



Cygnets

December 2017



Offspring of SWAN The e-Newsletter for the South West Federation of Croquet Clubs

Please send your queries, suggestions and feedback to us: lindawithani@hotmail.com

Well the AGM has been and gone - you'll find the minutes along with the revised Constitution and GC League Rules on our website - where you'll also find minutes of committee meetings and the Cygnets archive. Check it all out:

www.swfcroquet.org.uk



If you have any ideas for how to improve the AGM or ways of running it - improving the admin, workshops or ideas for making use of the networking opportunity - then do let us know.

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Website

And the good news is that we're looking forward to a brand spanking new website in the new year - Alison Jones is working on this - it should be easier to read and update and will be more effective in forwarding on line enquiries to the right person.

If you have any suggestions for what you'd like to see on this, then do let us know.

Handicapping Workshops - 2018

To be held at Cheltenham CC on 11th March and Budleigh Salterton CC on 16th March.

Why are Club Handicappers Essential?

Just as the purpose of handicaps is to ensure fairness, the purpose of every club having a Club Handicapper is to ensure consistency. There is nothing new here but we are aware that smaller clubs in particular struggle to find someone with the confidence and experience to take on this role and new clubs may possibly be unaware of the need for a handicapper altogether.

In order for games and matches to be fair, it is essential that all players have a handicap that is correct.

- For those who play **regularly** against other clubs, their handicaps are usually, but not always right.
- For those who play regularly **but only with the occasional outside match**, their handicaps will almost certainly be wrong - and by definition, unfair.
- Players new to the game often improve quickly once they have learnt the tactics and this is where their handicap does not reflect their improved ability. It is not the fault of the player but of the club and the club handicapper is expected to notice and correct handicaps before their members play in matches.

What about clubs where there is no-one with sufficient confidence to take on this role?

- This is not an unusual situation and everyone wants to support new clubs. We were all anxious when we started and the aim of the meeting will be to help, inform and encourage.
- No Club Handicapper should ever feel they are on their own.

What is the purpose and format of the Handicapping Workshop?

- The purpose is to learn from existing handicappers, exchange views and examples of good practice, be reassured that there is consistency throughout the federation and to encourage others to become club handicappers.

All will be explained, such as:

- Why handicaps are sometimes wrong;
- What a Club Handicapper needs to know and needs to do.
- The on-going help, advice and encouragement that the Federation and other clubs will give in order to guide and support those who are new to the role of Club Handicapper.



Will I be a Club Handicapper at the end of this conference?

- Attendance at this workshop will not qualify you as a Club Handicapper - your club appoints one of its members to that position.
- However, those attending will receive a certificate of attendance which club committees may consider a valuable piece of evidence.
- For those who have little or no previous experience, it will take more than attendance at a one-day workshop to become competent in assessing handicaps and administering the system.
- That is why we will be pairing clubs and handicappers to ensure everyone is fully supported in developing knowledge, experience and confidence.

We invite and urge every club to send two or more delegates.

- It would be good to see existing handicappers, those new to handicapping, delegates from clubs who do not currently have a handicapper, and league captains.
- This will ensure discussion can continue when they are back at the club and perhaps encourage the appointment of two club handicappers, one for GC and one for AC.
- In order to encourage as many clubs as possible to attend we are holding two identical workshops, one at each end of the federation. This will also make the numbers attending small enough to encourage discussion in a non-intimidating atmosphere.
- At the workshop, you will meet Club Handicappers and CA Handicappers for both GC and AC.

Further information will be sent to all clubs in February.

Message from the SWAN editor

It's this time of year that I would like to remind you to start sending me some possible content for the "2017 SWAN"

Special match reports, interesting articles, news items relating to your club, obituaries, special achievements, quizzes AND don't forget those photos



- I would also welcome ideas that you think would be useful or be enjoyed by our readers.
- I would also be grateful for any changes of League Team Captain contact details.
- To avoid wastage it would be very useful if you could send me the number of SWANs you would like in 2018.

Please send this to Maureen: enquiries@southwestcroquetacademy.co.uk

Club contact details

These are the contacts we need to send Cygnet and other correspondence from SWF - they should not be confused with the League Team contacts needed for SWAN.

We've been informed of a few changes so please amend your records - they will be on the website.

- Barnstaple irenefane@gmail.com
- Plymouth clangers15@gmail.com
- Swanage www.swanagecroquetclub.wordpress.com
- Worcester Norton Bill Morgan H: 01684 573 638 M: 07708 663 338
wgmorgan65@btinternet.com

And don't forget to make sure we have the right ones for you.

CA National Development Officer

Each of the short life working groups has now met and has a set of tasks to work on - you may be hearing from them direct or through us for ideas and suggestions so do please respond to these.

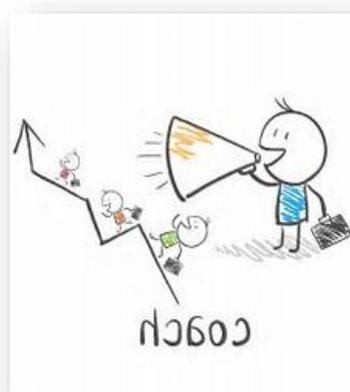
We'll keep you updated in the next edition of Cygnet.

Coaching 2018

For clubs with no coach or have coaching requirements that their own coaches cannot meet, the SWF has a team of 16 coaches who may be able to help.

Please contact Richard Jackson, the SWF Coaching Liaison Officer, richard.jackson@yahoo.co.uk, who will try to put you in contact with a suitable coach or coaches.

Also, if your club is putting on coaching where you would welcome members from other clubs, please let Richard know.



Croquet Association Coaching Awards

Coach of the Year 2017

Nominations are invited for the 2017 Coach of the Year award. We are looking for the person who is an established coach and has made a difference. Dedicated, enthusiastic and has helped players improve.



The Lifetime Coaching Award

This award is for that someone really special who has made a considerable and significant contribution to coaching over a long period of time.

The CA Coaching Committee will be considering all nominations at their next meeting. If you know of someone you consider worthy of either of these awards, please send their name together with a suitable citation to Sarah Hayes, cacommchair@gmail.com. Nominations close on 31 January 2018. Richard Jackson, the SWF Coaching Liaison Officer, richard.jackson@yahoo.co.uk will be happy to discuss possible nominations.

More information on:

<https://www.croquet.org.uk/?p=members/docs/committees/coaching/coty>

CA Diplomas

CA Diplomas recognise those club members who have given outstanding service to croquet and have been active in club or federation affairs over a long period. The Diplomas have nothing to do with croquet prowess and everything to do with help given to other members.

Nomination should be accompanied by a short citation, signed by a club official, and sent to the CA Office by the end of July. In the past, diplomas have been awarded to club members from both large and small clubs in the SWF area.

Please can the CA have further nominations from the SWF area in 2018.

The SWF area celebrated the presentation of the CA Diploma award to Mo Boys of Camerton and Peasedown this year - she was delighted to be awarded this and C&P note that it is a lovely way of appreciating someone's contribution to a Club over a number of years.

The South West Croquet Academy (SWCA) at Budleigh Salterton CC

For 2018, the SWCA is continuing to offer a wide range of courses that offer something for everyone. In addition to a range of AC and GC courses, there are a number of new courses for coaches, referees and Short Croquet players

The Two Coaches Courses will be led by Dave Kibble. These are for players wanting to gain their first coaching badge at Club Coach level (AC or GC), and a course for players wanting to gain their Grade 1 coaching badge (AC or GC).

This latter course will appeal to existing Club Coaches, as well as suitable players who have already established themselves at club coaching level but who may not have a formal qualification.

For players interested in becoming Referees, the SWCA is particularly pleased to have top Examining & Championship Referees Dr Ian Vincent and Marcus Evans leading courses for AC and GC respectively. These courses are also suitable for players who are not yet ready to become referees, but who would like to gain a deeper knowledge of AC Laws or GC Rules.

There has been a great upsurge recently in **Short Croquet** so, recognising this and the fully subscribed SC Tournaments in the south West, the SWCA felt it was time to introduce a course for Short Croquet enthusiasts. This course is led by Stephen Custance-Baker, one of the leading exponents of the game.

Stephen is also one of the foremost GC players and coaches in the South West, and will be leading several **GC courses** at the SWCA in 2018.

For AC players, the outstanding response in 2017 to the two innovative courses led by Roger Mills for Improvers and Mastering the 4 ball/3 ball break, has convinced the SWCA to repeat these courses in 2018. Both these courses will be run over 2 separate days to give you time to practice what you learn on Day 1 (25 April - shot skills & the 4 ball break) before going on to further enhance your skills and tactics on Day 2 of the course (20 May - tactics for building & maintaining breaks). Each day is fairly intensive, but there is a comprehensive reference pack and practice guide to help you after the course.

So there it is! A wide-ranging programme for 2018, which offers something for everyone. Judging by the extremely high feedback ratings awarded by delegates on this year's SWCA courses, they clearly had an enjoyable time developing their game - and this is what we are offering for 2018.

Please visit our website: www.southwestcroquetacademy.co.uk for full details of our courses.

Or contact our Secretary, Maureen Smith: enquiries@southwestcroquetacademy.co.uk or telephone 0782 145 8447.

Course Programme - 2018

Date	Days	Title	Handicap Range	Lead Coach	Cost: Ord Member / Premium*
4-5 April	2	Coaches Training Course for Club Coaches (AC & GC)	NA	Dave Kibble	£75 / 55
5-6 April	2	Coaches Training Course for Grade 1 Coaches (AC & GC)	NA	Dave Kibble	£75 / 55
16-18 April	3	AC Laws & Referees Course	NA	Dr Ian Vincent	£60 / 50
21-22 April	1-2	GC Rules & Referees Course	NA	Marcus Evans	£65 / 55
25 April & 20 May	**2	AC for Improvers - the Easy Way 1 st part 2 nd part See note below	18-24	Roger Mills	£75 / 55
27 April & 14 May	**2	Mastering 4 and 3 Ball Breaks 1 st part 2 nd part - see note below	9-16	Roger Mills	£75 / 55
15 May	1	GC High Handicappers Development	10+	Stephen Custance-Baker	£45 / 35
17 May	1	GC Improvers Development	6-9	Stephen Custance-Baker	£45 / 35
23 May	1	Short Croquet - the Special Skills to Succeed	16-	Stephen Custance-Baker	£45 / 35
10 June	1	GC Improvers Development	6-9	Stephen Custance-Baker	£45 / 35
** Note: Please refer to the preceding resume for AC players					
Additional courses may be available later					
* Please note that Premium Members of the Croquet Association receive a discount of £10-£20 on all courses					

Courses will be bookable on line from 10th December 2017

“That’s all for now folks”

