

Cygnnet

South West Area Newsletter

Celebrating Croquet Across the Region

Issue 54: August 2025

Welcome to the summer Cygnnet. This is slightly later than usual and until we have a Secretary, or someone who can take on editorship of this newsletter, it won't be as frequent as it used to be. Expect it perhaps 4 times a year now instead of 6.

But I hope it's been worth the wait – so get stuck in and I hope some of the items here prompt you to put an article together for us or send us in a photo.

AGM – call for nominations and proposals

Your club will have received this document which may also be found in Appendix 1.

If you are interested in joining the SWF Committee, or have suggestions about how to improve any aspect of how we work, please discuss with your club's committee or contact lindawithani@hotmail.com

SWF Volunteer of the Year Award

Again your club will have received information and nomination form for this award. It may be found in Appendix 2, so please discuss with your committee if you have any suggestions.

Croquet Creativity

Event mangers do all they can to 'encourage' players to read their notices and some let their imaginations loose. Here's Chris Donovan (Budleigh Salterton) drawing attention to the tie break.



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Cygnnet is emailed to our club contacts who are requested to pass it on to individual club members.
It is also available shortly after publication on our website: www.swfcroquet.org.uk

We welcome queries, suggestions and feedback about Cygnnet or any aspect of the SW croquet scene.
Contact: lindawithani@hotmail.com

SWF SPRING SHORT CROQUET TOURNAMENT – 25th Anniversary Nailsea 11-13th April 2025

I know that I always start with a weather report, but this year Friday was absolutely glorious with temperatures reaching the mid-20s in the afternoon. Saturday and Sunday were slightly cooler, but no rain for once.

This is the 25th Anniversary of the first SWF Short Croquet Tournament at Nailsea, although only the 24th staging due to Covid. There were 4 entries in the original competition. This year, there were 30 entrants, but after a couple of withdrawals, 28 teams played in six divisions, with Divisions 4 and 6 having four teams only.

A change to SC handicapping meant that some players now had to do 4 peels. This honour fell to Chris Williams (Glamorgan Druids), Joe King (Blewbury) and Dave Kibble (Bristol Boys).

Division 6			
Blewbury Bullets	13	Kington Langley Coyotes	7
Glamorgan Druids	8	Tisbury	4
Joe King and Andrew Petit (both Blewbury) won all four games.			



A welcome to Blewbury, who have recently joined the SWF, and Tisbury to their first Spring SC tournament. And Blewbury made the most of their participation by romping away with the title and promotion.

They won 7 of their first 8 games, but Coyotes were just behind them until they played each other in Round 3, and a 4-0 win for Blewbury virtually clinched it. Glamorgan Druids could have tied at this stage, but an unexpected loss, 1-3 to Tisbury, ended that hope, despite the Druids getting revenge in the last round with a 4-0 win over the same opponents.

Division 5			
Bradford on Avon Constrictors	12	Nailsea Glassblowers	6
Budleigh Salterton Rushes	9	Weston Super mare	5
Camerton & Peasedown B	8		
Carl Brown and Peter Hall (both BoA) won all four games			



Round 2 saw Budleigh Salterton Rushes and Bradford on Avon Constrictors each win 4-0, and a close contest looked likely. Unfortunately for Rushes, they slipped away and a 3-1 victory for BoA in Round 4 meant that they could not be caught despite sitting out the last round and are promoted. There will be no relegation from Division 5 this year, as only four teams in Division 4 means that there will be no relegation from that Division.

Division 4			
Bristol Allsorts	11	Glamorgan Bards	8
Taunton Tiggers	9	Bristol Brunels	4
Margo Soakell (Bristol Allsorts) won all four games.			

From the first round it appeared that this was a contest between Taunton Tiggers and Bristol Allsorts and this proved to be the case. The Round 4 game between these teams was decisive when Allsorts won 3-1. The structure of a 4-team Division means that the final round will repeat earlier matches, but with 1s playing 2s, and 3s playing 4s. In this round, a 4-0 win for Tiggers would have led to a shoot-out, but, although they reversed the earlier score of 3-1, this was not quite enough. Similarly, Glamorgan Bards had to play Bristol Brunels in both the last two rounds. At 2 wins each going into Round 4, this was close for third place, but two 3-1 wins for Bards left Brunels with the wooden spoon, but because it was a 4-team division they were spared relegation.



Division 3			
Camerton & Peasedown A	12	Bristol Boys	6
Bath Buns	10	Budleigh Salterton Roquets	5
Taunton Terriers	7		
Simon Dunk and Ann Munton (both C&P), and Tony Jackson (Bath Buns) won all four games.			

Camerton and Peasedown A won all their matches 3-1, and were comfortably top of the table to achieve promotion and Sunday play next year. Their closest rivals were Bath Buns, but a 3-1 victory for C&P in the first round was decisive, because Buns won all their subsequent matches 3-1 also.

The real battle in this Division was to avoid relegation. Going into the last round, Bristol Boys led Budleigh Salterton Roquets by one point and they had to play each other. A 2-2 draw was sufficient for Boys and Roquets are relegated.



After comfortable wins in all Divisions on Friday and Saturday, Sunday at last brought a couple of compelling finishes.

Division 2			
East Dorset	13	Kington Langley Aardvarks	6
Nailsea	12	Sidmouth Connaught	2
Bath Salts	7		
Christine Rice (East Dorset) and Roger Baddeley (Nailsea) won all four games.			



The first two rounds were evenly contested and it appeared that any one of four teams would lead the way. However, 4-0 defeats for both Kington Langley Aardvarks and Bath Salts in Round 3, left two teams contesting the title.

Despite having lost 3-1 to East Dorset in Round 2, Nailsea had 12 wins going into Round 5, but they were sitting out. A strange incident occurred in the Nailsea/East Dorset match, when a Nailsea player pegged out one of his balls in a golden hoop turn and cleared the court thinking he had won, but his other ball was on Hoop 6.

The ED player queried this, and the manager decided that the Nailsea player had forfeited the game. This reversal was the ultimate difference in the final positions. East Dorset needed at least a 3-1 win against Aardvarks in the final round, and this is what they achieved to take the title from a devastated Nailsea and win promotion to Division 1 next year. Sidmouth Connaught struggled all day and are relegated.

Division 1			
Swindon	9	Kinton Langley Bruins	7
Nailsea Trendlewood	9	Sidmouth Fortfield	6
Nailsea Avening	9		
No player won all four games in this Division.			

Last year Swindon lost to Nailsea Trendlewood in a shoot-out. This year those two were again involved in a shoot-out, and they were joined by Nailsea Avening, but this year Swindon won. They hit their first two shots at the peg and the two Nailsea teams could not match this. After the first two rounds it appeared that it was a fight between the two Nailsea teams on 7 and 5 wins. However a 4-0 win for Swindon over Avening in Round 3 changed that and going into the last round Avening were two ahead of Trendlewood and Swindon, but they were sitting out. Round 5 matches both ended 2-2, so we had a three-way tie on 9 points and the shoot-out was required.



Meanwhile, Kington Langley Bruins and Sidmouth Fortfield were battling to avoid relegation. Bruins were ahead by one game with the last round to play, and the 2-2 draws of that round were just enough to save them, and Fortfield are relegated. The Round 3 match between them went 3-1 to Bruins and this made the difference in the end.



Many thanks to the Nailsea club for their hospitality, the provision of the lawns, and the constant supply of hot beverages to keep us warm, especially on Sunday when there was a cold wind blowing in the afternoon.

John Grimshaw

SWF Short Croquet tournaments – a historical perspective.

Nailsea CC were again excellent hosts for this year's tournament – its 25th anniversary. This prompted a search back through SWAN – the South West Area Newsletter. This was the precursor to Cygnet.

Issue 19 published in April 2001 carried a report on the previous year's inaugural competition. You can read the full article in Appendix 3 but here are a couple of highlights:

- Four teams entered – Nailsea, Dyffryn (original winners and now Glamorgan), Kington Langley and North Devon – in Barnstaple
- The lineup included two people who played this year – Kevin Ham and Kathy Wallace – and several names who are still out there on the circuit including Marcus Evans who helped set the hoops this year.

It was hoped this would become an annual event which, with the exception of Covid, it did – and more: 15 years later the autumn event saw itself onto the calendar at Budleigh Salterton CC and remains firmly there.

Leagues Update

Gill tells us that all the Leagues are progressing well despite some postponements thanks to too much rain or too much sun! And a couple of reminders:

- In Golf Croquet there is a limit to the number of games that an individual may play. 'Rule 9b - Restrictions' state that 'No player shall play in more than two doubles and four singles games.' The penalty is that the game is forfeit. There have been several instances when this rule has been breached this year
- Please ensure that score sheets are legible (should be typed) and that names are spelled correctly. This is particularly necessary for those leagues where the individual scores need to be reported to Croquet England.

You may have noticed that the Short Croquet Restricted League was cancelled this year due to insufficient entries and that there are only three teams in AC B League. Both these Leagues are an excellent opportunity for newer and higher handicap AC players to meet others and gain experience so it is disappointing they have attracted so few players.



Why do you think this is happening? A few possible answers occur to us. Do any of them resonate with your experience?:

- Not enough players in the handicap range
- Players from previous years have improved and so are now ineligible
- Players are unwilling to play outside of their club, even for home matches
- New players don't want to play or are not shown Association or Short croquet
-

We'd love to know about you or your club's experience with this – we really don't want AC to experience further decline – so do let us hve your perspective on this.

League Finals

A little while to go yet but here are the details for this year's finals. If your team doesn't make it, why not pop along to watch those who have.

League	Date	Venue
AC Federation	27 th Sept	Sidmouth
AC Intermediate	27 th Sept	Camerton & Peasedown
SC Open	21 st Sept	Kington Langley
GC Level Play 5+	20 th Sept	Bristol
GC Handicap	21 st Sept	Nailsea
GC High Handicap	28 th Sept	Taunton Deane

Just a reminder that as usual there are no finals for the AC Advanced or GC Level Play Leagues. These are decided solely on the block results. And there will be no B League final this year as there is only one block.

Barbara Evans Trophy



*L-R: Tony Hicks, Chichester. Colin Britt, Camerton & Peasedown. Andrew Dutton, Woking. Linda Shaw, Manager. Mark Oldale, Garway. Bob Whiffen, Bristol. Peter Rothwell, Wrest Park. Adam Moliver, Cheltenham. Robert Upton, Glamorgan. Richard Williamson, Bristol.
Gone to Lunch: Andrew Wise, Hurlingham.*

This trophy has been closely fought over since 1999 with two gaps – one for Covid and one for flooded lawns. No risk of that this time. A muggy weekend with more cloud than might have been expected, and the picturesque setting of Bristol Croquet Club was the backdrop for this B-Level tournament.

Also part of the backdrop were the noisy next-door school fete on the Saturday and the bobbly lawns. The balls behaved more like champion show jumpers at times, bounding across the lawns and effortlessly clearing their target balls. Plans are afoot for resolving this so it's flat-racing and not show jumping next year!

The difficulties encountered in reading the fast lawns is evidenced by the generally low scores and the fact that only 4 of 25 games were pegged out – two of those by eventual winner, Adam Moliver (Cheltenham.) Nevertheless, the players were still smiling at the end of it – cheered up no end by a highly-tempting array of home-made cakes. Even Tony Hicks (Chichester) *right* with no winning score, enjoyed his consolation prize – a box of chocolates, presented by Bristol CC Chair, Martin Leach.



With 10 players, two blocks of 5 played cross-block. This might have been a manager's disaster, but the players did us proud.

With three players on three wins on the Sunday morning, Andrew Dutton (Woking) had the good grace to lose his fourth-round game leaving two players with four wins at lunchtime. They were in opposite blocks and scheduled to play their last game against each other anyway – so a natural final for the spectators gathering around lawn 1 for the grand finale.



Adam Moliver (*left*) and Peter Rothwell (*right*) were head-to-head in a reenactment of an earlier tournament this year at Bowden CC. This time the tables were reversed. Peter just couldn't get to grips with the lawn while Adam romped ahead to a 26:11 victory.



This is the second time Adam has won this trophy.

And in the rest of the news ...

An intriguing one for the referees – Andrew Wise claimed a wiring lift for four different reasons but was ultimately unsuccessful. He writes:

The ball for which I claimed a lift was about a yard from hoop 5, on a line to hoop 3. My second ball was right next to hoop 6 and the oppo balls were near hoop 3.

- My first claim was that I was hampered on my backswing from firing at one of the opponent balls, The referee agreed.
- I repeated my claim for the other oppo ball. The referee again agreed.
- I then claimed that I was wired by the peg from my other ball. It was a close shave but the referee disagreed.

- I did not give up. My fourth claim was that I could not reach the right-hand edge of my partner ball because my ball would hit the right-hand post of hoop 6 first. The referee used another ball to test the claim and it failed - by a few millimetres!

Ten out of ten for persistence Andrew.

Hoop setting in action as Tony Hicks' ball jammed in 3-back on Sunday morning. Incorrect setting was confirmed, the Bristol Hoop-Setter-In-Chief, Wayne Wiseman, was consulted and the players set-to to correct it with the help of Bristol member Nigel Jetha. Hot and hard work but it all worked out in the end.

Club Member Nigel Jetha scrapes away while players Andrew Wise and Tony Hicks assist.



Thanks to all the helpers who helped prepare the lawns and support us during the weekend and to Pat Thomson for the photos.

Women's Croquet Coaching

You may have seen this already but it's worth repeating here. If you haven't done so already, Alison Maugham would welcome your input. You can contact her alison@alisonswebsites.co.uk

I am so excited to tell you that Croquet England has agreed to let me do a little research for Women's Coaching. Well, you know me, I can't help but be more inclusive than that, so I like to think of this as 'Encouraging Women to attend Coaching', where everyone is welcome but the aim is to encourage more women to attend coaching sessions.

The first step is to check that it's not just me that thinks this is a good idea, then it will be finding qualified coaches to deliver a programme of content, then comes the planning stage and some grovelling with clubs.

I would be super grateful if you would be able to answer (Privately is fine):

- *Would you be interested in attending a coaching programme to encourage Women to prepare for tournament play?*
- *Would you be interested in being a coach (remember, this is about encouraging women to receive coaching, not being a woman to lead coaching)?*
- *Would your club be able to host a group of very lovely croquet players during the 2026 season?*



Nature Notes



Chris Frew, Bristol CC asks:

Am I the only one to have noticed that the yellow ball is much more attractive to insects than any other colour? It is often dotted with wildlife when its set companions are utterly lifeless.

This was merely an observational quirk until late spring last year, when my opponent let me in and I approached my yellow ball. On it were two shield bugs. Not to put too fine a point on it, they were busy with the process of making more shield bugs.

At least, that's what I assumed. I consulted my opponent, who proved equally ignorant of the reproductive techniques of shield bugs. I thought it only fair to give them a moment – but would that be enough? Speed of fertilisation is meant to be an evolutionary advantage, but perhaps my shield bugs hadn't evolved very far. I thought of consulting Google, but then realised that such an enquiry might flag me up as a weirdo on some mighty database somewhere. Google was out.

My next thought was the option of maximum *politesse*: shoot the red ball at blue/black, leaving the yellow ball isolated for a while. But that didn't make sense in the context of the game. I would have to find a yellow ball solution.

I didn't want to brush them off, for fear of getting shield bug bodily fluids on my hand. No-one wants that. So, feeling something like a Peeping Tom, I tried blowing, with increasing effort - but that proved futile.

I was now hot and bothered, and the shield bugs were unmoved. I had lost sympathy with the pair of them. So, I carefully rotated the yellow ball so that they were atop – still locked together – and gave the ball a mighty whack. I never saw them again, but if either claim credit for making the earth move for their partner, they are deluded. It was me.

Publicity Pointer

John Hancock, Nailsea & District CC, has been doing an amazingly successful job creating publicity for the club over the past few years.

He has nurtured his relationship with the local freebee sports page and it is unusual not to have a submission accepted. He is supported by members of the club – team captains, event organisers and so on – who submit their reports along with photos.

John translates this into newspaperese and the next thing you know, there they are. The North Somerset Times even has a dedicated croquet page [Croquet | North Somerset Times](#).

So don't give up – and you may well have noticed the number of clubs now posting regularly on Facebook. That's the only social media I subscribe to but if we want to appeal to the next generations, then we need to be focussing on their SM of choice.



Your Development Team

Do contact your Development Officer if you would like to discuss any aspect of your club's development. They're waiting for your call!

Andru Blewett	Paul Francis	Tony Mayer	Klim Seabright	Brian Wilson
andru@bluboy.uk	paulwfrancis@icloud.com	aesmayer@yahoo.co.uk	klimseabright@gmail.com	bwilson71e@icloud.com
Barnstaple	Bradford on Avon	Bath	Bristol	Abbey
Bude	Budleigh Salterton	Glamorgan	Broadwas	Camerton and Peasedown
Cornwall	East Dorset	Kington Langley	Cheltenham	Charlton
Exeter	Llandaff	Nailsea	Garway	Dowlsh Wake
Fowey	Llandovery	Swindon	Moreton in Marsh	Montacute
Plymouth	Lym Valley	Weston super Mare	Worcester Norton	Palace Wells
St. Agnes	Mumbles			Swanage
	Sidmouth			Tisbury
	Taunton Deane			Wareham
	Wellington			
	Winterborne Valley			

1-4-U Two members of this team are likely to be standing down at the AGM so we are keeping an eye open for people to replace them – could you be one of them?
Do get in touch with Paul to find out more.

Camerton & Peasedown CC Have an Adventure

Club Chair, Fran Ralli tells us more.

Camerton and Peasedown CC narrowly avoided 'No-Mow' May in 2025 when two of the directors/co-owners of their contracted professional ground keeping firm decided to empty that firm's bank accounts and decant themselves abroad with the money.

The Club found themselves in a difficult situation which needed to be resolved successfully and ASAP. They found themselves, already at the height of a very busy season of League matches, Club afternoon and tournaments, with four full sized lawns that within days would be unplayable. Somehow, and quickly, they had to get the grass cut.

With literally just 24 hours' notice the CPCC committee sprang into action calling on their individual talents and their personal connections to acquire the basics needed for the Club to continue play; i.e. a lawn mower and a team of Club members to walk behind it.

Fortunately, the professional contractor's workforce, who as individuals now suddenly found themselves out of work, had earlier done the spring renewal and maintenance tasks and, with the Club's irrigation system already being in use in the exceptionally dry spring of 2025, the grass was healthy and growing strongly.



Using his local contacts and his 'Just Do It' approach Andy Loakes sourced a high spec reconditioned cylinder mower and this was quickly purchased. It is an ATCO Club 20" cylinder petrol mower with 12 blades, ensuring a fine cut of 133 cuts per metre; a very nice bit of kit. The correct fuel was also sourced and purchased.

Basic maths told us that the mower, cutting at 20 inches, would need to be followed for about 4 miles and that this task, for both practical and health and safety reasons, would be best shared between 2 or 3 Club members.

Andy Loakes (left) CPCC IC (mowing) with Paul Dix 2IC

Initial practice showed that the mower was indeed a good one but it would take a bit of practice to get things absolutely right. To start with the cutter bar was set at a nominal 8mm but the results were a bit odd. Maybe the cutter bar had slipped slightly during the first trial? The bar was quickly tightened and for the second run of the mower a more accurate gauge was made. It became apparent that the contractor's team may not have been cutting at 8mm because the clippings box filled up rapidly and this was time consuming to empty.

At the second outing of the mower, with the cutter bar set accurately at 7mm, the task of removing clippings was much reduced. It was decided that cutting first at 7mm and then, maybe, dropping

the cut to 6mm would be the better option and mowing twice a week would reduce the onerous task of removing the cuttings box so frequently. It might be possible to do all four lawns in two and a half hours. This still meant that many wo/man hours had to be found from somewhere to keep on top of the mowing job alone.

However, within a few days, the sole remaining managing director of the professional contractor firm, who had been left in the lurch by the other two, had started to re-assess his situation and to decide whether, where and when, he would attempt to take the Company once the formalities of the liquidation had been processed. In the meantime the redundant workforce still needed to work.



So, just one week on from all the drama, a second 'Andy', a long-standing employee of our former contractor, arrived at 7.0am on a Thursday to chat to our now more knowledgeable Club members about a way forward for the lawn mowing. With spare keys provided and a new Mowers WhatsApp created an arrangement was made for twice weekly mowing. Whew! Continued play for the summer of 2025 was now looking possible. Crisis averted and over the worst; we hope so, at least until the next problems arise.

Looking ahead; it is possible that another company will rise from the ashes of the previous one. If this proves to be the case we shall use them for the autumn and winter lawn treatments. But we also have second, third and fourth options to look at, if necessary.

The good bits are that, in a relative short space of time, we have learnt a lot about our lawns and their routine summer management. This will put us in a stronger position when talking to professionals about the quality of our playing surface and this can only be a good thing. And we now own a top-notch second-hand mower. Some timely rain has now fallen and the lawns are looking good and playing well; it may not be too early to say 'High Fives All Round'.

Like to know more? Try <https://camertonpeasedowncroquet.co.uk/blog/2025/05/10/no-mow-may/>

Advantage GC Target Scoring

Ian Shore wrote to Paul to confirm this:

You will recall when I was at Bath with you in Feb I briefed you and others on the Advantage GC Target Score Method and explained we were seeking approval from the WCF Management Committee to conduct a trial.

I am pleased to be able to let you know that the trial has been approved - see the CqE news item here: <https://www.croquet.org.uk/?p=press/news&NewsID=8688&pup=y> .

If SWF wishes to take part in the trial, as the website says, they should contact Roy Tillcock (copied in) who will provide all the trial documentation.

Club Level Coaches

Congratulations to the following people who have been working hard over recent months to achieve their Club Level Coach award – a great new set of people to add to the coaching team in the South West.

Name	Club	Name	Club
Martin Alabaster	Bath/Bradford on Avon	Jane Coward	Budleigh Salterton
Steve Beer	Taunton Deane	Eileen Murphy	Winterborne Valley
Roger Baddeley	Nailsea	Paul New	Budleigh Salterton
Clare Barratt	Winterborne Valley	Louise Smith	Budleigh Salterton
Nigel Cocks	Bath/Bradford on Avon	Stuart Smith	Budleigh Salterton
Adrian Coward	Budleigh Salterton		

We had excellent feedback so do get in touch with Paul if you'd like to qualify next year.

I just wanted to say thank you for the coaching course, I learned a lot from it. A while ago I was, wrongly, critical of the coaching available in the SWF but having seen first-hand the amount of effort you put into running a successful course, I can now appreciate better how much of your personal time you give and the work the SWF is putting into train budding coaches like myself.

Regarding the course we have just completed, when I started I was of the opinion that 2 full days would be better than the zoom calls followed by the in-person day, but my opinion has changed and I think having the zoom calls allowed us time to prepare and think through our approach which made the day on Wednesday more productive and easier to run. Overall I can't think of much to improve.

And many thanks to Paul Francis for organising it all and supporting people through the process. If you'd like to become a club coach, or upgrade your qualification, please get in touch:

paulwfrancis@icloud.com

Reading Corner



I was reminded we ran the Reading Corner feature for a few issues when I came across a Limericks feature in SWAN. There's some great creativity out there, so let's have your creations. Here's a couple from issue 19 to stimulate those juices:

A high handicap player from Taunton
Found Competitive play a bit dauntin'
Til she joined the CA
And got oodles of play;
Now she's forever tournament jauntin'

Sue Mackay (Dyffryn)

There was a young lady from Bristol
Who swapped for her mallet, a pistol.
As she took her first shot,
On ran the ROT,
To confirm the young lady had missed all.

Pete Trimmer (Bristol)



Beautifully crafted mallets
made with aluminium or
carbon shaft

- end weighted,
- ex-stock or bespoke.

You choose.

From £155 inc postage.

A delight to play with.

Contact: Marie Stuchfield
Mob: 07929940893
E mail: mlstuchfield@gmail.com



Advertising in Cygnet

We accept adverts relating to croquet in the South West.

All adverts must be sent fully formatted in such a way as they can be easily inserted (copy and pasted) into Cygnet. We are not in a position to undertake any artwork or correct for errors or omissions.

When appropriate, e.g. forthcoming event, charges include a 2/3-line entry in the Diary Dates column the subsequent issue.

Free advertising may be given when it is of direct benefit to SWF clubs and when there is no charge for the event or equipment.

Charges

Full Page: £12 Half Page: £6 Quarter Page: £3

Diary Dates



Short Croquet Tournaments

- 3rd – 5th Oct at Budleigh Salterton

Useful Links	
Bisques, Extra Strokes and Advantage Calculator – Brian Wainman's life-saving tool	chc.eu.pythonanywhere.com/
Croquet England	www.croquetengland.org.uk/
Croquet England Youtube channel	www.youtube.com/@CroquetEngland/streams
Croquet England on Facebook	www.facebook.com/search/top?q=croquet%20england
Croquet Hub on Facebook	www.facebook.com/groups/1658937214910559
Croquet England slo-mo videos	www.croquet.org.uk/?p=games/golf/refereeing/slomo
Oxford Croquet - coaching	www.oxfordcroquet.com/
Chris Clarke - coaching	clarkecroquet.com/
Reg Bamford – the psychology of the game	www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qw_jiBpnCug
Hit Inn – Alison Maugham chats with some successful players	www.youtube.com/watch?v=bf5gM-cswiQ
Canva – a free poster / flyer / logo design tool	www.canva.com/en_gb/
Try Croquet – an eclectic selection on a range of croquet topics	www.trycroquet.co.uk/
Tournament Management: Chris Roberts	www.youtube.com/watch?v=1V2adRweWZg&t=10s

1-4-U We'd love to hear your account of matches, tournaments or other events that you run or take part in – a personal experience is worth sharing and a photo can paint a thousand words – so don't forget us when you're playing this year.
lindawithani@hotmail.com

Appendix 1

Call for Proposals for consideration by the AGM and Nominations to Committee 23rd November 2025 at 10.00 am by Zoom The deadline for receiving proposals and nominations is 12th October 2025

- Please read this carefully and do take some time to think about how you can support us in our work.
- We are always keen to recruit new committee members and information about what is involved may be found below.
- There are other ways you could help without being on the committee, so do get in touch to discuss your ideas.

Amongst the purposes of the AGM are:

- To consider proposals presented by member clubs or the SWF Committee
- To elect the committee for 2025 - 2026

Please see our Constitution for full details: <https://www.swfcroquet.org.uk/constitution/>

The official Notice of the AGM will be circulated by the by 26th October and will include the agenda, all proposals, all nominations and further details about the event which will be held by Zoom.

Proposals for consideration by the AGM

- A proposal for inclusion in the Agenda of the Annual General Meeting may be presented either by the Committee or by a member-club (duly signed by its Secretary or delegate)
- Proposals to the AGM will not be tabled if they were considered in the previous AGM.
- Please include the following information:
 - Name of Club
 - Proposal
 - Rationale
 - Name and contact details of club secretary

All proposals will be circulated with the Notice of AGM so clubs will have the opportunity to consider these and brief their delegates accordingly.

Clubs are encouraged to discuss their proposals with each other or with SWF Committee before submitting them. This may help formulate them well and gauge the level of support it may have.

Nominations for Committee

We are looking for enthusiastic, skilled, and reliable people to join the committee in a number of roles and would particularly love to hear from people in clubs not currently involved in the Committee. Please see below for more details.

Our constitution states that:

- The Committee shall consist of up to 12 persons to be elected annually comprising Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, League Secretary, Development Officer (candidates to be directly elected to these positions) and up to 7 other people.
- Each candidate for election must be a member of a club that is a Full-Member of the SWF and must be proposed by two Officers of any Full-Member Club.

If you are not sure if your club is such a member, please ask a member of your committee or contact Linda Shaw: lindawithani@hotmail.com

When completing the application form, please state which role you are standing for. If you are standing as a General Member, please state your particular area of interest or expertise e.g. coaching, handicapping, lawns management, IT.

Please use the form below or ensure that all the requested information is provided in an email or letter.

Any Other Business

- There will be no AOB as an agenda item – clubs wishing to raise a matter that is not a proposal may do so in advance by submitting it beforehand by 12th October
- Please note that immediately following the AGM there will be a Q&A session when any matters may be raised

• SWF of Croquet Clubs: Nomination for Committee	
Name of nominee	
Email	
Club	
Please state the role/s you wish to be nominated for	
Please state the reasons for your interest in this / these roles and the skills you would bring.	
Completion and submission of this form indicates your consent to being nominated NB: This must be an Officer of the club as identified in the Club Constitution or Governing Document. These will normally be your Chair, Secretary and Treasurer, but your Constitution may identify other Officers.	
Proposed by	Name
	Email
	Club
	Your Officer role
Seconded by	Name
	Email
	Club
	Your Officer role

Please send any queries, completed proposals and nominations to:

SWF Secretary

Linda Shaw

lindawithani@hotmail.com

Or if you must, to:

21, Grove Avenue, Bristol, BS9 2RP

Appendix 2

SWF Volunteer of the Year Award

Nominations are now open for this SWF Club Volunteer of the Year Award.

Inaugurated in 2024 we received 6 very worthy nominations so let's exceed that this year – we know there's loads of very worthy candidates out there.

The award aims to recognize those club members who do masses for the club and yet whose contribution may pass unremarked by many. Now's the time to give them the recognition they deserve.

You can find the nomination form below – do read carefully and tell us what we need to know along with good supporting evidence.

All nominations will receive a certificate from the SWF and the Club Volunteer of the Year will be announced at the SWF AGM.

Clubs need to submit their written proposal by September 8th.

Please send your nominations to:

paulwfrancis@icloud.com

SWF CLUB VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR 2025

Nominating Club	Nominated Volunteer
Name	Name
Position in club – this must be an officer of your club.	
Email	Email

Why is your club nominating this volunteer? Please limit your recommendation to 500 words and include details such as

- Length of time as a volunteer
- What they have done
- How this has contributed to your club's success
- How you have selected the volunteer e.g. committee choice and/or wider club membership
- You may wish to include any quotes/endorsements from club members

Exclusions

- Previously nominated volunteers

Appendix 3

SWF Short Croquet tournaments – a historical perspective.

Report by Sue Mackay

SWF Short Croquet Team Competition

Sadly the inaugural South West Federation short croquet team competition on 10 June at Nailsea only attracted four teams of four; Nailsea, Dyffryn, Kington Langley and North Devon (Barnstaple). Dyffryn emerged as the first winners of the competition, which hopefully will now become an annual event.

On paper the Dyffryn team looked by far the strongest. Their team of **James Mackay**, **Kevin Ham**, **Allan Greenup** and **Sue Mackay** included two former national individual short croquet champions and one of the previous year's finalists. In the end they were pushed hard by new kids on the block, Barnstaple. Barnstaple, it must be said, were playing with two rather good cuckoos in their nest. As two of their team had to pull out at the last minute they were replaced by **Greta Stringer** and youngster **Marcus Evans** of Nailsea. Greta won three out of four games for them and Marcus won two out of three. Sadly he became extremely unwell during his final game against Sue Mackay of Dyffryn and had to concede while only one hoop behind. Sue wishes it to be known that she did not put anything in his tea, and indeed was quite disappointed not to finish the game as it promised to be a very exciting one. Both were playing well and both had four bisques left. Marcus was for Hoop 6 and Sue was for the peg with their first balls, and Marcus had just started to take his second ball round and attempt the rover peel.

Barnstaple, in addition to their captain **Peter Edwards**, did have one secret weapon of their own in youngster **Sean Trevett**, playing in his first tournament. Manager Peter Dyke had to assign him a handicap, and put him on 21, where he played at number 4 for his team. He wiped the floor with everyone, and he and Allan Greenup of Dyffryn were the only players to end the day on four wins.

Kington Langley (**Alex Shipp**, **Jane Hull**, **Eric Bevan** and **Les Hull**) battled it out with the official Nailsea team (**Mary Barnes**, **Kathy Wallace**, **Brigit Clayton** and **John Paterson**) for third and fourth place. Kington Langley ended up on six wins and Nailsea on four wins. Peter Dyke can expect some stick from his club mates for fielding a B League side so that newcomers Barnstaple would not be overwhelmed, and then lending Barnstaple two of Nailsea's best players!!

There were a few interesting incidents. Sue Mackay nearly threw away her first game when she ran Hoop 6 with her second ball and only needed to take off to her partner ball right by the peg to win. As she had a bisque in hand it didn't occur to her to split up her opponent first, but then she took off into the peg and couldn't use her last bisque to peg the other ball out!! Marcus Evans did exactly the same thing in his game against Eric Bevan. Fortunately for their sanity both players won. James Mackay started his last game by running Hoop 1 from the boundary and ending up in the jaws of Hoop 2. His euphoria didn't last long, though, as he lost that game to Kathy Wallace, who was determined not to be intimidated by the speed of the 17 year old around the lawn and used her bisques wisely.

The real winner was the game of short croquet and hopefully more teams will be encouraged to take part next year. The sun shone all day and everyone had a lot of fun. Thanks are due to all at the Nailsea club.

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