

**Cygnets**  
**South West Area Newsletter**  
**Celebrating Croquet Across the Region**  
**Issue 57: December 2025**

Hello everyone

Well, that was a mammoth AGM – thanks to everyone who helped us reach decisions on 33 proposals – that must be some sort of record and I sincerely hope that no-one tries to break it – at least not for the next two years ...

Draft minutes have been circulated – there are some errors there which we're in the process of sorting out. When amended, they will be sent out again and posted on our website.

A landmark decision to take more time making suggestions about League Rules and formulating them outside of an AGM was made. But final decisions will still be made at the AGM. A series of working parties will be established to undertake this in full consultation with member clubs. Details of what these are and how they will work will be in the next issue of Cygnets.

In the meantime, read on and enjoy the winter months.

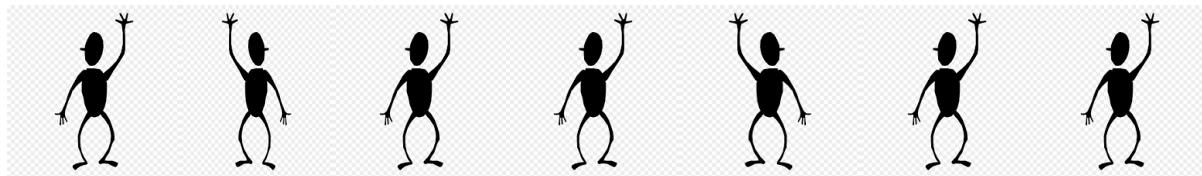
**Contents**

Volunteer of the Year	p1
PHC Mallets ( <i>advert</i> )	p3
Budleigh Salterton Short Croquet	p5
Autumn Short Croquet Tournament	p5
Obituary John Airey	p9
Obituary Roger Jenkins	p10
GC Refs Training	p13
Under 25s Mentoring Event	p15
Diary dates	p15
Useful links	p16
Advertising	p16
1 4 U	p16

We kick off with a celebration of our volunteers. Citations for the nominees for this award are recorded below. Congratulations to you all and well done Steve for being the SWF Volunteer of the Year.

These four people represent the smallest tip of the iceberg – pretty well the whole of the croquet world – certainly in the UK – is run by volunteers. A lot of hard work, certainly, but also masses of laughs and satisfaction.

This is the second year we have ran this award and we know not every club is happy singling out nominees so we have decided not to run it again, at least for the time being. But we need to remind ourselves every time we hear the word 'croquet' we think 'volunteer'.



Cygnets 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](http://www.swfcroquet.org.uk)

We welcome queries, suggestions and feedback about Cygnets or any aspect of the SW croquet scene.  
Contact: [lindawithani@hotmail.com](mailto:lindawithani@hotmail.com)

## **Steve Leonard – East Dorset CC**

Steve has been a croquet member of East Dorset since 2019. Soon after his arrival, he offered to take over as the Croquet Section's Grounds Member. Committed, resourceful and highly energetic, he has been a tower of strength ever since and in particular over the past 12 months.

While Steve's principal responsibilities are management and oversight, he is more than willing to roll up his sleeves and carry out any task that needs doing. He has an excellent relationship with the club groundsman, and they work alongside each other extremely well.

When the groundsman took paternity leave in April (a key time for the lawns), Steve willingly stepped in to take over the routine daily tasks, spending more than three hours at the club each day dealing with a multitude of issues. Admirably, it took no prompting or encouragement from others - he just took it all on and did an excellent job, which is testament to his selflessness and sense of duty.

Full of ideas and determined to provide top-quality facilities for the members, one of Steve's recent initiatives has been to instigate a regular weekly maintenance period. This was not universally popular amongst the members as it takes all the courts out of use for a couple of hours. But it has proved to be extremely successful, helping to improve court conditions and ensure more efficient use of the groundsman's hours.

Another key achievement has been the instigation of a major refurbishment programme. Largely his initiative and introduced as a result of his persuasive advocacy, one of the club's five courts is being taken out of use each year in order to carry out extensive improvements to the grass and playing surfaces. It is a programme that has required detailed planning, negotiation with contractors and work within committees. To his credit, Steve has managed it all - alongside the constant need to deal with a myriad of short-notice changes and problems - with considerable aplomb, and the improvements to the courts are already clearly evident.

Steve's task has not been easy, especially this year. East Dorset is a multi-sport club and there are many more tennis members and padel players than croquet members, so ensuring croquet gets its fair share of funds and maintenance time is a constant challenge. But Steve, who sits on the club's Grounds Committee, has handled this delicate task with energy and maturity, securing appropriate and much-needed support from both the Grounds Committee and the Club Board, and thus ensuring the longer-term quality of the croquet facilities.

We are very lucky to have Steve in the role. How he manages the task alongside all the other stuff he does, not least his competitive croquet (he has played 200 GC ranking games in the past 12 months) is anyone's guess. But we are very thankful that he keeps all his plates spinning with such skill, efficiency, and dedication



## **Silke Bruening – Moreton in Marsh**



Silke joined the club in the early days after retiring from running her very smart tea room in Moreton in Marsh. It was my favourite place to meet up with friends on a Saturday morning. Silke did some of her training at The Dorchester Hotel.

She was introduced to the club by a friend. She wasn't terribly keen to try the game but after one session she was hooked.

Our biggest fund-raising event is providing teas at Chastleton Church, which is adjacent to Chastleton House, a National Trust property. These events take place approximately once a month and this year £6,000 has been raised so far.

Silke is in charge of the team and works tirelessly getting the team together and organising, which cakes she requires for the day. She cuts the cakes into slices or squares and keeps a record of how many pieces we have so that we know approximately how much will be made if we sell everything. One day we had one slice of fruit cake left which had to be shared by two of our customers. We all know now that once a slice has been served, we have to turn the cake round so that people can see the inside of the cake. So strict is her training of us.

Apart from all the above she makes cakes for us when we host visiting teams and when we host visitors. She has also been instrumental recently in organising a new kitchen unit which completes the kitchen end of our clubhouse. She works tirelessly for the club and I hope she will be considered for this award.



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](mailto:mlstuchfield@gmail.com)



## **Clare Fletcher – Bath CC**

Clare has been a fully committed member at Bath Croquet Club for many years. She uses her numerous skills to add to the enjoyment of others whilst they are at the club.

She supports the Golf Croquet arm of the club by amongst other things holding the position of Captain of the High Handicap Team. She attends taster sessions encouraging prospective new members to join the club extoling the many benefits of club life.

With Alan, her partner, she has been instrumental in preparing and caring for our flower beds in and around the lawns, recently creating a flowerbed to include various species of plant that give interest across the year. Her latest design has seen much wildlife enjoying the numerous plantings for nectar collection. Together they mow the lawn edges and are ever looking for the next spot that requires a plant to add evening perfume to the air.



Clare has recently handed over the job of supplying consumables for members' convenience, having held the role since 2017. The cupboards were never bare and one could always retire to the Clubhouse for refreshments as required – hot or cold. Her goal, whilst keeping prices very reasonable, was to make a profit that could be reinvested into providing a sustainable club.

2025 has been a huge challenge by way of keeping our lawns irrigated and Clare has appeared on the rota to set out, move and clear away our watering equipment very, very, very regularly. Without the dedication from members, such as Clare, our lawns would have suffered even greater damage.

Without members such as Clare clubs such as ours would not be the vibrant, enjoyable destinations that we all take for granted. Thank you CLARE FLETCHER!

## **Naomi Whithead – Cheltenham CC**



Naomi has always put herself forward to encourage new and long-standing players to be competitive in their games. She has encouraged social interaction of club members by organising "roll up" games and has introduced mentors for new members to help them integrate into all activities of the Club.

She is a Croquet England registered coach and has been very supportive to those new to the game and for those lacking confidence to enter competitions. Naomi's calm, patient and friendly manner has been a breath of fresh air through the club and has encouraged many members to increase their enjoyment of croquet.

Naomi has dedicated a lot of her time and energy encouraging youngsters to take up the sport with weekend coaching sessions for under 18s as well as organising visits from schools and clubs.

We believe that Naomi would be extremely worthy of recognition for the SWF Volunteer of the Year.

## **Budleigh Salterton, Short Croquet Open Tournament: The Rosemary Bradshaw Salver**

*Brent Watkins (Garway CC) gives us his account of this event.*

Coming to the end of another season this tournament was a must to try. First played in 2017, although not fully subscribed only 24 players this year out of a maximum of 32.

The lawns were superb, weather was fantastic for the beginning of October and the tournament manager, Chris, Donovan had everything in place.

The 24 players were split into three blocks giving you seven games initially over the two days handicaps, ranging from 10 down to 4 peels. Three of the previous winners, Jonathan Powe, Dave Kibble, and Karl Brown were in the lineup

At the end of the block play Fred Williams and Jane Turner (both from Llanfairfechan in North Wales) won their blocks and yours truly won his. Carl Brown from Bradford on Avon Club was given the fourth spot in the semi-final for having won six of his seven matches.

The semifinals saw Carl playing Fred with Carl winning after a very close game.

The other semifinal was between Brent and Jane with Brent coming out the winner after another very close fought match.

The final between Carl and Brent who both had a disastrous first 10mins (maybe because of the eyes and silence of the experienced crowd of onlookers) but Brent eventually got his act together and went on to win 14-5.



*In the photograph Brent is being presented with the salver by Rosemary Bradshaw who started this competition, and had been keenly watching the matches over the two days.*

## **SWF Autumn Short Croquet Team Tournament: Budleigh Salterton 3<sup>rd</sup>- 5<sup>th</sup> October**

*John Grimshaw gives us the lowdown on another hugely successful event*

We arrived at Budleigh for the 10<sup>th</sup> staging of the SWF Short Croquet Team Tournament, to find the lawns in their usual pristine condition with the prospect of some enjoyable yet competitive croquet. After a late withdrawal, there were 29 teams competing, Division 5 having only four teams. Chris Donovan once again took on the managerial duties.



## Division 1

Nailsea Trendlewood were the winners, regaining the title which they lost in 2024 under dubious circumstances, when weather washed out play after lunch and the management used a complicated calculation to ascertain the winners. Kington Langley Aardvarks, the winners last year, were second this time around.

After three rounds, Kington Langley Bruins were one ahead of Nailsea Trendlewood, but sitting out Round 4. Aardvarks were one point further behind and playing Trendlewood in Round 4. A 2-2 draw was ultimately enough, and Trendlewood went on to beat Bruins 3-1 in the final round to confirm their championship win. Bristol Boys gained the two points needed in the last round to draw level with Taunton Terriers, who were sitting out, so a shoot-out ensued, which the Boys won and Terriers are relegated.



### Division 1

Nailsea Trendlewood	11	Bristol Boys	6
Kington Langley Aardvarks	9	Taunton Deane Terriers	6
Kington Langley Bruins	8		

Kriss Chambers (Nailsea Trendlewood) and Tim Lacy-Hulbert (Kington Langley Bruins) won all 4 games.

## Division 2



From Round 1 this was always a contest between Bristol Allsorts and Bath Salts. After the first round, Allsorts had 4 wins against Salts 3. In Round 2 they played each other in a 2-2 draw, and each team won three points in the third round. Salts were then sitting out and Allsorts had a slight hiccup when they lost 1-3 to Glamorgan Bards.

Therefore in Round 5 Salts needed a 3-1 win against a struggling Budleigh Salterton Roquets, but could only achieve a 2-2 draw, necessitating a shoot-out. In the end, Allsorts won hitting the peg with the last shot of the eight. Budleigh Salterton Roquets are indeed the yo-yo team, relegated in 2023, promoted in 2024 but relegated again this year.

### Division 2

Bristol Allsorts	10	Camerton & Peasedown A	7
Bath Salts	10	Budleigh Salterton Roquets	5
Glamorgan Bards	8		

Christine Moore (Bristol Allsorts) and Neil Baker (Bath Salts) won all four games.

### Division 3

Once again, we had an exciting two-horse race to the title. East Dorset and Sidmouth Blackmore, set out with significant wins in the first two rounds, and when they drew with each other in Round 3, Blackmore were two points ahead but sitting out Round 4. East Dorset won three points in this round, so entered the last round one point ahead. Then they opened the door for Blackmore as they lost the final round 1-3 to Budleigh Salterton Mallets.



This was enough to save Mallets from relegation, but it also meant that Blackmore could tie with two wins or win with three. Unfortunately for them they also lost 1-3 to an already relegated Nailsea, and East Dorset took the Division 3 trophy and promotion to Sunday play next year.

Division 3			
East Dorset	10	Sidmouth Fortfield	7
Sidmouth Blackmore	9	Nailsea	6
Budleigh Salterton Mallets	8		
Jonathan Powe (East Dorset)	won all four games.		

### Division 4

This was an exciting contest for both promotion and relegation, requiring shoot-outs to decide both. Unfortunately, the promotion battle ended in some controversy. Bath Buns were a player short and played a guest who was also playing for another team on another day. This made them ineligible for promotion, although under the rules, they could win the trophy as division winners.

After three rounds, Bath Buns were leading with 10, but sitting out the final round, Taunton Tiggers had 9 and Blewbury were on 7. These two had to play each other in the final round, and Blewbury won 3-1, resulting in a three-way tie on 10 points. Because they were sitting out the last round, three of the Buns players had left, leaving only their guest. One Blewbury player had also left.

It was decided that one player from each team would take part in the shoot-out, and Bath subsequently won, with Tiggers coming second and, due to Buns' ineligibility, gained promotion.

Also, Bradford on Avon and Tisbury were tied on 3 wins after Round 4, and they were due to play each other. A 2-2 draw required another shoot-out and this was won by Bradford on Avon, so Tisbury are relegated.

Division 4			
Bath Buns	10	Bradford on Avon	5
Taunton Deane Tiggers	10	Tisbury	5
Blewbury	10		
Dave Kibble (Bath Buns guest)	won all four games.		



*Dave Kibble accepts the Division 4 trophy for Bath Buns – the next day it's returned to the club!*

## Division 5

A horrendous forecast led everyone to believe we would not complete the day, but, as it turned out, the lawns stood up very well to a lunchtime downpour, and the day was completed in the murk, but very little more rain.

A late withdrawal left four teams only in Division 5. 4-0 wins for Kington Langley Coyotes and Nailsea Avening in the first round promised a close contest, but Coyotes beat Avening 3-1 in the second round and did not look back from there. A surprise 0-4 defeat in the third round to Sidmouth Connaught, was the final straw for Avening, and Coyotes had won the division by the end of this round.

There being only four teams in the division meant no relegated team this year.

Division 5			
Kington Langley Coyotes	13	Nailsea Avening	7
Sidmouth Connaught	8	Camerton & Peasedown B	4
Caroline Tarran and Robert Corbin (both Kington Langley Coyotes) won all four games.			

## Division 6

This was the closest contest of the weekend. Six of the ten matches were 2-2 draws, and two 3-1 wins for Budleigh Salterton Rushes, were just enough to gain them promotion.

After Round 4, all five teams could have tied or won depending on the results of the last round. Taunton Termites were probably favourites for at least a shoot-out. They were two points behind Rushes, but Rushes were sitting out. However, a 3-1 loss to Cornwall left them a point short, as also were Cornwall who would have tied with a 4-0 win. Similarly a 2-2 draw between Glamorgan Druids and Lym Valley, left them one and two points behind Rushes respectively, when either of them could have won or tied with a different result.

Division 6			
Budleigh Salterton Rushes	9	Taunton Deane Termites	8
Cornwall	8	Lym Valley	7
Glamorgan Druids	8		
Ken Wilcox (Budleigh Salterton Rushes), Sue Custance-Baker (Taunton Termites) and John Majoribanks (Lym Valley) won all four games.			

Thanks once again to Budleigh Salterton for the preparation and use of their fine courts, and also to Chris Donovan for his unflustered management.

## Obituaries

We note with sadness, two great losses to the croquet world.

**John Airey: 1938 – 2025** – the first ever Croquet Association Diploma awardee

*Tony Mayer remembers John*

John Airey is synonymous with the Swindon Croquet Club as he was our longest-serving member having been in at the start of the club when it played on one lawn in front of the Grade 1 listed Lydiard House in which the low branches of the nearby cedar tree acted as the 'clubhouse'.

John took a leading part in its relocation by the Borough Council to its present site at the Moredon Sporting Hub. In those days, an old container served as both the equipment store and the Committee Room

John, an engineer with his distinctive West Midlands accent, who loved working with his hands, was a tower of strength, particularly in those early days, fitting out the container with benches and storage areas, together with shelves for storing everything from croquet balls to bisques, markers and all the necessary accoutrements of a croquet club. John made the trolleys for the hoops, bisques, markers, AC hoop clips, corner flags and much of the equipment that we still use today nearly 30 years later.

When the club expanded to three lawns and obtained a major grant from Sports England (plus support from the Croquet Association) to relay the lawns, provide a clubhouse, ground maintenance equipment and a clubhouse, John was again at the forefront of this development. It is only fitting that the clubhouse, for which he made the trophy cabinet, was named the John Airey Clubhouse in recognition of his role in the club's development.

But John was not just contributing with his hands and expertise but he also took a major role in the club's administration serving on its committee for many years and guiding its development..

On the croquet lawns, John was a keen and very good AC player and coach always encouraging members to try AC. The AC 'roll-up' day always saw John and his partner, Di, present and playing and aiding others to improve their skills. At the turn of the millennium, John was a key member of the Swindon's winning team which twice won the South West Federation's AC Federation League.

John was a constant presence at the club, if not in his whites then in his overalls, servicing all the machinery and making new additions to our facilities. He must have had a sweet tooth as the shelves are still full of old Quality Street tins and ice cream containers now full of screws, bolts, oily rags and many other useful things!

Something for which John will be remembered was his work for charity and for helping disabled, especially children, running courses in croquet, both indoors and outdoors for them. He invented and made special adjustable mallets for wheelchair users which he also provided to other clubs. Each year, he and Di organised a GC competition to raise money for their favourite charity – the Wiltshire Air Ambulance that usually resulted in an annual donation of more than £400.



*John on the left presenting a cheque to Wiltshire Air Ambulance*

John's role and activism was at the heart of the club's reputation as very much a 'community' club.

He was always very self-effacing with regard to these activities and would not let himself be nominated for any recognition. However, when the Diploma scheme was initiated by the CA in 2000, the Swindon Club

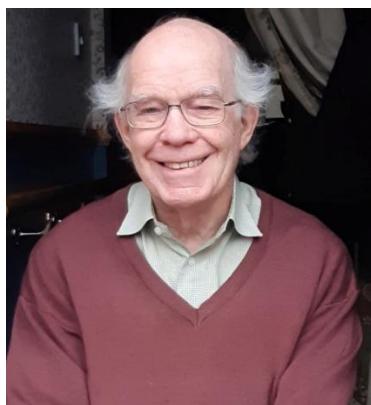
nominated John, despite his reluctance, and he became the first awardee of the scheme with the citation that "John has made a tremendous contribution to the club. He coaches beginners, paints hoops, makes trolleys for carting equipment, writes the club's newsletters, runs tournaments, gets us publicity in local newspapers and is a very active committee member."

*John, on the left of the photo on the right, at the award of Diplomas in 2000*



His passing marks an end of an era for the Swindon Croquet Club – he will be sadly missed by the club and by croquet in general.

### **Roger Jenkins 1942 - 2025**



Roger was a stalwart figure both at Bristol and regionally. His croquet playing days were cut short when he became disabled, but for many years after that, he remained a staunch supporter of the club, enjoyed our tournaments - and the lunches they offered - and was never slow to offer his advice to players.

*Ray Ransom opens the remembrance of Roger's journey into croquet, which began in 1982 when he enrolled in a beginners' course at Bristol Croquet Club. Roger soon demonstrated a talent for the game and went on to win the beginners' competition, beating a young Mark Suter in the final.*

He was certainly smitten with croquet and played as often as he could, entering tournaments and playing in matches for Bristol teams. But it wasn't just playing, he played a full part in the administration of the Bristol Club and for many years arranged club matches. He also played a full part in the club's end-of-year on-lawn and club maintenance. On one occasion, we hired a machine to spread top dressing on the lawns. Roger was keen to operate the spreader, and all went well until he got too close to the edge of lawn two. Roger managed to eject from the seat, but the machine wasn't so lucky and disappeared over the edge, falling 4 feet onto the adjacent lawn. Fortunately, Roger was unhurt.

Watching Roger in play was often interesting. One time watching his play during the Counties, Ray was horrified to see him approach 1-back with both opponents' balls in baulk, at opposite ends of the lawn. Roger made 1-back, took off to the ball in B-baulk, putting that ball safe with a huge roll that finished close enough to roquet the ball in A-baulk and move that into the lawn. The disappointment on the faces of the opponents was clear to see.

I will miss my courtside conversations with Roger, where we discussed, out of earshot, the play going on on the lawns, and the Bristol Club members will certainly miss the help he willingly gave to help them improve their play.

Roger had a remarkable record outside of Bristol Croquet Club, as Chris Williams reminds us, playing his first ranking games in 1987 and his last one in 2010. During this time, he played 1165 ranking games – winning 54% of these and peaking with a highest World Ranking of 89 in 2004.

He made many appearances in Inter-County Championships for Avon and Somerset, winning on many occasions and made two appearances in the winning Bristol team of the national Inter-Club in 2004 and 2007.

He played in the 2009 World Championship at West Palm Beach, made eight appearances in the Spencer Ell Cup (Third Eight) and one appearance in the Treasurer's Tankard (Fourth Eight).

His tournament record was impressive, winning:

- Isle of Wight Championship 1998
- Cheltenham Challenge Cup (July Week) 2000, 2004 and 2007
- Veterans Rothwell Cup 2007
- Budleigh Colman Cup (August Week) 2008 and 2009

*Right: the splendid setting of the original Wrest Park at the national inter-club final 2007*



Tributes have been received from croquet players across the region, fondly remembering both his play and his conversation.

*Marcus Evans recalls:* Roger was one of the first A-class players I got to know. I admired his relaxed, simple style of both play and tactics, which was extremely effective, especially at the AC Inter-Counties where he was an ever-present member of the Avon (and then Somerset) teams for about 20 years.

We shared a lot of laughs both on and off the courts. On one particularly memorable occasion, we were (for some reason) discussing the then-new fad of speed dating, somebody was saying "so you get 10 minutes with each date..." when Roger loudly interrupted "No, it's five!".

Roger is also one of the relatively few players to be immortalised with a term of croquet jargon, after taking a long lift shot on a particularly wet lawn and failing to hit it hard enough to reach the target. He was not the first or only player to do this, in fact we know this because the reason it has passed into legend is he had witnessed another player do the same just a few minutes before. Thus, we have the "Jenkins error".

I'm sorry we've shared our last croquet lawn, cup of tea, and pint of beer, Roger. Thanks for the memories.

*While John McCullough remembers:* I think Roger was one of the graduates of my first coaching courses at the club - part of a distinguished cast including Donald & Rosemary Gugan and Frances & Ray Ransom.

I played with or against Roger many times. He was a skilful and mentally strong player - always tough to beat and always likely to stage a comeback if he was behind. He was, more importantly, a good friend and sportsman.

I recall he played a major part in the Phase 1 renovation of the clubhouse.

So sorry to read this sad news, *says Paul Pristavec*. Roger was, for several years, Bristol club's contact for arranging fixtures. He was always on the ball, and there was no faffing about sorting fixtures. It was in the days before the explosion of GC leagues!

Although I have only known Roger for fifteen years, I will remember him in many ways, *says Bob Whiffen*. Soon after joining the club, I was on the club Committee with him, and his comments were always brief and to the point. That was when I found out that he clearly loved AC but not GC.

Around ten years ago, I found it character-building to play in both club competitions and club tournaments when Roger and one or two other experienced members were spectators because I knew that at some point I would hear a comment such as 'what is he doing now?'.

More recently, Roger was the person who introduced me to Level play with Advanced rules and inspired me to play in as many tournaments as possible against similar or better opposition because that was the way that he improved his game. I will always be thankful to him for this because I really enjoy them. As part of the process, he kindly sat and watched several games that I played and often his summary of the game started with the words 'well, neither of you deserved to win' but would then follow up with helpful advice.

I, and many other members of Bristol Croquet Club, will miss his presence.

One of my best Roger stories, *says Chris Williams*, was at Bristol about 15-20 years ago I was playing at Bristol on a warm summer afternoon - I think it was a Bristol v Dyffryn advanced match, and there was a guy having problems fixing some tiles on the roof of the house on the corner opposite the club. In the end, Roger gave up watching - went over, climbed up the ladder onto the roof and sorted it himself.

*John McCullough's* words are a fitting end to this tribute: It is bittersweet that it should be his passing that brings back such happy memories.

## GC - Becoming a GC Referee – supported by South West Federation

### Blended Learning 1-Day Course

#### Date and venue - February 26<sup>th</sup> 2026 at Camerton and Peasedown Croquet Club

- Time – 9.30 to 4.30pm (or later if required)
- Closing Date: 1<sup>st</sup> February

#### Objectives

- You will become a key member of your club helping other members to understand the Rules and to play by them to a competitive game.
- You'll build on your knowledge of the GC Rules, practice in applying them on the lawns, as well as your ability to apply them to a competitive game.
- If you pass the end-of-course written exam and practical on-court test, you'll be registered as a qualified GC referee and awarded your GC Referee's badge.

#### The South West Federation is subsidising this Course

- If this event is over-subscribed, priority will be given to those clubs with no referee.
- Become your club's first GC Referee



© www.ClipProject.info

#### Becoming a GC Referee brings its own rewards.

- Officiating at tournaments and team play enables players to play to the GC Rules and resolve issues, especially at your club where you can support your members
- Extending your understanding of GC Rules improves your confidence as a player

#### Blended Learning 1-day course

- Delivered mainly on the courts but with some time in the classroom
- You'll gain a confident knowledge of the GC Rules by studying the latest WCF Refereeing Regulations and 6th Edition GC Rules booklet, plus additional guidance available on the CqE website
- The course includes a comprehensive Online GC Rules Study Pack, which candidates will be expected to have completed.

#### Directions to Camerton and Peasedown Croquet Club

- The club is only 15 minutes to the south of Bath, just off the A367
- Set your SatNav to BA2 8LD, or what3words location: shun.splat.skim
- There are a number of hotels and B&B's in the area

#### The cost

- £25/person
- Travel expenses are available for attendees

#### Who is leading this course?

- Ian Shore (Chiltern Academy CqE Examining Referee) who may be assisted by other qualified GC Referees

#### Who to contact

- Brian Wilson - bwilson71e@icloud.com or 07970 922867

## GC Referee Refresher Afternoon Seminar

**Supported by South West Federation**

**Date and venue - February 25<sup>th</sup> 2026 at Camerton and Peasedown Croquet Club**

- Time: 1.00 to 4.00pm (or later if required)
- **Closing Date: 18<sup>th</sup> February**

### Half Day Refresher Seminar

- Enables qualified GC referees to explore their knowledge of the GC rules through discussion and practical sessions, guided by Ian Shore, an Examining and Championship Referee as well as a member of the GC Rules Committee.
- Analysis of stroke videos will be included, as will time on the lawns (weather permitting).
- Participants will be encouraged to outline 'interesting' or 'difficult' refereeing calls, including how they proceeded with the question
- The seminar will include how and when to explain to players the reason for the decision and what shots/strokes could have been used to minimise it happening in the future
- By the end of the seminar participants will be more confident in their understanding of the GC Rules and referees will be more capable of giving consistent on-court rulings.



### Directions to Camerton and Peasedown Croquet Club

- The club is only 15 minutes to the south of Bath, just off the A367
- Set your SatNav to BA2 8LD, or what3words location: shun.splat.skim
- There are a number of hotels and B/B's in the area

### The cost

- £10/person

### Who is leading this course?

- Ian Shore (Chiltern Academy CqE Examining Referee) who may be assisted by other qualified GC Referees

### Who to contact

- Brian Wilson - bwilson71e@icloud.com or 07970 922867

**Under 25 Mentoring event  
Nottingham Croquet Club April 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> 2026**

*Ian Draper, Director CqE Sport Development Committee calls our attention to this inspiring event – do make sure your younger players see this*

Croquet England is running an inaugural mentoring weekend for under 25 players.

All young players under the age of 25 are invited to Nottingham to come, learn, play and have fun. Croquet England hopes that this event will establish a cohort of young players who will progressively develop their skills and support each other through regular play and mentoring. It will provide an opportunity for young players to meet and share experiences and celebrate achievements with each other.

Over the weekend mentoring will be offered to young and upcoming young players from experience players. It will kickstart the new season and motivate and inspire young players to progress along a pathway towards success.

Our aim would be to get as many young players to come and play as possible this would include beginners just starting out, young players with promise and highly experienced under 25 players.

In addition, experienced older players are encouraged to come and be available to provide mentoring and support. There will be opportunities to engage in a range of Croquet formats.

**Who is invited?**

Clubs and schools are invited to nominate any player under 11 through to under 25 to come to the event regardless of their current skill level or experience.

All travelling players can apply for a bursary from the croquet England funding committee ([sarah.andrew@croquetengland.org.uk](mailto:sarah.andrew@croquetengland.org.uk)).

If you are under 25 and you enjoy playing croquet please put this date in your diary and register your name with the Nottingham club secretary Ellen Gee ([447@aol.com](mailto:447@aol.com)).

If you would like to discuss this event or would like more information please contact Ian Draper, Director of Development at Croquet England ([ian.draper@croquetengland.org.uk](mailto:ian.draper@croquetengland.org.uk))

**Let's make it a big event! Let's make the young players feel valued and central to the future of Croquet in England.**

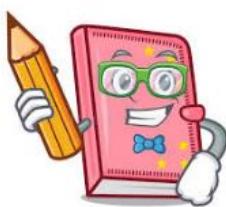
**Diary Dates**

**Short Croquet Tournaments**

- Nailsea 10-12 April
- Budleigh 2-4 October

**SWF AGM**

- SWF AGM 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2026



<b>Useful Links</b>	
Bisques, Extra Strokes and Advantage Calculator – Brian Wainman's life-saving tool	<a href="http://chc.eu.pythonanywhere.com/">chc.eu.pythonanywhere.com/</a>
Croquet England	<a href="http://www.croquetengland.org.uk/">www.croquetengland.org.uk/</a>
Croquet England Youtube channel	<a href="http://www.youtube.com/@CroquetEnglandstreams">www.youtube.com/@CroquetEnglandstreams</a>
Croquet England on Facebook	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=croquet%20england">www.facebook.com/search/top?q=croquet%20england</a>
Croquet Hub on Facebook	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/groups/1658937214910559">www.facebook.com/groups/1658937214910559</a>
Croquet England slo-mo videos	<a href="http://www.croquet.org.uk/?p=games/golf/refereeing/slomo">www.croquet.org.uk/?p=games/golf/refereeing/slomo</a>
Oxford Croquet - coaching	<a href="http://www.oxfordcroquet.com/">www.oxfordcroquet.com/</a>
Chris Clarke - coaching	<a href="http://clarkecroquet.com/">clarkecroquet.com/</a>
Reg Bamford – the psychology of the game	<a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qw_jiBpnCug">www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qw_jiBpnCug</a>
Hit Inn – Alison Maughan chats with some successful players	<a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bf5gM-cswiQ">www.youtube.com/watch?v=bf5gM-cswiQ</a>
Canva – a free poster / flyer / logo design tool	<a href="http://www.canva.com/en_gb/">www.canva.com/en_gb/</a>
Try Croquet – an eclectic selection on a range of croquet topics	<a href="http://www.trycroquet.co.uk/">www.trycroquet.co.uk/</a>
Tournament Management: Chris Roberts	<a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1V2adRweWZq&amp;t=10s">www.youtube.com/watch?v=1V2adRweWZq&amp;t=10s</a>

### **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

**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](mailto:lindawithani@hotmail.com)