert and Goacher, but Cuthbert was unable to respond as Goacher ran hoop 11 and landed a foot in front of hoop 12, to win 7/5. As a handicap 1 in this field of minus handicap ranked players, Cuthbert played very well and there will be much more to come from this young man.

## THE CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

Competitors from the Budleigh 'C' Level, (which was running simultaneously on the Sunday), were joined by club members from Budleigh and Sidmouth to watch the spectacle of the Championship Final – and they were not disappointed.

There was no doubt that Stuart M. Smith was in top form - continual long range clearance shots hit their target time and time again, and coupled with decisive hoop running, Smith was soon 5/2 up against Stephen Mulliner in Game 1. Hoop 8 gave Smith a 4 yard hoop shot - his first miss – and a lost chance to extend his lead to 6/2. This window gave Mulliner the chance to get back into the game which, as we have come to expect, he took no time in capitalising on this opportunity. Mulliner's determined fight and unquestioned skill levelled the game to 5/5. Smith then countered strongly, taking the next two hoops to win the first game, 7/5.

Undeterred, Game 2 saw Mulliner take the lead to 5/3. Hoops 9 and 10 again saw a decisive response, this time from Smith to level the score to 5/5, with hoop 11 the next vital shot. Mulliner had two balls in front of 11 and Smith had an angle approach from the back boundary. Mirroring the situation in their block game when Mulliner ran hoop 13 from an angled boundary strike, Smith aimed and ran a superb boundary shot through 11 and on behind 12.

Hoop 12 went to Mulliner, now 6/6, with his blue ball positioned nicely halfway towards 13. Smith, with first approach, put in a well positioned yellow 2 yards in front of the golden hoop. Blue fired and missed, Red then also took up a hoop running position. Mulliner had no option but to fire at yellow with black from behind hoop 12, but again a miss put both his balls on the back boundary line from which he was to get no second chance. Smith decisively ran hoop 13 with yellow taking the match 2/0 and Championship title.



PHOTOGRAPH Jayne Ellery - Stuart M. Smith



PHOTOGRAPH Jayne Ellery - Stuart M. Smith



PHOTOGRAPH Jayne Ellery - Final

# EAST DORSET WOMEN'S GC OPEN

**A**ttracting a field of competitors from Ramsgate, Colchester, Sidmouth, Northampton, Leighton-Linslade, Winterborne Valley and host club East Dorset.

They descended into deepest Dorset on May Day Bank Holiday weekend for the inaugural East Dorset Women's GC Open.

Split into 2 groups of 7 playing a cross block format and with handicaps ranging from 1 to 10 .

Block A was topped by Ann Brookes from Colchester with 6/7 wins with Michelle Leonard taking 2nd position with 5/7 wins with both of her losses coming on the 13th hoop.

Christina Rice 3rd on 4/7 and Marilyn Robinson edging Sandra Allan out of 4th spot on a superior net hoops.

Block B was dominated by Sidmouth's Louise Smith winning 7/7 but behind her it was a very tight affair with the next 4 players all on 4/7 wins.

Kath Burt was the unlucky player missing out on net hoops, with Judith Pengelly, Lynn Percy and the home player Marion Nagle playing off 7 handicap making it through to the quarter finals.

Sunday's weather was not so kind as it started to drizzle with rain early morning and never really stopped all day.

The 1/4 finals were a one game 19 point contest and the closest of those was fought out between Michelle Leonard and Christina Rice going right down to the 19th hoop, where both ladies had chances to win but, in the end, Marilyn prevailed, 10-9 giving Michelle her 3rd loss of the weekend all of them on the golden hoop!

The other games were not so close Louise beating Marion 10-4, Ann beating Marilyn 10-4 and Lynn over coming Judith 10-6.

So the Semi Finals were contested by the top 4 Dgrade players. As expected they were all tight affairs both going to the 3rd set Lynn after losing the first set to Ann 4-7 went onto win the next 2 sets 7-2 7-3

Whilst Christina took the scalp of the unbeaten Louise in another hard fought semi-final 7-3 3-7 7-2

The final was played in worsening rain but again both players made it another 3 setter with Lynn beating Christina 7-5 6-7 7-2 Kath Burt made up for missing out on the knock out stages on net hoops by winning the plate , whilst Judith won the Bowl beating Michelle in the final 5-7 7-5 7-5.

So Lynn Percy won the inaugural East Dorset Women's GC Open and hopefully she will be returning next year to defend her crown.

Hopefully this tournament will become a regular fixture on the CA Calendar and attract more ladies to make their way down to the sunny South Coast!!!

## Steve Leonard



PHOTOGRAPH Jayne Ellery - Stephen Mulliner



PHOTOGRAPH Sue Lightbody - Stuart M. Smith

# HUNSTANTON GC OPEN SERIES - 14-15 MAY 2022

PHOTOGRAPHS Caroline Harper

**T**he third tournament of this year's GC Open Series saw Richard Bilton return to form and win the Hampson Memorial Salver without dropping a game in the knockout.

As entries were down slightly to 14, the format was modified to crossed blocks to provide seven games for the players in each of the two blocks on the first day, with the top four in each processing into the familiar knockout arrangement. The remaining six players went into an all play all format for the plate.

Hunstanton were thanked for their hospitality, as well as the high quality lawns and familiarly firm hoops. The weather was also very pleasant throughout the weekend, with the temperature reaching the mid-twenties on both days.

We welcomed both Ian and Debbie Lines back to the fold who, as expected, proved formidable opponents, and as they were in opposite blocks, were drawn to play each other on the Saturday, which Ian won 7-4. Also meeting in the block stage were Paul Durkin and Jane Tewson, who also won 7-4, and father and son Michael and Richard Bilton, the latter winning 7-3.

At the end of day 1, Block A had Nick Archer, Jayne Stevens and Les Heard each on 6 wins and Debbie Lines on 4, narrowly surpassing Paul Durkin on net hoops. Block B saw Richard Bilton come top with 5 wins, Ian Lines came second with 4 wins and John Noble and David Boxell won 3 games each to come third and fourth, David the only player not one of the top 8 seeds to get through to the knockout.

Bilton and Archer had close first games against Boxell and D Lines but both comfortably won their first round matches 7-6, 7-3. I Lines and Noble had a close match though the former took it 7-5, 7-5. The match between Heard and Stevens needed all 39 possible hoops to determine who would play Bilton in the next round, and at 6-4 ahead, it looked like it would be Heard, but Stevens fought back and won the match 7-6, 6-7, 7-6.

Archer and Lines elected to play one game of the semi-final and then stop for lunch. Archer won the first game 7-6, and the break may have come at the wrong time for Lines as he lost the next game 7-2. Stevens played very well in the block, including a 7-4 win over Bilton, but her marathon quarter-final may have taken

its toll and Bilton – who was starting to find his true form – took the first game 7-2. Stevens dug deep and was always in control in game 2 and Bilton was never in front – every time he levelled the score, Stevens regained the lead – all the way to hoop 13, and both players missed chances before Stevens failed a block allowing Bilton to run it from 3 yards.

The final match between Richard Bilton and Nick Archer turned out to be something of an anti-climax as Archer seemed to go off the boil and Bilton was increasing in form as the day progressed. He took a 5-1 lead in game 1 after Archer tried to peel himself through hoop 6 and get to 7 but missed the ball entirely – Bilton pushed his partner behind to remove the ball from the jaws and steal the hoop. Archer started to mount a comeback by winning hoops 7 and 8, but eventually lost 7-3. Game 2 started well for Bilton as he blocked Archer's shot at hoop 1 from corner 4, which led to Bilton's ball being behind the hoop and eventually wired on both of Archer's, so he was left with a boundary hoop with his other ball which he sailed through to the North boundary. The next few hoops all went to Bilton as Archer either failed to take position or was cleared and was unsuccessful in making the return. Possibly the shot of the tournament came when Bilton cleared Archer away from hoop 5 from hoop 4, and after Archer failed his clearance – hitting that ball back in front of 5 – Bilton ran a 2-yard 30 degree hoop 5 clean which ran past the peg, turned and floated clean through hoop 6, giving him a 6-0 lead. He missed a clearance at hoop 7, allowing Archer to avoid the whitewash, but was able to comfortably run hoop 8 and win the final 7-3, 7-1.

All those that lost in the quarter-finals were happy to play on for 5th place. Heard beat Boxell 7-2, 7-4 and Lines overcame Noble 7-4, 7-3. Despite playing from hoop 4 to hoop 1, and only realising upon running the hoop, Lines beat Heard 7-4, 7-5 to win the Shield. The Plate proved as tight as ever with three contestants Paul Durkin, Jane Tewson and Roger Goldring all finishing on three wins each. The winner on hoops turned out to be Paul Durkin.

All results can be found on Croquet Scores.

**| Richard Bilton**



Richard



Debbie



Winners

# FUN IN THE DEVON SUN



Who's Surrey Now & Strangers on the Shore



Sidmouth Sharks & 3 Fivers



Marilyn Robinson, Wrest Park & Chris Jackson, Long Eaton



PHOTOGRAPHS Ed Dolphin of Sidmouth CC

**T**he ever-popular Sidmouth GC Team Challenge was held on 7th/8th May, in glorious sunshine overlooking the calm blue sea. The local home team were joined by teams from Nailsea, Sussex County, Surrey, Wrest Park, and East Dorset as well as combination teams consisting of players from Glamorgan, Long Eaton, Wrest Park, Budleigh, and Sussex County. The tournament is loosely based upon the GC inter-counties (Div 2) format with teams competing in a mixture of singles and doubles games to gain points for their team. Players within each team are seeded, and 6 of the 7 singles rounds are devised so that the corresponding seeds from each team play each other. Captains draw a Joker card which indicates which round they may gamble on their singles or doubles players to win and gain extra points if they do so. The final round of each day also allows the Captains to choose their singles or doubles pairing without knowing which players their opposition team will put forward.

The home players, Steve Marsh (2), Steve Pearson (3) and Paul Bradley (3) (The Sharks) had opted for a balanced team in handicaps and led the field for the early rounds on day one. However, as the day progressed Stuart M. Smith (-3), Richard Carline (4) and Viv Heard (10) (Sooty, Sweep & Sue) closed the gap to match them on points by the close of play. The remaining teams gathered a variation of scores with Peter Balchin (-1), Chris Jackson (3) and Marilyn Robinson (4) (Strangers on the Shore) tied not far behind the leaders alongside Les Heard (-1), Steve Foster (2) and Martyn Palmer (6) (The Saints). Sunday bought around a complete change of fortunes. The Surrey team, Andrea Huxley (1), Louise Taylor (3)

and Gavin Taylor (4) (Who's Surrey Now), got off to strong start and won both their opening games for maximum points, but despite using their Joker gamble for extra marks during day two, they did not capitalise on their early performance. The two teams that were leaders from day one, The Sharks and Sooty, Sweep & Sue also began to drop games and points, narrowing the gap for the remaining teams to catch up. Meanwhile, a mediocre day one for Steve Leonard (-3), Michelle Leonard (2) and Kate Brice (7) (The Three Fivers), saw them languishing in 6th position, but they found some form on day two. Clever use of their Joker cards where their Captain bet on himself to win, gained them extra marks, with Steve Leonard losing only one singles game to Stuart M Smith.

As the last match approached it was clear that local team, The Sharks, had the balance in their hands. A win in either of their last singles or doubles games would have taken them to certain victory. However, Chris Jackson (3) and Marilyn Robinson (4) (Strangers on the Shore) won the doubles easily over Steve Marsh (2) and Steve Pearson (3) (The Sharks), so all rested for The Sharks on the Singles game, Paul Bradley (3) v Peter Balchin (-1). This was a valiant performance by the higher handicap player with defeat at 6/7 on the 13th hoop.

This moved the pressure to The Three Fivers. A full match score would now lead them to victory. The singles match was over fairly quickly with a win for their Captain, all rested on the doubles game, Michelle Leonard (2) and Kate Brice (7) against Andrea Huxley (1) and Louise Taylor (3) (Who's Surrey Now). After a long battle, this was also settled at the golden hoop, giving overall success to The Three Fivers team.

**| Louise Smith**

# BARTER CUP BACK TO FULL CAPACITY WITH AN EVER IMPROVING FIELD!

**T**he Barter Cup is often seen as a nice friendly early season GC event for the players to ease into the season and dust off their mallets. However, the exceptionally high standard meant that each of the four blocks of eight had 50% of minus players in it, making it extremely difficult for anyone else to qualify as one of the top four into the knock out rounds. In the past only the top two would have been going through, but this year it was decided to try and put four through which could have caused 'time issues'. Fortunately the decision was decided to play the first two rounds of the knock out as a single 19 point game, leaving the semi final and final as best of three 13 point games. (Which I believe worked well?) This format was replicated in the 'Consolation' knock out half.

Saturday saw a complete range of weather from freezing sunshine to a spat of sleet/hail which saw the 'lush' lawns shine with pride with their brand new hoops and balls. Unfortunately, the falling temperatures overnight left a severe frost which took out lawn 5 for Sunday morning. Fortunately, the Cheltenham team sprang into action and with the help Deborah Albertsen (secretary) and Christopher Roberts (Rot) we were able to set up lawn 3 to minimise the disruption, which was much appreciated by all especially the manager! My thanks also go to the team led by Pat Francis that provided the sandwiches and afternoon teas for the cold hungry players. Finally, to my three other block scorers, Richard Brand, Klim

Seabright and Richard Bilton (my hero) who once again took charge of croquet scores for me. Block A was won by Steve Leonard followed by Christopher Roberts, Timothy Brooker and a relieved Ian Burrige. Block B was another tight affair and was won by Mark Suter followed by Tim Russell, Euan Burrige and Colin Britt. Block C seeds all went through in order and was won by an undefeated James Death, followed by Nick Archer, Ivor Brand and Stuart Smith all of which had to be separated by net points. Block D was also won by an undefeated Aston Wade followed by David Bell, Pedro Lozano and Richard Bilton (who was also relieved that the manager had decided to put the top four through this year)

At this point it struck me how many games were reaching the 13th hoop resulting in players like me reflecting on ifs and buts' about how my block might have looked had the games gone the other way? Neil Fillery had the most time to consider this with 5 out his 7 block games going the distance.

Anyway on to the finals, where in the main event James Death was waiting despite Nick Archer's best efforts to take a game off him in the semi final. The other semi final was between Pedro Lozano (3rd in his block) and Richard Bilton (4th in his block) Pedro had previously beaten the undefeated Aston Wade 10-8, while Richard gained a narrow victory 10-9 over David Bell. Pedro (handicap 1 from Spain) was playing beautifully and earned his place in the final winning in two

straight games. On paper James was the favourite with a handicap of -4 compared to Pedro's handicap of 1. Both players set the standard early on with good clearing and confident hoop running and the first game went the distance to the 13th hoop. Pedro had positioned well and left two shots from the south boundary for James which were missed and so Pedro took the first game. James responded well by confidently taking the 2nd game 7-4. In the deciding game Pedro continued to strike the ball smoothly and built himself a lead as James's consistency deserted him allowing Pedro to win 7-4 to take home (well at least to the airport) the Barter cup. The consolation knock out plate was following the same format and had reached its climax with the previous unlucky (lost by 1) Neil Fillery earning his place in the final by beating Klim Seabright. While in the other semi final an excited Jane Humphreys had just squeezed past the ever improving Sam Cuthbert. In the end it was Neil who ended up being successful over Jane who had 'had a great weekend' according to her husband Neil.

Meanwhile other blocks were also being decided and congratulations to Aston Wade who won the 'shield' undefeated amongst impressive company. Euan narrowly came out on top over dad Ian Burrige to win the 'bowl' despite spending a considerable amount of time looking for wildlife in the bushes!!!

**Ivor Brand  
Manager**

# EAST ANGLIAN GC CHAMPS 7-8 MAY, COLCHESTER CC



Euan Burrige with Jane Collier

**E**uan Burrige managed to foil his dad's bid for a hat-trick of wins in the event with a 7-4 7-6 victory over Ian in the final. Ian had earlier overcome Rachel Gee in one semi-final, Rachel having won 13 out of 14 games in her block with a very impressive net hoop difference of +50. Ian and Rachel were still playing hoop 5 in game 1 of their match when Euan completed a 7-1, 7-2 demolition of John Noble in the other semi-final. John had played well to edge out Richard Bilton in a head to head final block game.

**Ian Burrige**

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PROUDLY BRITISH

# THE COACHING PAGES JOHN HARRIS

## COACHING QUALIFICATIONS

The following players have all been added to the CA List of Coaches - Congratulations to all. These splendid people are the first to completed all stages of the assessment process this season.

### Accredited Club-Level Coaches (trained to coach beginners and high handicap players at their own Clubs)

Simon Charrington Ember CC  
 Andrew Grant Woodhall Spa CC  
 Chris Ham Bude CC  
 Joe Manifold Church Stretton CC

### Qualified Coaches (qualified to coach skills and tactics at an appropriate level throughout the country)

#### ASSOCIATION CROQUET - GRADE 1

Michael Bowker High Wycombe CC  
 Jason Carley Watford CC  
 Alan Clark High Wycombe CC  
 Watford CC  
 Stephen Harbron Surbiton CC  
 Callum Johnson York CC  
 Joe Manifold Church Stretton CC

#### ASSOCIATION CROQUET - GRADE 2

Tony Elliott Ealing CC

#### ASSOCIATION CROQUET - GRADE 3

Angharrad Walters Bowdon CC

#### GOLF CROQUET - GRADE 1

Michael Bowker High Wycombe CC  
 Jason Carley Watford CC  
 Alan Clark High Wycombe CC  
 Watford CC  
 Paul Gunn Wingrave CC  
 Stephen Harbron Surbiton CC  
 Callum Johnson York CC

#### GOLF CROQUET - GRADE 2

Angharrad Walters Bowdon CC

In addition to Angharrad Walters being awarded CA Grade 3 AC Coach and CA Grade 2 GC Coach, badges she is also formally accredited with all the subsidiary qualifications.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

## ALL ABOUT MERIT AWARDS!

Will 2022 be the season you earn a CA Merit Award? They are a great way to mark your croquet progress and development.

There are now Merit Awards in both AC and GC, and you can go for both.

**AC MERIT AWARDS** are all about breaks. The target for a Bronze Award is ten hoops in a single turn, with the help of bisques if you have them. This is for developing players who are consolidating their break skills. It's fine to use bisques to set up the break, to sustain it, to tidy it as you go, and to set up a good leave.

For the Silver Award the target is twelve hoops in a single turn, without using bisques. This is for experienced players playing fluently and confidently. The Gold Award is earned by completing a triple peel, and the Platinum by completing a sextuple peel.

The game must be part of a Fixtures Calendar full lawn event, giving you lots of opportunities during the season to reach your target. In each case, you must be a CA member and you must go on to win the game.

**GC MERIT AWARDS** are all about winning specified events. There are plenty of these all over the country: 28 at Bronze level, another 28 at Silver level, and 22 at Gold level, plus two at Platinum level. Again, you must be a CA member. There must also be a minimum number of players starting the event on Day 1.

The full list of GC qualifying events is on the CA website: key Croquet Association Merit Award Scheme into Google for all the details. This page also sets out the full conditions for both AC and GC Merit Awards, and how to put in a claim. You get a nice metal badge to wear with pride, and a mention in the Gazette. What's not to like?

There's still plenty of time this season to go for an award. So: check the Fixtures Calendar (key Croquet Association Fixtures into Google), choose your events, enter them online, give it your best shot... and good luck!

### FIRST MERIT BADGES OF 2022

Three players have started the season by earning a Merit Award:

**AC BRONZE**  
 David Harding - John Beech Memorial, Pendle  
**AC SILVER**

Gedimas Smoliskas - John Beech Memorial, Pendle  
**AC GOLD**  
 Aston Wade - Hurlingham May Weekend

Aston's achievement was described by his opponent as "a very tidy triple". Warmest congratulations to all three!

### BALLS OF MANY COLOURS

Some coaches like to insist at all times on the proper "pairing" of balls – black with blue, pink with white, and so on. It's a sound approach, and of course essential for a coached game. However, for most practice routines, ball colours are irrelevant. Here, encouraging students to take any colours to work with helps them get used to using both primary and secondary colours and helps overcome any reluctance they may have about using the less familiar ones. It's vital to take to the lawn as many balls as you can. Even simple individual practice routines, particularly in AC, can need several balls per student, often three each. You also need enough spare balls to demonstrate with. Two sets of primaries and two sets of secondaries for a group of four students sounds a lot but, in many a practice session, few will be left in the box.

Many students in the earliest stages of learning go through a stage of feeling more comfortable with one particular colour – "my lucky colour". It's helpful in developing an early attachment to the game, but they do need to be gently weaned off any dependence on one colour, if only because they will feel at a disadvantage when they have to play with another.

One approach, when faced with a choice of colours, is simply to train oneself to take the nearest, regardless of what it is. Alternatively encourage students early on to associate the different colour combinations with enjoyable things: bright colours (red and yellow), strong colours (blue and black), calming colours (pink and white), natural colours (green and brown). When ball colours in most sports are, frankly, boring, we are lucky that croquet balls have such glorious and varied hues: as coaches we can help students learn to love them all.

### PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

As we all know, practice makes perfect, but sadly many of us also know that the joys of solo practising can sometimes wear thin. Bowls Croquet is a great way to put the fun back into practising line

# QUIZ SECTION

ANSWERS WILL BE PUBLISHED ON THE CA WEBSITE



Decision BEFORE



Decision AFTER

### AC LAWS QUIZ

QUESTION: Red, attempting a hoop, rebounds from the wire. In order to avoid Red hitting his foot, the striker topples back and treads on Blue. Is this a fault?

### GC RULES QUIZ

QUESTION: Ray's ball has been replaced on the line in front of Hoop 9. One of Bab's balls is just in front of the hoop. Ray attempts a long range jump shot but his mallet digs into the ground before he contacts the ball but continues and hits the ball on the upswing. Babs says he has committed a fault. Ray hastily repairs the ground. What do you say to the players?

### CROQUET ANAGRAMS

Our fun puzzle for all to enjoy are anagrams of Croquet Association clubs. Whether you are a croquet player or not, we hope this little quiz time will provide a welcome break from your day.

Remember, most club names are just names of places

### QUESTIONS:

1. Born Suit
2. Go mad dig dollar funding
3. An MOT Thing
4. Stalked rib & hour top
5. Sound table lighter
6. Gin ale
7. Planned cave nerd
8. Skates bingo
9. Fleed fish
10. Tee & vibes grind early



PUZZLE TIME

and length in groups of two (four balls each), three (three balls each) or four (two balls each).

Put two bisque sticks into the lawn, five or six yards apart and a couple of yards north of the south boundary, then a couple more similarly placed at the far end of the lawn. Throw a small marker ball up into the lawn as a jack: a hockey ball is ideal.

For Round 1, each player plays straight single-ball shots from any point between the bisque sticks. Aim to get as close to the marker ball as possible, steering a course through the balls already on the lawn. For Round 2, set up rushes or promotions with two balls a mallet's head length apart. For Round 3, start with two touching balls and aim to get the other ball closest to the jack. Then start again with

### Round 1.

The ball closest to the jack at the end of each round gets a point. If a player has more than one ball closer to the jack than the next nearest ball, each of them scores a point. Hitting the jack scores a bonus point.

After each round there will be a lot of balls well down the lawn, so move them to the other boundary and start the next round from the other end. Set a target number of points. First to five points makes for a short, enjoyable practice session.

Thanks to Chris Atkinson, Driffield CC, for developing this lively practice routine and introducing other Clubs to it. Chris has since uncovered a rather simpler version called Croquet Bowls lurking deep in the CA website – see the page Fun Games on

a Croquet Lawn, which also features six other enjoyable shorts.



**PHOTOGRAPH** Chris Atkinson (Driffield CC) and Cathie Dance (York CC) check out the twelve different primary, secondary and tertiary colours





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Croquet Player  
Turf Specialist



#### Mowing

Flat lawns are usually cut to 5mm through the playing season. During periods of drought or on undulating lawns, the cut height can be increased to reduce lawn speed.

#### Irrigation

In summer, the daily water loss through evaporation and transpiration is about 3mm. Some clubs apply around that amount daily i.e. 3 cu metres per lawn. On my lawn I apply 5mm every few days and check the lawn with a moisture metre. The programme starts 1am and can be armed or disarmed by a Wifi switch. There was no rain here in April and I applied 35cu metres (35mm).

#### Red Thread - Dollar Spot etc.

These fungal diseases can be controlled using soluble iron which is sprayed by knapsack sprayer or broadcast sprayer. I use a liquid regime in the summer and add soluble iron to the tank with fertiliser and wetting agent. The iron costs less than £5 per croquet lawn each time (see Turfpedia and go to "Turf Problems" - "Diseases"). Having a broadcast sprayer makes this an easy job - it takes 10 to 12 minutes to spray one croquet lawn.

#### Weeds

Selective Weed Killer only kills weeds, not grass. Weed Killers are more effective when sugars are moving in the plant so apply when weeds are growing. Do not spray when the lawn is stressed (drought). Look out for Pearlwort, it looks like patches of moss but has tiny seed heads and can spread across a croquet lawn.

#### Coarse Grasses

Following the cool dry spring some coarse grasses thrived while the fine grasses were semi dormant. These coarse grasses usually "mow out" because they can't survive close mowing. If clumps of coarse grass do develop, they can be dealt with in autumn (see Turfpedia on my website, visit: Turfpedia - Turf Problems - Weeds).

#### Duncan Hector

## CA HANDICAP COMMITTEE

### ANNOUNCEMENT OF AMENDMENTS

**T**he CA Handicap Committee have been busy over the closed-season and have made a number of refinements to existing arrangements for the setting of GC handicaps for players who are new to croquet, existing AC players taking up GC, and players of both codes returning to the croquet after long periods out of the sport. These amendments are on 'Setting initial handicaps' (GC) page which can be viewed at: Home > 'double click' on the 'Play' tab > Handicapping > Golf Croquet > Setting initial handicaps - Online readers use link <https://www.croquet.org.uk/?p=games/golf/handicapping/initial>

#### PLAYERS NEW TO CROQUET

The change affecting the greatest number of players and Club Handicappers, is a small change to the GC 'three times round' test for the setting of initial handicaps for players new to croquet. The test remains the same but the table that provides a starting handicap from

the average number of strokes taken in the test, has been altered so that the full range of typical handicap grades (7 to 16) can now be achieved.

#### EXISTING AC PLAYERS TAKING UP GC

The AC to GC 'conversion' table and the accompanying words, have both been improved so that it is now set exactly, when (and when not) any discretion by a Handicapper is permitted. We have also added words to remind both Club and Federation Handicappers of their duties and the limitations of their powers to adjust handicaps, along with the circumstances when they should seek the assistance of a CA Handicapper.

#### PLAYERS WHO REMAIN PREDOMINANTLY AC PLAYERS

No amendment has been made to these arrangements but a new heading has been added to the webpage to highlight that players who achieve an AC handicap change, having played fewer than 10 GC

games during that period of reduction/increase, must also have their GC handicap altered simultaneously, in order to maintain a relevant and concurrent GC handicap.

#### RETURNING PLAYERS

Extra words have also been added to the 'Returning Players' section, to reinforce the correct procedure to Club and Federation Handicappers - this being that, a player returning to the sport after a break of some years, should play off his or her previous handicap unless there are valid and compelling reasons (e.g. medical) to alter that handicap. If there are such reasons, and the handicap is to be changed, a Club or Federation Handicapper must consult with a CA Handicapper to jointly determine the new handicap.

**Frances Colman,**  
Chairman, CA Handicap Committee



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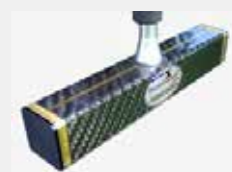
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## CA WEBSITE

[www.croquet.org.uk](http://www.croquet.org.uk) is a fabulous resource for croquet information covering membership, news, laws & rules, coaching, who's who, and tournament details with an online entry system.

**Croquet jargon** The website also has a full glossary of croquet terms, jargon and acronyms that are sometimes used in Gazette reporting.

To find the glossary online, visit:  
AC <https://www.croquet.org.uk/?p=games/tech/jargon>  
GC <https://www.croquet.org.uk/?p=games/golf/gcJargon>

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## PUBLICATIONS

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Copy should reach the Editor before 10th of the month before publication is due. However if you have something that you think the Editor may be willing to expand this deadline for contact them directly.

Email contributions, including tournament reports should be sent direct to the Editor, or copied to the Editor if they are being posted to the Nottingham List.

Digital images are preferred, but photographic prints can be acceptable.

Please send digital jpeg or tiff format files and accompany all images with a description of the subject. If you require any material to be returned, please enclose a SAE.

Queries regarding the delivery of the Gazette to members should be directed to the CA's Operations Manager.

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## HYPERLINKS

If you are reading the Gazette and would like to make use of the hyperlinks, visit the online gazette on the CA website at: [www.croquet.org.uk/?p=press/gazette](http://www.croquet.org.uk/?p=press/gazette)

# ULTRA HOOPS ARE THE FUTURE



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