

Cygnets



Offspring of SWAN the newsletter for the South West Federation of Croquet Clubs



Welcome to the first e-newsletter from the South West Federation of Croquet Clubs. We want to increase the frequency of our contact with member clubs and provide a more open forum for information sharing and debate.

We have a modest initial target of sending this out shortly after each committee meeting - we had the last one on 11th March and the next will be 7th October. However, if the demand is there, we'll send it out more frequently.

We welcome your ideas and contributions - which should be sent to me:
Linda Shaw, Secretary: lindawithani@hotmail.com

In this edition you'll find:	You will also find as separate attachments:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Committee contact details✓ SWAN corrections and updates✓ Court and ball hire fees✓ SWF Bursaries✓ Handicappers✓ Coaching report✓ Website news✓ Committee update✓ Joining the committee✓ Forthcoming dates✓ Invitation to Nailsea's OBE competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Constitution as amended at the AGM✓ AC rules as amended at the AGM✓ GC rules as amended at the AGM✓ Handicapping policy <p>We hope to have these on the website soon</p>

Committee contact details

Chair	Marcus Evans	chairman@swfcroquet.org.uk
Secretary	Linda Shaw	lindawithani@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Norman Connor	treasurer@swfcroquet.org.uk
League Secretary	John Grimshaw	results@swfcroquet.org.uk
Coaching Liaison	Richard Jackson	richard.jackson@yahoo.co.uk
Youth Officer	Marcus Evans	youth@swfcroquet.org.uk
SWAN Editor	Maureen Smith	editor@swfcroquet.org.uk
Webmaster	Jack Smith	webmaster@swfcroquet.org.uk
Development North	Robert Moss	development@swfcroquet.org.uk
Development South	Adam Wimshurst	development@swfcroquet.org.uk
AC Development	Vacant	
GC Development	Ros Key-Pugh	golf@swfcroquet.org.uk
CA Rep	Klim Seabright	klimseabright@gmail.com

SWAN corrections and updates

Pressure of time and a myriad of misfortune may have led to some inaccuracies in this year's edition of SWAN. Apologies for this, and here are the amendments we have been made aware of.

Camerton and Peasedown contacts are

GC Level Play	Mo Boys	01225 708540
GC Handicap: Central North	Patrick Knight	01761 431241
GC Handicap: Central South	Ros Key-Pugh David Milford	01225 427525 01761 437180
GC High Handicap	Marion Button Malcolm Evans	07866 041465 01761 472240

Nailsea team contacts are

Parkstone Trophy Div 1	Marcus Evans	01275 217495
Parkstone Trophy Div 2	Pat Long	01275 855218
Parkstone Trophy Div 3	Kathy Wallace	01275 847902
Federation Central	Linda Shaw	01934 416717
Federation South	Andrew Wimshurst	01934 862243
Intermediate North	Brian Roynon	01275 843746
Intermediate South	Tony Griggs	01934 822556
B League Central	Martin Kerly	01761 462491
GC Level North	Jim Gregory	01275 854925
GC Central North	Peter Dyke	01275 545178
GC Central South	Steve Durston	01275 858403
GC South East	Jim Gregory	01275 854925

Court and ball hire fees

Just to clarify the situation here -

- ✓ Court & ball hire fees for SWF League Finals will be paid in line with the rates set by the CA
- ✓ Different arrangements apply to SWF short croquet events due to the extra work involved in setting greater numbers of hoops.
- ✓ The amount payable reflects the expectation that all games will be double banked for both AC and GC
 - Clubs are very welcome to provide extra lawns if these are available, but additional fees will not be paid
- ✓ Any questions? Please feel free to contact us.



SWF Bursaries

We are really pleased to be able to initiate this bursary programme for SWF full member clubs to support the development of competitive play in the region.

- Bursaries will be available to defray the costs of attending CA qualification courses for coaches and referees.
- Bursaries may also be available to defray the costs of developing handicapping and tournament management skills.

The aims of programme are

- ✓ To increase the number of qualified coaches and referees in the SWF region
- ✓ To improve and standardise the quality of handicapping in the SWF region
- ✓ To increase the number of tournament managers in the SWF region

Amount of payment available

- ✓ An application may be made for up to 50% of the participants travel costs of attending the course
 - This will be calculated on a mileage rate of 40p per mile

Eligibility

- ✓ Applications must be submitted and supported by the individual member's club
- ✓ The club must be a full member of the SWF
- ✓ The course must take place within the SWF region

What we ask in return

- We will encourage anyone who receives the bursary to use their skills within the SWF region rather than just within their club

Process

- Applications should be sent to the SWF secretary and contain the following information
 - ✓ Contact details for the supporting club
 - ✓ Contact details for the member
 - ✓ Details of the course to be attended
 - ✓ Statement of how the club and member will benefit from the course - how the skills learnt will be used
 - ✓ Statement of how the wider SWF region might benefit from this
- The committee will make a decision - this should take no more than one week as it will normally be made by email discussion - and inform the club
- Payment will normally be made on successful attainment of the qualification - this may not be the same as the date of the course
- Where there is no qualification e.g. handicapping, payment will be made on receipt of a statement from the club that the course / event has been attended and that the member is using their skills within the club

Handicappers

It may be helpful to clarify a few points on this topic

- ✓ Club handicappers which all clubs should have, are appointed by the club and should be a member with an adequate understanding of the handicap system and should ensure they are familiar with the guidance given on the CA website and on our own website
- ✓ CA Handicappers are appointed by the CA Handicapping Committee and although there is no formal qualification, club members with sufficient and regular tournament experience who are able to make sound judgements of handicaps from 0 - 24 can apply to the CA committee for recognition
- ✓ Although the automatic handicapping system will work well for those who play in several external tournaments per year, it will not work for those who play mostly in their own club with the same people.
 - This is where handicaps can be wrong and an CA handicapper has the authority to change handicaps of players at scratch or above

Coaching in 2017

Qualification courses

- ✓ Richard Jackson - elected as our SWF Coaching Officer at the AGM, emailed all Clubs in the SWF last autumn to ask if they had coaching needs that could not be met within their clubs, and to all Coaches in the region to see if they could help
 - He will shortly be contacting clubs who have an identified coaching need with names of possible "flying coaches"
- ✓ Dave Kibble will be running a Coach Training Course at Cheltenham on 25-26 March and places are still available
 - This is suitable for both GC and AC players and leads to the Club Coach qualification.
 - The CA will pay a subsidy of £25 (after qualification)
 - And check out the new SWF bursary elsewhere in this newsletter for help with travel costs
- ✓ We strongly urge all clubs without a club coach to encourage a member to attend
- ✓ Club Coaches who would like to progress to graded coach status are encouraged to contact Richard who will advise them of the best way forward
- ✓ We also need more GC and AC referees. Kevin Ham will be running a GC referees course on 8-9 April at Dyffryn. We may be able to run an AC course in the autumn

For personal improvement in play

- ✓ The SW Croquet Academy have published their programme on the SWCA website
- ✓ Camerton and Peasdown CC have GC courses scheduled for April 11 and 25 and May 14th. They are advertised in SWAN and open to all
- ✓ Coaching Pods (one-off evening sessions) will be running at
 - Budleigh, Bristol / Nailsea and Cheltenham (AC)
 - Taunton Deane and East Dorset (GC)

Website news

- ✓ The website is really creaking now and Jack and John are at their wits' end trying to make it work reasonably well, so we will be investing in a brand new site with all your favourite features and hopefully a few more besides
- ✓ We are seeking quotes for the work at the moment and hope to have the new site up and running in a few months
- ✓ In the meantime, we'll do our best to keep the information up to date on the current site - please bear with us

Committee update

- ✓ A really interesting meeting with lots of constructive discussion and some useful decisions - the minutes will be on the website in due course, in the meantime here are some titbits:
 - We have a healthy bank balance and want to put this to good use for the benefit of croquet in the region. We are therefore introducing a **bursary programme** newsletter and **updating our website**
 - We want to **support the development of competitive play** in both AC and GC and are seeking to encourage members to develop their **coaching and refereeing skills** - this relates to both the bursary programme and to our coaching strategy
 - We had a very constructive discussion on the CA's questions to Federations about **Governance** which have been fed back to the CA
 - ✓ Clubs will be contacted by Patricia Duke-Cox soon for their views - she is a member of the CA working party

Joining the committee

- ✓ If you are interested in joining the committee then do get in touch to learn more about this
 - We are particularly interested in hearing from members of clubs not currently involved
 - We normally meet in Weston super Mare four times a year - plus the AGM
- ✓ We have vacancies / opportunities for
 - an **AC adviser** - to support and encourage clubs developing this code of play
 - a **Youth Officer** - is anyone out there younger than Marcus and interested in developing this role?!
 - sadly our **Treasurer**, Norman, will be standing down at the AGM - so another opportunity for the numerically talented amongst us!
 - finally the position of **Chair** will fall vacant - if not this year, then definitely next

Forthcoming dates

- ✓ The next **SWF committee meeting** will be on 7th October - if you have any matters you'd like raised, please let Linda have these by 1st October
- ✓ The **AGM** will be held on 19th November - probably at the Batch Hotel Lympsham
 - formal notice and call for agenda items and proposals will be issued nearer the time, but deadline for these is 30th September - so do send them in any time

Advert:

NAILSEA AND DISTRICT CROQUET CLUB

Invites you to come and enjoy a day of FUN Croquet with a difference

Competing for the 10 Shot Level Play "OBE Trophy"*

Open to those in their 80th year and over

TUESDAY, 16TH MAY 2017

Coffee/Tea and Briefing at 10am for a prompt 10.30 start

Entrance Fee £10. Cheques payable to NDCC

Soup and Rolls available for lunch at £2.50, if requested with entry

Fancy dress in 30's style if you're up for it!

Entries by 3rd May please to

Terry Young, 32 Bishops Road, Cleve, BS49 4NG

terandlib@yahoo.co.uk

Tel: 01934 707475

The rules may be found on Nailsea's website in the Competitions Handbook.

Hello All

This is Terry Young of Nailsea and District Croquet Club and I'm asking if you and your AC playing croquet club members would like to give our OBE Trophy Tournament a try.

It is a FUN event for players in their 80th year ++ and involves a 10 shot level play game under AC Rules with a slight difference:

- the first shot is free and can be used to set up a rush and after 10 shots or a breakdown players must leave the lawn
- There is a time limit of one hour per game
- No long periods of sitting out watching your opponent go round and waiting for your triumphant return to the fray

We would like players to enter into the spirit of this FUN event and come dressed in 30's style, but for the faint hearted a token effort would be appreciated. Hope you can enter and come and play.

OBE – Over B** Eighty**

