



Report of the Croquet Gazette Survey 2025

Summary

The findings in this report have resulted in immediate actions being taken by Croquet England to ensure that the Croquet Gazette is a magazine relevant to all subscribers. It is a publication which benefits Croquet Players of all levels and all codes, it should be informative and inspiring, and at times may provide some light entertainment.

Croquet England have already purchased software to display the Croquet Gazette online in a user friendly format and the printed version of the magazine will continue to be produced.

An additional bi-monthly Croquet Gazette *Online* will be produced and published during the months where the original Croquet Gazette is not. This new magazine will be available online only and publicly available. It is hoped that advertising revenue will in time cover the production costs of both publications, removing the requirement for advertisements in the printed Croquet Gazette.

Although the content is always dependent on volunteers submitting articles, the original Croquet Gazette will continue to act as a record of the Championship and International events, whilst the new Online version will include local events and handicap tournament reports.

There may be some duplication in content between the two magazines, this will be used for future analysis to establish where the variety of content should be included and provide an opportunity to share articles with a wider audience.

Analysis

Q1 Are you a Subscriber of Croquet England?

| | Responses | Subscribers | % Response |
|---|-----------|-------------|------------|
| No | 8 | 0 | |
| Yes - Overseas | 5 | 43 | 11.6 |
| Yes - Premium | 81 | 1068 | 7.6 |
| Yes - Standard (in my first year) | 2 | 137 | 1.5 |
| Yes - Standard (in my second or later year) | 21 | 6195 | 0.3 |
| Yes - Supporter | 5 | 142 | 3.5 |
| Yes - U25 Premium | 2 | 14 | 14.3 |
| Yes - U25 Standard (in my first year) | 0 | 9 | 0.0 |
| Yes - U25 Standard (in my second or later year) | 0 | 27 | 0.0 |
| Yes - Garden | 0 | 3 | 0.0 |

The response rate from Premium members (and from Overseas members) was about 10%; the response from Standard members was less than 1%. Therefore, any findings will be very biased towards the views of Premium members.

Q2 Please choose the statements which best reflect your usual playing situation:

| | Count | % of Respondents [124] |
|--|-------|------------------------|
| I play croquet socially at my club | 64 | 51.6 |
| I play croquet competitively in club competitions | 71 | 57.3 |
| I play croquet competitively in leagues | 55 | 44.4 |
| I play croquet competitively in tournaments away from my club | 78 | 62.9 |
| I play croquet competitively nationally and/or internationally | 33 | 26.6 |
| None of the above | 8 | 6.5 |

The players responding to the survey were both social and competitive players, when analysing the complete records further there were no players who selected 'I play socially at my club' only. This indicates most respondents consider themselves competitive.

All 64 players who reported to play socially at their club, also recorded themselves as playing some form of competitive croquet.

Q3 Do you have a Dynamic Grade, so are listed on the World Croquet Rankings?

The responses once again indicated that the respondents have a very mixed in level of play. This would account for the reason that positive engagement was shown for all articles. Different levels of player will be interested in different topics for various reasons.

There was a specific comment with regards to this question from a respondent that I would like to address: "If Croquet England is not elitist, why would you expect club players to know what their grades are? Better to use handicap." This was a clear error on my part as the author of the survey, I had no intention to show elitism and am very sorry if this was how the question was received. I take great care in being as inclusive as I possibly can, for all players, from all places, who enjoy all forms of Croquet. This question was designed to see the spread of players who are competitive but may not necessarily play in ranking games.

Q4 Please choose all the options which best describe your usual club activity:

| <i>Multiple Choice</i> | Total | % of 124 |
|---|-------|----------|
| I play croquet less than once a month | 11 | 8.87 |
| I play croquet up to 3 times a month | 20 | 16.13 |
| I play croquet once a week | 27 | 21.77 |
| I play croquet several times a week | 69 | 55.65 |
| I play other sports and activities at my club | 9 | 7.26 |
| I am a committee member | 54 | 43.55 |
| I volunteer for events and tournaments (Catering, hoop setting, white lining etc) | 73 | 58.87 |

The data provided here showed that over 40% of the respondents are committee members and nearly 60% are event volunteers. We already know that we are a hugely volunteer led sport and I believe that is also why we are so passionate about what we would like to see in the magazine. This shows us the reason why readers want more information about promoting their sport, promoting their clubs to new members, sharing experiences and learning techniques for player coaching and engagement.

Q5 About the Croquet Gazette. Please tick the most applicable.

72% of respondents receive the Gazette in the post. The Gazette is posted to an average of 2,000 associates each month, showing that around 4% of those who receive the gazette completed the survey.

This can then be compared to the 28% who either do not receive the printed Gazette or chose to only read the gazette online.

This demonstrates that the survey was completed by many more people who read the printed version of the Gazette, leading to further questions about how to improve the engagement with the gazette from those who do not receive the printed version.

Action: This is the main reason for Croquet England now subscribing to online software to present the PDF version of the magazine in a more readable format, rather than viewers requiring to download the PDF to their own devices.

Q6 Croquet England also publishes a monthly email newsletter. Please tick the statements which best describe your interaction with the newsletter:

Alongside the bi-monthly Croquet Gazette, we also publish a monthly newsletter to all Subscribers of Croquet England. It is important that Croquet England ensure relevant

and timely communications are distributed to our community. Some information that is presented in the Newsletter is purposeful shown in this location upon knowing that not everyone receives and reads the Croquet Gazette.

It is promising to see that almost all respondents of the Survey not only receive but also read the email newsletter, with only 10 people unaware of its existence.

This is a small sample of our subscribers; however, I think this is a promising response which shows that the content is being engaged with well, and the newsletter is working well in conjunction with the Croquet Gazette.

Although this does not result from any questions in the Survey, readers of this report might be interested to know that the email newsletter regularly sees a very high level of engagement, usually reporting an average of 50% Open Rate and 25% Click Through Rate.

Q7 Croquet England may consider changing the way the Gazette and newsletter is published, some ideas which have been put forward are below. Please tick those which you would agree with.

This multiple question was asked to try and assess a consensus with regards to the publishing of the Croquet Gazette and Newsletter, whilst also gauging awareness of the two forms of communication.

The results from this question and some of the written responses indicated a very clear opinion that the Croquet Gazette and the monthly newsletter should continue, and that the Gazette should continue to be printed as well as published online. There have always been mixed views with regards to whether the magazine should be made public, but several people have noted that it should be available for purchase.

Action: In response to these findings an additional Gazette will be published, online only, which is available to the public, and therefor wider Croquet Community. Croquet England have purchased the Flippingbook software to enable viewing on the magazines to be as accessible as possible, without the need to download the PDF to a person's own device.

Q8 The costs involved with the printing and delivery of the Croquet Gazette are rising and without additional advertising revenue, consideration must be made as to how future costs are covered. Would you subscribe to a Croquet Gazette subscription which would be separate from a Croquet England player subscription?

The cost of publishing the Croquet Gazette in its printed format is substantial, it is important to establish whether this cost is still appropriate, or should we consider investing the funds in other projects and resources.

The responses to this question showed a fairly even split between respondents who would subscribe to a separate Gazette subscription, to those who would not. It was also clear that the cost should be kept to a minimum if this were the case. Unsurprisingly, the majority of respondents who are already online only readers would not subscribe to a printed copy.

Action: The Croquet Gazette should continue to be published in both formats, printed and online, and should not be a separate subscription at this time. Advertising will still need to be sought to cover the excess publishing cost, which will clearly have an impact on the content of the magazine. If the new online only Croquet Gazette proves to be popular, and attractive to advertisers, consideration will be made to move all advertising away from the printed Croquet Gazette and online only. The funds raised would then be used for the production of both magazines.

Q9 & Q10 The following shows articles which have appeared in the Croquet Gazette over the past three years. Choose the content you would like to continue to see, or would like removed.

It is important that the Croquet Gazette holds information which it's readers want to see, to engage with the readership, encourage, inspire, amuse and enlighten. I therefore listed the different types of article for respondents to consider whether they enjoy the articles or would rather they were removed.

It was very clear that the respondents were in favour of keeping almost all of the articles. The Premium Subscribers seemed to favour the reports from Championship and International event, where the Standard Subscribers who would not receive the printed issue would favour seeing all tournament reports including handicap and local events.

All readers were in favour of seeing official Croquet England news, including announcements and committee news, as well as Letter to the Editor, Club Development, Player Interviews and historical articles.

Tunnel of time appears to be more of an interest to the Premium Subscribers and almost all subscribers would be interested in the Laws and Rules quizzes.

The Coaching articles are by far the most popular for all subscribers.

Action: Taking the data from the responses, alongside the written responses, it is very clear that there is a definite requirement for the wide variety of articles to exist. Knowing that we need to keep production costs to a minimum, it has been a good decision to produce a second online bi-monthly magazine to accommodate all of the articles favoured by our readership.

Since publishing the last Gazette in the new software, the magazine has had over 1,000 readers. This is a positive response and the data available within the software will continue to be monitored and addressed accordingly.

All Croquet England committees and officials have been provided with some of the data and asked to provide more content relevant to the readers requests. There has been specific requests for beginner coaching tips and articles showing helpful ways to encourage a growth in club membership.

Q11 Are there specific articles that are not currently published in the Croquet Gazette that you would like to see?

Q12 Please use the following space for any other comments you may have relating to the Croquet Gazette or the E-Newsletter.

Responses to Q11 and Q12 have been included in the complete data, these have been read and where possible addressed within the action points throughout the report.

Complete Data

Q1 Are you a Subscriber of Croquet England?

| | |
|---|----|
| No | 8 |
| Yes - Overseas | 5 |
| Yes - Premium | 81 |
| Yes - Standard (in my first year) | 2 |
| Yes - Standard (in my second or later year) | 21 |
| Yes - Supporter | 5 |
| Yes - U25 Premium | 2 |
| Yes - U25 Standard (in my first year) | 0 |
| Yes - U25 Standard (in my second or later year) | 0 |
| Yes - Garden | 0 |

Q2 Please choose the statements which best reflect your usual playing situation:

| | |
|--|----|
| I play croquet socially at my club | 64 |
| I play croquet competitively in club competitions | 71 |
| I play croquet competitively in leagues | 55 |
| I play croquet competitively in tournaments away from my club | 78 |
| I play croquet competitively nationally and/or internationally | 33 |
| None of the above | 8 |

Q3 Do you have a Dynamic Grade, so are listed on the World Croquet Rankings?

| | |
|--|----|
| Yes (I have an Association Croquet grade of 2000 or above) | 26 |
| Yes (I have a Golf Croquet grade of 2000 or above) | 23 |
| Yes (I have an Association Croquet grade of 1999 or below) | 36 |
| Yes (I have a Golf Croquet grade of 1999 or below) | 37 |
| No (I do not have an Association Croquet Grade) | 20 |
| No (I do not have a Golf Croquet Grade) | 27 |
| I don't know | 12 |

Q4 Please choose all the options which best describe your usual club activity:

| <i>Multiple Choice</i> | Total | % of 124 |
|---------------------------------------|-------|----------|
| I play croquet less than once a month | 11 | 8.87 |
| I play croquet up to 3 times a month | 20 | 16.13 |

| | | |
|---|----|-------|
| I play croquet once a week | 27 | 21.77 |
| I play croquet several times a week | 69 | 55.65 |
| I play other sports and activities at my club | 9 | 7.26 |
| I am a committee member | 54 | 43.55 |
| I volunteer for events and tournaments (Catering, hoop setting, white lining etc) | 73 | 58.87 |

Q5 About the Croquet Gazette. Please tick the most applicable.

| | |
|---|----|
| I do not receive a paper copy but I read it at my club or elsewhere | 4 |
| I do not receive or read the Croquet Gazette in any format | 3 |
| I read the Gazette online only | 27 |
| I receive a paper copy and I also read the Gazette online | 9 |
| I receive a paper copy and I sometimes read it or read parts of it | 13 |
| I receive a paper copy of the Croquet Gazette and I usually read it | 68 |

Q6 Croquet England also publishes a monthly email newsletter. Please tick the statements which best describe your interaction with the newsletter:

| | |
|---|----|
| I did not know the newsletter existed until now | 10 |
| I receive and read all of the newsletter | 68 |
| I receive and read some of the newsletter | 41 |
| I receive but do not read the newsletter | 2 |
| I would like to sign up to receive the newsletter | 4 |
| I unsubscribed from the newsletter | 1 |

Q7 Croquet England may consider changing the way the Gazette and newsletter is published, some ideas which have been put forward are below. Please tick those which you would agree with.

| | View Printed Issue | View Online Issue |
|--|--------------------|-------------------|
| | | |
| The Gazette should be published online only | 8 | 4 |
| The Gazette should be a monthly online publication and received as well as the newsletter | 30 | 17 |
| The Gazette should be a monthly online publication instead of the newsletter | 12 | 7 |
| The Gazette should be printed and published monthly but with fewer pages | 16 | 12 |
| The Gazette should be printed and sent to all subscribers, regardless of subscription type | 24 | 15 |
| I would read the Gazette if it were published online only | 40 | 29 |

| | | |
|--|----|----|
| I would not read the Gazette if it were published online only | 37 | 37 |
| The Gazette should be publicly available to be downloaded or purchased | 28 | 21 |

Q8 The costs involved with the printing and delivery of the Croquet Gazette are rising and without additional advertising revenue, consideration must be made as to how future costs are covered. Would you subscribe to a Croquet Gazette subscription which would be separate from a Croquet England player subscription?

| | View Printed Issue | View Online Issue |
|---|--------------------|-------------------|
| Yes - I would subscribe to the hardcopy Croquet Gazette as a separate subscription | 39 | 8 |
| Not - I would not subscribe to the hardcopy Croquet Gazette as a separate subscription | 44 | 18 |
| If yes - I would subscribe to the hardcopy Croquet Gazette for a cost between £20 to £30 per year | 37 | 8 |
| If yes - I would subscribe to the hardcopy Croquet Gazette for a cost between £30 to £40 per year | 5 | 3 |

Q9 & Q10 The following shows articles which have appeared in the Croquet Gazette over the past three years. Choose the content you would like to continue to see, or would like removed.

Full Data

| | | Q9 | Q10 | | |
|-------|--|-----|-----|----|------|
| Q9/10 | | Y | N | _* | Y/N |
| | | | | | |
| 1 | Tournament Reports: World Championships | 111 | 3 | 10 | 37 |
| 2 | Tournament Reports: International Events | 102 | 4 | 18 | 25.5 |
| 3 | Tournament Reports: Team Events | 81 | 10 | 33 | 8.1 |
| 4 | Tournament Reports: League Events | 61 | 16 | 47 | 3.8 |
| 5 | Tournament Reports: Championship Events | 93 | 5 | 26 | 18.6 |
| 6 | Tournament Reports: Series Events | 67 | 16 | 41 | 4.2 |
| 7 | Tournament Reports: Handicap Events | 66 | 18 | 40 | 3.7 |
| 8 | Tournament Reports: Local Events | 55 | 27 | 42 | 2 |
| 9 | Tournament Reports: Overseas | 51 | 21 | 52 | 2.4 |

| | | | | | |
|----|--|-----|----|----|------|
| 10 | Official Croquet England Announcements | 113 | 1 | 10 | 113 |
| 11 | Croquet England Committee Decisions and News | 106 | 2 | 16 | 53 |
| 12 | Letters to the Editor | 109 | 2 | 13 | 54.5 |
| 13 | Letters to the Editor responses | 108 | 2 | 14 | 54 |
| 14 | Club Development News | 92 | 3 | 29 | 30.7 |
| 15 | Local Club Stories | 81 | 11 | 32 | 7.4 |
| 16 | Player Interviews | 82 | 15 | 27 | 5.5 |
| 17 | Tunnel of Time | 62 | 26 | 36 | 2.4 |
| 18 | Hibiscus | 40 | 38 | 46 | 1.1 |
| 19 | Historical articles | 60 | 21 | 43 | 2.9 |
| 20 | Amusing articles (Unofficial history of Croquet) | 63 | 36 | 25 | 1.8 |
| 21 | Laws/Rules quiz | 84 | 9 | 31 | 9.3 |
| 22 | Puzzles for fun | 35 | 41 | 48 | 0.9 |
| 23 | Coaching articles | 104 | 4 | 16 | 26 |
| 24 | Helpful information (e.g Lawn maintenance) | 96 | 5 | 23 | 19.2 |
| 25 | Obituaries | 82 | 7 | 35 | 11.7 |
| | | | | | |

- *Y is used to indicate an answer yes to a Q9 question*
- *N is used to indicate an answer yes to a Q10 question*
- *There were 3 instances of a person answering “yes” to a question under both Q9 and Q10 and these are treated as if unanswered*
- *The results apply to the 124 persons who responded that they were or weren't a subscriber.*

Data by subscriber type

Tournament Reports: World Championships

| | Y | N | - | X | Nobserved |
|---|----|---|---|---|-----------|
| Premium | 75 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 81 |
| U25 Premium | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Standard (in my first year) | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Standard (in my second or later year) | 17 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 21 |
| U25 Standard (in my first year) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| U25 Standard (in my second or later year) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Overseas | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Supporter | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 5 |

| | | | | | |
|--------|-----|---|----|---|-----|
| Garden | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| No | 7 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 8 |
| | 111 | 3 | 10 | 0 | 124 |

Tournament Reports: International Events

| | Y | N | - | X | Nobserved |
|---|-----|---|----|---|-----------|
| Premium | 67 | 3 | 10 | 1 | 81 |
| U25 Premium | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Standard (in my first year) | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Standard (in my second or later year) | 17 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 21 |
| U25 Standard (in my first year) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| U25 Standard (in my second or later year) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Overseas | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 5 |
| Supporter | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 5 |
| Garden | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| No | 7 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 8 |
| | 102 | 4 | 17 | 1 | 124 |

Tournament Reports: Team Events

| | Y | N | - | X | Nobserved |
|---|----|----|----|---|-----------|
| Premium | 59 | 7 | 14 | 1 | 81 |
| U25 Premium | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Standard (in my first year) | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Standard (in my second or later year) | 11 | 1 | 9 | 0 | 21 |
| U25 Standard (in my first year) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| U25 Standard (in my second or later year) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Overseas | 2 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 5 |
| Supporter | 1 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 5 |
| Garden | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| No | 4 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 8 |
| | 81 | 10 | 32 | 1 | 124 |

Tournament Reports: League Events

| | Y | N | - | X | Nobserved |
|---|----|----|----|---|-----------|
| Premium | 41 | 12 | 28 | 0 | 81 |
| U25 Premium | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Standard (in my first year) | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Standard (in my second or later year) | 11 | 2 | 8 | 0 | 21 |
| U25 Standard (in my first year) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| U25 Standard (in my second or later year) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Overseas | 2 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 5 |

| | | | | | |
|-----------|----|----|----|---|-----|
| Supporter | 2 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 5 |
| Garden | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| No | 2 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 8 |
| | 61 | 16 | 47 | 0 | 124 |

Tournament Reports: Championship Events

| | Y | N | - | X | Nobserved |
|---|----|---|----|---|-----------|
| Premium | 61 | 4 | 16 | 0 | 81 |
| U25 Premium | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Standard (in my first year) | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Standard (in my second or later year) | 16 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 21 |
| U25 Standard (in my first year) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| U25 Standard (in my second or later year) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Overseas | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 5 |
| Supporter | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 5 |
| Garden | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| No | 5 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 8 |
| | 93 | 5 | 26 | 0 | 124 |

Tournament Reports: Series Events

| | Y | N | - | X | Nobserved |
|---|----|----|----|---|-----------|
| Premium | 45 | 12 | 24 | 0 | 81 |
| U25 Premium | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Standard (in my first year) | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Standard (in my second or later year) | 12 | 1 | 8 | 0 | 21 |
| U25 Standard (in my first year) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| U25 Standard (in my second or later year) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Overseas | 2 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 5 |
| Supporter | 1 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 5 |
| Garden | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| No | 4 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 8 |
| | 67 | 16 | 41 | 0 | 124 |

Tournament Reports: Handicap Events

| | Y | N | - | X | Nobserved |
|---|----|----|----|---|-----------|
| Premium | 44 | 14 | 23 | 0 | 81 |
| U25 Premium | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Standard (in my first year) | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Standard (in my second or later year) | 11 | 1 | 9 | 0 | 21 |
| U25 Standard (in my first year) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| U25 Standard (in my second or later year) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| | | | | | |
|-----------|----|----|----|---|-----|
| Overseas | 2 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 5 |
| Supporter | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 5 |
| Garden | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| No | 3 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 8 |
| | 66 | 18 | 40 | 0 | 124 |

Tournament Reports: Local Events

| | Y | N | - | X | Nobserved |
|---|----|----|----|---|-----------|
| Premium | 33 | 23 | 25 | 0 | 81 |
| U25 Premium | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Standard (in my first year) | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Standard (in my second or later year) | 12 | 1 | 8 | 0 | 21 |
| U25 Standard (in my first year) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| U25 Standard (in my second or later year) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Overseas | 2 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 5 |
| Supporter | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 5 |
| Garden | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| No | 3 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 8 |
| | 55 | 27 | 42 | 0 | 124 |

Tournament Reports: Overseas

| | Y | N | - | X | Nobserved |
|---|----|----|----|---|-----------|
| Premium | 31 | 16 | 34 | 0 | 81 |
| U25 Premium | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Standard (in my first year) | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Standard (in my second or later year) | 7 | 2 | 12 | 0 | 21 |
| U25 Standard (in my first year) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| U25 Standard (in my second or later year) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Overseas | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 5 |
| Supporter | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 5 |
| Garden | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| No | 4 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 8 |
| | 51 | 21 | 52 | 0 | 124 |

Official Croquet England Announcements

| | Y | N | - | X | Nobserved |
|---------------------------------------|----|---|---|---|-----------|
| Premium | 77 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 81 |
| U25 Premium | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Standard (in my first year) | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Standard (in my second or later year) | 18 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 21 |
| U25 Standard (in my first year) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| | | | | | |
|---|-----|---|----|---|-----|
| U25 Standard (in my second or later year) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Overseas | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 5 |
| Supporter | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 5 |
| Garden | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| No | 7 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 8 |
| | 113 | 1 | 10 | 0 | 124 |

| Croquet England Committee Decisions and News | | | | | |
|--|-----|---|----|---|-----------|
| | ews | | | | |
| | Y | N | - | X | Nobserved |
| Premium | 71 | 2 | 8 | 0 | 81 |
| U25 Premium | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Standard (in my first year) | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Standard (in my second or later year) | 17 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 21 |
| U25 Standard (in my first year) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| U25 Standard (in my second or later year) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Overseas | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 5 |
| Supporter | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 5 |
| Garden | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| No | 7 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 8 |
| | 106 | 2 | 16 | 0 | 124 |

| Letters to the Editor | | | | | |
|---|-----|---|----|---|-----------|
| | Y | N | - | X | Nobserved |
| Premium | 75 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 81 |
| U25 Premium | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Standard (in my first year) | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Standard (in my second or later year) | 17 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 21 |
| U25 Standard (in my first year) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| U25 Standard (in my second or later year) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Overseas | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 5 |
| Supporter | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 5 |
| Garden | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| No | 6 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 8 |
| | 109 | 2 | 13 | 0 | 124 |

| Letters to the Editor responses | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----|---|---|---|-----------|
| | Y | N | - | X | Nobserved |
| Premium | 73 | 2 | 6 | 0 | 81 |
| U25 Premium | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Standard (in my first year) | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Standard (in my second or later year) | 17 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 21 |

| | | | | | |
|---|-----|---|----|---|-----|
| U25 Standard (in my first year) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| U25 Standard (in my second or later year) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Overseas | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 5 |
| Supporter | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 5 |
| Garden | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| No | 7 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 8 |
| | 108 | 2 | 14 | 0 | 124 |

Club Development News

| | Y | N | - | X | Nobserved |
|---|----|---|----|---|-----------|
| Premium | 59 | 3 | 19 | 0 | 81 |
| U25 Premium | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Standard (in my first year) | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Standard (in my second or later year) | 16 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 21 |
| U25 Standard (in my first year) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| U25 Standard (in my second or later year) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Overseas | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 5 |
| Supporter | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 5 |
| Garden | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| No | 7 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 8 |
| | 92 | 3 | 29 | 0 | 124 |

Local Club Stories

| | Y | N | - | X | Nobserved |
|---|----|----|----|---|-----------|
| Premium | 49 | 10 | 22 | 0 | 81 |
| U25 Premium | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Standard (in my first year) | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Standard (in my second or later year) | 17 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 21 |
| U25 Standard (in my first year) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| U25 Standard (in my second or later year) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Overseas | 2 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 5 |
| Supporter | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 5 |
| Garden | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| No | 7 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 8 |
| | 81 | 11 | 32 | 0 | 124 |

Player Interviews

| | Y | N | - | X | Nobserved |
|-----------------------------|----|----|----|---|-----------|
| Premium | 55 | 11 | 15 | 0 | 81 |
| U25 Premium | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Standard (in my first year) | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |

| | | | | | |
|---|----|----|----|---|-----|
| Standard (in my second or later year) | 12 | 3 | 6 | 0 | 21 |
| U25 Standard (in my first year) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| U25 Standard (in my second or later year) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Overseas | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 5 |
| Supporter | 2 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 5 |
| Garden | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| No | 5 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 8 |
| | 82 | 15 | 27 | 0 | 124 |

Tunnel of Time

| | Y | N | - | X | Nobserved |
|---|----|----|----|---|-----------|
| Premium | 48 | 17 | 16 | 0 | 81 |
| U25 Premium | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Standard (in my first year) | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Standard (in my second or later year) | 5 | 5 | 11 | 0 | 21 |
| U25 Standard (in my first year) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| U25 Standard (in my second or later year) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Overseas | 1 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 5 |
| Supporter | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 5 |
| Garden | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| No | 3 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 8 |
| | 62 | 26 | 36 | 0 | 124 |

Hibiscus

| | Y | N | - | X | Nobserved |
|---|----|----|----|---|-----------|
| Premium | 30 | 30 | 21 | 0 | 81 |
| U25 Premium | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Standard (in my first year) | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Standard (in my second or later year) | 5 | 6 | 10 | 0 | 21 |
| U25 Standard (in my first year) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| U25 Standard (in my second or later year) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Overseas | 0 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 5 |
| Supporter | 2 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 5 |
| Garden | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| No | 2 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 8 |
| | 40 | 38 | 46 | 0 | 124 |

Historical articles

| | Y | N | - | X | Nobserved |
|-------------|----|----|----|---|-----------|
| Premium | 41 | 15 | 25 | 0 | 81 |
| U25 Premium | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 |

| | | | | | |
|---|----|----|----|---|-----|
| Standard (in my first year) | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Standard (in my second or later year) | 9 | 5 | 7 | 0 | 21 |
| U25 Standard (in my first year) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| U25 Standard (in my second or later year) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Overseas | 2 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 5 |
| Supporter | 2 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 5 |
| Garden | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| No | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 8 |
| | 60 | 21 | 43 | 0 | 124 |

Amusing articles (Unofficial history of Croquet)

| | Y | N | - | X | Nobserved |
|---|----|----|----|---|-----------|
| Premium | 36 | 28 | 17 | 0 | 81 |
| U25 Premium | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Standard (in my first year) | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Standard (in my second or later year) | 10 | 7 | 4 | 0 | 21 |
| U25 Standard (in my first year) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| U25 Standard (in my second or later year) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Overseas | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Supporter | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 5 |
| Garden | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| No | 6 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 8 |
| | 63 | 36 | 25 | 0 | 124 |

Laws/Rules quiz

| | Y | N | - | X | Nobserved |
|---|----|---|----|---|-----------|
| Premium | 56 | 6 | 19 | 0 | 81 |
| U25 Premium | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Standard (in my first year) | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Standard (in my second or later year) | 15 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 21 |
| U25 Standard (in my first year) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| U25 Standard (in my second or later year) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Overseas | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 5 |
| Supporter | 1 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 5 |
| Garden | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| No | 6 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 8 |
| | 84 | 9 | 31 | 0 | 124 |

Puzzles for fun

| | Y | N | - | X | Nobserved |
|---------|----|----|----|---|-----------|
| Premium | 22 | 29 | 30 | 0 | 81 |

| | | | | | |
|---|----|----|----|---|-----|
| U25 Premium | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Standard (in my first year) | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Standard (in my second or later year) | 7 | 8 | 6 | 0 | 21 |
| U25 Standard (in my first year) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| U25 Standard (in my second or later year) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Overseas | 0 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 5 |
| Supporter | 2 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 5 |
| Garden | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| No | 3 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 8 |
| | 35 | 41 | 48 | 0 | 124 |

Coaching articles

| | Y | N | - | X | Nobserved |
|---|-----|---|----|---|-----------|
| Premium | 70 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 81 |
| U25 Premium | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Standard (in my first year) | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Standard (in my second or later year) | 19 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 21 |
| U25 Standard (in my first year) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| U25 Standard (in my second or later year) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Overseas | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 5 |
| Supporter | 2 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 5 |
| Garden | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| No | 7 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 8 |
| | 104 | 4 | 15 | 1 | 124 |

Helpful information (e.g Lawn maintenance)

| | Y | N | - | X | Nobserved |
|---|----|---|----|---|-----------|
| Premium | 67 | 2 | 12 | 0 | 81 |
| U25 Premium | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Standard (in my first year) | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Standard (in my second or later year) | 15 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 21 |
| U25 Standard (in my first year) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| U25 Standard (in my second or later year) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Overseas | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 5 |
| Supporter | 1 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 5 |
| Garden | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| No | 7 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 8 |
| | 96 | 5 | 23 | 0 | 124 |

Obituaries

| | Y | N | - | X | Nobserved |
|--|---|---|---|---|-----------|
|--|---|---|---|---|-----------|

| | | | | | |
|---|----|---|----|---|-----|
| Premium | 58 | 3 | 20 | 0 | 81 |
| U25 Premium | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Standard (in my first year) | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Standard (in my second or later year) | 10 | 3 | 8 | 0 | 21 |
| U25 Standard (in my first year) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| U25 Standard (in my second or later year) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Overseas | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 5 |
| Supporter | 2 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 5 |
| Garden | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| No | 7 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 8 |
| | 82 | 7 | 35 | 0 | 124 |

Q11 Are there specific articles that are not currently published in the Croquet Gazette that you would like to see?

| |
|--|
| More insight into what other Croquet National Bodies are doing around the world |
| More tournament reports, please. |
| Tactics, at different levels. There should perhaps be more articles that newer less experienced players can appreciate. |
| New club IE starting up hints |
| Equipment reviews and items new on the block |
| Possibly equipment updates (e.g. the new Dawson balls) |
| what's going on in committee |
| The CG is geared far too much towards the elite players. There need to be more articles and discussions around the things that impact upon the rest of us i.e. the vast majority of the CqE membership. Things like, making it easier for players to compete in tournaments |
| Lawn maintenance |
| Technical articles about croquet equipment. |
| Practical examples of croquet rules |
| Maybe some articles on what croquet clubs get up to outside of croquet. |
| Games people play on fundays and their setup/rules e.g pirates variants |
| I'd like to see stories by some of the top players about their early experiences in the sport. How they learned and progressed and their tips for aspiring great players of the future. |
| I'd also love to see ideas, articles etc about how to help build back up the popularity of AC. I'm new to the sport and absolutely love AC and I'm so shocked looking at the lack of numbers of players signed up for a bunch of AC tournaments that I have entered. Perhaps a section each month on ideas that have come out of the group that I know has been set up to try to do just that. |
| I selected all the tournament results to include in the publicationâ€¦ maybe thereâ€™s a way to abbreviate the results, recognize accomplishments suitably, with an online link to a separate article? |
| Successful recruitment activities |
| Like to see MOVE reports and results from all levels and just not the elite events |
| I should like to see a regular report from the regions. I realise that requires the regions to provide the editor with the information. Some regions may have a regional newsletter. My region, East Midlands, used to do that but stopped when the person doing it retired and then died. |

| |
|--|
| Possibly, recommendations of videos to watch on Youtube with some comments eg Matthew Essicks AC game finished in half an hour. What skills! https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ojFQALx3AiE or some recommended interesting matches from live steams |
| Not full enough AC reports |
| Interviews which are conversations between two players who may have differing views or approaches on, for example, practice, coaching, tactics, matches etc. |
| Readers' Wives nude photographs |
| An occasional series covering the psychology and physiology of playing croquet. |
| YES - More Debate and Transparency of Leadership from the EB and a greater representation of known GC Player/Figures on the EB. |
| I'd like to see an in-depth article on what types of mallet (make/dimensions/weight) the top (20 or 30) ranked players use, for both AC and GC. |

Q12 Please use the following space for any other comments you may have relating to the Croquet Gazette or the E-Newsletter.

| |
|---|
| I think the Newsletter should be shorter and contain links to articles and information rather than having too much info in the email. The gazette should be an online publication listed on a platform like issuu and available to anyone not just CqE Subscribers. |
| Generally the report of tournaments and matches are far too long - much crisper editing would greatly improve them. |
| I think maintaining a paper publication is very important for visibility of the sport and for accessibility. Using sustainably sourced paper I think is important and would well received. |
| For the Tournament Reports it depends on the length. Short reports are fine. Very detailed reports are not |
| If the Gazette was online only, would the quantity of articles and tournament reports increase? |
| Some match/tournament reports are quite long winded. Given that (in many cases) all the reports are on croquet scores, the match report should perhaps reveal the highlights/newsworthy asides and not a blow by blow account. |
| To often pictures are published in all places without identifying the people in them. |
| I tend to be "don't mend it if it isn't broke" Do not abandon the paper copy. |
| match reports should be brief , Occasional historic al articles , Paper copy useful for advertising the game could we all leave a copy in libraries etc |
| Too much GC |
| I like a tangible publication. Websites are ephemeral. |
| If Croquet England is not elitist, why would you expect club players to know what their grades are? Better to use handicap. |
| I receive the newsletter but think the adverts make it almost unreadable and it leaves me with a bad impression. |
| I think the demise of a paper publication would be unfortunate. Not all members are happy reading on line. |
| The link in the current edition is to the GC coaching material is great. This is a wonderful resource - more please! SC would be a good one. |
| I enjoy reading it! |

| |
|---|
| <p>Need to ensure that the ratio of adverts to articles does not get any higher</p> <p>All types of tournament should be reported but the Gazette should not be dominated by tournament reports. Reports should always have some interesting anecdotes or facts and not just cold match reporting.</p> |
| <p>Does advertising need to be in the eNewsletter?</p> <p>I used to receive email notification when the newest gazette was published but don't now. Can it be re-instated.</p> |
| <p>Sometimes the Nott's list goes crazy with responses back and forth, evidently a topic of interest! Maybe you use that content.</p> |
| <p>I haven't answered some of the questions because they don't offer an accurate view of my opinions. I think the gazette is good at the moment. I like the adverts and glossy production that make it look like a genuine sport. If the cost of printing and distribution is too large, I would suggest that it moves to a quarterly production. This could be done in tandem with producing a monthly online newsletter that covers major items</p> <p>I'm a premium and overseas member and there is no box to tick for this</p> |
| <p>DO NOT remove tournament results and reports of all levels of play</p> |
| <p>Many of the articles are far too long. Less is more!!</p> |
| <p>There is too much detail in tournament reports, which I mostly can't be bothered to read in detail, as they seem to be written for those who may have taken part, not for the general reader who is unlikely to ever take part in the national and international tournaments. What I should like is a clear summary of the game and the results, e.g. perhaps some sort of league table. And did we really need two pages on Regulations for the 2025 tournaments? Surely anyone wishing to take part will book on-line and see the regs there?</p> <p>This brings me to the point that I note that most of our club players do not read the Gazette as they don't find much of interest. I know this because we used to circulate a hard copy to our members, as only one or two pay for a hard copy. However, I found that most members did not want to have it and hadn't looked on-line either.</p> <p>It could be made easier to read on-line if you introduced the 'standard' page turning system like a book which many on-line magazines use. See for example: https://digital.magmanager.co.uk/Preview/Index/2767741#page/1</p> |
| <p>I realise it is expensive to produce the Gazette in paper form but I enjoy reading in this format but would probably not pay £20 for the pleasure. I would however read it online if Paper was not available.</p> |
| <p>More pictures of ordinary grass roots players, who are not in whites please: in this way the Gazette will much more closely resemble the experience of ordinary croquet players. We have a problem with being perceived as elitist: this would help. We also have a problem with the vocal minority of elite players being heard much more clearly than other players: again, this would be a small step towards redressing the balance.</p> <p>And more about women in croquet please. They are around half the membership but get far less coverage than that.</p> |
| <p>Less golf or none if possible. Needs its own magazine. More association croquet.</p> |
| <p>I think having both the Gazette and Newsletter provides well-rounded content. I like to read both of them to stay up-to-date on all things croquet!</p> |
| <p>The Gazette is much improved under the new Editor (thanks Alison)</p> |

| |
|--|
| Please note I have previously completed all questions in the survey but omitted to include the following observations, which I hope may be of help: Q2 does not offer the option of 'Do not belong to a club' - I have not belonged to a club for many years but played still competitively "elsewhere". Q4 does not offer either the option of 'No longer play' or that of 'Have not played for a number of seasons but may still do so at some future date'. |
| For a purely volunteer publication, the gazette is a professionally produced magazine. |
| I like it on coffee table |
| Thanks for producing it. |
| Q7 - I would prefer printed 4-6 times per year. I don't see a reason to make it monthly. |
| If there as to be a choice, I tend to prefer "croquet" over "club" articles. But I always read the Gazette thoroughly, usually 3 or 4 pages at a time over a fortnight or so, with a cup of coffee in my hand. I would hate it to be only online ! |
| Should focus on proper croquet (AC), be it full ot short, rather than offshoots and other games such as GC, Garden Croquet, Pirates, etc. These other formats should not have regular areas in this magazine. Though major events of interest in each may be of occasional interest e.g. if someone from UK wins say GC worlds you may wish to mention it in a side item. |
| Advertisements for non-croquet items should not be included. Consider downgrading the print and paper quality to save money on production and postage. |
| Just to clarify my Dgrade was over 2000 when last listed as active in 2010. Since then young family and lack of sufficient local players with reasonable travel distance of San Francisco - and no local club - has meant no available playing time except a few friendlies at Oakland CC. However still love hearing the news, I follow online every stream Championship, and would much prefer the Gazette to be online only - save the paper, printing costs, and postage please! |
| E-Newsletters have less impact than a hard copy. They become like any other spam and are easily ignored, especially if they arrive when you are busy. A hard copy is something to look forward to and generally the content of the gazette is good. Dislike the adverts. Would rather pay and have a proper magazine. |
| The "Unofficial History of Croquet" was mildly amusing to start, but not now. Is it still worth including? |
| I think I'm content as it is. I don't think I would read it every month if it was monthly. The way I read it, it needs to be on paper. |
| I actually think it is very good in its current format. As a relatively new player and rapid improver (this will be my 3rd year) I read every issue from cover to cover. I do recognise that it is probably quite expensive to produce and mail out, but I like having a hard copy to keep and refer back to. It would be a shame if it had to go online only, but I would still read it if that were the case. If it goes online and monthly, then I think it should be merged with the newsletter. |
| It is interesting t see how clubs are developing, but reports tend to be too long. |
| I always enjoy receiving and reading the Croquet Gazette, and also the e-Newsletter. The frequency of the Gazette could maybe be reduced to 3 or 4 issues per year instead of 6, supplemented with the e-Newsletter for the latest news, as a lot of the Gazette content is not particularly time-critical even though it is a valuable and entertaining read. Keep up the good work! |
| With a paper copy it is easier to browse through and see interesting articles you may have missed |