



Cygnets

April 2018



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

Hello everyone and welcome to Spring - we've certainly seen some excellent weather for ducks so I guess the Cygnets are happy too!

But the same is not true for all SWF clubs several of whom are facing a delayed start to the season. If this affects a club near you, it would be nice if you could offer some playing facility even on an occasional / short term basis.



Nailsea has been really grateful for the support offered by Bath over winter and now by both Bristol and Bath. How might your club be able to help?

Please remember that we send Cygnets to our club contacts and ask them to pass them on to individual club members - ideally putting a hard copy on the club noticeboard. But Cygnets is also available shortly after publication on-line on our spruced-up and modernised website: www.swfcroquet.org.uk

Many thanks to our Web Designer Alison Jones for wading through all our feedback and more-or-less helpful comments to come up with this. We welcome your feedback and experience of using this so do let us know - and please do be specific and constructive.

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GDPR

Another acronym for us to get our heads around - thank goodness there's only 26 letters in our alphabet.

GDPR refers to the General Data Protection Regulations and every Club and Federation is required to implement this and produce a Privacy Statement.

The SWF's Privacy Statement is attached as a separate document and will shortly be available on our website.

We ask all club contacts, league team contacts others providing personal data to the SWF to read this and return their acceptance of this to us.

Implementation date is 25th May 2018 so we require your authorisation by then.

Changes of contact details

Please note the following amendments to details published in SWAN:

Bath CC:

- Captain of Bath GC Handicap North League team: Tony Curson 01225 837084
- Their first GC Handicap North match at home to Worcester Norton will be 26th April not 2nd April as stated
- Correct phone number for Norman Connor, captain of Bath GC Level is 07710 178962.

Kingston Maurward CC:

- Have a "new-ish" website - www.kmcroquet.co.uk

And do remember to let us know if you have a new club contact - apart from this and changes to League team captains, we do not need to know any other amendments. But the CA will need up to date information about the officers, handicappers and coaches in your club.

Plymouth:

An unfortunate omission from SWAN listings - apologies for this, Plymouth are playing in the GC League and George Lang is the contact for all games

- 01752 601921 or 07513 384956

Busy, busy, busy ...

The winter is in many ways the busiest time of the year for the SWF Committee, as it probably is for many clubs with all the behind-the-scenes work and planning that takes place.

There's the League fixtures to be sorted, SWAN to be produced and distributed and this year we held the **Handicapping Workshops**.

These generated a really encouraging level of response and attendance - we were particularly impressed by 21 stalwarts who turned up at Budleigh despite the snow - they all had to go home before the end of the morning so we ran an additional workshop in Nailsea, which benefited greatly from input and feedback from the initial Cheltenham session.

Efforts to run a second replacement workshop in the south of the region have been overtaken by other events, but we are really appreciative of Plymouth's offer of a venue and plan to run another workshop in the autumn for those of you who haven't been able to make it so far.



We must all appreciate the huge amount of work that has gone into running these and especially to Robert Moss with his organisation and bottomless pit of patience and diplomacy. He has this message for everyone:

Thanks for attending. The evaluation comments are being analysed and a plan for further action is being prepared. In the meantime, we hope that all clubs will make links with their neighbouring clubs and with a CA Handicapper in order to develop mutual support, confidence and, most importantly of all, consistency."

Please note that an amended version of the Handicapping Booklet will be sent to all workshop delegates and also appear on our website before too long but Robert Moss is in the middle of moving so this may take longer than we would wish.

And another thing ...

After a long stint of exemplary service and hard work, Ros Key-Pugh will be standing down as the SWF GC advisor at our AGM in November.

We are considering including GC support into our overall coaching programme which aims to develop a network of coaches in both codes and at all levels across the region. But we'd appreciate your views on this - we'll share them in the intervening issues of Cygnet to help the discussion along. If you're interested in playing your part in this - again, do let us know.



The Grand 2018 SWF Photographic Competition

Announcing an exciting competition for 2018 - and you need no croquet skills do play - only the ability to take a photo ...

So here are the terms and conditions of entry

- The subject is: I Spy SWAN
 - ✓ Send us a photo of the most unusual location where this year's edition of SWAN is being read and yes, you can stage the shot!
- Entry is open to any member of a SWF member club
- Entries will be accepted in JPEG format only and must be submitted by email
 - ✓ Send to lindawithani@hotmail.com
- Each entry must be accompanied by a completed statement verifying that
 - ✓ The photo is the original work of the person submitting it and has not been sourced in any other way
 - ✓ Any person identifiable in the photo has given their permission for the photo to be submitted and understands that the photo may be
 - placed on the SWF website
 - published in the Croquet Gazette
 - used in other ways that promote the club, SWF, CA, the game
 - ✓ Entries must be received by midnight on 30th September 2018
 - ✓ Judging will be by popular vote - probably on the website and at the AGM



Will you be in Wales this year?



Richard Jackson has news of an opportunity for anyone interested in helping a new club with some coaching ...

A new croquet club is being formed at Cardigan; they would welcome assistance in coaching their beginners. We are asking SWF coaches if they can help, but the distances from other clubs in the SWF are considerable and may inhibit offers of help.

Experienced SWF croquet players (not necessarily coaches) may be intending to holiday in Wales this summer. If so, perhaps they would consider offering say a half-day's coaching on their way to or from their destination.

If so, please could they contact the **Cardigan Croquet Club** at tybroch@btinternet.com to make arrangements. Some assistance with travel funding would be available (and the possibility of accommodation!).

Short Croquet at Camerton & Peasedown

Entrants to first-time hosts, Camerton & Peasedown lawns for this eagerly-awaited tournament fought the weather on Friday and Sunday - no surprise there then - and seemed to have a wonderful time. John Grimshaw reports:

A tremendous weekend, despite the weather. Cold and dank on Friday, warm and sunny on Saturday, heavy storms on Sunday, but I think we all enjoyed it. 25 teams took part from 16 clubs. Here are the results:

Division 1 Nailsea Trendlewood 11 Kington Langley Apaches 10 Cornwall 8 Nailsea 7 Sidmouth Fortfield 4	Division 2 Kington Langley Braves 10 Bath A 9 Camerton and Peasedown 8 Bath B 7 Dyffryn 6
Division 3 Swindon 10 Exeter 9 Budleigh Salterton Rockets 7 Taunton Deane A 7 Weston Super Mare A 7	Division 4 Nailsea Avening 11 Sidmouth Connaught 10 Bristol Boys 9 Bristol 7 Llandaff 3
Division 5 East Dorset 13 Taunton Deane B 9 Budleigh Salterton Rushes 8 Weston Super Mare B 6 The Bears 4	
WSM are relegated from Division 3 after losing a three-way shoot-out. We'd better look out for them next year then, they'll come back fighting!	



The Sunday Crowd at Camerton & Peasedown

International playing success for Kingston Maurward

Jonathan Powe, a member of Kingston Maurward Croquet Club, recently won the Bowl at the Association Croquet World Championship in New Zealand in his first appearance at the tournament.



Jonathan, who only took up croquet a few years ago, was one of 17 players from England in the 80-strong field. He came second in his block on the first round but lost to the world number two and top seed, Reg Bamford, in the first round of the knockout. However in the consolation event he won the Bowl trophy, beating Stuart Lawrence of USA in the final.



Steve Leonard, another member of Kingston Maurward Croquet Club, has also been selected by the Croquet Association to join the Golf Croquet International Performance Development Squad.

And more locally **Michelle Leonard** won the Hamptworth Winter GC Handicap Singles Tournament.

For lesser mortals the croquet season at Kingston Maurward started on Sat 24th March. See the website www.kmcroquet.co.uk for details.

Well done Kingston Maurward - you're clearly entering this season on a winning streak!

Local boy makes good



Congratulations to Mark Suter who recently returned to this country and to croquet after a long absence. He joined Nailsea CC and quickly rediscovered his croquet form.

He was appointed to the post of CA Manager earlier this year and has now moved to Cheltenham - we look forward to his support from the office and his challenges on the lawns.

CA Equality Policy

All clubs should have received the following information from Brian Shorney so just a reminder:

The Council of The Croquet Association has approved an Equality Policy (EP) which is at <https://www.croquet.org.uk/?p=ca/gov/policies/equality> and I am required to promulgate this to all our member Clubs and Federations.

I recognise that some clubs have developed their own policies in this area. If you have, I would be grateful if you would please review them to ensure they are consistent with the CA's EP. If you do not have a written policy covering Equality, I recommend that, as a matter of good governance, you adopt the CA's policy. In either case, please ensure that this EP is communicated to all your members.

You will notice there is a section on ethics/behaviour, which may seem axiomatic, but the essence of it is that we should all treat each other with respect. As I said at last October's AGM, our sport enjoys very high standards in this regard and we must act to maintain them. Accordingly, we have implemented changes to Tournament Regulations [see P2(c) and P3(j)] which require Managers to deal with complaints, not only about play, but also about breaches of CA policies, such as that for Safeguarding and this one. By entering, players undertake to abide by them and any such breaches may result in disciplinary action.

Should you have any queries I will do my best to deal with them.

National Croquet Day: so much to celebrate

And this year the day is being celebrated on Sunday 13th May - check out the CA website for further information: www.croquet.org.uk

That's all for now folks!

