

SWF Clubs' Zoom Meeting 10th January 2023

By Zoom: 7.00pm – 8.00pm

Around 20 SWF clubs were represented by nearly 30 people at tonight's meeting.

SWF update

- The two Referees' courses and one refresher course are fully booked with reserve lists
- Remember our Zoom meeting to discuss aspects of Advantage GC will be held on Tuesday 24th January at 7.00pm. Invitations will be sent out nearer the time.
- Remember to check out how the SW's Erica Malaiperuman is faring in the Women's World Championship in New Zealand: - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4oOTF1C6gLQ>.
- Check out the CA website for links to
 - Call for nominations to the position of SW Rep to CA Council:
<https://www.croquet.org.uk/?p=press/news&NewsID=8020&pup=y>
 - Call for applications to join the national Safeguarding team:
<https://www.croquet.org.uk/?p=press/news&NewsID=8011&pup=y>
 - List of CA organised webinars:
<https://www.croquet.org.uk/?p=press/news&NewsID=8019&pup=y>

GC Coaching Corner

Stephen continued with his theme of anticipating faults, focussing on double taps and playing a hampered ball behind a hoop.

His use of slo-mo videos clearly demonstrates how difficult these can be to referee so caution is vital. See the videos at: [Slow Motion Videos \(tauntoncroquet.org\)](http://tauntoncroquet.org)

Coaching Revitalised

David Warhurst (Budleigh Salterton) told the meeting about work in hand to re-start the SW Coaching Academy following a 2 – 3 year gap.

The aim is to develop a portfolio of courses focussing on player development skills that will be of use across AC and GC and across the handicap range.

The target for this year is to run around 10 one-day or half-day courses at Budleigh – the programme will be circulated via Cygnet - and work towards re-establishing the Academy in 2024.

David is in discussion with coaches and would like to establish key areas of demand amongst players and would like to hear from you. He may be contacted on david@warhurst.org.uk

Dave Kibble expressed disappointment that the CA has backed off running / facilitating coaching on a national scale, leaving it to the Academies, and identified a role for the SWF across the region.

Several people asked that courses be made more locally available and this seems feasible in the future.

Noted that the Chiltern Academy, which is more easily accessed by some SW clubs, runs a programme of courses: <https://www.croquet.org.uk/?p=tournament/caCalendar>

Breakout rooms: Recruitment

Useful discussion and suggestions for ways of attracting and retaining new players – if you can get someone back for their third year they're going to stay with you for ever!

The CA Quinquennial Survey throws interesting highlights on the qualities of players and ways of attracting them. <https://www.croquet.org.uk/?p=ca/schemes/surveys/2002>

This is a selection and not all of them will work for everyone.

- Links with schools and youth groups
- Links with U3A groups – need to avoid cliques developing between U3A players and other members
- Holding an open session during the village carnival
- Regular drop-in or taster sessions
- Watch and wine – to help people understand what it's really like
- Tackling perceptions – it is a thinking person's game
- Taking care to make beginners feel a part of the whole club
- Mentoring / buddying
- Roll-ups with a mix of player ability

Coming up

- Tuesday 24th January 7.00pm: Advantage GC – discussion paper will be circulated beforehand
- Tuesday 14th February 7.00pm: put the chocolate and roses to one side for a moment and join our next Zoom – agenda to be announced