

Cygnnet

South West Area Newsletter

Celebrating Croquet Across the Region

Issue 55: September 2025

Welcome to a brief, functional Cygnnet this month – still lots to read about so take a break and get reading.

Welcome Pauline

We're delighted to welcome Pauline McAllister to the SWF Committee – she has been co-opted as Treasurer as Peter Kirby is standing down.



They have worked together on the handover and we are grateful to Peter for all his work and for remaining on the Committee until the AGM, at which point Pauline will be standing for election. He has also offered to be on hand to offer further support if needed.

Pauline is a member of Weston super Mare CC and has masses of experience with a financial background and experience as Treasurer with other organisations.

Pauline says: "I really appreciate the welcome afforded me by the SWF committee and look forward to working with you all over the coming years. I would like to thank Peter for his excellent handover and his offer of further support as I settle into this role."

Thank You Stephen

A rather belated token of our appreciation was presented to Stephen at the GC Inter-Counties at Southwick recently. While remaining on the Committee, Stephen stepped down as League Secretary but has given invaluable support to Gill who has taken on this demanding role.

We look forward to continuing working with you Stephen.



AGM

And talking about AGMs, clubs have received the call for nominations for committee and for proposals to be presented to the meeting.

The deadline for receiving these is 12th October – the paperwork may be found in Appendix 1 but do get in touch if you have any other queries lindawithani@hotmail.com

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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

Finals

The League Finals are imminent, the culmination of hours of play, agony and triumph for so many. Full reports will be in the next Cygnet, but if you're free over the coming weekends, why not pop along to one of the finals at a club near you.

Not all the finalists are known at the time of going to press so check out the contenders on the SWF website.

Good luck everyone.

AGC – what do you think?

Clubs, their League Secretaries and GC Handicap teams' captains have all been asked for feedback on how the Advantage GC League Rules have worked out this year and for suggestions on how these might be improved – what has worked – what hasn't? many thanks to everyone who has already replied – it's been a really useful exercise.

If you've missed out on this, please contact Andru Blewett andru@bluboy.uk as soon as possible with your thoughts – please tell us your name, club, and experience of playing AGC.



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Short deadline: 14th September please

Target Scoring

Relevant to this is the decision is the news that the Target Score Method is being trialled – so let's keep an eye open for further information on this.

Rain Stopped Play ...



... but the fun continued as players took in the hoops and balls in torrential conditions at Nailsea's Wild Wednesday this month.

Rob Royffe in particular, revelled at the challenge – not quite rolling up his sleeves but certainly removing shoes and socks – thanks Rob!

Wild Wednesday is a monthly event and consists of three 18-point games and of course tea and cake.

There is a monthly winner then at the end of the year the overall winner is declared and takes home the coveted trophy – until it is returned the following spring.

Brigit Clayton organises every with efficiency and diplomacy – thanks for that Brigit.

GC Inter Counties

Tony Mayer gives us an account of some of the goings-on at this prestigious event.

This year's tournament was held in glorious sunny weather at Cheltenham on 17 and 18 August. The lawns, like everywhere after this extreme summer were lightning fast.

A 'scratch' team, known as CqE Select, was entered in the tournament order to make up the numbers. Compared with the other teams, CqE Select was made up of players from the SWF area and having the highest average handicap of all the teams. Surprise! Surprise! The scratch team prevailed having won 8 of the 9 rounds.



It was ably captained by Neil Fillery from Taunton Deane and consisted of Neil, Mark Godfrey-James (Camerton & Peasedown), Peter Kirby (Bristol), Gill Hindshaw (Moreton in Marsh), Tony Mayer (Swindon), Jill Bateman (Cheltenham) and Brent Watkins (Cheltenham).

Having won this tournament does this mean that the 'scratch' team gets promotion?!!

Photo show Neil Fillery with the trophy and some of the team (L to R): Brent Watkins, Peter Kirby, Neil Fillery, Gill Hindshaw and Jill Bateman



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Budleigh Salterton Open Short Croquet Tournament

BSCC, Westfield Close, Budleigh Salterton, Devon EX9 6ST

Tuesday 30th Sept – Wednesday 1st October 2025

Short Croquet is a form of AC played on a half lawn. Perfect for beginners and experts alike.

- All AC handicaps welcome
- SC handicaps will be allocated to those without one
- 9+ timed games guaranteed

Manager: Chris Donovan

Entry Fee: £30 inclusive of tea/coffee

N.B.: Catered lunches are not available for this 2-day event. Entrants should bring a packed lunch.

Max entries: 32 “first come first served”

Closing date: 27th September 2025

Format: American Blocks depending on numbers (AMD) [to give maximum play]

Entry via club system: <https://tinyurl.com/3z3aw878>



Need to talk through your plans?

Don't forget our Development Team is happy to help

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	Dowlish 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 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

Diary Dates



AGM

- Zoom Sunday 21st November

Short Croquet Tournament

- 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

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

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