



CROQUET

GAZETTE

Issue 401 | February 2023

AC WOMEN'S WORLD CHAMPION

DEBBIE LINES IS THE
2023 WCF
ASSOCIATION
CROQUET WOMEN'S
WORLD CHAMPION

NATIONAL
CROQUET
WEEK:
BATTLE OF
THE COUNTIES

LIZ WILSON
AWARDED
2022 COACH
OF THE YEAR

CROQUET
ACADEMY
COURSES
PUBLISHED
FOR 2023



Dropping jaws since 1893



Norway's Original Coastal Voyage

**12-day
Classic Round Voyage**

Flight-inclusive departures:
February – March 2023
October 2023 – March 2024

Northern Lights Promise**

Book now

5%
Discount for
Croquet England
Members*

Hurtigruten was founded in 1893 to be a lifeline for communities along the Norwegian coast and we're just as much a part of the community today. We don't just show you the region, we invite you to become a part of it with us.

Experience the Original Spirit of Norway

Call 0203 131 6528 | Visit hurtigruten.co.uk | Contact your preferred travel agent



HURTIGRUTEN
Norwegian Coastal Express

*5% discount applies to new bookings only and will only be applied to the cruise. Cruise duration must be 5 nights or more to qualify, Promo code: HRG-CROQUET. See hurtigruten.co.uk/partners/hrn-croquet-england-discount/ for further details. **Northern Lights Promise: if the Aurora Borealis do not appear, we will give you a 6 or 7-day Classic Voyage free of charge – see hurtigruten.co.uk/coastal-offers/nlp for full terms and conditions. From prices quoted are in GBP and are per person, based on full occupancy of an inside two berth cabin, on a full board basis. Single supplements may apply. Prices are subject to availability. All flights and flight-inclusive holidays are financially protected by the ATOL scheme. Please note some excursions are not included in the per person price and will be an additional charge (subject to availability). Images: © Trym Ivar Bergsmo.



ABTA
V7545



The Croquet Association
Issue 401 | February 2023



Front cover:
AC Women's World
Champion
Debbie Lines
PHOTOGRAPH
Chris Roberts

CONTENTS

3	Welcome
4	Hibiscus
4	Opening Doors on Croquet
6	Chairman of Council
6	CA President
8	Bowser on Croquet
10	CA Survey
12	Short Croquet Corner
12	Quiz
14	Letters
16	History - Walter Jones Whitmore
18	Next Generation
20	3rd Women's AC Worlds
21	2022 MacRobertson's report
23	Cheam CC 10th Anniversary
24	GC Tournament Schedule
25	Mike Hills wins GC A-Level Final
26	Academy Courses Programmes
28	Editors Picks 2022
30	Handicap Committee
31	Marketing Committee
32	Duncan Hector Turfcare
34	The Coaching Pages
35	Winter Swing Check
38	CA Contacts

The Croquet Association
Old Bath Road
Cheltenham GL53 7DF
E: gazette@croquet.org.uk
W: www.croquet.org.uk

DISCLAIMER The opinions expressed in the Croquet Gazette are those of the Editor and contributors. The Croquet Association is not responsible for statements other than those clearly defined as being made on behalf of the Croquet Association. Advertisements are not specifically endorsed by the Croquet Association, unless otherwise stated.

WELCOME



The New Year welcomed the croquet community back with a bang, opening with another World Championship Event. This time it was the Women of our sport who took to the stage, competing in the Association Croquet Women's World Championship. Once again we were treated to more late night viewing from the livestreaming crew in New Zealand, who provided exceptional videography and commentary throughout the knockout stages of the event. Livestreaming is becoming quite the hot topic with many countries now providing the service wherever possible for top croquet events. The CA will be planning to broadcast the AC World Championship and the Womens GC

World Championship later in 2023. This is not only generating public interest and media attention for our sport, but is also providing a welcome opportunity for the croquet community to watch and learn. This issue of the Gazette contains a summary of the five year Croquet Survey commissioned by the Croquet Association. Using recommendations from this survey and the findings from the various working parties, the CA will be encouraging us all to work together to further the development of our sport at grass roots level. From clubs sharing ideas for National Croquet Week to members participating in the CA webinars, there are many ways we can ensure that we all thrive.

CA Editorial Team

LEPTON CROQUET CLUB MEMORIAL

Lepton Croquet Club remembered Hazel Wadsworth with a Doubles Golf Croquet competition on Friday 23/9/22. Hazel was a founder member of our club which we started in Lepton in 2010, where we played for 5 years before moving to Ravensknowle Park Bowling Green in 2016. She was our "I will be mum" for brewing a cuppa, always making Tea/Coffee and Biscuits for all our members during a playing session. Hazel was a bit grumpy at times; don't put the wet teaspoon in the coffee or sugar jars; put your teabag in the bin; put the lid on the biscuit tin, but we loved her nevertheless. Hazel played at Huddersfield Croquet Club when it first began 30 years ago,

and played constantly until becoming a social member. She was playing at least twice a week at Lepton Club until shortly before her death in August 2021. She was always keen to win and to help new members with their coaching. We have named a Trophy in memory of her, "The Hazel Wadsworth Memorial Teapot Trophy", which was presented to the winners Bryan Hopkinson and Marian Swift by Hazel's granddaughter, Carolyn. A good day was had by all, playing and reminiscing about her character and willingness to help everyone she knew. She is sorely missed.

Margaret Wood
Founder and Chair
Lepton Croquet Club



HIBISCUS COLUMN

Happy New Croquet Year. For many of us, that will start in a week or so when the annual tug of love between Scrooge protecting sacred turf against destructive footfall and players itching to be out there may dwindle. Rarely has waterlogged lawngate been as unrelenting as it was over the 2022-2023 winter festival. How generously last December played into Scrooge's hands - ten days of ice and snow followed by twenty-one days of stair rod rain. As I write in early January, it's still falling. No matter how loudly we yell for mercy, we obsessives have no outlet for our frustrations. Relatives who might have benefitted from a seasonal AC thrashing have long departed for Barbados or Courchevel...

Instead we dream of Spring breaking out all over. And perhaps of mallets, the only essential item in a croquista's armoury. One of the sport's attractions is that it's so low maintenance. Many own white shirts and plimsolls, possibly trousers too. If not, they're inexpensive and very available. Bowling waterproofs won't win beauty contests but fleece-lined hooded jackets (from £18, Amazon) are surprisingly warm and comfortingly roomy.

Mallets last indefinitely so it's vital to get it right first time. Rule one: don't

rush into it. Every club has a selection for L-platers to use. Many look fit for museums, but provided they're in good repair, they'll do the job. A search through early 20th century splintered wood may reveal a jewel, as it did for world top six player, England's Harry Fisher. When he was introduced to the game by a fellow undergraduate at Oxford, he picked out an old Alan Pidcock - the Professor was the millennium king of mallet-makers - in the university storage shed. Harry was still using it when he completed his PhD in physics several years later. By that time, he'd played in his first World Championship.

Apart from the meteoric trajectory, my own path was similar. I might have looked at Brass Spot wooden models, hand crafted in Spain and justly popular. Instead Covid sanitisation struck and we had to keep a mallet from the Blewbury locker for the duration. I was there promptly to secure the lone Pidcock. Fifteen months later, I ungraciously agreed to give it back.

That brought up the harsh decision to spend real money. But on what? Wood or metal or carbon fibre? Round or square head? Shaft length, head length, weight? The market isn't big enough for makers to peddle their wares at croquet club trials. Harry's advice is to ask fellow players

at clubs and tournaments if you can hit a few balls with theirs. Given a mallet's durability, only a churl would refuse. As you try it, give intuition a chance. 'If you feel proud and at ease with your mallet, it will almost certainly perform better for you', says Prof Pidcock.

For Harry and many on his level, the road leads to Penult, the Dorset home of Dave Trimmer who took over Pidcock's business when the Prof retired in 2016. Dave's street front machine shop is a showcase for the sophisticated engineering techniques he uses to build carbon fibre mallets for the stars. They know exactly what they need in terms of length, weight and balance. I could only ask advice - and take it. 11inch head, 39 inch shaft. Better too long: handles can be shortened. Three months later, I picked up the result.

Yes, I'm proud and at ease with my mallet and convinced it does it's best. It's square, currently more popular, though there's no clear playing differential. It has a brass plate with my initials - a good investment as it's often picked out in error from the many others of its kind. And it unscrews in the middle. This allows for packing as hold baggage. Hand luggage? Fine for size. Check for security: the head is an undeniably deadly weapon.

| Minty Clinch



OPENING DOORS TO CROQUET

In March last year the CA Council approved a report that was prepared by a wide cross section of members and which set out how croquet can become more welcoming across a broader spectrum of society. Feedback from the survey held earlier this year, along with engaging articles in the Croquet Gazette, show that clubs are taking this challenge to heart and are making real progress in reaching out in their community. I feel sure there are more great stories to be told where clubs are making an extra effort to welcome new groups of people. We want to again focus on this progress in the April issue of the Gazette and ask you to send a short article (no more than 300 words) along with engaging photos to describe how your club is showing what a welcoming sport croquet can be. Please send me your contribution by 24th February 2023

Paul Brown
Director for Development





TUNNEL OF TIME

100 YEARS AGO

In 11 January 1923 Gazette:

From the notes on a Club Conference held at Headquarters on December 5th, 1922.

SIZE OF COURTS – The Chairman next referred to the possible advantage of reducing the size of courts, say by substituting a six-yard for the present seven-yard unit. Dr. Pepper spoke in favour of the six-yard game, of which he had some experience. It was generally agreed that some such reduction might in places make room for more lawns. Shorter games might result. and the game should be easier for the longer bisquers.

70 YEARS AGO

In April 1953 Gazette Council Meeting Minutes:

Meeting held at 4 Southampton Row, on Thursday January 1st 1953.

A letter was read from the Secretary of the Wimbledon Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club in which it was stated that only two full sized croquet courts could be laid out on the club grounds. As this rendered the venue unsuitable for holding the President's Cup competition at Wimbledon, Mr M. B. Reckitt proposed that exhibition games should be staged

on the two full sized courts on Saturday September 12th. After discussion it was decided that application be made for the use of the courts for Monday afternoon, and the opening day of the President's Cup competition postponed until Tuesday.

50 YEARS AGO

In April 1973 Gazette (#125):

The 1973 Season.

Although many new clubs are being formed, none, at present have sufficient lawns to run their own official tournaments, which puts even more pressure on those clubs already able to stage them. In order to accommodate more players on the same number of lawns maybe the time is coming when we will have to accept double-banking at our tournaments in England. Double-banking (i.e. playing two games simultaneously on the same lawn and using a set of balls of different colours: white and pink v green and brown) has long been common practice in Australia to beat the shortage of lawns and it is there accepted as normal.

I for one, thinking of the future, hope it will be successful, and that the typical English reluctance to accept change will be broken down rather more quickly than usual in this instance.

RF Rothwell (Chairman, Tournament Committee)

30 YEARS AGO

In February 1993 Gazette (#169):

The Way Ahead – A Progress Report.

The Key Points from the report of the Subscription Policy Working Party were

- The recession has badly affected the CA's immediate financial outlook
- Raising subscriptions in 1993 would risk serious membership losses
- The full SPWP proposals did not receive enough support to justify adoption
- The Council has therefore only implemented the 1993 proposal
- 1993 is to be a year of discussion to find a long-term solution.

Past Gazettes can be found on the CA website at <https://www.croquet.org.uk/30-yr-gazettes&Action=issues>.

Currently there are scans of the Gazette back to 1954, when the current numbering system started, on the CA website.

Chris Williams, CA Archivist

IN THIS SECTION WE ONCE AGAIN TAKE A LOOK THROUGH THE 'TUNNEL OF TIME' TO SEE WHAT WAS TAKING PLACE IN THE CROQUET WORLD IN THE PAST, AS SEEN IN THE CROQUET GAZETTE

WEBINARS ARE BACK!

Webinars will be monthly on the last Wednesday of each month at 7pm:

- February 22
- March 29
- April 26



To find more information about the webinars and how to join the meetings, please visit the Croquet Association website, click on 'Members' then follow the link to 'Webinars on croquet administration'. The direct website link is: www.croquet.org.uk/?p=members/webinars

The CA is pleased to announce that its popular webinars have returned. The first one was presented on Wednesday January 25th at 7pm. The theme for January was 'Crowdfunding for Clubs', where we were joined by three clubs who have carried out successful funding projects.

- In February: there will be two themes, 'Next Generation Development Plans for 2023' and 'Legal Status Advice for Clubs'.
- In March: Brian Fisk will be joining us to develop club's and player's understanding of handicapping.
- In April: we will be joined by Chris Roberts for an overview on how clubs can run successful tournaments.

We look forward to seeing you.

Paul Francis
Sport Development Committee



CHAIRMAN OF THE CA COUNCIL



PHOTOGRAPH
Chris Roberts

The last issue of this Gazette, which went to press as I was flying back from

Australia, reported on our successful campaign to win the MacRobertson Shield for the first time in 12 years. I'm writing having just watched the streaming of the Women's World Championship in New Zealand, which saw Debbie Lines beat Gabrielle Higgins in an all-England final. Whilst congratulation rightly falls on all the players involved, we need to recognise that success builds on the support of numerous volunteers as well as coaching and development structures in our sport.

The Competitive Play strategy review agreed by Council set out an overall strategy for improvements in this area. Implementation started by ensuring appropriate development coaching for both GC and AC players at all levels. As we move into 2023, you'll start to see more work to encourage more players to start playing both games. There will be experiments with quicker games. We expect these to be attractive both to players taking up the game and to players with only limited time - for example one evening after work. Quick Croquet, modified 14-point Association Croquet, and

Short Croquet events are being scheduled for the 2023 season.

The membership group aims to bring more garden players into the croquet family. They have also updated the Rules for Garden Croquet to better promote this simpler form of the game and the new Garden Membership category. They will also be introducing a hospitality membership category. This will provide a link between the CA and venues such as hotels, conference centres, English Heritage, and the National Trust who have playing facilities on their sites. And finally, the Next Generation Development Officer is establishing initiatives to promote croquet to younger players. This includes a virtual National Junior Club and creating programmes for primary and secondary schools. There will be opportunities for you and your club to get involved in supporting all these initiatives. I encourage you all to keep an eye out for these and get involved where you can. We want to develop our games to provide opportunity for competition and more fun. Please help us develop those ideas.

Samir Patel
Chairman of Council



CA PRESIDENT CONGRATULATIONS FOR 3RD WOMEN'S AC WORLD CHAMPION

I was delighted to learn on Friday 13 January that an England player would most certainly bring back the Charles Jones memorial trophy, for winning the 3rd WCF Women's AC Championship, being contested in New Zealand. I met Charles in 2011 at the 2nd WCF Under 21 GC World Championship, so feel some connection. I had been following the fortunes of the five English entrants to this event by using Croquet Scores, an excellent website that deserves our support, in the early mornings or sometimes the very small hours of the day. Having sent all a message of good luck as they left the country, it

was a pleasure to receive responses from the two who triumphed to reach the Final, although that left me wishing them both well in the final!

I now send congratulations to Debbie Lines in a closely contested final of 3 games and commiserate with Gabrielle Higgins who came second, as she did when it was last played at Nottingham. I may suggest that she will deserve it next time around.

Patricia Duke-Cox
CA President



We have properties available nationwide:

BEDFORDSHIRE Ampthill, Bedford **BERKSHIRE** Crowthorne, Maidenhead, Thatcham, Twyford, Wokingham **BUCKINGHAMSHIRE** Amersham, Aylesbury, Chalfont St Peter, Farnham Common, Milton Keynes, Olney **CAMBRIDGESHIRE** Great Cambourne **CHESHIRE** Audlem, Bramhall, Knutsford, Macclesfield, Malpas, Middlewich, Neston, Willaston **COUNTY DURHAM** Darlington **CUMBRIA** Cockermouth, Kendal **DERBYSHIRE** Buxton **DEVON** Cullompton, Ottery St. Mary, Topsham **DORSET** Blandford St Mary, Bridport, Dorchester, Poole, Wimborne **ESSEX** Chelmsford, Colchester, Great Dunmow, Saffron Walden, Waltham Abbey **GLOUCESTERSHIRE** Bourton-on-the-Water, Stow-on-the-Wold **HAMPSHIRE** Alton, Basingstoke, Hook, New Alresford, Romsey, Southampton, Tadley **HERTFORDSHIRE** Baldock, Buntingford, Hatfield, Hereford, Hertford, Knebworth, St Albans **KENT** Broadstairs, Canterbury, Dover, Hawkhurst, Southborough **LANCASHIRE** Carnforth, Garstang, Lancaster, Leyland, Liverpool, Poulton-le-Fylde, Thornton-Cleveleys **LEICESTERSHIRE** Market Harborough, Melton Mowbray, Quorn **LINCOLNSHIRE** Woodhall Spa **LONDON** Barnet, Croydon, Isleworth, Upper Norwood **GREAT MANCHESTER** Stockport, Wigan **MERSEYSIDE** Maghull **NORFOLK** Harleston, Norwich, Stalham **NORTHUMBERLAND** Hexham **OXFORDSHIRE** Chipping Norton, Henley-on-Thames **RUTLAND** Oakham **SHROPSHIRE** Market Drayton **SOMERSET** Bath, Clevedon, Taunton **STAFFORDSHIRE** Leek, Lichfield, Stafford **SUFFOLK** Beccles, Ipswich, Martlesham Heath **SURREY** Bagshot, Banstead, Chipstead, Cobham, Purley, Virginia Water, Walton-on-Thames, Warlingham, Weybridge **TYNE AND WEAR** Gosforth, South Shields, Sunderland, Whitley Bay **WARWICKSHIRE** Nuneaton, Rugby, Stratford-Upon-Avon, Studley **WEST MIDLANDS** Edgbaston, Shirley, Solihull, Tettenhall **WEST SUSSEX** Goring by Sea, Worthing **WILTSHIRE** Salisbury, Swindon, Trowbridge, Warminster **WORCESTERSHIRE** Redditch **YORKSHIRE** Barnsley, Beverley, Bingley, Bridlington, Brough, Burley in Wharfedale, Cottingham, Filey, Harrogate, Ilkley, Ossett, Ripon, Scarborough, Sheffield, Swanland, Whitby

“WE LIKE OUR GUTTERING LIKE OUR COCKTAILS. FIXED BY SOMEONE ELSE.”

At a McCarthy Stone retirement development, you can rely on us to make life easier. We take care of the window cleaning, gardening and building maintenance, leaving you more time for things you love.

Our properties are safe and secure too, with a friendly manager to keep an eye on things. And, if you ever find you need it, there’s extra help and support available 24/7*.

You can rely on us to make life easier.

Call 0800 201 4008 today

or visit mccarthystone.co.uk

McCARTHY STONE

Life, well lived

*Facilities vary depending on location and product type. Extra charges apply for personal, domestic and lifestyle support services.

BOWSER ON CROQUET... SAYS HE DOESN'T KNOW OF A MORE INTERESTING GAME

He begins play with Mrs Bowser who he thinks is trying to give him an unfair deal, he ends the game with a Tramp.

(Copyright 1902 by C B Trump)

At 3 o'clock the other afternoon a delivery wagon left a box at the Bowser mansion, and Mrs Bowser opened it to find balls, mallets and arches. She decided a mistake had been made, but when Mr Bowser came up to dinner he explained: "There is no mistake I bought the outfit and ordered it sent home."

"But you don't mean that you are going to play croquet?" she asked in surprise.

"But I do. We might as well have some amusements around home. I do not know of a more interesting game than croquet. To play a good game one has got to have a mathematical eye and a skilful hand. It beats golf all hollow. I don't understand your surprise."

"Isn't it a great game to quarrel over?" asked Mrs Bowser.

"Pish! Folks who want to quarrel, will quarrel over any game. Yes, I have read in the papers that croquet has separated husbands and wives, broken engagements and caused ministers to resign from churches, but that's all nonsense, you know. There is more wrangling on a Sunday school excursion than over a thousand games of croquet. Indeed, what is there to wrangle about?"

"I thought there were many things, but perhaps I've forgotten or am thinking about something else."

"There isn't one single thing, and I will prove it to you. After dinner I will set up the arches and we will have a game. You used to play, didn't you?"

"Y - Yes" she reluctantly replied.

"And I have heard you brag what a game you played. I will whitewash you four times out of five."

Mrs Bowser groaned inwardly. If Mr Bowser had brought home a horse, a cow, or a dozen chickens she might have dodged a row but with croquet- never. She thought of suddenly twisting her ankle or being overcome by the heat, but Mr Bowser's eye was upon her and she could not escape.

"Why, come to think of it," he said at the dinner table, "we used to play croquet when I was courting you, and I don't remember that we quarrelled. No, course we didn't."

It was true that they didn't, but it was because Mrs Bowser shut her eyes to his brazen tricks to come out ahead. She didn't say so, however she simply hoped that by some miracle a game or two might be played without an outbreak.

"Now, then," he said when dinner had finished, "I will set up the arches and



we will begin business. If there is a misunderstanding of any sort, you will be to blame for it. Wrangle? Why, I could play for a month of Sundays and not have a word. There may be some excuse for wrangling over golf but croquet is soft and gentle and placid."

Mrs Bowser was pale-faced and anxious looking as she selected a mallet and ball. She had determined to play her poorest and dispute no assertion. She did not mean to win the first shot, but it came to her. She meant to miss one of the arches but the ball insisted on going through both. As a matter of fact, carelessly as she tried to play, she had gone to the upper stake and was on her way back before Mr Bowser had a shot. She had heard him breathing hard but didn't say anything until she made a miss. Then he remarked:

"I see I've got to play against bullhead and chicanery but I think I can hold my own." "Do you think that I cheated?" she asked. "Never mind what I mean. You can settle things with your own conscience. I am coming for your ball."

Mr Bowser passed through the first arch, missed the second and got in position to hit Mrs Bowser's ball and send it away. There was a glare in his eye as he sent it 50 feet away and went back to the second arch. But luck was not with him. Before he got through, she came down and hit the stake and finished the game.

"Do you know what you are mallet?" he asked as he leaned on his mallet and looked at her.

"Why, I have just whitewashed you. Haven't I?" she replied.

"And how did you accomplish it? Do you know the meaning of the word honesty? Have I got to keep my eyes on you all the time to get a fair deal in this game?" Mrs

Bowser made no reply. She saw the end in view and she hoped that if struck with a mallet, death would be instantaneous. Mr Bowser took the first shot and by good luck made the two arches. He was left in a bad position though, and before he could get through the third arch Mrs Bowser overtook him and arranged to take his ball with hers.

"What are you going to do?" he asked.

"Carry your ball along to play on."

But you can't do it. There are rules in this game."

"What is the rule that says I can't carry your ball along to play on again?"

"Go ahead, then. I knew you'd cheat the eyeteeth out of me if you could, but I told you that I shouldn't wrangle."

Mrs Bowser used his ball until she was in a position for the fourth arch and then sent it away and passed through the fourth and fifth and hit the stake. She was getting ready for the return when he advanced and quietly said:

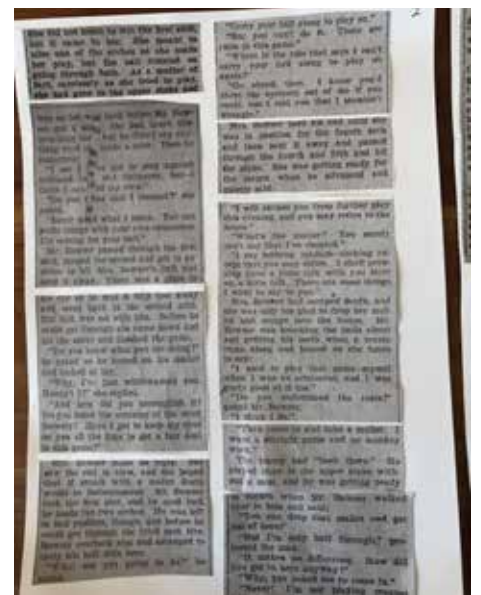
"I will excuse from further play this evening, and you may retire to the house."

"What's the matter? You surely can't say I have cheated."

"I say nothing, madam - nothing except you may retire. I shall probably have a little talk with you later on, a little talk. There are some things I want to say to you."

Mrs Bowser had escaped death, and she was only too glad to drop her mallet and escape into the house. Mr Bowser was knocking the balls about and gritting his teeth when a tramp came along and leaned on the fence to say:

"I used to play that game myself when I was an aristocrat, and I was pretty good at it too."



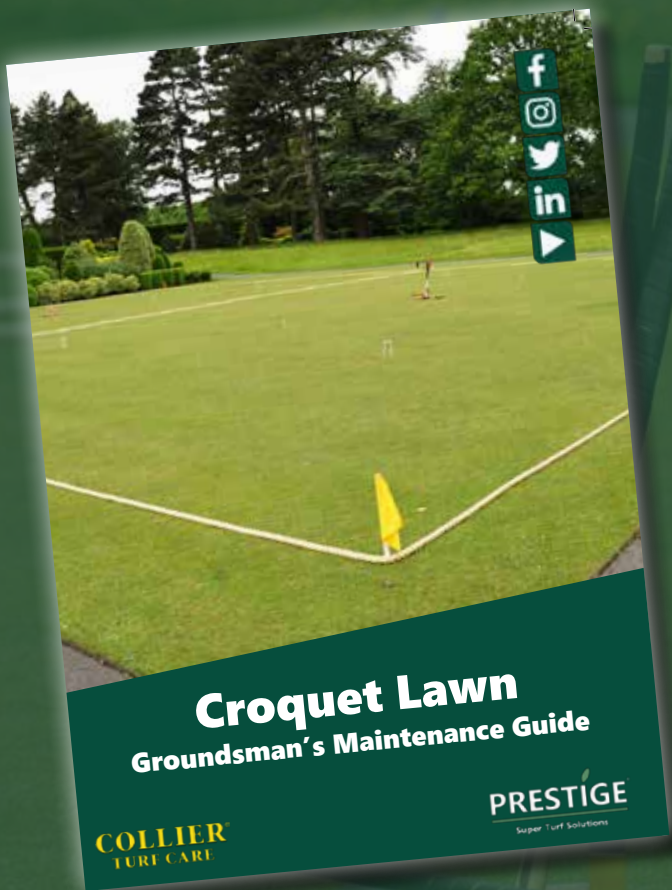
"Do you understand the rules?" asked Mr Bowser.

...continued on next page

COLLIER[®]
TURF CARE

'The Grass Guys'

NEW Croquet Lawn Groundsman's Maintenance Guide



Packed full of:

Maintenance
tips

Disease
Identification

Product
Recommendations

*And
more...*

To help keep your croquet
lawn in top condition!

Email marketing@collier-turf-care.co.uk or call
01328 700600 to get your **FREE** copy!



01328 700600



sales@collier-turf-care.co.uk



www.collier-turf-care.co.uk

"I think I do."
 "Then come in and take a mallet. I want a straight game and no monkey work." The tramp had "been there." He played clear to the upper stake without a miss, and was getting ready to return when Mr Bowser walked over to him and said: "You can drop that mallet and get out of here!"
 "But I am only half through," protested the man.
 "It makes no difference. How did you get in here anyway?"
 "Why, you asked me to come in."
 "Never! I'm not playing croquet with a tramp."
 "I would hate to be a mean old cuss like you!" said the man as he moved away.
 "You couldn't go through an arch if it was as big as a barn door, and it makes you mad to see anyone else."
 Mr Bowser jumped for him, and there was a struggle. They fell to the ground and rolled over and over, while two boys

shouted for the police. Then at the end of a minute, the tramp scrambled up and ran away with his hair flying, and fright in his eyes. Mr Bowser got up, but with more dignity. There was a long scratch on his nose and blood on his ear, but his voice was firm as he stalked into the house and stood before Mrs Bowser and said: "Woman, there is such a thing as crowding a husband to the dead line. You have crowded me there, and now the worm has turned. We will telephone our respective lawyers and settle on the amount of alimony, and tomorrow, Mrs Bowser, you can return to the arms of your mother!"

I M Quad



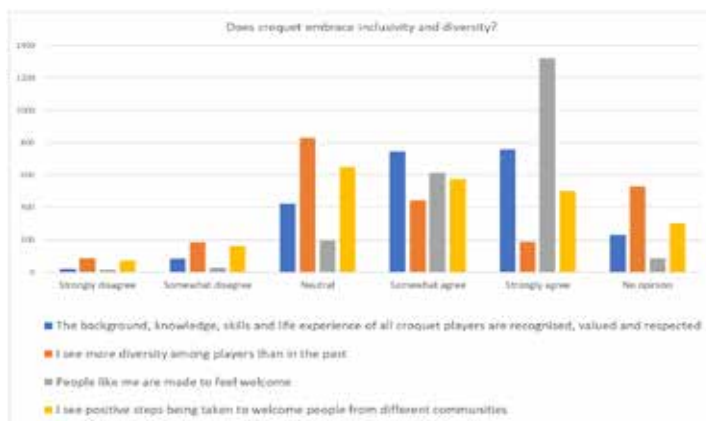
LISTENING TO CROQUET PLAYERS CA SURVEY

Last Spring, a record 2269 croquet players took part in the fifth five-yearly survey organised by the CA with 99% of respondents completing it online. Questions from previous years were expanded to include more detailed information about players, with a whole section added to focus on what people think about croquet as a welcoming and diverse sport. Checks with information already in the CA database confirm that the responses are a good representative sample of our members.

What does the survey reveal? We can see that the balance between males and females is 60:40, and the median age of players continues to increase; at 73 it has risen again - up three from five years ago. We know that less than 2% of our players are from an ethnic minority background. And although 70% are educated to degree standard or beyond, we see that only 16% are currently in full or part-time work.

However, through the "Opening Doors to Croquet" initiative we have already seen splendid examples of clubs reaching out and engaging within communities to attract people who might never otherwise have thought to play croquet and to help those 10% of players who have specific requirements to allow them to play. Last year saw the arrival of Hope Bourton, our full-time Next Generation Development Officer, who is focussed on attracting more young players. Her plans include establishing a country-wide club just for them, building on the recent successes of younger players competing at the highest levels in world croquet. The proportion of GC players to AC players has held steady since 2017, but there is now a smaller percentage who play both codes. Over three-quarters of all new recruits will take up GC and it seems they are unlikely to try AC. Current initiatives like the Competitive Play Review, Short Croquet and One Ball are essential to encourage players to take up AC and to keep it as a vital part of croquet in England. Encouragingly, the survey shows that over 70% are competitive players taking part in tournaments and competitions, and a quarter aspire to play at a higher level than that at which they currently play.

An astonishing three quarters of players volunteer their time to support croquet across all areas of our sport, but there are still some areas where more can be done. For example, the data backs up the view at club level that more referees are needed to support competitions and tournaments. Happily, our survey reveals that most players, including new club



members, find their club welcoming. But importantly 10% find their club rather cliquy and a similar number feel like outsiders. Worryingly, these views are more pronounced in those from a minority ethnic background. What can your club do to make sure every member feels welcome?

All these insights and much more can be found in the report on the survey which is available to members on the CA website and can help guide the CA, federations and clubs as we grow and develop. <https://www.croquet.org.uk/?p=ca/schemes/surveys>

Paul Brown, Director for Development and Executive Vice-Chair



Surfaces maintained with expertise and passion

Slitters



Dedicated Verticutter



Interchangeable Cassette Machines



Scarifiers



Spreader & Top Dresser



Dedicated Mowers



Seeder & Aerator



Aerators



DENNIS

sisis

Expert Surfaces

For more information or a no obligation demonstration call **01332 824777** or visit www.dennisuk.com or www.sisis.com



PROUDLY BRITISH

Game strategy in Short Croquet: Short Croquet was conceived from the outset as a full bisque game. This means on the one hand you are likely to have bisques – but, on the other hand, so too is your opponent. This significantly affects your game strategy. An important secret of success in Short Croquet is to use bisques from the start to set up a break. Take the break to peg or hoop 6. Then, as soon as you can, use bisques again to set up another good break. If you don't do it first, your opponent will, and they will win the game.

If you have, say, 8 bisques, a winning game strategy might look something like this:

- 2 bisques to set up your first four-ball break
- 1 bisque to correct an error as you play the break
- 1 bisque to improve the break as you go
- Repeat with partner ball

The key is to use your bisques proactively as quickly as you can. Don't hang on to them 'in case'; don't wait for your opponent to gift you a good starting point when you walk onto the lawn; instead invest bisques without delay to get a four-ball break underway at once.

It's possible to set up a very good four-ball break with two bisques from virtually any starting position on the lawn: with careful planning, and two bisques taken successively, you can play or nudge balls into well placed pilot, pioneer and pivot positions. The important thing is to know, before your first shot of the turn, that you are going to invest bisques now to play an all-round break.

Sometimes one bisque is enough to set up a good break. However, beware of being miserly. Trying a risky or over-ambitious shot in an attempt to save a bisque may well lead you to spending two bisques to clear up the mess. Play within your strengths. If your roquets are good at five yards but weak at eight, plan your strategy and use your bisques accordingly. If long split shots are not secure, plan reliable croquet shots you know you can play well.

Above all, plan purposefully by mobilising bisques to get two good breaks underway quickly. Games are short, so go for it. You won't always win, but you'll have given yourself a fair chance of success.

John Harris, York CC



Viking Challenge Short Croquet competitors

QUIZ

Taken from the Fun Quiz on the CA site found under GC Rules and AC Laws.

AC: Playing with Red, Ray croquets Blue towards 2-back and it comes to rest in the middle of the jaws of the hoop with Blue sticking out from both sides of the hoop. At the start of his next turn Bab realising that Blue is for hoop 1, strikes Blue towards hoop 2 and claims that Blue has just run hoop 1. Is he correct?

GC: Ray commits a fault when playing the first stroke with Red in a game. As a consequence:

- a. Red remains an outside agency until it next becomes the striker's ball.
- b. Red is no longer an outside agency and remains on the court for the rest of the game.
- c. Red only becomes an outside agency if Ray's opponent asks for Red to be replaced. Red then remains an outside agency until it next becomes the striker's ball.
- d. Red is no longer an outside agency but (after Ray's opponent has left Red in position after the stroke or returned Red to where Ray played the stroke) if it is in a position impeding the initial stroke on any other ball in the game then Red may be temporarily removed.

Taken from the CA site Technical Jargon page, which has a mix of GC and AC terms.

Q1: A player who appears more concerned with keeping the opponent separated and avoiding risks:

- a. Aunt Sally
- b. Aunt Jane
- c. Aunt Emma

Q2: (GC) A jump shot over a long distance requiring two or more bounces of the ball:

- a. Dambuster
- b. Double Dip
- c. Double Drop

Q3: At the end of the third turn of the game, position the three balls with a rush from the maximum-distance position on the EB to a ball near the maximum-distance position on the west boundary, often on the yard line. So-called because the opponent must play with the 4th ball, leaving the other three balls in such positions that the striker could only dream of, with an easy start if the opponent misses, and a quite difficult start for the opponent should they hit:

- a. Dream Leave
- b. Mike-drop Opening
- c. Heaven-sent Start

Q4: Used to describe pegging out a roqueted ball by rushing it onto the peg and therefore not being able to take

croquet from it (usually to peg-out the striker's ball to win):

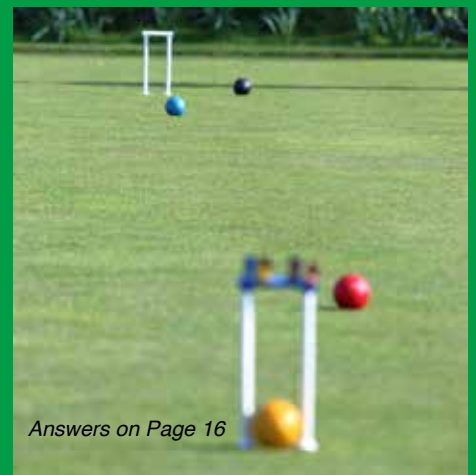
- a. Duffer's leave
- b. Captain Peg-leg
- c. Grievous

Q5: Term given to the speed of a lawn, defined as the time in seconds taken for a croquet ball to travel the full length of a standard court when it just comes to rest on the far boundary:

- a. Plummer
- b. Fireman
- c. Sparky

Q6: A triple peel where the 4-back peel is performed just after making hoop 3, Penult is peeled just after making hoop 6. Rover is peeled on the way to the 3-back pioneer

- a. Straight
- b. Standard
- c. Slightly Wonky



Answers on Page 16

REVIVE YOUR CROQUET LAWN AFTER WINTER



Specialist services for croquet lawns including:

Nutrient Programme

Scarifying & Verticutting

Aeration

Disease Management

Top dressing

Moss & Weed Control



SCAN TO HEAD TO
OUR CROQUET
PAGE



Lawntech™

www.lawn-tech.co.uk

info@lawn-tech.co.uk

LETTERS

CLUB MANAGEMENT ADVICE

How clubs are run must vary between the Rolls-Royce and the string and sealing-wax models depending on the expertise and funds available.

Might the Gazette publish a regular column to help local committees more efficiently operate? This might comprise a site where tips are shared by those with experience or expertise and queries invited on the sort of problems all of us encounter from time to time.

Alternatively or perhaps in tandem a series of articles each dealing with a different aspect of management would be very helpful.

Subjects might include the organisational, such as planning and prioritising; the practical, such as how to tackle those tricky jobs; the promotional, how to sell our sport publicly and where to target the message, or interpersonal, recognising where skills lie and persuading members to use them for the club. Advice on deploying special skills such as financial management or negotiating legal frameworks would also be useful.

Peter Lowe, Tyneside CC

RESPONSE:

Many thanks to Peter for his letter. Effective club management is an issue never far away from the Sport Development Committee's collective mind.

The idea for a regular club management article is an excellent one and we will be asking specific clubs to contribute on specific topics, including those mentioned by Peter.

Sport England's Club Improvement Tool is an excellent starting point for clubs to review their current effectiveness. This includes units on management, people, marketing and finance.

Please see the following link to learn more: <https://www.sportenglandclubmatters.com/planning-for-your-future/running-your-club-and-group/club-improvement-tool/>

Many will recognise the Club improvement Tool as Croquet Matters. This was successfully introduced to many croquet clubs by Dave Gunn, during his tenure as the CA Development Officer.

If any club would like help to run a Club Improvement Workshop for their committees and members please contact Paul Francis - T: 07411044109 or email: paulwfrancis@icloud.com

Paul Francis
Chair of Sports Development

CROQUET LIVESTREAMING

Howard Bowron makes some interesting points on the subject of croquet videos. I can confirm that there is interest in watching high quality play; my GC doubles partner viewed nearly every minute of the 2022 GC World Championship live stream, and if the standard of his game is anything to go by, such dedication has paid off.

The final can be viewed on YouTube so it's disappointing to see that the casual viewer has to watch an empty court for 42 minutes before Robert Fulford hits blue to hoop 1. The failure to edit out the delay makes the whole video seem amateurish despite the professional camerawork and commentary once play commences.

Ian Cumming
Colchester

RESPONSE:

Thank you for your thoughts Ian. Our use of video technology is currently in its infancy and relies entirely on volunteer input.

We do have ambition to improve video production over time and as such, have put out several calls for any members with expertise and or interest to get in touch, enabling us to grow the core team behind this work.

At present the top priority remains providing live feeds from key events, but as the team expands we would hope to be able to look at editing down some highlight packages, ideally in the longer term we can interest one of the broadcast channels in taking to croquet in the same way snooker succeeded in the 1970's.

In the meantime a huge thank you to the tireless team of volunteers who have enabled the growth of our live streaming and a request for all those interested in assisting to get in touch. I can be contacted through email: communications@croquet.org.uk

Paul Hetherington
Director of Marketing

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.



UTOPIAN CROQUET

I wondered whether you would like to include the enclosed picture of a utopian croquet club in your next issue.

Utopia typically describes an imaginary community or society that possesses highly desirable or nearly perfect qualities for its members, so I spent the cold and damp New Year imagining what a utopian croquet club would be like.

In Utopia the weather is always warm and sunny during the day and it only rains overnight. The grounds are populated by a variety of wildlife that never venture onto the lawns, which remain immaculate all year round. There are a very large number of gardeners, all of whom are volunteer members.

The club exists in a perfect state of harmony and most importantly has no committee or regulatory regime. There are no competitions and every game ends in a draw, which may not suit everyone, but there is always a price to pay for perfection.



David Graham
Ealing Croquet Club

WALTER JONES WHITMORE

(1831-1872)



We left the story of the “father of modern croquet” in 1860 when he was about to invest his share of the profits of the game of “Squails” in the transformation of croquet into an organised sport.

Walter decided that he could do better than his younger brother. He first invented “The Game of War”, which he was convinced would supersede the game of chess. His sister, Mary lent him money but his promotion of this game was a complete failure. His next invention was “a game played on a leather board with twelve reptiles”. He provisionally called it “Leapfrog” but, as an alternative, he came up with “The Chinese Imperial Game of Frogs and Toads”. It was “only a moderate success” when introduced by Jaques and Son, who at that time were keen to manufacture and sell almost anything.

THE STRANGE INVENTOR

Walter then put aside board games and turned to inventing “useful” gadgets. His “Focus Shade” was patented in 1863. It was designed to be hung from an oil lamp “as a protection from the focus of the light which is dangerous to the eyes”. There is evidence that he earned £4 in royalties from this.

His “Bootlace Winder” and a novel “Railway Carriage Signal”, both patented in 1864, were not so successful. He

was eventually able to list a total of 60 inventions, including a safety valve for a kettle; elastic heels for boots; an insect-holder and a shoe-horn for galoshes. Walter went into business in London, in partnership with his acquaintance, one J.C. Swaine, who provided capital of £500. The partnership failed acrimoniously within a year, not least because Walter seemed unable to concentrate on marketing and distributing his strange games and contraptions, preferring to play billiards and write articles for newspapers. Following the advice of counsel and an arbitration, Swaine was awarded all of the patents and Walter left with nothing.

THE COUNTRY GENTLEMAN

After the death of his mother in 1862, Walter was given an annual allowance of £100 by his elder brother and he had an annuity of £80 per year, kindly left to him by his uncle William. “Frogs and Toads” produced only a “trifling income” but Walter was able to live reasonably well. In accordance with the usual practice of a Victorian gentleman, he let his tailor and his wine merchant wait for payment. He allowed many debts to accumulate. In 1867 his solicitor was served with a writ claiming £14 but he paid the sum himself to avoid having to wrangle with his client. Walter maintained a pied-à-terre in London, first in South Audley Street and latterly in Gilbert Street, near Grosvenor Square. He did not (as is asserted on Facebook) inherit Chastleton. He lived perpetually in debt and, when he died, his long-suffering elder brother, Willie was left to pay his creditors.

AN UNLIKELY LITERARY GIANT AND FORESTER

Walter devised many schemes, the most grandiose of which was an insurance company based upon a complete fallacy. Fortunately, he never had sufficient capital to launch this. He also aspired to become a celebrated writer and persuaded Longmans to publish two volumes of his poems. Perhaps unsurprisingly, they were “unfavourably reviewed”. Walter then wrote a novel, which Longmans declined to publish because “titles were used with unnecessary frequency throughout the book”.

Walter also took a particular interest in timber. He attempted to found a national Dendrological Society, with himself as its head. He felt that the “soulless race of landscape gardeners” should be replaced by “gentlemen who would have better taste and higher culture”. He also drew up treatises on the reform of the Civil Service and on how to fortify the country but few took notice of his distinctly controversial views.

A SECOND ATTEMPT AT ADMINISTRATION

Feeling the need of a larger income, Walter tried to return to the Civil Service but was unable to persuade his neighbour, Lord Redesdale or his kinsman, Henry Whitmore, a former Lord of the Treasury, to assist him. He also aspired to become the manager of the Crystal Palace (the building, not the football team) and studied book-keeping with this in mind. It is not entirely clear why Walter had failed to become familiar with the basics of accounting when working in the Audit Office.

JONES BECOMES WHITMORE

Walter Whitmore-Jones changed his name to Walter Jones Whitmore in February 1867. Walter’s father had changed his name from “Jones” to “Whitmore-Jones”. The National Trust (now the owner of Chastleton House) explains that John Henry Jones arrived in 1815 to learn about the estate, as heir. By the time he inherited in 1828, aged 33, he was married with a young family and had been obliged to change his name to John Henry Whitmore-Jones. He was presumably happy to include the more prestigious but more distant family name, in addition to that of his Welsh forbears, who were mere tradesman. Typically, his third son sought to promote the more distinguished name even further. However, Colonel Prichard suggests that Walter was also troubled by the name of a Regent Street emporium (“Dickins & Jones”), which placed the name of his friend Willie Dickins (a barrister) before his own.

To be continued....

I John Reddish

decides that it should be replaced under Rule 11.4.2. Then it becomes an outside agency and may be removed from the court until it is next played. This removes any incentive for a player to claim to have committed a fault in order to hamper a subsequent shot by the other side.

Q1: C, Q2: A, Q3: A, Q4: C, Q5: A, Q6: B.

fore it can score the hoop point in a subsequent stroke. Under Law 16, Bab would be entitled to a lift, since Ray is responsible for the position of Blue.

Q: GC; Answer: c. (Rule 5.4)
Explanation: The ball is now a ball in play and part of the game unless the non-offending side

Q: AC; Answer: No
Explanation: Law 20.1 states that if a ball first enters its hoop in order from the non-playing side, it must come to rest in a position entirely clear of the hoop, or in the jaws where it does not break the plane of the non-playing side, be-

Early booking offer

39
YEARS
EST. 1984

on 2024 river cruises

Rhine • Danube • Moselle • Main • Rhône • Douro • Seine • Saône • Dutch Waterways

Book early and SAVE 10% when you book a middle or upper deck on a classic European 2024 river cruise of 8 days or more

All river cruises include:

- Return regional travel from the UK
- Full board with exceptional cuisine
- All excursions
- A dedicated Riviera Travel cruise director and concierge
- Checked luggage

BOOK NOW
offer ends
28 February



To find out more, request a brochure or to book

01283 742304 | rivieratravel.co.uk/cqe

Quote-Croquet England

RIVIERA
TRAVEL

Forever Curious

Riviera Travel booking terms and conditions apply. ABTA V4744 ATOL 3430 protected. Images used in conjunction with Riviera Travel. *Offer period is between 30 November 2022 - 28 February 2023, and applies to new bookings made on 2024 classic European river cruises of 8 days or more, on all middle and upper deck cabins. See the website for full terms.



NEXT GENERATION

The Next Generation Team is dedicated to increasing the participation rates of young people playing croquet.

Six months ago, the CA appointed Hope Bourton as the Next Generation Development Officer (NGDO). Her main goal is to increase participation levels for under 25s playing croquet. The first six months have been busy for Hope with her focus on building connections with a range of people across the CA and external stakeholders such as the Youth Sport Trust, Sport England, and Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme. This has included creating a database of clubs interested in building their junior sections.

This leads to the plans that the Next Generation Team has made for 2023. The creation of the 'National Junior Croquet Club' makes it easy for clubs to get involved and create their junior section. The national club will provide equipment, guidance and session plans to clubs wanting to get involved with the programme. This will include a range of croquet-related activities to make it more inclusive and easier for children to participate. The main aim is to create an enjoyable time for children regardless of their ability or experience. We are planning for the 2023 'pilot' clubs to interact with their local primary and secondary schools. The aim is to engage

and enthuse these children and invite them and their family to the club for more focussed croquet activities. The Next Generation Team plans to make it as easy as possible for clubs to get involved and then consequently have as many juniors as possible involved in our sport!

The NGDO and her team will be available in 2023 to visit clubs to offer guidance and help with the introduction of junior programmes. If you have any further questions or want to get involved, email Hope at: NGDO@croquet.org.uk

Paul Francis, Chair of Sports Development Committee





WILL YOU WIN THE WAITING GAME?

As an Investment Trust that's been trusted for generations since 1888, we know a few things about long-term investing.

Our research shows that impulsive investors could be missing out on significant potential growth (we call this the 'Impatience Tax').

In comparison we found that patient investors could have benefitted from added growth (up to 141%) based on analysis of past performance. All the more reason to see patience as a value, not just a virtue.*

Find out how you too could win the waiting game.

alliancetrust.co.uk/patience



***The Profit from Patience Report, Alliance Trust, September 2022 alliancetrust.co.uk/patience**

When investing, your capital is at risk. The value of your investment may rise or fall as a result of market fluctuations and you might get back less than you invested. TWIM is the authorised Alternative Investment Fund Manager of Alliance Trust PLC. TWIM is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Alliance Trust PLC is listed on the London Stock Exchange and is registered in Scotland No SC1731. Registered office: River Court, 5 West Victoria Dock Road, Dundee DD1 3JT. Alliance Trust PLC is not authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and gives no financial or investment advice.



3RD WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION CROQUET WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP 7-14 JANUARY 2023

We have been so lucky this winter with the live-streaming of major events overseas. Having just watched the MacRobertson Shield from Australia in November, January saw us reaching for our tech to watch the Women's AC Worlds in Christchurch, New Zealand. I have written this report over the course of the event, and as I type this opening, I am getting ready to watch the final. England's representatives were Debbie Lines, Gabrielle Higgins, Beatrice McGlen, Sophie McGlen and Erica Malaiperuman. They were joined by Scotland's Lorna Dewar and Rosemary Saunders-Robertson and Ireland's Jane Morrison, Clair Whyms and Nicola Kelly.



Sophie McGlen in play

One of the joys of croquet is getting to know so many people around the world, so when I sent out a plea on day three of the event for a little information, I received the following from Sophie McGlen (Eng) with help from Rosemary Newsham (Aus) and Pip Rive (NZ).

"I'm writing on the first day of the championship knockout and start of the plate. The tournament got off to a rather wet start, however each venue found ways to entertain themselves before lunch. Cashmere played cards, St James had charades and flossing (the dance move not your teeth!) and United had indoor target practice using an ice cream tub! Fortunately, the following days have been dry with us avoiding the cyclone that has hit North Island.

The lawns have since sped back up and in conjunction with some firm and tight hoops it has made for some interactive and close games. Conditions were made harder by pitch invasion at St James, when three terriers caused play to stop while the referees herded them up, much to the players entertainment. Although personally disappointed that I didn't make the main knockout, congratulations go to Beatrice, Debbie, Gabrielle and Lorna who made it through.

The draw for the knockout took place on Tuesday evening with a bbq. A thoroughly good time was had by all, even if the bar did run out of red wine!"

The "best of three" knockout then started with the top 16 players from the four blocks. Beatrice lost to Miranda Chapman (now representing NZ) in the first round. Lorna won her first round match but then lost to Jenny Clarke in the quarter-finals.

The four top seeds successfully made their way through to the semi-finals – Jenny Clarke vs Debbie Lines and Alison Sharpe vs Gabrielle Higgins. The lawns and hoops were proving challenging, and close games were had in both halves. Gabrielle and Debbie dug deep and met each other in the final.

I refer back to the first paragraph, and a fairly sleepless night. Lawns mown and hoops moved to ensure the best and most challenging condition possible, and that is what it proved to be. There were moments of frustration (on both player and spectator part), and also of clarity and rhythm (on player's part). Debbie took the first game, and the players fairly quickly started their second. Debbie was the first with a ball to 4back, and as Gabrielle placed one of her clips also on 4back, they left the court chatting and smiling, on their way to lunch – midnight – time for bed for me. Then a restless night, with regular visits to the live-streaming every 1 to 2 hours. I was glad to see Gabrielle take the second game, pegging her own ball out as time expired, leaving Debbie needing to hit the lift shot and get a break going after time, which wasn't to be – always nice for us spectators to see a good challenging match.

6.30am was my final wake up – I'd missed the end of the last game, sadly, but was able to watch as the two of them smiled, chatted and discussed the game in the middle of the lawn. Big thanks to all of the live-streaming team, it takes a lot of manpower and time, and to Nelson Morrow and Peter Filbee who seemed to be doing a vast amount of the commentary.

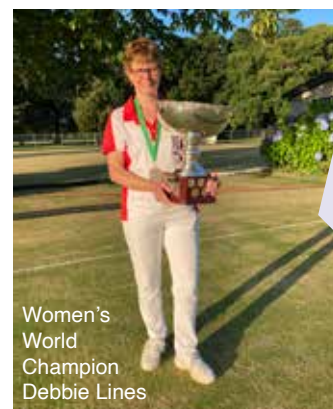
Congratulations to:

- DEBBIE LINES (Eng) Winner of the Women's Association Croquet World Championship 2023
- Bowl Winner Cindy Clarke (NZ)
- Shield Winner Miranda Chapman (NZ)
- Plate Winner Jacky Lynch (Aus)
- Consolation Prize Erica Malaiperuman (Eng)

Annabel J McDiarmid



England players



Women's World Champion Debbie Lines



Finalists Gabrielle Higgins and Debbie Lines

2022 MACROBERTSON SHIELD REPORT

The 2022 renewal of croquet's most prestigious event was an occasion that had everything. Tension, close matches, wind, rain, hail, sunshine, testing lawns and hoops, experienced players and debutants and a huge number of volunteers to help it all go ahead. There may be some who question whether three weeks off work is justifiable, but having just watched four teams battle it out over 15 playing days, this event remains the jewel in croquet's crown.

Before the event started, it promised to be the most exciting Mac of recent decades and so it proved. In the first Tests, NZ almost managed to defeat reigning champions Australia, going down by the narrowest of margins 11-10. Had Robert Fletcher not hit his lift when two breaks down in the decider against Jenny Clarke, it might have been a famous win for the Kiwis, but in truth, NZ had the better of a lot of close endings and the result was fair.

England got off to a slow start against the USA, but strong singles results eventually gave them a handy 16-5 win. Neither team played well, with Balding and Soo both struggling and Essick not shooting with his usual reliability. Meanwhile, Carter got off to a poor start and Death was looking totally out of sorts. Playing conditions were not easy, and some of the players took longer than they should to understand that basic break play and error reduction were the key factors, instead of chasing delayed triples.



Jenny Clarke (NZ)



A determined James Death

The second set of Tests saw winners play losers – a significant improvement on past formats, and one that maximises the chances of the event remaining “live” for as long as possible. Australia beat USA 14-7 in what was a closer match than the score suggests. Essick started to play better and Balding almost beat Dumergue, but lost the second by 1 after missing a roquet after rover, and then the third when USA were well in contention.

England got off to a good start against NZ, winning the first two days of doubles 2-1 to go 4-2 ahead. Losing day three's singles 1-5 was not part of the plan and despite winning the third set of doubles 2-1, they entered the final day 7-8 behind. NZ completed a 4-0 singles whitewash against the top two English players, Death and Fisher, but the English strength in depth came through as Avery and Carter both won. Westerby was finishing a triple to beat Burch, but broke down at rover allowing Jamie to win the match. At 10-10, Samir Patel was game down against Edmund Fordyce, and Edmund was on 1 and peg with a 15 yarder to have a good chance of a break to win. The shot was missed and from there, Samir played really well under huge pressure to see England to an 11-10 victory and set up a final against Australia.

Regrettably, at the end of the second Tests, Felix Webby tested positive for Covid, and Aaron Westerby joined him after day 1 of the USA Test, and played no further part in the event. This was a shame for both the Kiwis and the USA who missed out on playing what would have been competitive matches. In the wooden spoon match, NZ eventually prevailed 9-5, with Greg Bryant winning a 15 hour marathon against Jeff Soo, coming back from 1+box v penult+box in the decider.

The final was set up well by Australia optimising their first day doubles opponents and taking a 2-1 lead. England equalised 3-3 after day 2 and then won the singles 5-1 to take a big 8-4 lead into day 4. Avery and Burch had been England's superstars and made it 9/9 at doubles on day 4, becoming only the third pair to achieve this feat in a quadrangular series. By the end of the day, England had moved onto the brink of victory at 10-5.



Ian Dumergue in play whilst Australia Team Mates watch on

The last day was a nervy one. At some stages, there was plenty of green and gold on the lawn and the improbable looked possible, but the experience of Mark Avery was enough to see England to their first MacRobertson Shield in a dozen years. It was wonderful to see the emotion from some of the players who were playing in their third Mac without having experienced victory before.

It would be easy for me to highlight players who underperformed during the event, but for those of you who weren't there, there were extenuating circumstances with some of the most testing conditions you could experience. When you start poorly in any Mac, getting your game back together is difficult, but in this Mac, it was an even greater challenge. Therefore, I'm going to focus on what I thought were the standout performances of the event.

For America, after a poor start, Matt Essick produced some world class play in the final two Tests. At times, he might have pushed himself too hard and went for trickier lines of play than perhaps were optimal, but he was a Captain that you could believe in, and I look forward to him leading stronger teams into the event in future years.

For NZ, the two youngsters, Felix Webby and Edmund Fordyce were excellent. Felix looked comfortable on the lawn at all times and Edmund started well and just got better, with two triples in the final Test. It bodes well for the next event. Whilst it is clearly a personal judgement, I wanted to say how proud I was of Jenny becoming the first woman to play four Macs, and winning 8/15 singles games at number 2 was an amazing performance. Australia had two players who were clearly better, Mal and Robbie Fletcher. Mal had some big turns at key times and was always competitive, whilst Robbie had his best ever Mac. He was simply excellent, whether optimising leaves in his doubles

Robert Fletcher (AUS)



Jeff Soo (USA)



or playing brilliant pick-ups day in day out. England had strong performances from Mark Avery who finished on 14/15, only losing to a great performance from Aaron Westerby. It wasn't a flashy performance, with Mark struggling to peel, but it was efficient. Samir Patel played key turns under pressure to get his country over the line. Christian Carter started poorly and this makes his 10/15 even more creditable. Then there was Jamie Burch – the only player apart from Robert Fulford in 1996 to achieve 15/15 in a quadrangular series. He made triples look easier than most players, and seemed to take croquet every time he walked onto the lawn. I remember one game where he was pegged out and hit a 19 yard lift and then two consecutive 35 yarders to steal a game England desperately needed. Well played Jamie. But, the Mac is a team event and every member of the England team played their part and can be proud to have brought the Shield back. I think it is worth highlighting some of the things that England did well. Firstly, the move to play normal advanced

in all major events gave them the familiarity with the format that is so important. Playing the Open Doubles in their Mac pairings was also a step in the right direction and beating NZ 6-3 at doubles was a good result. Then there was the ongoing contribution from Keith Aiton, the England coach, and the multiple squad weekends that were held. Congratulations, not only to the England team, but the organisation within the CA who ensured past mistakes were not repeated and started to put new regimes in place. Finally, a massive thanks to the vast team of volunteers at the VCC at Cairnlea. The food was great thanks to Helena and Rosie, and the amount of work that has gone into the lawns, purely with volunteer effort was huge. I know Lester and Kevin are part of the team, but there were so many more, I won't try and list everyone. So, I look forward to the "Centennial" Mac, in England, whether it be in 2025 or 2026, I hope I'll be there.

Chris Clarke

PHOTOGRAPHS Samir Patel

ULTRA HOOPS ARE THE FUTURE



www.croquetassociationshop.org.uk

The Ultra Croquet Hoops are made from stainless steel with a natural width between the 16mm (0.63") wires of 93.3mm (3.67") giving a clearance of 1.2mm (just under 1/16"). It has 40mm (1.57") wide carrots tapering down over their 240mm (9.45") length. Being stainless steel there is no paint to chip off, no sandblasting and repainting required. The hoops are identifiable by the coloured tape on the crown: red, white, or blue. With longer carrots than many standard hoops, they should hold in the ground better making it harder to run with inaccurate shots. Set of 6 - blue topped, red topped, white topped: £600.00



CHEAM CROQUET AND BOWLS CLUB CELEBRATE 10TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY



Competition croquet limericks the club's story so far...
The Council came up with a scheme
To keep bowling surviving in Cheam.
To croquet it went
And with money well spent
Joint use of the lawn can be seen.



South East Croquet's involvement was needed,
And other clubs' members succeeded
In forming a hub,
To expand to a club
And pleas to join in were all heeded.



The result is, as we all know,
A club which continued to grow.
It's social and fun,
In rain and in sun,
And long may it live to be so.



And the club developed its resources
In the month of May on a celebratory day
Members gathered to watch the new system spray
The clouds suddenly burst
Well, that was a first!
As the rain washed the spray all away!

The clubhouse was looking so sad
we needed a much better pad.
A call then went out
And with helpers about
It improved and we are ever so glad.

Thankfully many members volunteer to help

Our group of mowers in Cheam
Are an incredible team
They mow week after week
Come sun, wind or sleet
So our lawn is an absolute dream

The secretary sat on the floor,
Surrounded by papers galore
Agendas to send
Minutes to append
Croquet is fine, but the admin's a bit of a chore

During the 10 years our play has also evolved...



My game has improved somewhat this year
And the reason is perfectly clear
I practise my shots
Get the ball on the spots
To score points 'cos the hoop is quite near



But it does not always go as we hoped

In theory I know how to play,
But too often I have a bad day.
With many a frown
When my head won't stay down
And my clearances all go astray

There once was a ball that was pink,
What colour might follow? Let's think.....
The green one was struck,
Oh no! What bad luck!
Did anyone notice, or blink?

However soon we wanted to compete

There was a young lady who was terribly keen
She played on our lawn which was very

green
She tried a jump shot
The last hoop she got
And now she is part of the dream team

The match was summarized to perfection,
Under Brian's descriptive direction.
With stop shots and jumps,
Clearances and shunts -
And canny wire shots that avoided detection.



Social activities are also part of the club

We've had fun days with cowboys and horses,
And the seaside stretched our resources
With ice cream and buckets,
And seaweed from Sussex
Which made clothes pegs and noses join forces.



Finally here we are....

Now 10 years old, Cheam CBC
Is still the "must do" place to be.
From social beginner
To expert star winner,
"You're welcome"'s our firm guarantee.



Members of the Cheam Croquet and Bowls Club

GC TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

SERIES COMPETITIONS

There are now more GC fixtures in the calendar than ever before, including a total of 85 Series tournaments across 5 tiers. The latest addition to the Series structure, the A-Level Series (0+), is now well established and its first Final was held last year, after being won on points accumulated throughout the season in its first year, as with the Open Series.

The Championship Series welcomes the Cheshire Open GC Championship at Bowdon in 2023, and some tournaments will be using a different format to the usual single-game blocks and instead having best-of-three matches all the way through. This is to provide more competitive matches between the top players and enable some to become more familiar with the format – top players are encouraged to enter the Championships at Bowdon, Sidmouth, Colchester and Ramsgate. Players who would like to play in the Championship Series Final, the English National Singles Championship (Ascot Cup), are reminded that they should make themselves available by 19 August 2023.*

In the hierarchy of the Series competitions, the Championship Series is followed by the Open Series (unrestricted), the A-Level Series (0+), the B-Level Series (3+) and the C-Level Series (7+), with the latter three all culminating in their own National Finals.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The premier Golf Croquet tournament, the GC Open Championship is getting stronger every year and it is hoped that this will continue. All good AC and GC players are encouraged to enter both the Open Singles and Doubles, which will be held 20-25 June 2023 at Sussex CCC. Also, the GC National Doubles Championship is moving north for 2023 and will be at Nottingham on 29-30 July.

The GC Women's Open Championship, being held at Budleigh on 2-4 June, is a great opportunity for female players to

compete against each other, and will be a good chance to do this ahead of the Women's World Championship at Sussex CCC on 7-13 August. A qualifier for the Women's Worlds is being held at Compton (Eastbourne) on 2-4 August.

The GC Under 25 Open Championship is to be held at Wrest Park on 5-6 August, and the GC Veterans' (Over 60) Championship will be at Sussex CCC on 18-20 July.

SELECTION EVENTS

Some of the international events that were in England in 2022 are being held elsewhere for 2023. The England v Spain Test Match will be held 24-26 March in Madrid, Spain, after the inaugural event was held in Seville in 2019. The GC Home Internationals* is going back to Ireland, to be held at Carrickmines on 10-11 June 2023.

The GC Eights will be on 26-28 August, and this year all held at separate venues, as the First Eight moves to Colchester, the Second Eight is at Ramsgate and Budleigh Salterton are hosting the Third Eight, which has been a success in its first 2 years, being won both times by players in their teens. Players are encouraged to make themselves available for these events, availability closes on 7 July 2023 and selections will be announced by 21 July.*

OTHER INDIVIDUAL COMPETITIONS

The GC All-England Handicap competition, which begins with a club round, followed by an area final stage, before culminating in a National Final, will be Advantage GC from 2023. For more details on the event and how to submit entries, see the 'All-England' page via the 'CA Events' page on the CA website.

Clubs are encouraged to recommend to their GC players with a handicap of 8 or over the GC Grass Roots Competition. It is an excellent competition, which starts with a preliminary round organised by clubs, followed by a National Final at Hunstanton on Sunday 24 September 2023. It is a great way for higher handicappers to play some competitive games with players

Championship Series		Open Series		A-Level Series		B-Level Series		C-Level Series	
Tournament	Date	Tournament	Date	Tournament	Date	Tournament	Date	Tournament	Date
Sidmouth	22-23 April	Cheltenham	15-16 April	Wrest Park	22-23 April	Budleigh Salterton	15 April	Budleigh Salterton	16 April
East Anglia (Colchester)	07-08 May	Surbiton	29-30 April	Bury	13-14 May	Sussex County	30 April	Phyllis Court	26 April
Cheltenham	27-28 May	Hunstanton	13-14 May	Phyllis Court / High Wycombe	20-21 May	Watford	01 May	Watford	28 April
Wrest Park	03-04 June	Pendle	10-11 June	Hamptworth	27-28 May	Cameron & Peasedown	02 May	Sussex County	30 April
Ramsgate	17-18 June	Woking	12-13 June	Sidmouth	03-04 June	Ryde	10 May	Ryde	11 May
Cheshire (Bowdon)	08-09 July	Roehampton	17-18 June	Crake Valley	17-18 June	Pendle	13 May	Wrest Park	24 May
Nottingham	22-23 July	Ashby	01-02 July	Woking	17-18 June	Wrest Park	17 May	Peterborough	30 May
Hunstanton	12-13 Aug	Ryde	05-06 July	Watford (NEW)	01-02 July	East Dorset	20-21 May	Cameron & Peasedown	13 June
FINAL at Ramsgate	16-17 Sep	Sidmouth	08-09 July	Hunstanton	15-16 July	Woking	14 June	Faling	14 June
		Hamptworth	15-16 July	Ashby	22-23 July	Faling	15 June	Crake Valley	15 June
		East Dorset	22-23 July	Colchester	22-23 July	Crake Valley	16 June	Woking	15 June
		Budleigh Salterton	05-06 Aug	Pendle	29-30 July	Colchester	18 June	Colchester	24 June
		Watford (NEW)	02-03 Sep	Chester	05-06 Aug	Hunstanton	24 June	Guildford	24 June
		Sussex	09-10 Sep	East Dorset	05-06 Aug	Hamptworth	24-25 June	Hunstanton	25 June
				Guildford & Godalming	18-19 Aug	Cheltenham (NEW)	28 June	Swindon	30 June
				FINAL at East Dorset	23-24 Sep	Bury	01 July	Compton (NEW)	09 July
						Bath	06 July	Cheltenham	12 July
						Compton	08 July	Bury	19 July
						Nottingham	12 July	Bath	27 July
						Phyllis Court / Blewbury	22-23 July	Broadwas	03 Aug
						Broadwas	02 Aug	Ashby	11 Aug
						Guildford	05 Aug	Hamptworth	12 Aug
						Ashby	12 Aug	Sidmouth (NEW)	12 Aug
						Sidmouth	13 Aug	FINAL at Guildford	16-17 Sep
						Nailsea	15 Aug		
						FINAL at Compton	02-03 Sep		

from other clubs. More details on the competition and how to submit entries can be found on the 'GC Grass Roots' page via the 'CA Events' page on the website.

TEAM COMPETITIONS

The GC Inter-Counties will be held 19-20 August, and the two divisions will remain at their current venues for 2023 – Division 1 at Cheltenham and Division 2 at Sussex CCC – before swapping back in 2024. Division 1 will comprise 12 teams and there are currently 6 teams in Division 2. County Organisers are reminded that teams must be entered on the CA website by 13 March and payment received by 2 July.

For the GC Inter-Club Championship, GC Murphy Inter-Club Shield and GC Federations Shield, clubs are reminded to submit their entries by 6 March 2023. The draws will be published on or before 13 March. The Federations Shield will remain a Handicap (Extra Stroke) competition for 2023, as qualification was during the 2022 season, but will be played using Advantage GC from 2024.

ENJOY YOUR CROQUET

The GC programme is quite packed, but we are confident that these events will satisfy the increasing demand for high quality, competitive croquet and provide additional opportunities for the growing number of GC players at all levels. There are lots of

tournaments and competitions to look forward to in 2023.

Richard Bilton

Chair, GC Tournament Committee

**Players wishing to make themselves available for 'selection' events should do so via the 'Availability' page in the 'Members' area of the CA website.*

WHO TO CONTACT

- Richard Bilton – Open Singles Championship, Open Doubles Championship, U25 Open Championship, GC Eights.
- Jonathan Powe – Championship Series, National Doubles Championship, Inter-Counties, Inter-Club Championship, Inter-Club Murphy Shield, Home Internationals, England vs Spain match.
- Chris Roberts – Open Series, A-Level Series, B-Level Series, C-Level Series.
- Frances Colman – Women's Open Championship, Inter-Club Federations Shield.
- Andrea Huxley – Veteran's Championship, All-England Handicap.
- Louise Smith – Grass Roots Competition.

MIKE HILLS WINS GC A-LEVEL (0+) (NATIONAL SERIES) FINAL

Wrest Park hosted the Final of the A-Level Series, the first occasion on which it was contested on a Blocks and Knockout basis rather than by an accumulation of points throughout the season.

Manager Les Heard welcomed 16 players representing clubs from almost every Federation area on a bright and sunny morning spoilt by a rather chilly wind. In Block A, top seed Stephen Custance-Baker (Taunton Deane) had a rare poor day and it was left to David Frost (Enfield) and Marc Colson (Budleigh Salterton) to lead the group with 5 wins apiece. The two remaining qualifiers were Andrew Loakes (Camerton & Peasedown) and Duncan Brinkley (Unity) with 4 wins each. An unlucky Thomas Halliday (Enfield) also had 4 wins but missed out on countback by a single hoop.

Block B was more straightforward with both Glynis Davies (Northampton) and Ross Bagni (Leighton Linlade) achieving 6 wins each followed by Mike Hills (Northampton) and David Cornes (Crake Valley) with 4 wins each.

Sunday dawned fine with a gentle breeze for the best of three games Quarter-Finals. Glynis beat Duncan and David Cornes beat David Frost in two straight games, but the remaining matches went to 3 closely contested games with Andrew beating Ross and Mike beating Marc.

The Semi-Finals featured an all-Northampton clash between Mike and Glynis with Mike emerging as the winner. David accounted for Andrew in 2 games. The Final produced a treat for spectators as both Mike and David found their best form. David won the first game 7-6 and came back from 2-5 down in the second game before Mike prevailed at the golden hoop. The deciding game was nip and tuck throughout and the golden hoop was inevitable. Mike Hills ran it from a narrow angle to claim the trophy. In the meantime, Stephen Custance-Baker rallied to win the Plate by beating all his 7 opponents.

Quiller Barrett, the CA President soon to stand down after 13 years of great service, kindly presented the trophy and prizes. He thanked the Wrest Park Club, the manager and

the members who had helped to stage and cater for the tournament and he congratulated the players for coming from far and wide to take part. Finally, Les Heard appreciated the help of Robert Archer as scorer and Sandra Cornes for logging the scores on croquetcores.com on which all the detailed results can be found.

Richard Keighley





CHILTERN ACADEMY COURSES

The Chiltern Academy is preparing to follow a very successful 2022 season with a more ambitious programme for the Spring of 2023.

We have planned over twenty courses, across the AC/SC/GC codes and range of handicap levels (see adjacent table), including the highly regarded Swing Clinics with the Doctor.

In addition to courses designed to improve player performance, there are opportunities to train as a coach, an AC Referee, (both with Cliff Jones), a GC Referee and a Club-Level Tournament Manager.

This year we are also running a GC Masterclass with Stephen Mulliner. While the Chiltern Academy is based at High Wycombe Croquet Club, the number of venues for our courses has been extended, broadening the Academy's geographic reach.

Bookings can be made via the CA website's Fixtures Calendar, or by contacting the Course Secretary listed in the Fixtures Calendar for the Course.

Day	Date	Courses	Venue*	Ideal Handicaps	Course Leader	Cost**
Sat	14/1/23	Introduction to Club-Level Tournament Management Course	Phyllis Court	NA	Chris Roberts	£30
Sat/Sun	11-12/3/23	Becoming a GC Referee Weekend Course	Eynsham	NA	Ian Shore	£25
Sat/Sun/Mon	18-20/3/23	Becoming an AC Referee Course	High Wycombe	NA	Cliff Jones	£25
Fri	24/3/23	GC Referee Refresher - Afternoon Seminar	High Wycombe	NA	Ian Cobbold	£10
Sat/Sun	25-26/3/23	Becoming a Coach Weekend Course (CTC/CQC)	High Wycombe	NA	Cliff Jones	£25
Wed	29/3/23	Swing Training for Coaches Morning	High Wycombe	NA	Raouf Allim	£10
Fri	31/3/23	GC - Sound Foundations Course	Eynsham	10+	TBC	£30
Sat	1/4/23	Swing Clinic with the Doctor!	High Wycombe	NA	Raouf Allim	£25
Sun	2/4/23	Improving Your Game for GC C-Level (H'caps 7+) Players Course	Watford	7+	Ian Shore	£40
Tue	4/4/23	GC Masterclass with Stephen Mulliner	High Wycombe	-2 to 2	Stephen Mulliner	£50
Sat	15/4/23	Building Better Breaks: A Course for AC Improvers (H'caps 11 to 18)	Ealing	11 to 18	Tony Elliott	£40
Sat	22/4/23	Improving Your Game for GC C-Level (H'caps 7+) Players Course	High Wycombe	7+	Ian Shore	£40
Tue	25/4/23	Honing Your Competitive Edge: Afternoon Course	High Wycombe	8-	Ian Shore	£25
Sun	30/4/23	GC - Sound Foundations Course	Eynsham	10+	TBC	£30
Thu	04 & 11/05/23	Becoming a GC Referee Course	(Roehampton)	NA	Ian Shore	£25
Tue	9/5/23	Swing Clinic with the Doctor!	High Wycombe	NA	Raouf Allim	£25
Mon	15/5/23	Improving Your Game for GC B-Level (H'caps 3+) Players Course	Hamptworth	5 to 8	Ian Shore	£40
Tue	16/5/23	AC - Working Towards a 12-hoop Break Course (H'caps 8 to 14)	High Wycombe	8 to 16	Raouf Allim	£40
Tue	23/5/23	Introduction to Short Croquet Course	High Wycombe	NA	TBD	£30
Sat	27/5/23	GC - Sound Foundations Course	High Wycombe	10+	Ian Shore	£30
Wed/Thu	8-9/6/23	Becoming a GC Referee Course	Peterborough	NA	Ian Shore	£40
Sun/Mon	30-31/7/23	Becoming a GC Referee Course (sponsored by WCF)	Cheltenham	Any	Ian Shore	£25

* Generally bookings are made via CA's Fixtures Calendar, unless course venue is identified with parentheses, in which case the course is for members of that club, who will manage all bookings.

** For coaching and refereeing courses, course fees have been reduced by subsidies, granted by the CA, of £25 per participant.

All bookings via CA website Fixtures Calendar

Contact: Ian Shore - manager@chilterncroquetacademy.org 01494 718615; 07783322549

v1.5



NORTHERN ACADEMY COURSES

The seventh Northern Academy season features several new courses to meet demand, together with others that have proved particularly successful and popular. The Academy is at York, close to the station and excellent rail connections to most parts of the country. Why not get your season underway by combining a croquet course with a visit to one of the country's top tourist cities?

New this year for AC players are three courses appealing to different levels of experience and handicap: 'Break building with bisques' for those in the earlier

stages of their croquet journey, 'Strokes and strategy for developing AC players', and, for players looking to move towards Advanced Rules croquet, 'Move your AC to the next level'.

GC players are well catered for with the ever-popular 'Classic GC skills and tactics' and 'GC skills and tactics in practice', and, for those looking to advance their game, the new 'Strokes and strategy for developing GC players'.

Meanwhile, courses of interest to both codes include the highly-regarded 'Back to Basics' on getting core technique right, and One-to-One coaching with Cliff Jones

on any aspect of technique, mindset or tactics.

There is also a one-day course to introduce GC players to the delights of Short Croquet. This also offers clubs a ready-made model to introduce this accessible and enjoyable form of AC to their members.

For aspiring coaches, both AC and GC, there is an updated Club-Level Coach training course, and, for aspiring GC Referees, a two-day course leading to a formal CA qualification. In both cases subsidies of £25, funded by the CA, are available for qualifying applicants.

SOUTHWICK ACADEMY COURSES



The Croquet Academy launches its 2023 Coaching programme. Players wishing to book onto any courses can do so via the Croquet Academy Website www.thecroquetacademy.com

Highlights of the 2023 programme are:

- A new Modular Short Croquet course run over 4 sessions in the autumn and spring of 23/24 following the success of the 2022 series.
- A comprehensive series of AC courses covering players of all abilities including Cliff Jones's Triple Peel course.
- A comprehensive set of GC courses covering players of all abilities with a choice of three venues: Southwick, Guildford and Tunbridge Wells.
- A special one day course and seminar "Golf Croquet Mistakes (and how to avoid them)", presented by Stephen Custance-Baker. This informative day is based on his book of the same title. Signed copies of his book will be available for sale at the end of the course.
- Following our first trial of an on-demand modular course, we are delighted that Rich Waterman, the CA's Director of Coaching, is offering an enhanced series of on-demand modules as well as 3 live Zoom sessions during the year. Entitled "Mindset Mastery". Rich is an expert in his field and this course will be available worldwide, giving you the opportunity to improve your mindset and share experiences with a worldwide croquet community.

Day	Date	Course	Venue	Ideal Handicap	Course Leader	Cost
GC Courses						
Fri	14th April	Understanding GC Rules	Southwick	n/a	Richard Carline	£20
Mon	17th April	Up your Game C to B level	Guildford	7+	Richard Carline	£40
Tues	18th April	Up your Game C to B level	Southwick	7+	Richard Carline	£40
Thurs/Fri	20/21st April	GC Referees Qualification Course	Southwick	n/a	Ian Cobbold	£40*
Sat	22nd April	Up your Game B to A level	Southwick	3+	Daphne Gaitley	£40
Thurs	27th April	Up your Game C to B level	Tunbridge Wells	7+	Richard Carline	£40
Tues	2nd May	GC Beginners Course	Southwick	n/a	Daphne Gaitley	£40
wed	3rd May	GC Beginners Course	Guildford	n/a	Daphne Gaitley	£40
Thurs	4th May	GC Beginners Course	Tunbridge Wells	n/a	Daphne Gaitley	£40
Tues	6th June	GC Workshop	Southwick	3 to 10	Richard Carline	£40
Wed	14th June	GC Workshop	Guildford	3 to 10	Richard Carline	£40
Thurs	15th June	GC Workshop	Tunbridge Wells	3 to 10	Richard Carline	£40
Mon	26th June	GC Mistakes and how to avoid them	Southwick	5 or less	Stephen Custance-Baker	£50
AC Courses						
Wed	12th Apr	Short Croquet follow up Course	Southwick	n/a	Frances Low	£40
Tues/Wed	25/26th April	Introduction and development in advanced play	Southwick	5 to 12	Nigel Polhill	£75
Wed	26th April	Its all about the break	Southwick	10 to 16	Clive Hayton	£40
Fri-Sun	12/13/14 May	Triple Peel Course	Southwick	4 or less	Cliff Jones	£95
	Start October	4 part modular Short Croquet Beginners Course	Southwick	n/a	Frances Low	£50
	Start October	4 part modular Improvers Course using full sized courts	Southwick	16+	Jonathan isaacs	£50
Other Courses						
	Starts March	Modular Develop Mindset Mastery Course	On line	n/a	Rich Waterman	£60
Tues/Wed	14/15th March	Coaches Training & Qualification Course	Southwick		Daphne Gaitley Janet Hoptroff	£40*
	On demand	One to one coaching sessions			Academy Coach	£25 per hour

* For coaches and referees qualification courses the figure quoted is net of a subsidy by the Croquet Association. In addition further subsidies may be available from your Federation. For details ask your Federation Coaching Officer.

All bookings should be made via The Croquet Academy website www.thecroquetacademy.com. See the Academy website for further details and contact details if you wish to discuss your personal situation.

- We need more coaches and referees. In 2023 we will be offering a subsidised Coaches Qualification Course as well as a GC Referees Qualification Course.

Fuller details of courses can be found on the Academy website and by contacting the Academy Secretary, whose details you will find on the Academy website.

Most courses filled quickly last year and application levels for all 2023 courses are already high. Booking is open now and early booking is advised.

To discuss a course in more detail, check availability or book, please contact the Northern Academy Course Secretary Debbie James at northerncroquetacademy@gmail.com or 07772 778232.

John Harris

Dates 2023	Course	Course Leader	Cost
Sun 16 April	AC Power up your coaching skills!	Roger Staples	£35
Tues 18 April	AC/GC One-to-One coaching with Cliff Jones	Cliff Jones	POA
Wed-Thur 19-20 April	GC Become a qualified GC Referee	Cliff Jones	£65*
Wed-Thur 19-20 April	GC So you think you know the Rules of GC?	Cliff Jones	£30
Sat 22 April	GC Strokes and strategy for developing GC players	Cliff Jones	£35
Sun 23 April	AC Strokes and strategy for developing AC players	Cliff Jones	£35
Weds 10 May	AC/GC Back to basics	Alan Locket	£35
Sat 13 May	GC Classic Golf Croquet skills and tactics	John Crossland	£35
Sun 14 May	GC Golf Croquet skills and tactics in practice	John Crossland	£35
Weds 17 May	AC Move your AC to the next level	Mary Knapp	£35
Sat-Sun 20-21 May	AC/GC Become a CA Club-Level Coach	James Hawkins	£65*
Tues 23 May	AC Break building with bisques	John Harris	£35
Tues 13 June	GC/AC Learn Short Croquet in one day	John Harris	£35

* Subsidies may be available for these courses from the CA. Some Federations may be able to offer additional support.



EDITORS PICKS FROM 2022

We are fast approaching the new croquet year, for many this will begin in just a couple of months time. The fixtures calendar will be going live at the beginning of February and players from all over will be planning and booking the season ahead. It won't be long before the reports of championship tournaments come flooding in to fill our pages, but at this moment, let us look back at some of the highlights from 2022.

These 'Editors picks' from last season are some of our favourites, unashamedly pinched from various club facebook pages to share with you all.

CHARITY ONE BALL 2022

4th April 2022

With this year's Charity One-Ball competition well underway, Surbiton held its heat on 3rd April. In parallel we also hosted a 'Champion of Champions' event, exclusive to people who had won previous national finals. This was won by Michael Broadway (2020 winner, from Enfield). This year's charity is MIND, the mental health charity, and players in heats are invited to "wear something blue" - the house colour for the charity.



Sara Anderson wearing something blue



PHOTOGRAPH David Brydon: English Weightlifters at Nottingham CC

WEIGHTLIFTERS MEET THEIR MALLETS

24th July 2022

A visit to the club on Friday by English weightlifters on a break from their practice sessions in Nottingham, and before travelling to Birmingham for the Commonwealth Games. They had a great time and posed afterwards.



Fettling at Fylde

FETTLING AT FYLDE

19th August 2022

Perfect day for some "fettling". Thank you especially to Ezra who has now passed level 4 "wheelbarrow skills", level two "trimming" and has earned his City & Guilds in collecting drink orders.



PHOTOGRAPH Ian Shore: Coach Carter Conducting

COACH CARTER CONDUCTING

22nd March 2022

Fab photo of Coach Ron Carter conducting the orchestra at the 2 day coaching course run by the Chiltern Coaching Academy with Tony Elliot and Stephen Harbon making up the coaching trio.

Big thanks to Simon Turner for setting up all the lawns, and Tom, Wendy, Janie and Lindy for all your fabulous help! Thanks also to @beannscone for being on hand to feed the coaching team and more.

24 HOURS OF DULWICH CROQUET

11th July 2022

Well we did it...

Hot, tired and very grateful to all our amazing supporters all round...

Pete & Guy played croquet for 24 hours non stop to raise money for Parkinson's UK. Parkinson's will impact us all

24 Hours of Dulwich Croquet



in our lifetimes and sport/exercise is considered to be as important as medication in helping the fight against this disease.

They started at noon and played with many different partners from all around. They raised a huge £4,945.

STYLE IN HUNSTANTON

28th August 2022

Croquet players have style!



Cliff Jones at Hunstanton



Karen Davidson Perrins at Hunstanton



As the worst of winter is behind us, it's time to look ahead to Spring and how to get the croquet lawn back into the best possible condition ready for the playing season.

An easy task to check off your list is getting your cylinder mower serviced and cutting height adjusted so it is nice and sharp before the peak of the Spring growing and playing season.

Hopefully you have been keeping on top of tasks such as dew brushing and worm cast removal. Continue with this as and when required to keep disease to a minimum.

If ground conditions are not too wet or frozen, an early spike or pencil tine aeration can help relieve any compaction that has built up over winter and continue to aid surface drainage to reduce risk of waterlogging. Alternatively, you could engage the services of a specialist company like Lawntech to conduct slice/slit aeration, which uses narrow



rotating blades to relieve compaction and root-prunes the grass plant to aid root development with minimal surface disruption.

You may have chosen to apply an appropriate low nitrogen, high iron winter fertiliser to keep the green ticking over and keep moss at bay. If not, then by the end of February you may be starting to notice a drop in colour as the turf starts to wake up and finds there's very little nitrogen left to feed on. If no winter feeding has been done, then once conditions turn mild you can consider applying your Spring feed early in March to start improving any yellowing and return the lawn to a

healthy, green state.

Once temperatures start warming up in March is where the real work begins! If you are based in the South and would like some expert assistance in maintaining the health of your croquet lawns, why not contact Lawntech? Our specially developed sports turf programme has been tailored to the rigours and requirements of fine sports turf to ensure not only an attractive appearance, but also that the surface and structure plays beautifully for the user.



www.lawn-tech.co.uk

HANDICAP COMMITTEE **CHRIS ROBERTS**

CA Handicapper Appointments

The CA Handicap Committee were pleased to approve the following appointments to the top

CA Handicapper Grade during the past season:

CA Handicapper (AC)

Tim Russell

CA Handicapper (GC)

David Crawford, Derek Johnson, Tim Russell

The following members were similarly appointed in November and December.

CA Handicapper (AC)

Eugene Chang, Omied Hallam, Joe King

CA Handicapper (GC)

Richard Bilton, David Cornes

MOST IMPROVED PLAYER AWARDS 2022

The CA Handicap Committee were pleased to announce the winners of the Most Improved Player Awards 2022 in November, and congratulations to them all.

GC Female (The Colman Trophy) - Winner - PATRICIA MULCAHY
Also nominated - Sandra Cornes, Debbie Lines, Diana Wilson.

GC Male (The Spiers Trophy) - Winner - SAM CUTHBERT
Also nominated - Marc Colson, Stephen Custance-Baker, Thomas Halliday, Nigel Matthews, Giles Pepperell and Martyn Seal.

AC Male (The Apps Memorial Bowl) - Winner - ASTON WADE
Also nominated - Neil Adams, Guy Hewitt, David Fuller and Nigel Matthews.

AC Female (The Steel Memorial Bowl) - Winner - LORNA DEWAR
Lorna has by far the largest Ranking Grade increase of any female player in the world.

The winners are presented with their trophies at a time and location of their own choosing and some of these presentations have already taken place, whilst others are awaiting a suitable occasion.

PHOTOGRAPHS Chris Roberts *Clockwise from top left:* Lorna Dewar, Patricia Mulcahy, Sam Cuthbert and Aston Wade



The CA Handicapper grade is the top rung of the Handicapper appointments below the Handicap Committee. Below this grade sit Federation Handicappers, who are appointed by each of the nine Federations. And below them, sit Club Handicappers, similarly appointed by individual clubs.

ALL Clubs should have a Club Handicapper

The aim of all handicapping is to strive to uniform standards across the domain. To this end, ALL CLUBS should have in place an appointed CLUB HANDICAPPER (or perhaps one each for AC and GC) and ideally list that appointment under the Club's details on the CA website. The situation is improving year on year, but there are still a number of clubs with no Club Handicapper identified, and we ask that this be actioned by those clubs please.

Helpful Handicapping Video presentation

Your Federation Handicapper and the CA Handicap Committee will be very pleased to help you in this and other handicapping matters, and once again strongly recommend the viewing of 'The Challenge of Handicapping' video presentation (30 minutes) made by Committee member Brian Fisk, via this navigation: CA Website Home > Play > Handicapping . . . or on-line readers can use this link: <https://www.croquet.org.uk/?p=games/handicapping> or go directly to You Tube here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3pXni-78HKA>

March Club Webinar to feature Handicapping

The CA hosts regular monthly Club Webinars on the last Wednesday evening of each month (see Paul Francis' article and Zoom links on page 5). The 29 March edition sees Brian Fisk in the chair to further develop club's and player's understanding of handicapping and will be good viewing for all members.

A Change to the method of deriving a GC handicap from a ranking DGrade

This only affects the following two categories of GC player:

Minus Players

As there is now a strong correlation between the lowest handicaps and their ranking Dynamic Grade, minus players (i.e. those with handicaps below zero) who play fewer than 10 GC handicap singles games in a year are allowed to not keep a handicap card if they so wish, but instead use their current Dynamic Grade to derive a current handicap at any time. They should do this by finding the handicap whose trigger point is the first one BELOW that value.

For example, a player with a DG of 2217 would have a handicap of -2, 2200 being the first trigger point below 2217.

Overseas Players playing in the UK

Some croquet-playing countries do not have a handicap system, or have one that is different in range to that used in the UK. However, most visiting players will have a ranking Dynamic Grade.

The method for deriving handicaps for these players is the same as described in the section Minus Players - use their current Dynamic Grade to derive a current handicap at any time. They should do this by finding the handicap whose trigger point is the first one BELOW that value. For example, a player with a DG of 1917 would have a handicap of 1, 1900 being the first trigger point below 1917.

Why the change?

The Handicap Committee, in connection with the GC Rankings Officer, considered that the former arrangement of looking to the trigger point above a player's current DGrade in order to derive a handicap was unsound, because that player may well never have attained that lofty position previously.

Whereas, a player has with certainty passed the value of the trigger below their current DGrade, and therefore, looking to that point is a more accurate reflection of their current form and consequent handicap value.

Minus players who derive their handicap from their current DGrade may well need to amend their handicap displayed on the CA website accordingly, and are requested to please action this and keep it up to date.

Chris Roberts

CA Handicap Committee Chairman
info@kickphoto.co.uk

MARKETING COMMITTEE

New Year, New Website

On 1st February our new website went live: croquetengland.org.uk. This is a public facing site aimed at drawing more people into our sport. Behind the engaging new pages, quick links will take users back to the traditional site where the membership database, tournament entry system and other functionality will continue to run as before. The shop has also been migrated onto the new site, providing a better user experience and greatly increasing options to market croquet and our products to a wider audience. We are hugely appreciative of the team of volunteers who have worked so hard behind the scenes to ensure the smooth transition to this new public friendly site.



Flying the flag for Yorkshire



Team Somerset: Winners of Division 2

National Croquet Week 2023

National Croquet Week 2023 is set for the week beginning 20th May. Once more we are partnering with the British Heart Foundation, adding a charity aspect to the week and the opportunity to involve local BHF volunteers in our activities. The week culminates in the Association Croquet Inter-Counties tournament on the south coast and in the build up to that we will be nationally calling on the public to back a county. Each county will have a separate Facebook page which will carry messages and info from the team, but also details of events going on in and around the respective counties. This model will enable a second big shout out to pull in the public around the Golf Croquet Inter-Counties too. Materials for use in the week are under preparation

and will soon be available to download/order from the office.

Remember, 2023 will also see the start of our new Garden Croquet Membership to hopefully draw more casual players into the central fold. This new form of membership will be part of the national publicity mix.

The marketing team will be doing a lot of behind the scenes work to ensure a big splash for croquet across England ahead of the week, but we need all of you and our clubs to also get involved, arrange events to welcome the public, play on the inter county rivalry, like the War of the Roses; each county has its own nemesis county, now is the time to use that to our advantage.

If your county is not competing then it makes a great call for new players to come forward, so that in future years you too can compete at the top table and put your neighbours to the metaphorical sword.

Please, when arranging activities, make sure you post details through to communications@croquet.org.uk that way we can ensure a central register of activity to share publicly and with our charity partner, hopefully enhancing public engagement in planned activities. Also make sure events and news are tagged to respective County Facebook pages.

The week will also see the official launch of the new branding, Croquet England, with events being planned across the country and with the media to give the week a really strong profile boost. More details to follow in future communications.

Paul Hetherington
CA Marketing Director



James Death in play



Team colours from Wiltshire

PHOTOGRAPHS Samir Patel

Duncan Hector Turf Care

My personal service: I advise clubs on all aspects of lawn maintenance. My fertilisers work biologically to break down thatch and eliminate the need to scarify. As used on over 100 croquet lawns in the UK. Superb lawns to national standard.

Fertiliser Programmes £450

Quick, Easy and Effective.
The cost is about £450 per lawn per year.

Irrigation Systems £4500

Designed for easy DIY with my guidance.
Free use of trenching machine.
Guide prices 1 - £4.5k 2 - £7.5k 3 - £8.5k 4 - £9.5k

Brilliant 24" Mowers £3119

The cut quality is equal to a £7000 mower.
14 blades 207 cuts per metre - trailing seat £210.

Atco 24" Mowers £1350

Reconditioned, with new engine and bed knife.
76 cuts per metre - trailing seat £210.

Sprayers £644

Pull by hand, ride-on mower or lawn tractor.
4 yard spray width, treats one lawn in 10-12 minutes.

Lots of info and advice on my website
www.duncanhectorturfcare.co.uk

Email: duncan@duncanhectorturfcare.co.uk

Call me 01328 700 537 or 07710 601584

Online Lawn Care Shop - Credit given



Croquet Player
Turf Specialist



Website Update: Apparently, 60% of people use phones for browsing. This led to a rebuild of my website making it phone friendly and easier to use. It has fifty pages and includes everything you need to know about croquet lawn maintenance. You can order a bag of iron or a complete annual programme for a multi-lawn club. It is quick and easy and you don't have to pay until the items are delivered. If you make a mistake with the order, it doesn't matter, you can just let me know. The products that I supply are good value and actually work. They have been thoroughly tested on my own croquet lawn and dozens of others across the country. These products are listed in my online shop. Order now and pay after delivery.

Fertiliser Prices: Prices have been stable for the last few months but nobody knows what will happen in Spring when demand is traditionally high. This is thanks to the Russia/Ukraine conflict. But it might be a good idea to order early before the seasonal rush. I took delivery of products for the Great Dunham Croquet Club in December.

Moss and fungal diseases: Now is the time to apply Soluble Iron to croquet lawns. I reduced the application rate to 2.5kg per lawn after a lot of testing. This means that treatment only costs about £5 per lawn.

Worm Casts: Vermicides are no longer legal so alternative methods of control have evolved. The idea is to make the environment unpleasant for worms. One way of doing this is to increase the acidity of the soil but that can be damaging to grass. I recommend the use of soil conditioner as featured on my website. It has become quite expensive so spot treatment is often the best method.

I Duncan Hector

MC Percival Mallets



Aluminium head mallets made from high grade aluminium & fitted with long lasting Tufnol end caps which can be easily replaced if damaged.

The heads are anodised (hardened) and will be available in natural and black.

They have been thoroughly tested and provide an accurate, reliable, peripherally weighted mallet.

These heads can be fitted with any of the carbon fibre shafts and are available in 10" and 11" head lengths and a base weight of 2 lbs 15 ozs (1332 g) adjustable from (1280 g to 1370 g).

Michael Percival 07780 677943
michael@croquetmallets.co.uk



Our retirement villages are home to people who really value their peace of mind... people who moved safely during lockdown, to enjoy a closer kind of community, with more reassurance for them and their family.

In line with government guidance you can still make the move during lockdown.

Visit safely. Complete swiftly. Move securely.

Buy or rent an Inspired property, get in touch today! Call **0808 301 9887** or visit inspiredvillages.co.uk

Inspired Villages
The best years of your life!

Design, Deliver, Maintain



JUBILEE
SEEDS & TURF



Agrostis
SPORTS SURFACE CONSULTING



01531 825 299 | sales@jubileeseeds.co.uk | jubileeseeds.co.uk

01359 259 361 | info@agrostis.co.uk | agrostis.co.uk

THE COACHING PAGES **JOHN HARRIS**

NEW COACHING SUCCESS

Congratulations to Sarah Patton, Guildford and Godalming CC. She has attended a coach training course at Southwick, has completed all stages of the assessment process, and is now formally accredited as a Club-Level Coach. If you are considering becoming a coach, now is the time to sign up for a Coach Training course. Each of the Academies is running one near the start of the new season – but don't delay. These courses fill quickly and some will already be fully subscribed.

MERIT AWARDS

The final part of the 2022 season proved to be a productive time for players gaining Merit Awards in both AC and GC.

Congratulations to the following:

ASSOCIATION CROQUET - BRONZE MERIT AWARD

Lynn Pearcy	Roehampton End-of-Season Hcp
Anne Alvey	Longman Cup
Minty Clinch	Daniels Cup, Cheltenham

ASSOCIATION CROQUET - SILVER MERIT AWARD

Chris Alvey	Longman Cup
Noel Harris	Daniels Cup, Cheltenham

GOLF CROQUET - BRONZE MERIT AWARD

Philip Tremble	Hamptworth GC C-Level
----------------	-----------------------

GOLF CROQUET - SILVER MERIT AWARD

Marc Colson	Budleigh GC B-Level
-------------	---------------------

GOLF CROQUET - GOLD MERIT AWARD

Sam Cuthbert	Suzanne Roberts Memorial
Mike Hills	A-Level National Final

GOLF CROQUET - PLATINUM MERIT AWARD

Lionel Tibble	Kate Jones Memorial
Aston Wade	Ricki Savage Memorial

Do you qualify for a Merit Award? Then claim it! You can download a claim form covering both AC and GC Merit Awards from the CA website. The site also gives full details of the standard to be reached at each level.

Liz Wilson Coach of the Year 2022

Congratulations to Liz Wilson, Fylde CC, who is the new Coach of the Year 2022. Liz is a Grade 1 coach who has been actively involved for many years in promoting croquet, introducing newcomers to the game, coaching those in the earlier stages of their croquet journey, and enthusiastically supporting more experienced players to continue to improve.

Most recently, in addition to coaching GC, Liz has put together and implemented a structured approach to AC coaching, with taster sessions, introductory courses, internal competitions, fun events, additional coaching for AC improvers, coaching for GC players interested in taking up AC, and regular coaching sessions at Fylde from the North West Federation Coaching Officer Paul Rigge that have been open to players from other NW Clubs.

Interview with Liz

Paul Francis from the Coaching Committee 'sat down' with Liz via Zoom to learn more about her approach to coaching. He reports...

Upon first meeting Liz, you are impressed by her level of energy and enthusiasm for Croquet. It's no wonder that she is so heavily involved at her club, Fylde, and with the North West Federation. Besides her coaching, Liz is Chairman and Match Captain at Fylde and is also Treasurer and Federation AC Handicapper for the North West Federation.

Liz reflected on why she maintains her commitment to coaching and other croquet related duties:

"I think my enthusiasm is key to this, but I love working with people, and you do meet characters with interesting backgrounds."

Liz has been an AC Coach since 2007 and recounted how her coaching methods have been influenced by the coaches and players she has encountered. In particular, she holds John Haslam and Bob Burnett in high esteem. She reflects:

"Both John and Bob always encourage players to analyse their performance and decisions. John always asked 'What do you think and what are you plans?' Whilst Bob, like many top players, would always coach during and after a game with him."



Liz thinks carefully about her approach to coaching especially during the all-important first session with beginners: *"I always use short lawns in order to make it all less daunting. In addition, I refrain from using 'croquet terminology' until the fourth or fifth session. I always end the first experience with a demonstration of a four-ball break and promise that at the end of this first experience they will be confused but will know whether they want to do more. To my mind the important thing is not to lose the interest of the competitive, competent players by making it too simple in the first few weeks."*

Liz is satisfied that this approach works due to the high retention rates she achieves.

When asked about the building blocks for her coaching, Liz provided her top five:

1. *Patience*
2. *Make it fun*
3. *Treat people as individuals*
4. *Involve a team of 'volunteer coaches', and make sure that the right volunteer is matched with the right beginner.*
5. *Break down the sessions into manageable steps.*

She also has some good advice for aspiring coaches:

"Apart from giving something back to the sport and your club, coaching will help your own game and give you the opportunity to meet so many interesting people."

It is clear that Fylde Croquet Club and the North West Federation are blessed to have Liz.

She is a coach always willing to go the 'extra mile' and understands that a coach will get the best by investing time with people in order to build strong relationships. Her passion for coaching is undiminished and she is looking forward to working with the next generation of croquet players.

For all watering and irrigation systems needs



OUR STORY

Managing Director Michael Seaman set up the family business supplying and installing glasshouses and irrigation equipment in 1989 & the business has grown steadily since. With its roots firmly in the horticulture industry Mr Seaman and his team have branched out into the leisure market, supplying and installing irrigation systems to private gardens, sports fields for both schools & sports academies, horse

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

In 2012 we set up the online shop selling spare parts and various irrigation kits that we design.

ABOUT US

Hortech Systems has become well known and respected within the industry for our technical ability in providing the right system for the

individual needs of the grower. Hortech Systems Ltd's head office is based in Holbeach, south Lincolnshire, however we transact business throughout the UK. Our modern stores and offices have staff on hand to offer advice and competitive prices. Our aim is always to have satisfied clients and this means giving first class service. We offer full design, installation and after sales service whilst supplying a full range of quality products.



Irrigation Online 



HORTECH
SYSTEMS LTD.

Hall Gate, Holbeach, Lincs PE12 7LG
T: 01406 426513 • E: sales@hortechsystems.co.uk
www.irrigationonline.co.uk

WINTER SWING CHECK: THE HAWKINS TUBE

Good practising need not come to a halt when lawns are out of use over the winter and the mallet is packed away. Checking your swing indoors makes good use of a spare few minutes and can be done at any time of year.

You don't need a mallet. The cardboard tube inside a roll of wrapping paper makes a simple swing trainer. So does the tube in the middle of a pack of clingfilm, baking parchment or baking foil.

Simply take your stance holding the tube in your normal grip as if it is a mallet. Can you see down the hole in the middle of the tube? If not, you may be gripping the tube unevenly, which can lead to an unbalanced stroke with the tube or mallet sloping a little sideways. That in turn can mean the mallet twisting a little as it strikes the ball, with the ball then travelling off the intended course.

Now move the mallet a little as if taking a short, gentle shot. Is the carpet in view throughout? If not, you may be pivoting at the wrist rather than from the shoulders. Swinging from the shoulders not only gives a stronger shot, but the longer arc also helps the mallet head stay parallel to the ground at the point of impact.

Of course, a tube is so light it can never replicate the feel of a mallet. It can however give a clue to what's going on. So finally, swing the tube over a straight line on the floor – a rug pattern,



floor tile join or carpet edge will do fine. If the tube/mallet veers off the line for part of your swing, some practice may be called for.

Inner tubes from clingfilm, parchment or foil are good choices as they are normally fairly close to the diameter of a mallet handle. The tubes inside wrapping paper are longer, but are often much broader. Perhaps best of all is a turkey foil tube, which combines good length with a handy diameter. Alternatively simply try a Hawkins Tube – take a slim A4 magazine or booklet and roll it, leaving a small gap down the middle.

NEW CROQUET JEWELLERY RANGE

ESPECIALLY CREATED
FOR THE CA
BY SIMON CARTER

"As a regular player on the croquet circuit, I was delighted to design this range of cufflinks and jewellery for the CA."
Simon Carter



VISIT THE CA SHOP ONLINE AT:
www.croquetassociationshop.org.uk



DAVID BARRETT

The maker of db croquet mallets



The DB3 'Hybrid' Mallet offers the best of both worlds with its high vision sight lines and beautifully rounded top which then flows into a conventional square/ flat base:
£260

All db mallets are sculptured by computerised machinery from a solid composite to create wonderfully balanced mallets that are extremely strong and durable. The Aerotech 'wing holes' in the SP6 lead to even greater end weighting which reduces twist and improves accuracy: **£286**

Each mallet is fitted with the exclusive Powerflex shaft that can help improve distance shots and avoid problems with aching wrists and fingers.

Prices from £225 for the SP1 & SP4 'Classic' range. UK postage + £19, worldwide upon request. Contact David on T: 01706 368214 or M: 07957 103417
E: davidbarrettcroquetmallets@gmail.com • www.burycroquet.com

Avonmore

SPECIALIST TURFSCAPE MANAGEMENT

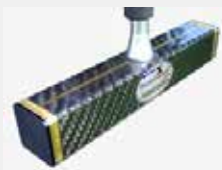
DESIGN • CONSTRUCTION • MAINTENANCE
WATER MANAGEMENT & IRRIGATION

t: 01789 722591 e: info@avonmore-associates.co.uk

www.avonmore-associates.co.uk

TERMINATOR MALLETTS

Carbon Fibre and Aluminium Mallets Tailored to your needs



Carbon Xtreme:

The most popular antipodean, championship and world class carbon fiber mallet with composite ends is now available in the UK. Designed to give you maximum performance by putting the weight right to the ends, while providing the body with a combination of light weight and strength. Airline & Full shafts available. Heads: 10" and 11" Shafts to own specifications
Prices from: £365 (+ P&P)



Rainbows & Blackbirds:

Aluminium body that is very tough with brass ends. Powder coated for protection and colour finish. Heads: 10" and 11" Shafts to own specifications
Prices from £305 (+ P&P)

www.terminatormallets.co.uk globaljenkins@gmail.com 07541 335066

Terminator™ mallets

Quadway HOOPS



1. Easy Set
2. Easy Adjust
3. Easy Care

- > Stainless Steel legs and Powder Coated crowns.
- > Zinc Electroplated Square Carrots.
- > Adjustable Hoop legs, by unscrewing the cap and rotating the leg 180 degrees.
- > Dibble Tool for precise easy hoop setting.

Contact us for further details on Terminator Mallets & Quadway Hoops

www.terminatormallets.co.uk globaljenkins@gmail.com 07541 335066

PHC Mallets



Beautifully crafted mallets from South Africa. Aluminium or carbon shaft, peripherally weighted. Ex stock or bespoke. You choose.

A delight to play with From £155 including postage.

Contact Marie Stuchfield
01392 757672 07929 940893
mlstuchfield@gmail.com

Dave Trimmer Mallets

Precision Engineered Carbon Fibre & Kevlar Mallets

The Champions' Choice - 4000 S

- Re-engineered for greater accuracy, playability and durability.
- Used to win innumerable Championships, including Worlds, Europeans, Presidents Cups, etc. 10, 11 and 12 inch.
- From £440 with standard carbon shaft; composite faces £30

Airline Travel Shaft £115. Engraved Ferrules £14. UK postage £20. Rest of the World upon request.

For details or discussion, contact Dave Trimmer
T: 01747 824822 E: davetrimmer@talktalk.net
www.davetrimmermallets.co.uk



Made in Australia

PFC HOOP MAKER MALLETS

World leaders in 21st century technology and mallet design. Now with newly developed Spring Alloy mallet heads combined with unique Zelatron striking faces which have produced considerably increased benefits to both AC and GC players worldwide.

Precision fabricated to give you reliable accuracy

Australian PFC Hoop Maker mallets have become the World leader in modern croquet mallet design. Intelligent application of 21st century technology by a croquet playing engineer who developed a unique alloy head and followed up with equally stunning striking faces has made a massive contribution to the sport.

- In 7 years we have evolved to show the way to the World in Mallet design -it must be good as it's been copied - but without the sophistication of Hoop Maker's critical alloy compound and percussion chamber design.*
- In 2022 development of an upgraded alloy was finalised - we proudly introduce Spring Alloy - further increasing the multi benefits of PFC Mallets to both AC and GC players.*



A new mallet can be with you in around 21 days via
Tom Dewar in the Midlands North T: **07967 984927**

E: pfcmalletsuknorth@gmail.com or

Richard Carline in the South T: **07876 227165**

E: hoopnallet@gmail.com

FABRICATED BY COLES-ROICE AUSTRALIA

CA CONTACTS

Mark Suter

Operations Manager
The Croquet Association
Old Bath Road, Cheltenham
GL53 7DF 01242 242318
caoffice@croquet.org.uk



Patricia Duke-Cox

President

dukecox@gmail.com



Samir Patel

Chairman of Council
020 8892 2172
croquet@patel500.co.uk



Peter Nelson

Vice-Chairman of Council
07815 610134
peter@nelson01.eclipse.co.uk



Beatrice McGlen

Chairman of Executive Board
01777 248187
beatrice@mcglen.co.uk



Ian Burridge

Hon. Treasurer
01400 283157
burridge.ian@googlemail.com



John Reddish

Hon. Secretary
01603 502103
reddish@btinternet.com



CA WEBSITE

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>

CHAIRS OF CA COMMITTEES

Sport Development **Paul Francis**
paulwfrancis@icloud.com

Funding **John Reddish**
jreddish@btinternet.com

Handicap **Christopher Roberts**
info@kickphoto.co.uk

ICT **Andy Dibben**
andydibben@yahoo.co.uk

International **Keith Aiton**
kmhaiton@msn.com

AC Laws **Peter Death**
peter.j.death@gmail.com

GC Rules **Ian Cobbold**
ianmccobbold@hotmail.com

Marketing **Annabel McDiarmid**
annabelmcd@yahoo.co.uk

AC Selection **Sam Murray**
sam.h.murray@icloud.com

GC Selection **Chris Clarke**
chrisd4clarke@hotmail.com

AC Tournaments **Brian Havill**
brian.havill@outlook.com

GC Tournaments **Richard Bilton**
richard.bilton30@talktalk.net

Coaching **John Harris**
jharrisnet@gmail.com

EXEC. BOARD MEMBERS

Chairman **Beatrice McGlen** 01777 248187
beatrice@mcglen.co.uk

Development **Paul Brown** 07826 742463
p_h_brown@icloud.com

Marketing & Communications **Paul Hetherington** 07732 158128
paulhether65@outlook.com

Infrastructure **Andy Dibben** 020 83911929
andydibben@yahoo.co.uk

Performance & Competitive **David Openshaw** 07737 007148
davidopen123@gmail.com

Standards **Roger Staples** 07778 841625
staplessteeples@live.co.uk

Coaching & Grass Roots **Rich Waterman** 07900 607543
richcroquet@gmail.com

Honorary Treasurer **Ian Burridge**
burridge.ian@googlemail.com

Operations Manager **Mark Suter**
caoffice@croquet.org.uk

Secretary to the Board **Andrew Willis** 07951 275076
andrew@eastbournevillas.co.uk

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

VOTING MEMBERS OF CA COUNCIL

South East **Samir Patel (Chairman)**
020 8892 2172
croquet@patel500.co.uk

Southern **Peter Michael Allan**
01367 718721
peter.allan@stfc.ac.uk

South East **Carol Driver**
020 8668 3061
driverdriver@msn.com

East & West Midlands **Patricia Duke-Cox**
01526 354878
duke-cox@hotmail.co.uk

East Anglia **George Collin**
01582 458665
gkcollin@yahoo.co.uk

South West **Brian Wilson**
07970 922867
brian@europaassociates.co.uk

South West **Peter Nelson**
01395 578487
peter@nelson01.eclipse.co.uk

North East & Yorkshire **VACANCY**
Enquiries welcome

South East **Andrew Stewart**
07866 024875
andrewkstewart@btinternet.com

North West **Robin Tasker**
07710 771843
robin_tasker@btinternet.com

PUBLICATIONS

The Croquet Gazette is published six times per year usually in February, April, June, August, October and December.

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.

The Croquet Gazette is designed and printed by Osprey Media -
info@ospreydelivers.co.uk



Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines

Croquet Association
Readers discount
up to 10%

WE SAIL THE WORLD A DIFFERENT WAY: THE OLSEN WAY

AWARD-WINNING

IMAGINATIVE
& UNUSUAL
ITINERARIES

DIFFERENT EACH YEAR

We have a team of Journey Planners who create new and imaginative itineraries every year – unlike some other cruise lines who sail the same routes time after time. Take our sailings to Norway, which are perfectly timed so you can experience sights like the thundering Seven Sisters waterfall when it is at its strongest in the spring. From the wide open decks of our elegant smaller ships, you will see this wonder of nature right up close.

That's why we've been named Best for Itineraries five times by Cruise Critic.

**PLEASE CALL 0800 0355 108
QUOTING CODE THECA5.**

Terms & conditions: All bookings are subject to Fred. Olsen's (FOCL) standard terms & conditions, available on our website & on request. All prices quoted under the Croquet Assoc. members discount offer are exclusive to qualifying members & their travelling companions only, members must quote their discount code at time of booking. Membership discounts cannot be applied retrospectively. Bookings must be made via the booking hotline number 0800 0355 108. Proof of membership will be required at the time of booking. Offers cannot be extended to any unrelated third party, are subject to availability and may be withdrawn or amended at any time without prior notice. From time to time FOCL may run special offers which cannot be combined with this discount, including selected group travel deals. Fred. Olsen Oceans members are entitled to a 5% Croquet Assoc. discount. Subject to the same terms & conditions, to be applied after the standard Oceans discount, where applicable. In this instance, Oceans terms & conditions apply. New to Fred. Olsen guests can also save 5% through their Croquet Assoc. membership, subject to the same terms & conditions. Flights are excluded from any discounts. Offer ends 31/12/2023. E&O



Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines
Best Itineraries
2015-2016-2017-2018-2019



HARTLEY  BOTANIC

HANDMADE WITH PRIDE SINCE 1938

THE SALE



Bespoke 3/4 Lean-to Glasshouse, Surrey, UK

Discover the secret of Hartley Botanic by calling 0800 783 8083 or visit www.hartley-botanic.co.uk



NOTHING ELSE IS A HARTLEY

The only aluminium Glasshouses and Greenhouses endorsed by the RHS

© The Royal Horticultural Society. The Royal Horticultural Society, and its logo, are trade marks of The Royal Horticultural Society (Registered Charity No 222879/SC038262) and used under licence from RHS Enterprises Limited.