

Cygnets

September 2017



Offspring of SWAN The eNewsletter for the South West Federation of Croquet Clubs

This is the final edition of Cygnets for the SWF year - we have produced more than we had anticipated and hope that you find them a useful supplement to the annual SWAN.



It has been encouraging that you have submitted items for inclusion and we hope you will continue to do so - maybe we can extend this to include more comment about croquet issues of interest to us in the forthcoming year.

Previous editions may be found on our website:

www.swfcroquet.org.uk

Contents

Some important information in this edition:

- The agenda and proposed resolutions for our AGM
- League entry form
- Club handicapping
- SWAN update
- National Development Officer update
- News from Bude CC
- Contact details - yes again

Appendices

- AGM agenda
- SWF League Teams entry form

AGM

The agenda and proposals may be found at the end of this newsletter.

The meeting will take place on Sunday 19th November at
The Batch Country Hotel
Batch Lane, Weston super Mare, BS24 0EX
01934 750371

Arrive 10.00 for 10.30: coffee on arrival

Each Associate Member club is entitled to two voting representatives - other members may attend as observers.

Please let me know as soon as possible how many people you expect to attend and whether or not they will require lunch. I'll circulate the menu options in a week or so.

League Team entries

The entry form may be found later in this newsletter - please note the deadline for entries is before the AGM on 19th November - or bring them along with you!

Club handicapping

There has been long standing concern amongst members at some inconsistencies in assessing and reviewing handicaps - in keeping cards updated and even sometimes in making sure they are available when playing league matches.

To improve this situation we will be running handicapping training sessions next year. Each will consist of two half day sessions - one for AC and one for GC - and will be held for the north and the south of the region.

All clubs without a club handicapper will be expected to attend one of these and they aim to provide:

- Awareness of how handicaps are set and changed at club level
- Opportunity for new or less experienced handicappers to learn from those with more experience
- The skills to assess all League match players and ensure full use of handicap cards

This is a prelude to creating the requirement that with effect from the start of the 2019 season, clubs will not be able to enter a team from a club that does not have a handicapper who has attended this (or similar) training in the appropriate code - AC or GC.

We do hope you will embrace this as a positive step for improving the quality of play and will provide more information in the new year.

SWAN update

It's certainly not too early to be sending Maureen articles for publication - interesting news from your club, accurate information about League team contacts, and sadly, any members you wish remembered who have passed away.

We have also been reviewing the scale of charges for advertising in SWAN and have agreed the following:

- There will be no charge for advertising courses exclusively for qualification e.g. referee, coach - even if these are open to those outside the SWF area
- Neither will there be a charge for advertising SWF tournaments

- Charges will be applied for the following adverts:
 - SWCA courses
 - Club tournaments
- The scale of charges will be increased for 2018 and you will be notified of these
 - Member clubs will be entitled to a 50% discount on these rates

National Development Officer update

You may recall that a series of short life working groups has been set up to support Dave Gunn's work as National Development Worker. List these xxx

The first round of meetings has begun - Linda has attended the Resources group meeting and Ros will shortly be attending the Player Recruitment and Development meeting. We will provide a more detailed feedback at the AGM and in the next edition of Cygnet.

We do hope you will give us your thoughts on these over the next months - and beyond.

News from Bude CC

Bude have been encouraging more people to play:

MORE CROQUET ON THE DOWNS

The Bude Croquet Club has been playing on the Downs, at the old tennis courts off Crooklets Road, since mid-summer this year under a licence kindly granted by the Bude and Stratton Council.

That licence is due to expire at the end of October but the Council have just granted its extension to the end of March 2018.

Although the Club was only founded in early 2016 it already has sixteen full members, nearly all of whom play regularly on Tuesday, Friday and Sunday mornings, weather permitting.

Now that the lawns are fit for playing, we can accommodate more players and so, if you might be interested, do please come along on any Saturday morning at about 10,00am and existing members will be delighted to show you what is entailed in playing.

We are only too keen to attract new members so do please come along on a Saturday, and we will lend you all the equipment you will need and give you some basic guidance as to how to play . . . even to play well!

Give Frances a tinkle on 01 288 355 927 or Tony on 01 840 230 091 to find out a bit more.

Contact details

Yes, we're still banging on about this - please do make sure we are aware of the correct email to contact your club by - and let the CA know too.

We are really grateful to Sue who has done some work on this as far as our website is concerned as it has been a bit neglected. Sue writes:

When the SWF website was first set up, each club was given a domain e-mail address to avoid the personal addresses of club officials appearing on a public page. These addresses would then forward to the club contact's private address.

However, following a massive amount of Chinese spam shortly afterwards, the system was altered which meant all the club domain e-mails were sent to an old address of mine, so I could delete the spam before forwarding any genuine croquet enquiries.

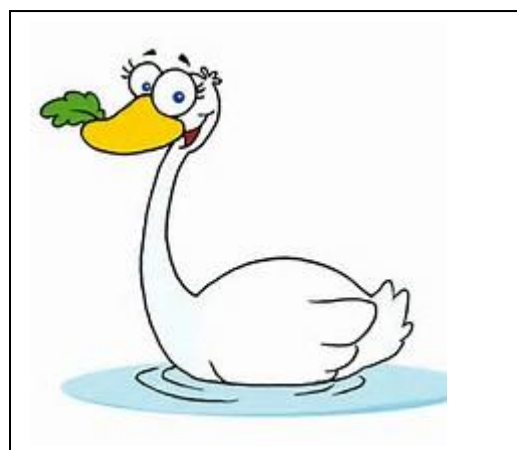
Since the advent of better spam filters the amount of junk has decreased, and this is no longer really feasible. So it is proposed to once again have the forwarding set to go directly to clubs.

The odd spam e-mail may still get through, but can be easily deleted and the sender blocked. More importantly there is far less risk of a genuine croquet e-mail getting overlooked. Private e-mails will still not appear on the public page.

So please continue to let us know if the contact email changes and which e-mail address they would like domain e-mail enquiries to be forwarded to, so that changes can be made to the forwarding set-up in good time for the start of next season.

Marcus adds:

Thanks for the update Sue, and for your continued assistance. Hopefully, as part of the new website we could have a contact form, which enquirers can fill in, including a field to select a club or committee member. The website will then forward the query to the appropriate private email address.



**South West Federation of Croquet Clubs
Notice of AGM**

Date	19 th November 2017
Time	10.30
Venue	Batch Country House Hotel, Batch Lane Lympsham, Weston super Mare, BS24 0EX If necessary, you may contact the Secretary, Linda, on: 077 857 861 47

Please be aware of the following constitutional requirements:

5b. Affiliated ... are empowered to appoint two voting delegates (who are not members of the Federation Committee) and any number of observers to attend any General Meeting.

5c. Associated clubs are entitled to receive three copies of each edition of the Newsletter, but may not enter teams in Federation competitions and are only entitled to observer status at General Meetings.

7d. (*at an AGM*) at least one third of the Delegates and Committee entitled to attend shall form a quorum.

8e. Members of the Committee shall have their own vote at a General Meeting and, if required, the Chairman shall have an additional casting vote.

12. No provision of this Constitution shall be amended, save by a Resolution voted for by a two thirds majority of those present and entitled to vote at a General Meeting.

Agenda

Apologies

Minutes of last meeting

These may be found on the SWF website: www.swfcroquet.org.uk

Matters arising

Chair's report

Treasurer's report

League Secretary's report

Regional Coaching Officer's report

Publicity Officers' report

Youth Officer's report

Development Officers' report

GC Advisor's report

Federation Representative's report

Update on the work of the CA Development Officer

Election of Officers 2017 - 2018

Resolutions

See details below

AOB

Date of next meeting

Lunch

Resolutions:

Amendments to the Constitution

Resolution A (from the committee) - to correct trivial drafting errors in the constitution

In section 7, re-letter the final 3 paragraphs as d, e, and f respectively (replacing the obviously incorrect c, d, and e that currently appear). In section 9 paragraph h, delete the repeated "with".

Resolution B (from the committee) - to accurately describe how SWAN is distributed

In section 5, paragraph b, replace the current first sentence with: "Affiliated clubs are entitled to receive an appropriate number of copies of each edition of the Newsletter (based on how many paying members they have) and are empowered to appoint two voting delegates (who are not members of the Federation Committee) and any number of observers to attend any General Meeting."

This reflects what has been done in practice for many years; if we were to follow the current constitution, this would drastically increase the production costs of SWAN for no benefit as there would then be a lot of unread copies.

Resolution C (from the committee) - to replace "auditor" with "independent examiner"

In section 7, paragraph a, replace the word "auditor" with "independent examiner", and in section 9, paragraph d replace the word "audited" with "examined".

Note that in recent years the committee have agreed to suspend this requirement entirely in practice, as our accounts are transparent and we have been fortunate enough to have a qualified chartered accountant as our treasurer. However, as that may not always be the case, we feel it is prudent to have an independent examination, without incurring the unnecessary expense of a full audit.

Resolution D (from the committee) - to bring our terminology for membership categories into line with that of the CA

In section 5, paragraph a, replace the words "Affiliated or Associated" with "a Full Member or an Affiliate Member". In section 5, paragraph b, replace the words "Affiliated clubs" with "Full Member clubs". In section 5, paragraphs c & d, replace the words "Associated clubs" with "Affiliate Member clubs". In section 8, paragraph a, replace "Affiliated" with "Full Member".

Resolution E (from the committee) - to confirm that for clubs to be Full Members of the SWF, they should be member clubs of the CA

In section 5, paragraph b, add the following wording at the end of the paragraph: "Full Member clubs must be members of the Croquet Association."

Note that this only requires Full Member clubs to be Affiliate Members of the CA (as a minimum). In practice, all existing Full Member clubs of the SWF are already members of the CA (in fact the vast majority are full members) so this should have no practical effect on clubs.

Resolution F (from the committee) - to formalise the role of the Federation Representative to the CA as a full committee member with the same standing as the rest of the committee, and consequential changes

In section 8, paragraph a, after "Youth Officer" add ", Federation Representative to the CA,". Replace section 8, paragraph b with: "Should there be more than one nomination for the position of Federation Representative to the CA, an election will be held by email by 30th September, in order that the winner can assume their duties at the CA AGM in October." In section 8, paragraph c, add "or by email" after "in writing", and change "30th September" to "31st August". In section 9, add a new paragraph at the end as follows: "k. The Federation Representative to the CA shall take up their seat on the CA Council and represent the Federation at CA Council meetings.".

Resolutions: League rules

SWF ELIGIBILITY RULE FOR GC HANDICAP LEAGUE: Bath Croquet Club

The SWF rules for Golf Croquet Handicap Leagues state in Rule 4c. (1), which covers eligibility for players:

Players with handicaps of 10 or below may play in the Handicap League matches. Should a club be unable to raise a team of the minimum size for a match, they may field one player whose handicap is 11 or 12.

This has caused difficulties in some clubs who either have small numbers of players or where players are not able to play the six matches in a day which are necessary if a team is restricted to 4 players. Some clubs would like to field a player with a handicap of 11 or 12 in the Handicap League, but may not do so under the current rules as they already have 4 players with handicaps of 10 or below.

Making a comparison with the SWF's rules for Association Croquet Leagues, the eligibility criteria for the Federation League (Rule 4c. (2)) and the Intermediate League (Rule 4c. (3)) both allow teams to field one player whose handicap is 1 or 2 steps higher than the stated handicap range. This allowance is unconditional.

Bath CC proposes, with the support of other clubs, that the Golf Croquet League follow a similar principle. Rule 4c. (1) should be changed to read:

Players with handicaps of 10 or below may play in the Handicap League matches. In addition, a team may field one player whose handicap is 11 or 12.

Norman Connor, Treasurer, Bath Croquet Club. 18 September 2017

SWF Golf Croquet League Rule Resolution (Nailsea & District Croquet Club)

We have identified several problems with the SWF GC Croquet League Rules and we are submitting this proposal in the hope of addressing them

- Low handicap players do not like giving away seven or more extra turns in the Handicap League.
- Some players do not like drawn games or the possibility of a drawn match.
- Some clubs would like to field a player with a handicap of 11 or 12 in the Handicap League but, at the moment, they may not do so if they already have four players with handicaps 10 or below.

In our opinion these problems are interlinked. We have considered them and tried to find solutions.

- The main problem with giving away several extra turns is that the high handicap player may use their extra turns well to get a lead and, in a time limited game, the lower handicap player does not have sufficient time to catch up particularly if their opponent is a slow player. Last year two clubs tried to resolve this problem by trying to restrict the Handicap League to 8 or 9 and below. We feel they were going about it the wrong way. In theory, if the handicaps are correct, then in a game with no time limit it should be an even contest with each side having a 50% chance of winning. We appreciate that it is not practical to have unlimited time for each game, but suggest that a reasonable time limit for most games is one hour.
- While drawn games are permitted in the Golf Croquet Rules they are rarely allowed in competitions. Extending the time limit to one hour should eliminate the problem to a large extent, but if a game is drawn after the extension period the game can be continued until another point is scored by either side eliminating drawn games.
- Some captains were concerned that extending the time limit may make it a very long day for their team. If we reduce the number of games to seventeen (three doubles and fourteen singles) it will be possible to reduce the number of sessions to five (see appendix). This will also mean that a match cannot be drawn.
- If the time limit is increased there should be less of a problem allowing players with handicaps 11 or 12 to play in the league against players with handicaps of three or less.

I would like to propose the following changes to the GC League Rules (the changes are highlighted):

6. MATCH FORMAT (Current rules)

- a. Matches shall comprise twenty games: four doubles games and sixteen singles games.
- b. Matches may result in a 10-10 draw. Two match points shall be awarded to a winning team, or one match point to each team in the event of a draw.
- c. Half-way markers are mandatory at all SWF Golf Croquet league matches.
- d. Where a club has two or more lawns available, the home team captain shall choose the lawns for the first and fourth sessions, and the visiting team captain shall choose the lawns for the second, third, fifth and sixth sessions, avoiding double-banking where possible. The choices may be made at the beginning of each session, or the captains may agree to choose lawns for as many sessions as they wish at the beginning of the day and subsequently when they need to.

Proposed rules:

a. Matches shall comprise seventeen games: three doubles games and fourteen singles games.

Delete (b). Reassign (c) and (d)

8. TIME LIMITS (Current rules)

a. A time limit of not less than 50 minutes shall be agreed by both team captains before the start of each game (except as directed under Rule 13e); if they wish, they may agree to play any game without a time limit. If the two captains cannot agree on a time limit, the shorter of the two suggested time limits shall be used.

b. If a game should be held up because of double-banking, the clock in that game shall be stopped until the game can proceed.

c. EXPIRY OF TIME LIMIT.

(1) HANDICAP AND HIGH HANDICAP LEAGUES. When time is called each side shall be entitled to 4 additional turns (the extension period). Extra turns may not be used during the extension period. If the scores are level after this then the game is drawn and each side shall have earned a ½ game point; there shall be no continuation of play.

(2) LEVEL PLAY LEAGUE. When time is called each side shall be entitled to 4 additional turns (the extension period). If the scores are level after this then: for singles games, play shall continue until the next point is scored; for doubles games, the game is drawn and each side shall have earned a ½ game point, there shall be no continuation of play.

Proposed rules

a. A time limit of not less than 50 minutes shall be agreed by both team captains before the start of each game; if they wish, they may agree to play any game without a time limit. If the two captains cannot agree on a time limit, the default time limit shall be 60 minutes.

b. If a game is held up because of double-banking, the clock in that game shall be stopped until the game can proceed.

c. EXPIRY OF TIME LIMIT.

When time is called each side shall be entitled to 4 additional turns (the extension period). If the scores are level after this play shall continue until the next point is scored.

Note: In handicap games extra turns may not be used during the extension period, but are restored at the end of the extension period.

If the above proposals are accepted there will also need to be minor rewording in rules 12 (Final League Positions) and 13 (Play-offs and Finals).

12. FINAL LEAGUE POSITIONS

Proposed rule:

a. In determining the positions in an all-play-all block after all fixtures have been decided, teams shall be ranked in order of match wins achieved.

Throughout the rest of rule 12 replace “match points” with “match wins”.

13. PLAY-OFFS AND FINALS

Delete 13(e) from the current rules.

Current rule 13 (e):

e. If a play-off or final match ends in a 10-10 draw, each team shall nominate any two of its players, who have already played in the match, to play one further game of doubles to decide the match. This deciding game shall be played with no time limit.

We would like the meeting to consider these proposals as a whole and not reject them just because you do not like one part. The changes proposed simplify the rules and bring them more in line with the SWF Rules for the Association Croquet Leagues. They also seek to address the problems outlined at the beginning of this proposal.

Appendix.

If two lawns are available the match may be completed in five sessions as follows (other match formats are possible):

Round 1 Two doubles

Round 2 One double and two singles

Rounds 3, 4 and 5 Four singles in each round

**THE SOUTH WEST FEDERATION OF CROQUET CLUBS
2018 COMPETITIONS: REPLY SHEET**

Please return this form to the League Secretary BEFORE the AGM on 19th November 2017

League Secretary:

John Grimshaw, 54 Rowden Road, Chippenham, Wilts SN15 2AX

johnandjulieg@talktalk.net

Name	Croquet Club
Competition	Number of teams
ADVANCED LEAGUE (Division 1)	
ADVANCED LEAGUE (Division 2)	
ADVANCED LEAGUE (Division 3)	
FEDERATION LEAGUE	
INTERMEDIATE LEAGUE	
"B" LEAGUE	
GOLF CROQUET HANDICAP LEAGUE	
GOLF CROQUET LEVEL PLAY LEAGUE	
GOLF HIGH HANDICAP LEAGUE	

Person to whom correspondence concerning competitions should be sent.		
Name		
Address		
Tel		
Email		
May this be circulated to all Tournament secretaries?	Yes	No

Who is your club handicapper?	AC	GC
Name		
Tel		
Email		

Would you like to enter the following events?		
SWF SHORT CROQUET TEAM EVENT (TEAM OF 4) at Camerton & Peasedown CC on April 14 th /15 th 2018	Number of teams	
SWF SHORT CROQUET TEAM EVENT (TEAM OF 4) at Budleigh Salterton CC October 2018. Dates tbc	Number of teams	