

The

Issue 380 July 2019

CROQUET

Gazette



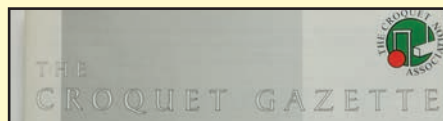
The WCF Simon Carter World Championship
26 July - 4 August

Sussex County CC, Compton CC, Tunbridge Wells CC, West Worthing CC



From our files researched by Frances Colman

10 years ago - 2009



Bamford wins AC World Championship –

Eighty players gathered at the National Croquet Centre in Florida to play the twelfth WCF World Championship. . . 32 players qualified for the knock-out from the block stage.

Round 1 matches were best-of-three games and from round 2 onwards it was best-of-five, in which there were surprises:

- James Death beat defending champion Chris Clarke in their fifth game.
- Robert Fletcher, a young man from Australia of whom we will hear more in the future, dispatched David Maugham.
- Ben Rothman of the USA beat Robert Fulford in three straight games.

In the quarter-finals, Fletcher beat Death in four games, Bamford beat Rutger Beijderwellen also in four, while Chris Farthing won a five game marathon against Stephen Mulliner. In the last quarter Rothman beat a rejuvenated John Gibbons.

The semis put Reg Bamford, the seasoned and calm old hand, against the new kid on the block Robert Fletcher, who took the first game; but Reg hit back with three games and deservedly reached the final. Chris Farthing and Ben Rothman went to a fifth game where Ben was triumphant +16tp.

In the final Reg didn't allow Ben's dreams to come true, and won his third Association title in three straight games.

CA looks to help junior members –

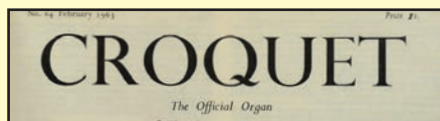
My primary theme in this issue deals with our younger players. I sought election to Council with this being one of my areas of interest and I am pleased to say that I can report on a couple of items.

First, I'd like to thank Jean Hargreaves of Bury CC for accepting the post of Child Protection Officer (CPO) and at the same time thank her predecessor Pam Mason. . .

Second, I am pleased to report that a bursary scheme has now been agreed by Council. The scheme to be implemented this year means that the five Juniors accepted for the first Under 21 WCF GC tournament in Cairo in July have a chance to seek CA support for their travel. . .

Patricia Duke-Cox
(from her Chairman's Column).

50 years ago - 1969



Handicap Alterations –

The attention of associates is drawn to Regulation 11, which states that the responsibility for playing at their correct handicap finally rests with competitors themselves.

Associates should note that when they are notified of any alteration in their handicap by an official handicapper, whether this is in the course of a particular tournament or on the instructions of their club handicapping committee, their new handicap is to be regarded as official forthwith.

Further, it is their duty to inform the Manager of their next tournament that their handicap has been altered.

~

The Scottish Croquet Committee –

After consultation with the Croquet Association the above committee was formed officially on January 20th 1969. It consists of a representative of each registered Scottish croquet club. . .

Objectives – to facilitate the development of croquet in Scotland and to further a close liaison with the Croquet association and all other clubs.

~

Not much croquet in Hampshire –

Dear Sir,
What has happened to croquet in Hampshire, if indeed, it ever prevailed?

From the list of Clubs published in "Croquet" no.102, it appears that our neighbours in Sussex, Surrey, Berkshire and Dorset possess some 20 clubs between them.

And Hampshire? One, at Ringwood almost on the Dorset border.

From a travelling point of view, one can hardly regard the Ryde, Isle of Wight, club as in Hampshire. Thus we have no club between Ringwood and Littlehampton, some 60 miles.

Our neighbours are certainly to be envied, and even congratulated.

I feel sure, Sir, you will agree that the situation here is to be deplored, and I venture to suggest that urgent steps be taken to put Hampshire on the croquet map.

Yours sincerely, John Ward, Emsworth.

100 years ago - 1919



Handicapping after the War –

It is inevitable that a large number of handicaps will be, and others seem to be, incorrect. The large majority of players will be short of practice. . . The main difficulty will be those who have played only at their clubs, or in private. . . I would suggest to Handicappers and Calendar Fixtures the following procedure, with a view to restoring things as speedily as possible to their normal condition:-

(1) To accept all Club reductions to their full extent. In case any of these should afterwards seem excessive, a small fraction of the lost handicap could be restored at the end of the week.

(2) To watch carefully (or have watched), in their first events, all other players who have not been frequent competitors in public during the war, but have had opportunities to practice, and to reduce drastically, "during play", all such who show signs of great improvement on their pre-war form. Any excessive penalty can be removed at the end of the week.

(3) Not to increase the handicaps of those who are merely suffering from want of practice. Exceptions should, of course, be made in circumstances of infirmity, e.g., from old age or disablement.

C.D. Locock, Association Handicapper

~

The Annual General Meeting - . . . was held at 4, Southampton Row, W.C., on Thursday 20th March, 1919.

In the unavoidable absence of the President (the Lord Desborough, K.C.V.O.), the Chairman of the Council (Sir Hubert H. Longman, Bart.) presided. . .

On January 1st, 1914, membership was something over 2,200, and our membership at this present moment has fallen to 1,400. We have lost during the war about 800 members.

Some of those have since come back to us, and I fully expect that a good many more will do so, but, of course, they have to pay the arrears of subscription for the year or years during which they have ceased to be members. That is only fair to the people who have supported us, and kept their names on our books throughout the war.

Editorial

We are now in the middle of our summer season and this Gazette is unashamedly heavy on tournaments and competitions.

And top of the pile is the upcoming WCF Simon Carter Golf Croquet World Championships, hosted by Sussex County CC and at supporting venues later this month. England GC captain John-Paul Moberly is the 'cover boy' for this issue, resplendent in his very smart Simon Carter branded official tournament shirt – note the nice design touch of the croquet balls on the buttons placket!

Stephen Mulliner's preview of the Championships takes top billing on the centre pages and, supporting that, Chris Clarke runs his ruler over the line-ups for the Under 21 Worlds, hosted by Nottingham CC a few days before the action gets under way further South.

Please do take yourselves along to one or both of these Championships – you just won't get a better opportunity to see the best players in the world perform.

If you can't get there in person, check out the details for the 'Live Streaming' action that will be coming from both main hosting venues for your viewing pleasure – Sussex County have even built a raised camera platform for the purpose!

Elsewhere in this issue, the GC Opens

are covered in detail and there are also reports from the AC Mens and Womens Championships and the hugely popular AC Inter-Counties.

Against all this action, croquet administration moves quietly on and the implementation of the governance changes is now in progress.

By way of encouraging you (yes why not you?) to consider standing for election to the new slim-line CA Council, I decided to reproduce again the requirements for that role and that of the Executive Board.

Our sport needs the right people in the right positions, and having candidates to contest elections for the Council posts is a sign of a healthy organisation. Please do come forward if you have what is required and can help this sport that we love.



Chris Roberts

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The
CROQUET
Gazette



Issue 380 July 2019

Front cover: Ready for the challenge - England GC captain John-Paul Moberly, modeling The WCF Simon Carter GC World Championship tournament shirt designed by the sponsors Simon Carter Ltd. (photo by Chris Roberts)

This Page: The Editor, at the GC Open Championship (photo by Ray Hall) and the Chairman at Phyllis Court CC (photo: Chris Roberts)

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Chairman's Column

The season is now well underway and I seem to be playing more croquet than usual.

So far so good is my assessment of my form but more reliably my confidence in warm welcomes everywhere bodes well for whole summer.

There is now a lull in announcements about our Constitution and the new Council but work to deliver the approved structure continues.

The call for candidates willing to stand in summer elections has been published and I know that people are considering the opportunity.

If I can clarify any points for others please do contact me at bowcott@hotmail.com well ahead of the end of July deadline.

It may now be time to highlight another aspect of the governance review: the role of the Executive Board.

Under the recently approved changes to the Constitution this will be responsible for running the game on a day to day basis on behalf of the entire membership.

A key to doing this successfully is likely to be a communicative and responsive approach to its duties.

This is important and there will be further announcements about a more transparent and helpful management structure appearing during the close season.

The lawns at Southwick are in wonderful condition.

This bodes well for the GC World Championships that are to be based there at the end of July and early August.

Before that the U21 equivalent takes place at Nottingham.

The organising committee and sponsors

at all the venues have prepared well and players and spectators alike can expect an excellent experience.

I intend to be at both events for some of the time and I hope that other members will take the opportunity to support these Championships and enjoy the first class competition.

I wish everyone well for the second half of the season.



John Bowcott

Subscription changes for 2020



Individual Members

There will be no change to subscription rates for existing individually subscribed members.

The rates remain as follows:

Category	With Paper Gazette		Paperless	
	Full	Direct Debit	Full	Direct Debit
Premium	£43.50	£38	£36.50	£31
Supporter	£23.50	£18	£16.50	£11
Overseas or EU	£48.50	£43	£41.50	£36
Young Person	£15	£15	£8	£8

However, the changes below are being made to membership entitlements.

Paper Gazettes for Standard Members

Currently, under an introductory offer, paper copies of the Croquet Gazette are sent to all Standard Members who have not opted to go paperless.

This will cease for existing Standard Members at the end of this calendar year, as the long-term cost is unaffordable without a substantial increase in subscriptions paid by clubs or a reduction in other activities.

However, it will continue as an introductory offer to new Standard Members until the end of the calendar year in which they joined.

The magazine is published on-line in the Members' Area of the website, and Standard Members who wish to continue to receive it on paper after the end of this year will be able to subscribe to do so.

Fixtures Book for Premium Members

This year's fixtures calendar is the busiest in the history of the CA and over 90% of tournament entries are being completed via the online entry system.

Early next year, details of the year's fixtures will once again be published online. In addition, it will be possible to review and/or print off a PDF copy of the Fixtures Book.

A hard copy of the Fixtures Book will continue to be printed and will be sent to clubs free of charge.

However, **as an environmental and cost-saving measure, it will not be sent routinely to individual members.**

Later this year, those who want a copy should look out for details of how they can pre-order at a cost of £5.00.

Club Subscriptions

The adult per-capita rate for club membership subscriptions will rise to £9 for small clubs and £14 for large ones in 2020, which is the last of the above inflation increases authorised by the 2015 SGM to cover the costs of Standard membership.

The young persons' one remains at £5.

As before, only primary club members need be counted when calculating the amount due.

E-mail scam warning to clubs

I wrote last autumn that two of the CA's member clubs had reported that they were the subject of an attempted fraud, in which an e-mail, purporting to come from the club's chairman, was sent to their treasurer asking them to make a payment to a bank account.

Since then, I have become aware of another case, involving a fake invoice for goods.

There have also been a number of less sophisticated fake messages purporting to come from CA officers, asking the recipient to contact them.

Reports of such attacks are common, affecting both commercial and voluntary organisations as well as individuals.

The advice to prevent them is always to check, by phone or text message, but not e-mail, that a request to make a payment to a previously unknown account is genuine.

The reason that seeking confirmation by replying to the message is unreliable is that many e-mail clients only show the name of the person purporting to send a message, which can easily be faked, not the e-mail address it was sent from (and even if that is shown, it can look like the person's genuine address unless examined carefully).

The treasurer thought he was replying to the chairman, but his request for further details went to the fraudster, who duly gave them.

Once again, please be on your guard.

Ian Vincent, Hon. Secretary

The WCF Under 21 GC World Championship

20 - 24 July
Nottingham CC

See page 15

Affiliate, School and University Club Subscriptions

The rates for Affiliate, School and University Clubs, together with those for new clubs, remain unchanged as follows:

Affiliate Clubs: £45

Full Member Clubs: Year 1: Fixed at £60; Year 2: Capped at £90; Year 3: Capped at £120

(with a minimum of £60 throughout).

School and University Clubs: £30

Ian Vincent, Hon. Secretary

Come
and see!

THE BEST GOLF CROQUET in THE WORLD

~ The WCF Simon Carter GC World Championship ~

HRH The Duke of Gloucester to Officially Open the event

HHRH The Duke of Gloucester is to officially open the 2019 Simon Carter Golf Croquet World Championship at the Sussex County Croquet Club.

Sussex County CC held its first tournament at the current site 118 years ago with the Duke of Cambridge in attendance and it is a fitting tribute that the royal family are honouring the club by opening this World Championship.

The event is being held from Friday 26 July to Sunday 4 August and is being hosted at four clubs: Sussex County CC, West Worthing CC, Compton CC and Royal Tunbridge Wells CC.

Eighty of the World's top players from at least 20 countries will compete over nine days to determine the World Individual Champion. The hard-hitting Egyptians are coming in force, with at least 16 players qualifying for the Championship as well as a number of previous champions.

Come and see the best players in the World in action!

All four clubs are extending a warm welcome to all visitors and there is ample parking available at all four locations. All they ask is that you bring your own chairs, due that large crowds expected and limited seating availability.

**See Stephen Mulliner's tournament preview
on the centre pages 16 & 17**

The Championship Schedule

Fri 26 July	Opening Ceremony and players reception at Southwick	<i>(by invitation only)</i>
Sat 27 -Wed 31 July	Block play	<i>at ALL FOUR VENUES: Sussex County (Southwick), Compton (Eastbourne), West Worthing and Tunbridge Wells</i>
Thu 1 August	Round 1 of the Knock-out	<i>at Sussex County</i>
Fri 2 August	Quarter Finals	<i>at Compton</i>
Sat 3 August	Semi Finals	<i>at Sussex County</i>
1 – 3 August	Plate and Bowl events	<i>at Sussex County & Compton</i>
Sun 4 August	FINAL of all events	<i>at Sussex County</i>

Sussex County CC will have space available for coaches and mini buses. They will offering a fully licenced bar and a full catering service, including a barbeque during the knockout stages.

For full details of the facilities at all the venues including travel options, directions and car park details, see the **GC Worlds website**

www.gcworlds2019.org

Entry will be by programme costing £5 at the gate



SIMON CARTER
LONDON



SIMON CARTER
LONDON

The election of a New CA Council - **An update** - by *Ian Vincent, Hon. Secretary*

Nominations are open

Nominations are open for the election of members of the new Council for the Croquet Association and will close on 30 July.

Please see the articles on pages 6 and 7 of the May Gazette (no. 379) for information about the election process and for guides to what is expected from candidates and those willing to serve on the Executive Board that the Council will appoint to implement its policies.

A nomination form has since been published on the CA website, but it is not compulsory to use it.

The first article also gives information about how to check and update the constituency you are registered to vote in.

Please also take this opportunity to check that we have a valid e-mail address for you.

Nominations received are expected to be published by the federation(s) making up the constituency concerned and centrally on the CA website; please follow the link in the news item on the front page.

Information about voting if ballots are required

Please also keep an eye on the CA website for information about voting, should a ballot be required in your constituency.

The timing of the next issue of the Croquet Gazette will depend on when reports of the forthcoming Golf Croquet World Championship are available, so you may not receive that before the **closing date for voting, 3 September.**

Voting methods

It should be possible to vote online, using an application being written for the website, or by post, using a ballot paper that will be downloadable from it.

A Single Transferable Vote system will be used if there are more than two candidates for a constituency.

Ian Vincent, Hon. Secretary

The Executive Board of the Croquet Association and its sub-committees

A guide for those preferring a role in the day-to-day running of the game

The Executive Board will be charged with running croquet in accordance with the 'high level policies' established by Council. It will not be obliged to seek further approval from Council but it will be accountable to Council for its compliance with CA Policy.

The qualities of an ideal member of the Executive Board and its sub-committees will vary depending upon the assignment but many of the following will be ideal:

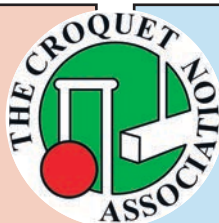
- For the Executive Board good experience at senior line management level.
- For functional committees, a good working knowledge of the activities related to that particular responsibility.
- A proven ability to get things done.
- An ability to establish priorities.
- An ability to prepare and manage budgets.
- Experience of working on a committee & being a team player.
- A good understanding of the role of the CA.
- A commitment to communicate with the membership and most importantly to respond to their enquiries.

Time commitment

This will vary, though typically most committees meet twice a year during the winter months. Much work is also done by email. The Executive Board will meet up to 4 times per annum.

It should be noted that the CA regards all positions on Council and functional committees as important.

The main difference is that Council is focused on establishing the appropriate achievable goals and monitoring the outcomes whereas the functional committees must focus on getting things done. Getting the right people into the right jobs is a very important part of the new structure.



The Council of the Croquet Association

A guide both for those seeking election and those considering the nomination of a candidate

The role of Council - to direct the CA's activity through strategy, policy and conformance.

It will not run croquet on a day to day basis.

Particular responsibilities will be:

- Establishing over-arching policy goals
- Initiating strategic initiatives
- Scrutinising the work of the Executive Board
- Ensuring that good governance practices are in place at all levels of the Association.

The qualities of a strong candidate for Council would include many of the following:

- Strategic Vision - an ability to identify key long-term goals and delivery mechanisms. A commitment to improving the transparency of the structure of the CA.
- An ability to establish priorities and assess the best use of monetary and human resources.
- Good leadership skills. Openness to new ideas.
- Good communication and listening skills.
- An ability to identify and implement good practice.
- An ability to engage effectively with the membership.
- An experience of problem analysis in a complex organisation.

Time commitment

- Attendance at a minimum of two one-day meetings per year.
- Willingness to engage in electronic communication, as required, to develop our objectives.

Membership of the Council offers a significant opportunity to shape the future of the CA, in the interests of its members as a whole. **We would like to encourage members with an active interest in the future of the CA to stand for election.**

See the articles on pages 6 and 7 of the May Gazette (no. 379)

Rich Waterman is appointed new IPD (AC)

Rich Waterman of Colchester Croquet Club has been appointed as the new AC International Performance Director (IPD) in succession to Alison Maugham.

Rich and Alison will manage the transition/handover in the next couple of months.

Our thanks to Alison for the hard work she has put into the role in recent times.

Like the majority of CA roles, it is a volunteer activity and carries no remuneration.



Rich will report to the Chairman of the Management Committee.

As the incoming IPD, Rich will:

- Be responsible for England's performance at international AC events, whether singles or team;
- Formulate and implement a strategy to improve international performance in the short/medium term (i.e. the next Mac cycle) and medium/long term (i.e. future Mac cycles) including resourcing with volunteers as appropriate;
- Liaise with all parts of the CA necessary to ensure support of improved international performance, influencing recruitment strategies, the tournament programme, International matches, selection policy, bursary funding, etc.;
- Share relevant identified best practice with the GC International Performance Director.

The role complements the existing activities of the Coaching and other Council Committees.

Our best wishes to Rich on his appointment.

Mark Suter, CA Manager

GB selection for the Solomon Trophy v USA

The following team will represent Great Britain in the Solomon Trophy against the USA at the Pinehurst Resort, North Carolina, between 30 September and 4 October 2019.

The GB team selected is as follows:

Ian Burridge (*below*)

Alain Giraud

Samir Patel (Captain)

Jonathan Powe

Duncan Reeve

Mark Suter

Ian Lines, Chairman of AC Selectors



Photograph by Samir Patel

Bevis Sanford, who has died aged 101, was a member of the CA Council from 1974 to 1987, and its chairman from 1982 to 1984.

His lifelong association with the Hurlingham Club began in childhood, and he remembered when in 1928 the Thames broke its banks, submerging the croquet lawns, and a swan swam into the dining-room.

At school he focused his considerable sporting abilities on rowing, and rowed in the Eton College eight at Henley, following this by stroking the Cambridge crew to victory in the Boat Races of 1939 and 1940.

The war put paid to any chances of Olympic glory in the projected Olympics of 1940, and he spent it in Africa, serving in the King's African Rifles before becoming a District Officer in Tanganyika.

On returning to England in the 1950s he took up playing croquet seriously, whilst giving time to its administration and to coaching and mentoring young croquet players, as well as rowers.

Obituary

Bevis Sanford 2018 - 2019



He played regularly well into his nineties, and was still watching matches at Hurlingham last summer.

There was a splendid tea party at the club to celebrate his hundredth birthday,

attended by his croquet friends and representatives of the many sporting organisations with which he was associated, from school and university onwards.

He was a legendary clubman of the old-fashioned sort, and entertained most generously at his many clubs, sporting and otherwise.

He died two days before this year's Boat Race; how pleased he would have been that both the men's and women's Cambridge crews triumphed in exciting contests.

At the Boat Race dinner afterwards the crews observed a minute's silence in his honour.

He was a great sportsman who gave back to sport as much as he gained from it in lifelong enjoyment, and at his funeral the church was packed, with croquet and rowing acquaintances of all ages joining his family and friends to celebrate his long life.

Richard Hoskyns

100 years to reply - but a good idea?

Dear Editor,

I must apologise for this belated response to the letter from J De C. Atkins of the Roehampton Club – ‘Speeding Up Croquet’ (*Gazette, April 1919, revisited in From our Files, May 2019*), but hope that you still find space for publication.

Whilst I take issue with his pejorative use of the term “duffer” to describe higher handicap players – we were both such players once – his observation that croquet should not be allowed to become a ‘game of weariness’ is a timely warning against the tendency for slower play.

His suggestion for more full-bisque play is a good one, but we need to recognise that there are issues with players at all levels.

As well as the tedium of such games, it is off-putting to spectators and potential new players. We are also forced to schedule tournaments around the needs of the slowest players, rather than the vast majority of players.

The current AC laws include the vague (and generally unenforced) requirement for players to play ‘with reasonable dispatch’.

GC has flirted with the concept of a shot-clock. But 60 seconds per stroke suggests that it is acceptable for an average game of GC to take over 2 hours, and for an AC 12-hoop break to the peg to take 1.5 hours.

We should not consider this acceptable.

~

However, halving that shot limit to 30 seconds is not an answer, because we find issues, for example, when there is

significant distance for a player to walk, balls to retrieve, or tactical decisions to be made.

My proposal is for average stroke time limits – specifically that we advise referees to penalise players who take more than five minutes for 10 strokes.

This proposal would not require players to run around the court. It allows 45 minutes for a break to the peg.

I have been surreptitiously timing players at level play and handicap events this season, and three minutes for 10 strokes is our normal pace of play.

I have timed players who are over 70 years old and not very nimble who play comfortably within my proposed five-minute threshold.

That same GC game which took two hours at 60 seconds per stroke would take no more than an hour.

This proposal can easily be phased in or calibrated by changing either the number of strokes or the time measure.

It is also quite easy to enforce (it will take a referee equipped with nothing more than a watch only five minutes to make a judgement).

More importantly, with appropriate allowance for reasonable delays such as for double-banking, it provides a clear interpretation of the law, and gives players an objective measure of whether they are playing ‘with reasonable dispatch’.

Together these will help prevent the game we all love becoming “a test of patience and stamina”.

Samir Patel, Surbiton CC

Time needed for calibration, not a warm-up

Dear Editor,

A Letter in the May edition of The Croquet Gazette (*no.379*) included the paradox of being allowed to practice but not warm up before a match.

Surely neither makes sense.

The time available is not enough for a player to improve through practice, and as for warming up, well, croquet is not like squash or rugby or other intense sport where muscles might be pulled.

We need time before a match to assess the lawn and the run of the ball: how hard will I need to hit it?

Is one area slower than another?

Is there a tendency to pull to the right between hoops 1 and 2 etc.?

In other words we need time for calibration, not practice nor warming up.

Peter Tymms, Durham CC

~

Dear Editor,

Whilst Peter Tymms is of course correct that many players may choose to use some of their warm-up time for calibration, I disagree with his assertion that croquet players do not need to warm up.

The National Sports Medicine Institute (www.nsmi.org.uk) recommends a warm-up session of at least 5-10 minutes ahead of any sport (and 20-30 minutes for more active sports such as the ones Peter mentions).

Such a warm-up period will help protect players’ joints and muscles (more so on slow lawns and for older players).

Any benefit to a player’s mental focus and/or lawn calibration, are added bonuses.

I should caution that I whilst I am the custodian of the CA’s Tournament Regulations, I have no qualifications in this domain other than as a player.

Anyone concerned about the risk of injury or muscle strain should therefore seek professional advice.

Samir Patel, ‘custodian’ of the CA Tournament Regulations

Age difference record smashed out of sight

Dear Editor,

A record was smashed at Cheltenham on 1 June.

Edition 370 of the Gazette suggested the record age gap between competitors at a GC Championship was set at 59 years, between Richard Bilton and John Edwards.

We have just seen 17 year old Euan Burrige (far right) defeat Will Drake (right) 7-3 in a block game of the Cheltenham Open (GC Championship Series). The old record has been eclipsed, and now stands at a remarkable 78 years!

Interestingly, Euan made all 10 points in the game against Will, with three ‘peels’, and he was unlucky to miss the knockout stage by two net hoops. The presence of 12 year old Jack Good as a spectator suggests there is scope for this record to be challenged in the near future.

Jenny Clarke, New Zealand

photos by Chris Roberts



Alternate Stokers were in the way at the AC Counties

Dear Editor,

I would like to query the wisdom of allowing pairs to opt for playing 'alternate strokes' in the AC Counties Tournament.

Firstly, surely, in a tournament that is so prestigious, all teams should be playing the same game, Doubles or Alternate-Stroke Doubles?

Secondly, if this choice is to be continued, it should only be allowed if not only the opposing pair but, also the two double-banking pairs, agree.

In one match, my partner and I, found ourselves on a court, double banked with an Alternate Stroke game.

It was not only distracting, but, also frustratingly time-wasting as, instead of having to wait for one double-banked player to play his shot and get out of the way, there were two players, walking together, discussing each shot.

Several times, their opposing pair, seeing that the pair in play were in imminent danger of breaking down, were hovering on the side-line ready to rush on and play because, with so much discussion going on, their time was running out!

Out of interest, to see if ours was just an unlucky double-banking, I sat to watch other similar games, and saw that the same waiting game had to be played by every Standard Doubles pair who found themselves double banked with Alternate Stokers.

Avril Rangoni Machiavelli, Blewbury CC

'Get Inspired' for croquet's social benefits

Dear Editor,

I thank Peter Lowe (Tyneside CC), Ruth Sisley and Jennian Geddes (both Ealing CC) for their letters in the May issue (*Gazette 379*), in particular regarding BBC Get Inspired, and promoting the wider social benefits of croquet.

~

On the first point, the CA has made several recent approaches to BBC Get Inspired to be added to their list.

They have said that they will consider including us 'if there is widespread and consistent demand for the sport'.

I think this highlights Peter's point - the CA need some assistance from its membership base to make this happen!

Please do follow Peter's instructions and contact the BBC to request croquet be added to the pages - if lots of us do this, they may change their mind!

Contact them to request this via getinspired@bbc.co.uk.

~

On the second point, the Marketing Committee is aware of the social prescribing movement and our lead on this is Klim Seabright who has made some headway.

We are aware that there is more we can be doing to promote our beloved sport to everyone, and would welcome your input if you have any success stories or ideas that you want to put forward to us directly.

The issue that continues to haunt our sport (with my Marketing hat on) is image:

we are seen as a social pastime for old people, and the last player survey in 2017 indicated the median age of croquet players is above 70 and growing, with a declining competitive circuit.

The CA is largely a volunteer organisation and grants plenty of autonomy to clubs and Federations.

Thus, while it may appear that we focus only one aspect of croquet ('elite engagement' as you phrase it), in reality, clubs make their own decisions on recruitment/marketing and many are already doing great work attracting new members through advertising the social and mental benefits of croquet.

This has the dual benefit of increasing club membership and filling the coffers financially for clubs, but means that it falls to the CA to plug the remaining gaps, i.e. to encourage the competitive aspects of our sport and address the growing age demographic problem (these are correlated in my view).

On the Marketing Committee, our members cover the spectrum of viewpoints and there is no deliberate aim to avoid widening access and participation... just a shortage of volunteer resources to deliver our actions!

If you would like to be more involved in driving the CA's widening participation initiatives, I would be only too delighted to speak to you.

**Eugene Chang,
Chair, CA Marketing Committee**

An open letter to all Coaches - "Be more passive"

Dear Coaches

For many years I have failed to give due regard to something which I have called Passive Coaching (PC).

The glory of PC is that you don't need to don a pair of flat-soled shoes, grip a mallet or rise from your chair. There are several forms of PC and here are just three.

Firstly, we should encourage all our newcomers to spend a little time watching tournament play.

There are many tournaments in the CA domain and there surely must be one near you.

A word of advice though: if you spot a newcomer who has taken your advice then do dedicate some time to sit next to them -

they will need you.

This is especially important when play is double-banked and different coloured balls are whizzing about all over the court.

Don't be surprised if one of the first things they say when watching AC is "why the hell is no-one heading towards the first hoop?"

My next confession is that I have not done nearly enough to bring reading materials to the newcomer's attention.

I guess this might be partly because some very clever people write these books and the content often passes way above my head.

For beginners I do like Croquet (Know the Game) and also Complete Croquet (James Hawkins). In the latter case I have

even forgiven the author for using my photographic images without so much as a "by your leave".

Both are available from the CA shop.

Finally I turn to technology. The range of things which can be achieved by something the size of a microchip is truly amazing.

Numerous systems of communication have made croquet easily accessible, YouTube, Web sites and tutorials to name but a few. So do encourage them to "log on" and explore.

That's my three. How many other PC options can you think of?

So I make a plea to all coaches - be more passive. Good coaching.

Klim Seabright, Cheltenham CC

The Mystery Medal and the NZ story

Dear Editor,

I read the article/letters in the May issue (*Gazette 379*) concerning the Bedford Bronze medal with interest and thought you might like to know about NZ, as mentioned by Roger Wood in his letter.

The Croquet Association presented the NZCC with Gold and Silver Medals in 1928, very likely by the England Team who visited NZ after the MacRobertson series they had played against Australia.

A tournament was held annually until 1940, I have no idea why it ceased.

In 1934, NZ started a competition for the Gold and Silver Mallets presented by the NZCC.

It was open to players on a handicap of 4 or less and played as a section or sections depending on the entry.

Then in 1954, a competition for the English Coronation Silver and Bronze Medals commenced, identical to G & S Mallets; one played in the North and one in the South Island at different times.

The Silver Medal is the same as the Medal presented to semi-finalists of your Open Championship; I don't know if the Bronze one is the same circular design or not, as I've only won the silver ones.

Sadly neither competition is played anymore the last record I have is for 1997, but it may have continued beyond that date. Our CNZ online Honours Board is woeful and doesn't list any of the above!

The CA also presented NZ with a beautiful Silver Rose Bowl in 1951 at the conclusion of the MacRobertson Series and then again in 1963, at the conclusion of the MacRobertson, a Silver Tray and a Gold Cup.

The Silver Tray is contested by our top eight or ten, the equivalent of your President's Cup and the Gold Cup by players on a handicap of three and above, although more recently as a Selectors discretion event.

Alas, there is no longer a competition for the Rose Bowl, as far as I can see.

John Prince, New Zealand

It's all gone wrong and we have been playing with each others balls

Dear Editor,

The situation was as follows:

On running hoop 6 with the blue ball, the player realized that they had been playing the wrong colour balls, in fact both players had been playing the wrong pair of balls for some time and the error was traced back to the approach to hoop 3.

Player 1: blue + black

Player 2: red + yellow

Player 1 had run hoops 1 and 2 with either blue or black making those hoops won correctly, but when the balls were played across to hoop 3, an error occurred with the two players completely swapping balls without noticing.

Player 1 then ran hoops 3, 4 and 5 using red and yellow.

Player 2 then ran hoop 6 with the blue (the score of hoops scored stood at 5-1 to player 1), and it was at this point the error was discovered.

After consultation, a decision was made that all of the hoops run would be handed to the colour of ball that ran it.

This meant that the score went from Player 1 leading 5-1 to a score of 3-3.

Could you please let me know if this is the correct ruling, other than the custard pie award for stupidity, or, as somebody suggested, an IQ test for both participants!

If so, I would question the fairness of this rule as in this circumstance both players made the error, yet one player was punished whilst the other gained from it.

Surely a fairer way would be to send all balls to the penalty area and carry on playing to hoop 7 (but with the correct colour balls), or the other sensible alternative would be to send all balls back to the penalty area (reverting to a 2-0 score) and restart play to hoop 3 where the original error occurred?

Stuart M. Smith, Northampton CC

Dear Stuart,

The situation you describe presents two separate issues.

The first is how to restart play after it was stopped.

This is straightforward.

Because the last stroke was preceded by a stroke in which an opponent ball was played, Rule 10.5.4 applies, the point scored is cancelled and play restarts with a Penalty Area Continuation under Rule 18.2.

The second issue is how to treat the points scored at hoops 3, 4 and 5 which both sides recognise were scored for the other side.

Rule 10.5.4 is a special situation under Rule 10.1.5 and, as a result, Rule 10.2 (which would have directed that all those points were to be counted for the owner(s) of the ball(s) that scored the point) is specifically disapplied.

Rule 10 was not designed to deal with this situation and does not cover it directly.

The rule makers' policy is not to clutter the Rules unnecessarily with text dealing with very rare situations.

Instead, Rule 15.3 has been provided as an overriding rule to allow a referee to impose an equitable solution based on the facts of the case.

The two obvious solutions are either (a) to restore the score to its last lawful state (2-0 to BK) and contest hoop 3 or (b) to apply the principle of Rule 10.2, even though it has been disapplied, so that the score is 3-2 to RY, and contest hoop 6.

Given the history of the game as stated, if I had been the referee I would have preferred solution (a) but another referee might think differently.

**Stephen Mulliner,
Chairman, CA GC Rules Committee**



Did you buy two medals at an auction recently?

Dear Editor,

At a recent auction two medals won by Eveline Bramwell were bought.

One was a Ladies Championship medal

and one a Scottish Championship medal.

If the purchaser is more interested in the first of these and is prepared to sell the latter, I would be obliged if he/she would

please contact me.

**David Appleton,
Tyneside CC,**

david99appleton@gmail.com

GC Rule 10: It's all about staying alert and prevention

Dear Editor,

Although there is still some general confusion over the new "wrong ball played" rules, in general the forestall approach is definitely an improvement in the game.

However, wrong balls are still played (even by tournament referees, in my recent experience!), but I do believe the options for rectification of this event should be looked at.

Currently, if a player plays their own wrong ball (e.g. plays blue instead of black) the opponent can choose whether the balls are simply replaced and the correct colour ball is played (i.e. black) or whether to swap the balls over (i.e. blue changes places with black) which then completes the turn of this player, and play resumes with the correct colour ball being played by the second player; in this instance it would be yellow.

However, if the player of blue and black plays his opponent's ball in error (i.e. plays either red or yellow) – which in my mind is a far greater offence – the only permissible action is to replace and replay the wrongly played ball and then play the correct shot with his own ball (blue or black, depending on which turn it was).

If the wrong colour ball is played in error in an approach to the next hoop, this can mean that the player that makes the wrong shot with his opponent's ball can in fact see the run and speed of the lawn in advance of taking his own correct shot, because the only consequence for the wrongly played ball is that it should be returned and replaced in position before the player then takes his shot with his own correct ball.

This 'practice approach' could be seen as giving the offending player a slight advantage in such circumstances because he may then adjust the angle or weight of his shot to suit the ground.

Surely, the subsequent actions of playing a wrong ball should be the same, regardless of what wrong ball is played, be it your own partner ball or one of your opponent's balls?

I wonder if this issue may be addressed and the rules regarding "wrongly played balls" amended to have equal consequences.

Louise Smith, Northampton

~

Dear Louise,

The overall policy behind Rule 10 is to encourage players to be alert and to prevent any wrong ball from occurring by forestalling play when they see their opponent about to go wrong.

Therefore, if a wrong ball is played, both sides are responsible.

Having said that, there are understandable reasons why play can go out of sequence and one of the consequences that may occur is the "gift hoop" situation which can confer a disproportionate benefit on whichever side has just played out of sequence when play is stopped.

The Ball Swap alternative remedy has therefore been provided to remove the unfairness of the "gift hoop" situation.

If a player is about to play an opponent ball, there is less excuse for the ball's owner failing to notice and forestall play.

There is also no "gift hoop" possibility.

For both reasons, the rule makers saw no need to offer an alternative remedy to Replace & Replay.

To the extent that the opponent feels that the "free practice" aspect of Replace & Replay confers a benefit on the offender, they should treat it as a reason to be more alert in the future.

**Stephen Mulliner,
Chairman, CA GC Rules Committee**

Racing Croquet anyone?

Dear Editor,

A large majority of croquet players, whether AC or GC types, are past their prime (no offence) and there are not enough youngsters interested in a game they see as sedentary.

So here is an idea that may appeal to the fit and competitive.

It's a game that can be played as singles or doubles, and recently I tried it out in a doubles game between my daughter Nicola & husband Neil v grandson David & fiancée Louise, and very competitive pairs they were!

Here are the outline rules and object of the game:

Toss a coin and the winners (team A) choose a single ball and whether to start from hoop 1 or 3, and the losers (team B) choose a single ball and start at the unchosen hoop.

Each team place their ball approximately 10 feet in front of their hoop.

At a given start signal, the two teams play concurrently and attempt to run six hoops faster than their opponents.

Team A attempts to run hoops 1 to 6 in order, while Team B plays the course 3, 4, 1, 2, 5 & 6.

In my trial best-of-three match, team B (David and Louise) won 2-1 and all four players knew they had been in a race! It was hilarious to watch and was a real spectator sport.

The game can also be played in threes, fours or sixes.

If threes, the start hoops will be 1, 3 and 5 - if four, only hoops 1, 2, 3 and 4 are used, and for sixes there will be one player/pair for each hoop.

Extra rules:

1. If a player touches a moving ball, he/she has to go back to start.

2. If opponents come into contact, as they may well do when playing hoops 5 and 6, play need not be stopped and it is everyone for themselves!

Obviously, if this game was to take-off, there would be a new rulebook, but at present this is seen as a game of fun. I see this game as being of interest to schools, universities and other organisations.

In any event it is food for thought!

**Bernard Pendry,
a member of Surbiton CC**

Eccentric! Surely they can't mean us!

Dear Editor,

I came across the following quotation in a biography about Airey Neave:

....*"At the start of his second year he joined the Territorial Army.*

In everyone else's view, it was an eccentric thing to do; a sort of archaic sport as

ineffective as a game of croquet on a vicarage lawn and far more tiresome".

All I can say is that whoever wrote this hasn't come across the same mallet wielding members of the Priesthood as me!

Klim Seabright, Cheltenham CC

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England retain the AC Home Internationals

~ Samir Patel reports ~

	Tests	Matches	Games
1 England	3	12	24
2 Scotland	1.5	6	17
3 Ireland	1	5	19
4 Wales	0.5	4	11



The AC Home Internationals Championship returned to Budleigh Salterton for the first time in 20 years in mid-June.

Recent work on the lawns at Budleigh has resulted in a superb grass texture, although heavy rain on the days before the event ensured easy hoops.

It turned out that each team had at least one player who had played in that 1999 event; David Maugham (England), Ian BurrIDGE and Chris Williams (Wales), Simon Williams (Ireland) and, of course, Martin Murray (Scotland). I say 'of course' because Martin has been a regular player since the Home Internationals was formed in 1980, which was also the only year in which Scotland have won the event.

This year the Scotland team set out to change that.

England v Scotland - Scotland's Sam Murray got off to a flying start with an eleventh turn +26tp, +26tp, win over Samir Patel. Duncan Reeve was in control of his match with David Maugham – a game up and starting a TP to win 2-0.

And Scotland were in play in the first game of all three other matches.

But then the 'wheel fell off' the Scottish bandwagon as errors in quick succession across all four matches returned England players to the courts.

Maugham went on to beat Reeve -16 +15tp +15tp, and the England team, including two debutants, Dominic Nunns and Daniel Gott completed clinical +26 wins in the second game.

England 4, Scotland 1.

Ireland v Wales was closely fought, with both games and matches traded between the two sides. It came down to the final match, between Ireland's Jane Morrison and Rich Waterman of Wales.

Morrison had won the closely fought first

game +5 and Waterman had the second under control but chose to peg-out one ball leaving partner for peg.

Morrison duly proceeded to control the remainder of the game – taking a few hoops here and there, while leaving Waterman only a few unattractive shots at the peg.

He narrowly missed several, but finally hit on his last opportunity (+3), much to Welsh delight, but not that of the manager, because the test was pegged down, tied at 2 – 2 in matches, with the remaining match at one game each. The match never did resume.

Scotland v Wales was notable for two feats. Martin Murray, who was playing at position five, completed a clinical +26tp, +26tp win.

The rest of the Scotland team did their best to follow in Martin's footsteps, and less than three hours after the test started, Scotland had won 3-0, although Welshman John Evans won his match shortly after to make the score 3-1.

The now dead match between Garry McElwain (Wales) and Chris Coull (Scotland) was abandoned, in favour of fish & chips.

England v Ireland turned out to be much closer, with Ireland taking the first game in three of the matches, with Dominic Nunns locked in a titanic battle with Patsy Fitzgerald.

Your correspondent was occupied in his own battle with Danny Johnston so cannot report too many details, but the summary at the time was "they both hit everything!".

England's Daniel Gott did have his match under control with a +25tp in the first and almost +26tp in the second but failed to compete the peg-out. Morrison took a quick break to 4-back with a Diagonal Spread, and possibly unaware of Morrison's heroics in her match against Waterman, or perhaps

inspired by the identity of his teammate, Gott chose to shoot his peg ball (peg it out from where it lay).

Morrison took her break to the peg, Gott missed his one shot (which was longer than the lift he turned down), and Morrison finished +1. "I'm not doing that again" was Gott's quote after the match.

By this time, Andrew Johnston had completed a +26tp +26tp win over David Maugham, with all four other matches tied 1-1. However, England won all four final games (+14tp, +16, +14, +26tp) to take the test 4-1.

In the final test, **England v Wales** was a switch; four 2-0 results, three in England's favour to wrap up the Championship. The fourth match followed soon afterwards, for a tidy 4-1 result against all three countries.

Scotland v Ireland saw the top two pairs in competitive matches, including Danny Johnston and Sam Murray trading the only two TPOs of the event.

Scotland won both 2-1 to level the test, after Ireland's number three and four had won their matches 2-0.

This left the test tied 2-2 and 1-1, but with England having won the championship, some players having flights to catch and a risk of heavy rain, further play was abandoned.

Finally, special congratulations to the four players who won all three of their matches – Sam Murray, John Evans, Dominic Nunns (who didn't drop a game during the event) and Daniel Gott.

Photos (clockwise from top left): John Evans, Sam Murray and England (by Samir Patel & Chris Roberts)



England

David Maugham
Samir Patel
Mark Suter
Dominic Nunns
Daniel Gott

Scotland

Duncan Reeve
Sam Murray
Chris Martin
Chris Coull
Martin Murray

Ireland

Danny Johnston
Andrew Johnston
Simon Williams
Patsy Fitzgerald
Jane Morrison

Wales

Ian BurrIDGE
Chris Williams
John Evans
Garry McElwain
Rich Waterman

Schools & Juniors Championship

Calling all potential entrants!

School-age croquet is seeing a mini-boom, thanks to the recent hard work of several federations, clubs and individual players who have all worked hard to introduce croquet to youngsters.

Notable stories include Nottingham CC, who have introduced hundreds of primary school children to 'Pirates' this year, whilst a number of schools across the country have had the benefit of receiving tuition from visiting players or teachers who happen to be top players.

There has been a movement to expand the number of schools and individuals entering the AC Schools and Junior Championships, which will be held 5-6 October this year, most likely at Watford Croquet Club.

If you know of any school or U18 individual who might be interested, please put them in touch with me – Eugene Chang on etychang@gmail.com

Also of interest –

The CA is running a combined AC and GC Summer School for anyone under 25 at Wrest Park CC on 20-21 August.

This is a great opportunity to pick up skills to take into the Schools and Junior Championships!

Contact Lionel Tibble on anglion@btinternet.com.

Eugene Chang

Croquet on ITV News

18 year-old James Galpin on "getting into Croquet"

National Croquet Day on 12 May was enjoyed by many clubs around the country, with most using the occasion as a promotional opportunity.

Nottingham CC are past masters at seeing an opening for publicity and attracted interest from the television cameras of ITV News Central. A high production level, three and a half minute, croquet segment resulted and is well worth a watch as it makes an excellent job of promoting our sport, free from the usual negative stereotypes and it sends a very positive message indeed.

18 year-old James Galpin talks very well to camera about his generation playing croquet, David Brydon, Dave Gunn and Beatrice McGlen cover the outline of the game, tactics and the sexes playing equally which is so rare in sport.

Tim King does some rudimentary coaching and GC World Championship sponsor Simon Carter talks passionately his love for croquet and about the presenter's step-grandfather, the legendary player John Solomon.

All this and lots of croquet action too are captured on YouTube – search for 'Getting into Croquet' or type in this link - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FpZq8LiTYM>

PHOTO image - TV (NCD at Nottingham 2019)

Taking croquet to schools ~ with the Montevideo hoop

Canterbury Croquet Club's Youth Development section has begun a programme of taking croquet to schools in East Kent for taster sessions on all-weather sports pitches.

Crucial to this is the use of freestanding hoops that don't interfere with the run of the ball.

First up in mid-June was St Edmund's School near Kent University, with a group of twelve Lower Sixth students around seventeen years old.

After basic instruction on how to hit

a ball and run a hoop, the two coaches organised a mini-tournament in which the students were paired-off, with a mallet and ball each.

One pair started at each of the four corners and the other two started at the two halfway points. They had to run five hoops in any order, picking unfrequented hoops so as to avoid traffic jams.

After the toss, or when a hoop was scored, the loser would choose the next hoop and the direction in which it was to be run.

In 75 minutes this gave time for a three-

round Swiss with a short final in which the game of four-ball golf croquet was introduced. At the next session the hoops will be placed in a line seven yards apart and the principle of AC will be used to see who can get furthest down the line in a two-ball break.

St Edmund's is keen on sport and has a strong reputation for netball, hockey, cricket and football: it remains to be seen whether croquet will take hold, but its all-weather surface was a delight to play on.

Jonathan Lamb, Canterbury CC



Postscript:

Canterbury CC also uses one of the free-standing hoops in a carpeted shopping precinct, challenging people to run it, so that they hold a mallet and hit a ball.

The problem for designer Jonathan Lamb is that he has received a lot of orders for sets of the hoops, but the only current manufacturer is in South America!

To avoid freight and import duty he has several thousand pounds' worth of potential business for anyone in the UK who can weld a 'Montevideo' hoop from mild steel and get it bake-painted in a car body shop.

It could be a good retirement activity - free specifications on demand from:

vozinglesa@gmail.com



READY!

Tobi Savage



Tobi Savage is in the mood to take on the world at the WCF Simon Carter World Championship - see the preview on the next pages

The Under 21 GC World Championship

Nottingham CC, 20 - 24 July

Three of the competitors Euan Burrigde (England), Murray Buchanan (South Africa) and Smilla Vinnen (Germany). *Images by Chris Roberts.*

A preview of the U21 World Championships was withdrawn by its author whilst this Gazette issue was in the throws of the production process. There being little time left available for alternative words, readers are directed to the Championship website at www.u21gcwc2019.org



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See it for your self at
 Sussex County CC,
 Compton CC,
 Tunbridge Wells CC
 and West Worthing CC

See the full page
 Championship Schedule
 at the front of this Gazette on page 5



These World Championships are sponsored by Simon Carter, London.

Simon Carter Ltd. is a British fashion design company specialising in men's accessories and menswear, founded in London in 1985 by its eponymous director.

Photographs clockwise from top left:
 The best players to watch for spectators -
 (1) Two time former World Champion Ahmed Nasr is a tremendously hard hitter
 (2) The reigning and two time World Champion Reg Bamford will start as red hot favourite.
 (3) The four-time AC World Champion Robert Fulford is also in the stong field.
 (4) Stephen Mulliner, a former AC World Champion is Mr consistency and expect him to be in the mix for the top prize
(photos by Chris Roberts & Bill Bromley)

The hallmark of the 2017 championship in Australia was the emergence of the New Zealand junior powerhouse.

Five Kiwi Under-21 players qualified for the knock-out stage and Felix Webby, the Under-21 World Champion, took former double world champion, Ahmed Nasr (Egypt), to the fifth game in the semi-final.

Rising profile of young players

The rising profile of young players is by no means confined to New Zealand and, as they have the capability of demonstrating substantial improvement in a short time, the 2019 championship therefore promises to be a difficult event to predict in terms of who will reach the later stages, let alone who is most likely to appear in the final.

New Zealand's young stars

Regrettably but understandably, academic priorities have prevented Webby and Edmund Fordyce, the current NZ Open Champion, from taking part and military service has likewise excluded Amr Alebiary,

one of the two top Egyptian players.

Despite that, New Zealand will field four young stars in George Coulter, Duncan Dixon, Josh Freeth and Hamish McIntosh.

Egypt bring a hoard of champions

Egypt will be represented by Hamy Erian (the 2015 GCWC finalist), Mohamed Kareem and Mostafa Nezar (the 2011 Under-21 champion) in addition to three formidable former world champions in the shape of Ahmed and Mohamed Nasr and Ahmed El Mahdy.

Australia have been unable to field any of the Fletcher brothers or Edward Wilson so their 2019 squad is more experienced than young.

England internationals will be out in force

Robert Fulford leads the English challenge supported by all six members of the largely youthful England team that won the first Test Match against Spain in March: Richard Bilton, Harry Fisher, John-Paul Moberly, Stephen Mulliner, Jonathan Powe and Tobi



Croquet World Championship

phen Mulliner ~



Are you sitting comfortably?

The live streaming schedule

Please make sure you follow the CA on social media:

- @croquetengland -
on Facebook/Twitter/Instagram

We will be publishing our streaming schedule and link to the stream.

We want YOU to help us get the events shared and publicised to your social networks too!

The streaming schedule will also be published on the CA website.

Eugene Chang
Marketing Committee Chair
etychang@gmail.com - Twitter @etychang

Savage.

Harry Dodge and Will Gee are both under 30, while Lionel Tibble heads up the rest of the English contingent.

And then there is the World Champion Bamford

Last, but not least, Reg Bamford will represent South Africa and seek to become the first player ever to defend the GCWC title successfully.

Having won in 2013 in Cairo, his 2015 bid was derailed in the quarter-final by Ahmed El Mahdy, who reached simply incredible heights of shooting accuracy on his way to the title.

This year, Reg has warmed up by reaching the final of the Spanish International Open and winning the British Open Championship title for the eleventh time.

He must be in with a chance!

The Southwick courts are in the best condition ever

The event will be headquartered at Sussex County Croquet Club, otherwise known as

Southwick, where the courts are in the best condition that anyone can remember (and my memory goes back to August 1976).

They are flatter, firmer and faster than ever before and the club and their contractor, Ben Harwood (who operates as Complete Turf Care), are entitled to feel great pride in what has been achieved over the past three years.

Other venues to play a valuable part too

The Compton, Tunbridge Wells and West Worthing clubs have provided their courts for the block stage and other events, a contribution which is greatly appreciated by the Croquet Association and the WCF.

The organising committees have all put in a tremendous amount of work in preparation and all seems set for a great World Championship.

Let's hope the weather co-operates.

Stephen Mulliner

More live streaming of Australia v NZ & Spanish Open

A 'croquet first' for me since my last Marketing column, has been to watch the live video stream of two top-tier international croquet events: the GC Trans-Tasman between Australia and New Zealand, and the final of the Spanish GC Championship from Cadiz.

The Trans-Tasman featured live commentary provided by, amongst others, England's own Rachel and Will Gee, giving the BBC's Test Match Special commentators a run for their money with their humour, on-air chemistry, and insight of top class GC.

The Spanish tournament was streamed live in early June, with alternating Spanish and English commentary; the final featured Reg Bamford and Jose (Pepe) Riva, who are familiar faces on the UK scene.

The match was a high-quality affair played in a glorious setting under beautiful weather, but what made me smile most was the quantity and ages of the many spectators, not to mention the ball boys and ball girls who retrieved the off-court balls - giving a real professional feel to the event.

Both these events are still available online; message me if you cannot find them.

Eugene Chang
Marketing Committee Chair
etychang@gmail.com - Twitter @etychang



The 2019 GC Open Championship



The 2019 Open Championship had the pre-tournament trappings of being a vintage year with almost all the nation's best players competing, together with some notable overseas visitors, for what would be a big indicator of form before the WCF Simon Carter World Championship on the same ground later this month.

There was some sublime play on all four days and a good few surprises along the way, but in the end the cream is the cream and the World Champion Reg Bamford won again!

Setting the scene: **Fulford & Clarke add extra spice**

What excitement greeted the fortunate players who arrived at this, the top domestic GC tournament of the year – and this one was a bit special, because Robert Fulford was back in the field for the first time in a number of seasons, and fellow -5 handicapper Jenny Clarke from New Zealand was another irregular but very welcome addition to the starting line-up.

The presence of these two at seed numbers 2 and 4 in the seeded blocks meant that players who would normally expect to cruise to the knock-out phase via steady play in the blocks were now going to have to work that bit harder for that qualification.

Below them in the blocks lay some potentially slippery banana skins and those sporting international shirts would be able to take nothing for granted this time.



Day 1:

Shocks and surprises all day!

The 32-strong field, in four blocks of eight players, were sent on their way by manager Stephen Mulliner, playing a programme of 'best-of-three games' matches to decide the top four finishing places for a sixteen-player knock-out from Day 3 onwards.

Bamford laid down an early marker for the pretenders to his crown, with a quick time victory over Open debutant Raouf Allim, who nevertheless enjoyed rubbing in before play that he'd been scheduled for a match with the 'Big Man' before Phyllis Court club mate Roger Goldring had managed it in three Open attempts!

Perhaps it was first-game rustiness, all the pressure being on the favourites, or the relaxed attitude of the lower-ranked players – who knows? – but the shock results then came in thick and fast.

In Block A (top seeds: Reg Bamford, Ian Burridge and Harry Dodge) Goldring recorded the day's first shock result when he beat Dodge in straight games, making light of the 410 ranking grade points difference between them.

New Zealander Dennis Bulloch also upset the seedings when he came from behind to beat Burridge in three games – although this was less of a surprise because Bulloch, I was told, is a member of a very exclusive croquet club, whose four members are the only players to have won medals at both GC and AC World Championships.

*(Do you know who the other three are?
The answer is at the end of this report.)*

So it was another surprise when Bulloch lost to Dulwich's Peter Haydon in another result that upset the apple cart. These three surprises aside, the remaining matches went pretty much as to be expected, and although Dodge ended the first day without a match win, he had at least ticked off from his list the top two seeds.

In Block B (top seeds: Robert Fulford, Tobi Savage and Richard Bilton) there was a big shock when Nelson Morrow beat Fulford in three games, complete with 13th hoop drama in the decider. Chris Roberts got a game off Savage which is a rare occurrence, so its mention is unashamedly included here; and Bilton scored a match win against the 'Essex Jumper' too.

In Block C (top seeds: John-Paul Moberly, Stephen Mulliner and Harry Fisher) all the noise was being made lower down the pecking order by Kingston Maurward's own Steve Leonard who beat the higher-seeded Tim King and USA visitor Matt Griffith.

In Block D (top seeds: Jenny Clarke, Jamie Burch and Lionel Tibble) Clarke must have been surprised to come a cropper to Simon Carter in a great two-game victory and even more surprised to lose to Taunton Deane's Stephen Custance-Baker in three games.

Day 2:

Qualification for some but several 'cliff hangers' set too

Block A saw Bamford sweep all before him, including the block number two Burridge, and in fact he only dropped one game in the day, a 5-7 reverse to Bulloch (remembering that Bamford had won all 22 games he played in last year's tournament), so that was actually quite a moment!

With one remaining block game to play, Bamford ended the day on 6/6, Burridge was on 4/6, and Dodge had recovered to be on 3/6, and all three had matches they would expect to win the following morning.

Heading for a showdown tomorrow were the block numbers 4 and 5, Allim and Bulloch, who would contest the 'sweaty match' with only the winner to qualify.

Block B was getting really interesting behind Fulford and Bilton, who were out in front on 5/6 each, because Northampton's Pete Dowd (4/6) had heaped the pressure on Savage (3/6) by beating him in three games and Morrow (3/6) was also looking in good form.

Dowd was in the box seat with at least a play-off looking likely, and with Savage up against that tricky customer Richard Brooks on his home turf tomorrow morning, qualification from this block was anything but certain.

Block C ended the day in the lovely situation of the top three, Moberly, Mulliner and Fisher, all having lost just once, but to each other, so with each expecting a further victory in their last matches the following morning, the finishing order looked like going to net games or more distant criteria – which was all very important for the top three because their finishing order would have a bearing on their position in the knock-out grid.

Away from the smoke of the battle at the top, Steve Leonard had consolidated his great first day with two more wins to end on 4/4 with the fourth qualification berth sewn up; this was a terrific achievement from number seven in this block.

Block D became the tightest of all as the day unfolded. There was no holding Custance-Baker who was on a high from yesterday's win over Clarke, and he ended the day on 5/6, one ahead of the top-

seeded trio Clarke, Burch and Tibble on 4/6.

This block could go any-which-way on the final games tomorrow, with Tibble facing the Custance-Baker challenge in the morning and one of Carter and Australian David Wise also bound to end on four wins as they were to play each other.

Day 3: Blocks sorted (eventually)

Block A went pretty much to plan on Day 3 with the top seeds all winning comfortably enough to qualify in seeding order, which left only the 'sweaty game' between Allim and Bulloch to decide the final place. Both played well until at hoop 11 of game 3 Allim slipped up when he went for hoop plus position, instead of just making sure of the point, clanged the hoop leg and Bulloch swooped for the match.

Block B saw the cat really amongst the pigeons when Morrow unexpectedly beat Bilton to force Savage (who had needed a third game to get past Brooks) into a play-off between the pair – who'd ended on 4/7 behind Fulford 6/7, Dowd 5/7 & Bilton 5/7.

This play-off provided excellent lunchtime entertainment for most of the field, who enthusiastically acclaimed Savage's monster boundary jump shot at hoop 9, Morrow's poor luck to only nestle in hoop 12 from near corner 1 (yes really!) and Savage's subsequent match saving jump over it!

13th hoop drama unfolded when Morrow ran cleanly through the back from 20-plus yards, Savage failed an angled jump, Morrow failed an easier one and finally Savage ran it so cleanly and with pace that the side-on viewing crowd did realise initially he'd wrapped up the win!

Block C was decided by the unexpected intervention of Liz Farrow, who took a game off Fisher in her match defeat, and Leonard who did likewise against Mulliner, both of which were crucial to the top finishing order which was decided on 'games won', and that put Moberly top, ahead of Mulliner and then Fisher (ouch!), with Leonard claiming a splendid fourth place.

Block D was the messy one, thanks to Custance-Baker's winning exploits which he continued at the expense of Tibble this morning.

That put Tibble into a play-off with Carter, which had got to 6-5 to Tibble by the time the crowd had stopped whooping at the Savage / Morrow game. Carter played a great promotion to score hoop 12 but a good first ball to 13 by Tibble was followed by a 'jaws' in the next play, a failed Carter jump and victory for Tibble.

The Round of 16: Some big names bound to fall

The round-of-16 heroes were Dowd and Bulloch who took out higher seeds Burrige and Fulford 2-7, 7-6, 7-4 and 2-7, 7-6, 7-5 respectively, to line up an unexpected quarter-final between themselves.

The centre-stage match was Bamford v Savage, which was as close as 6-7, 7-6, 7-6 sounds, and drew much praise for the latter's game from winner Bamford.

The Bilton v Fisher tie was similarly tight between the two England Internationals at 7-6, 7-6 to "The Biltonator", but Mulliner was rather more in charge of his match with Burch, which he won 7-3, 7-4.

The other three matches all went to deciding games; Moberly beat Tibble 7-4, 6-7, 7-5; Clarke re-found her -5 form to get past Dodge 7-4, 6-7, 7-4 and 'surprise package' Leonard had a real tussle with Custance-Baker before going down at the last hoop 7-4, 5-7, 7-6.

Quarter-finals: More big names go out

Bamford swept past Bilton 7-1 in their first game but was taken all the way to 7-6 by the English Champion in the second game. But Bamford was firing ominously well by now. Mulliner was clinical in beating Custance-Baker 7-1, 7-5, Moberly reached his fourth semi-final in a row when he beat Clarke 7-5, 7-5, and Dowd was delighted to get to his first-ever semi with a cool win over Bulloch 7-4, 7-6.

Day 4 - Semi-finals: Delighted Dowd joins the 'usual suspects'

Moberly was on super form against Dowd in the first game, restricting the semis debutant to two hoop shots only, which he scored but went down 7-2, and that included Moberly scoring hoop 4 from 25 yards!

Dowd stemmed the flow to lead the second game 2-4 but not for long and the England captain came back to win 7-6 to reach his third final in four years.

Photographs (clockwise from top left):

- (1) Stephen Custance-Baker, who upset the seedings in a big way.
- (2) Reg Bamford, GC Open Champion again.
- (3) Steve Leonard, who burst on to the top scene at these Championships.
- (4) Pete Dowd, who achieved a career best semi-final spot.

Photographs by Chris Roberts



The other semi was a titanic battle between old adversaries Bamford and Mulliner, and 'the upset was on' when the latter won the first game 7-6.

A most unusual incident happened at hoop 13 in the second game when Bamford appeared to have scored with a brave angled shot, with the match depending on it, only to stick in the jaws – and on investigation, stuck his ball definitely was!

The hoop was reset and Bamford understandably chose not to reply the stroke but to leave his ball in the hoop jaws.

Mulliner cleared Bamford's other ball to fully 21 yards away on the east boundary hoping that the World Champion would miss Mulliner's partner ball that was positioned to jump – but he didn't!

He 'snicked' the ball to the north boundary where the extra yards made all the difference; Mulliner's jump was good for direction but the bounce was wrong and resulted in the unwanted peel which levelled the match.

That was Mulliner's chance and Bamford went on to win the decider 7-5.

THE FINAL: Bamford v Moberly

So, after all the preceding drama, giant-killings included, the final ended up being a repeat of the 2018 event – the World Champion v the England Captain.

Bamford took control of the first game to go 4-2 up before Moberly won a clearance battle series to end up with a one-yard unopposed hoop shot. Oh how easy those



The GC Open Championships (continued)

look, but not so in the pressure of an Open final, and he could only jaws.

Bamford cut him all the way to the north boundary and then ran the hoop himself from that position!

In form like that Bamford was impossible to live with; he took that game 7-2. And he was soon in charge of the second game and 5-2 up again.

Moberly had to force the game to save the match that was slipping away and he set up a 'peel and go across' using his jawsed ball at hoop 8, but Bamford managed to disrupt that plan despite seeing very little of the ball. Moberly had to jump and scored but his last chance had gone. Bamford missed two shots to win at 10, but he wrapped up his 11th Open Singles title at the next hoop.

Epilogue

Your reporter wasn't present for the **Open Doubles** that preceded the Singles event, so the details are scant but I can record that Chris and Jenny Clarke will be heading back to New Zealand with some notional silverware (even if the real artefacts have to be left behind!) thanks to their 7-3, 7-6 final win over Bamford and Dodge.

Back at the Singles: Mulliner beat Dowd to third place, Bilton won the Shield (5 to 8), Fulford the Bowl (8-16), Griffith from the USA was a popular winner of the Plate and King the 'Z'.

~

Bamford's win means that he and Mulliner have closed out the Open title for TWO DECADES between them –

Just think about that for a moment, it really is quite astonishing!

Chris Roberts

**The other three players who have won medals at both GC and AC World Championships along with Dennis Bulloch are: Reg Bamford, Chris Clarke and Stephen Mulliner.*

Photo: Doubles winners, Jenny and Chris Clarke with CA President Quiller Barrett



Championship Series

The 2019 Championship Series has been very well supported, and especially so in light of the likely 'osmosis effect' of the WCF Simon Carter GC World Championship.

It had been thought that the draw of this huge event and the required employment leave and lost family time necessary might have resulted in less of the top players being available for Series tournaments this season.

However, that situation has not materialised and even the most cursory examination of the results so far reveals the very healthy state of the competition.

Indeed, most of the tournament so far have been oversubscribed – and some very much so.

With five of the Championship's eight tournaments played, five different winners have emerged along with four different players again in the runner-up spots, all picking up direct qualification places for the English National Singles Final (Ascot Cup).

Only Lionel Tibble has appeared in two Series finals and all bar one of those who have qualified so far are ranked in the UK top 30.

The strongest field was at Surbiton, which was reported in the last Gazette (winner **Robert Fulford**), and since then there have been tournament victories for **Jonathan Powe** (at Sidmouth), **Ian Burrige** (at East Anglia, i.e. Colchester), **Lionel Tibble** (at Cheltenham) and **Tobi Savage** (at Ramsgate).

The National Forest tournament at Ashby was taking place as this Gazette went to press, and after that it's the Nottingham Open, and finally one that has returned to the Championship Series this season – the Lancashire Open, now at Pendle.

A-Level Series

Like the Championship Series, participation in the A-Level Series has been very good and again there has been a spread of winners.

This Series does not have a national final to qualify for, it's just a simple accumulating 'points race', with points awarded for first to fourth places.

Stuart M Smith leads the way on 20 points, for his splendid victories in the first two A-Level Series tournaments at Cheltenham and Northampton.

Tim King is in second place (12 points) despite not having won a tournament yet – he has accumulated his points with fourth, third and second-placed finishes. That shows some consistency.

The other winners so far are all sitting on 10 points for their single wins; they are **Simon Carter** (at Hunstanton), **Chris Roberts** (at Wrest Park), **Malcolm Bigg** (in a very rain-affected event at Woking) and **Dave Widdison** (at Pendle).

A quick note of thanks to this point to Tim King, who acted as the 'go fetch' ball-boy for John Noble and Roberts in the final at Wrest Park, where for some reason they do not employ ball-stop boards. It's not every day that you will get a former Chairman of the CA Council putting in that sort of legwork.

The A-level Series is still wide open and it has four of its ten tournaments still to go, so anyone can still win!



Tim King



Stuart M Smith

'Zero Plus' tournaments bridging the gap

Although not in a CA-backed Level Series competition, very good entry numbers have been recorded at a number of so-called Zero Plus tournaments (for players with handicap of 0+).

Hamptworth and Guildford, to name but two, have had this sort of tournament for a while now, and this season a new jointly-hosted event run by Phyllis Court and High Wycombe also made it to the CA fixtures book.

The Zero Plus has proved to be an

incredibly popular idea, and particularly so with players who are no longer eligible for the B-Level Series, but whose Ranking Grade is insufficient to get them high enough in the pecking order for the A-Level Series events. The Phyllis / Wycombe event even attracted international participation – Steve Thornton was on a croquet trip from Australia for a few weeks, and, more incredible still, Luis Alvarez-Sala flew in from Spain specifically to play for the tournament!

B-Level Series (3+)

Ealing's Ron Carter is leading the way in the National B-Level Series having chalked up an impressive three tournament victories in the first half of this season.

He actually laid down a marker outside the Series when he was runner-up in the Plate at the Phyllis Court & High Wycombe 'Zero Plus' tournament despite being the bottom seed

His first victory was at Roehampton in May and then he won twice the following month at Ealing and Colchester.

Elsewhere there have been single tournament wins for:

- Keith Bryant** (at Camerton & Peased'n)
- Robin Coates** (at Sussex County)
- Des Taylor** (at Watford)
- Andrea Huxley** (at Ryde)
- Roger Stroud** (at Wrest Park)
- Roger l'Anson** (at Pendle)
- Neil Humphreys** (at East Dorset)
- Rob Chatwin** (at Northampton)
- Martin Berger** (at Woking)
- Jane Tewson** (at Leighton-Linslade)

* All qualify for the B-Level Series National Final at Guildford & G. on 7-8 September.

C-Level Series (7+)

Glynis Davies was the first of last season National C-Level Finalists to book her place at this season's event, when she won the Phyllis Court tournament in mid-May.

In a close final of that event, she beat another 2018 National Finalist, Jane Powell of Ealing, who does not yet have 2019 tournament win to her name, but she does head the 'points accumulation' table thanks to a second runner-up spot achieved at Roehampton. Other Series tournament winners so far have been:

- Edwin Bone** (at Surbiton)
- Diana Lagridge** (at Sussex Co.)
- Chandra Shaw** (at Ryde)
- Terrence Collis** (at Wrest park)
- David Brame** (at Ashby)
- Peter Uglow** (at Camerton & Peased'n)
- Jennian Geddes** (at Roehampton)
- Sarah Patton** (at Guildford & Godalm'g)

* All qualify for the C-Level Series National Final at Cheltenham on 21-22 September.

All four National Series competitions have their own dedicated webpage. Go to: Home, Tournaments, CA Events.



Budleigh Salterton host a grand opening of their middle pavilion

Budleigh Salterton Croquet Club were pleased to Open Officially their new Middle Pavilion on 29 March 2019, in good time for the main season ahead.

Photographed above at the grand occasion are, from the left:

- Alison Maddaford (Club Chairman),
- Ian Stratford (General Committee and Project Manager),
- Gill Needham (benefactor),
- Rob Weeks (Grounds Manager),
- and Councillors Alan Dent and Tom Wright (a past and current Town Mayor of Budleigh Salterton respectively).

Croquet Marketing Projects

Promoting croquet - let's get those viewing figures up!

Summer has finally arrived and the croquet season is in full swing - it has been great to see plenty of new names in tournament reports and to meet some unfamiliar faces through my croquet-related travels these last two months.

In particular, I've enjoyed chatting to what I call 'croquet makers' - those who tirelessly contribute to their Club/Federation/Association, through cooking, serving teas, manning the bar, doing social media, setting the hoops, planning the next recruitment drive, etc.

The croquet community wouldn't be the same without you! We are very lucky to have so many volunteers in our midst; I want to make sure that the goodwill of our volunteers is valued and appreciated and that we as the CA do what we can to listen and support you.

Live video streaming

The Editor has robbed this section of the marketing column and re-sited it on the centre pages alongside the preview of the WCF Simon Carter World Championship.

See the boxed item there for details of the the Live Streaming schedule.

BBC Countryfile Live

- Spaces still available for volunteers -

The CA will be present at BBC CountryFile Live at both:

Blenheim Palace, Oxfordshire (1-4 August) & Castle Howard, Yorkshire (15-18 August), and we are still on the lookout for volunteers to help with these events (volunteers get free entry, and these are fab days out for the family).

For Blenheim Palace, contact Frances Colman - frances@luxtersfarm.com.

For Castle Howard, contact Anna Giraud - eag.giraudnet@gmail.com

National Croquet Day, #ThisGirlCan, BBC Get Inspired

We are seeking feedback on National Croquet Day and associated Open Days, to ensure that the event(s) continue to improve. And we are continuing to work on other avenues to promote croquet, such as getting listed on the #ThisGirlCan website, and on BBC Get Inspired.

On the last point, we would like YOUR help: the BBC will only list croquet if it sees evidence of 'consistent and widespread demand' - if all those reading this were to request for croquet to be added (via getinspired@bbc.co.uk) - that would significantly strengthen our case.

Please get in touch if you have other bright ideas!

I am grateful to those who sent marketing suggestions to the editor in the last Gazette, and I have responded to these accordingly.

Eugene Chang, Marketing Committee Chair - etychang@gmail.com - [Twitter @etychang](https://twitter.com/etychang)



Notts canter to AC Inter - County

The Second Division was a much more nail-biting affair

Glamorgan, relegated last season, lost their first match to Shropshire, but their team of Chris Williams (captain), John Bowcott, Kevin Ham, Tudor Jenkins, Garry McElwain, Sarah Melvin and David Walters then won their next eight matches in a row, including a crucial win against Essex, at that point equal on seven wins, on the final morning.

With eight wins going in to the final match, Glamorgan would win the division unless they lost 0-3 and Essex won 3-0, so when **Gloucestershire's** David Kibble pegged out early against **Essex**, that secured the shield for Glamorgan.

It did look, however, as if Glamorgan were going down in all three games against Yorkshire, but Chris Williams and Sarah Melvin were able to scrape a win +2 on time to maintain their unbeaten record as a pairing, winning seven games as second pair and three as first pair.

They had occasion to be grateful to Kibble yet again at Compton on the third day, when they had been sent in as a sacrificial first pairing against Kibble and Suter in order to strengthen the other two pairings of their team.

Kibble played an immaculate break to 1-back and was seemingly about to set up a perfect sextuple leave for Suter when he inexplicably missed an easy shot before setting up the cross wire, leaving Melvin all the balls at Hoop 1.

Amazingly five teams finished on seven match wins in the Second Division.

Shropshire had started off really well, and were unbeaten for their first five matches, but then had a run of three losses and finished on seven wins.

Berkshire, Essex, Yorkshire and **Gloucestershire** also finished on seven match wins, but the latter had the best game wins tally so were placed as runners-up, gaining promotion to the top flight next season.

In the battle for third place, Essex and Yorkshire had an identical game tally, but Essex won the promotion spot by virtue of having beaten **Yorkshire**.

Yorkshire's captain John Davis was jubilant, as his team didn't really want promotion, so he reckoned that losing out by having an identical score to a promoted team was a perfect result, and more than made up for losing -2 on time in the last game against Glamorgan!

Warwickshire were awarded the wooden spoon and sadly were the only team

Nottinghamshire won the 105th AC Inter County Championships for the ninth time over the Whitsun weekend.

Their team of Richard White (captain), Keith Aiton, Paddy Chapman, Miranda Chapman, James Death, James Hopgood and Patrick Hort had secured the trophy by the end of the third day, having won all their matches, and so only had the clean sweep to play for on the final day.

In this they succeeded, and over the entire event they only lost four games, ironically all to teams in the relegation zone.

White and Aiton were undefeated throughout and in fact, Nottinghamshire effectively won the trophy on the second day when they beat the runners-up, **Surrey**, 3-0.



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*All bookings are subject to Fred. Olsen's (FOCL) standard terms & conditions, available on our website & on request. All prices quoted under the Croquet Association members discount offer are exclusive to qualifying members & their travelling companions only, members must quote their discount code at time of booking. Membership discounts cannot be applied retrospectively. Bookings must be made via the booking hotline number 0800 0355 108. Proof of membership will be required at the time of booking. Offers cannot be extended to any unrelated third party, are subject to availability & may be withdrawn or amended at any time without prior notice. From time to time FOCL may run special offers which cannot be combined with this discount, including selected group travel deals. All guests booked under this scheme are requested to refrain from disclosing the fare paid whilst on board. Offer is for first-time cruisers with Fred. Olsen only. Fred. Olsen Oceans members are entitled to a 5% Croquet Association discount subject to the same terms & conditions, to be applied after the standard Oceans discount, where applicable. In this instance, Oceans Terms & Conditions apply. This offer expires on the 30th September 2018. E&OE.  Travel with confidence

Counties Championship ~ by Sue Mackay

without any match wins, although they did win a game in the majority of their matches.

The relegation battle was not decided until the final matches had finished. **Dorset**, promoted last season, were without their captain, Jonathan Powe, after the first day, as he had to return home for family reasons.

They only had one win going in to the last round of matches, and so were definitely relegated, but they went out in a blaze of glory with a win against Somerset.

Somerset were without Marcus Evans this year, but still had an impressively strong team on paper, and so everyone was amazed when they failed to win a match on the first two days.

In the afternoon at Compton on the Bank Holiday Monday they decided to opt for alternate stroke doubles in some of their games, and this seemed to work, because they won two matches, and games involving David Goacher went more quickly!

Somerset lost to **Oxfordshire** and **Dorset** on the last day, however, and were relegated to the Second Division for the first time in their history.

Four wins were possibly not going to be enough to avoid the third relegation place, and so **Hertfordshire** and **Suffolk** were frantically counting games won, but in the end Sussex only managed three match wins and returned to the Second Division.

There was an interesting match at Compton on the Sunday.

Cheshire's captain, Colin Irwin, had been taken ill before the tournament, but they still had a squad of six.

However, Chris Coull was unable to play on the Sunday and so a desperate plea had gone out for a replacement.

David Mooney was able to play, but only till about two o'clock

In the morning, with six players, **Cheshire** went down 0-3 to **Oxfordshire**.

For the second game, against **Hertfordshire**, Mooney was able to partner Ian Lines for forty minutes before having to leave, but managed to depart with his clip on 4-back, leaving Lines with a standard TP to win, and Cheshire won the match 2-1.

In the final match against **Lancashire** Lines was totally on his own, and was up against Chris Clarke and James Hawkins.

Hawkins stopped at 1-back and Clarke embarked on a sextuple, succeeding with the first four peels, but he just clipped a ball that he wanted to rush after the 4-back peel and was forced to do a long take-off to 3-back, which landed inches short.

Nevertheless Lancashire won the first game easily.

The other two games were double banked on court 2, with lots of spectators watching from the warmth of the clubhouse.

David Maugham did a TPO on Lee Hartley's ball, leaving **Lancashire**'s Paul Rigge on hoop 2, and proceeded to shepherd John Dawson round in dribs and drabs.

Rigge eventually got a decent break going after Dawson failed rover, only to fail rover himself, and after much cat and mouse, Cheshire won. Meanwhile Jenny Clarke had done a TPO on Ailsa Lines' ball that had gone almost unnoticed in the excitement of the double banked game.

Ailsa's partner Annabel McDiarmid was on 4-back, whereas **Cheshire**'s Nick Harvey had yet to get started.

Jenny Clarke guided him round one hoop at a time, largely laying up hidden from McDiarmid, but time was getting short.

McDiarmid had managed to run 4-back and penult in the meantime, but as time was called Harvey had a long attempt at rover, which he made, and so Cheshire won the match with five players!

Suffolk were still marvelling on the final day at how they had managed to beat Somerset 3-0 the day before at Compton.

Once again it was the double banked games on court 2 that provided the most entertainment, and probably set a record for the number of failed peg-outs.

Somerset's Ed Duckworth did the three peels of a triple but then rushed his partner against the upright of rover, leaving himself a long and difficult peg-out attempt.

He failed with the front ball and pegged himself out, leaving Jim Field on peg.

Mark Avery shepherded A.R.K. Miller around one hoop at a time, with tactics to the fore, leaving Field with numerous long shots at the peg.

Meanwhile Suffolk's Chris Farthing also completed three peels of a triple but only pegged out one ball. Kristian Chambers hit in and started a break, but sent a ball off the lawn, and Phil Eardley finally hit in and took off to the peg.

Quietly A.R.K. had gradually got round, but also missed the peg!

Suffolk eventually won all three games, and finally lunch called but even then there was still one game unfinished, as in the match between **Glamorgan** and **Hampshire**, Sarah Melvin dug the balls out of four corners to run four hoops from 2-back in the turn after time, which left all four clips on rover; Chris Williams scored the golden hoop.

Of course the Counties had its usual non-



croquet moments.

Simon "Big Dog" Hathrell turned up on the first morning wearing a grey fluffy dog onesie. No sooner had he taken it off to commence play than a real dog ran onto court 9 and started trying to play with the balls!

An unholy racket was later heard on court 10 as three crows tried to attack a fledgling magpie which couldn't get off the ground, so the players were standing guard with their mallets to protect it.

The lawns at both venues were looking superb and thanks are due to both groundsmen.

Southwick had also taken delivery of brand new Aldridge hoops, which were being used for the first time.

Compton have remodelled their bar and gents' changing area, and the facilities are now really good. Catering at both venues was wonderful as usual, with Hilary and Tim Smith at Compton celebrating their twentieth year of providing lunches.

20 year Tournament Director Bill Arliss retires

Bill Arliss, the oldest competitor, announced that he had decided to retire after celebrating his twentieth anniversary as Tournament Director and hand over to Mike Town.

He was given a huge round of applause at the closing ceremony, where the players also thanked the Manager, Chris Williams, and all those involved in making the tournament such a success.

Photos: Champions Nottinghamshire, (top left), Div 2 winners Glamorgan and Simon "Big Dog" Hathrell.



Beatrice McGlen details a day-by-day account of this season's Championships at Cheltenham.

Wednesday: **The Doubles gets under way**

The weather forecast for the duration of this tournament was dreadful, and sure enough on Wednesday morning, when the mixed doubles was due to begin, the sky was full of menacing clouds.

However, forecasts are not always right, and all the pairs remained remarkably dry until late afternoon.

This was a high quality field, and with nine pairs it was also one of the largest in recent years.

By the end of Day 1, most had played the requisite four games, with the remaining Swiss games played on Day 2.

Thursday: The Singles start

Thursday was a bonanza day for the CA Shop, evident from the brilliant white waterproofs appearing on the lawns.

A mixture of cold drizzle, brief bright interludes and torrential downpours, meant that the benches around the club were piled high with clothes being taken on and off as the best-of-three matches in both the Men's and Women's singles knockout were played.

The entry to the Men's singles was significantly lower than previous years, with only 13 competitors, but eight women competed for the Women's Championship, which is better than usual.

By the end of the day Jenny Clarke, Alison Maugham, Annabel McDiarmid and Sarah Hayes had made it through to the semi-finals of the Women's.

Friday: **Women's semis, Men's quarters**

Friday was the Women's semi-final day, with Clarke defeating Maugham, despite the latter taking the first game, and McDiarmid also coming back from a loss in the first game to beat Hayes after an hour's delay waiting for a very soggy corner four on court 8 to dry-out.

The Men's quarter-finals were played as best-of-five, resulting in progression to the semi-finals for Mark Suter, David Maugham, James Death and Pete Trimmer.

The match between Suter and David Goacher was closely fought over the bulk of the 11.5-hour time limit, but Suter finally won the fifth game by just one point after Goacher had missed the peg-out.

One of the most remarkable matches however was that of Trimmer and James Galpin, where 18-year old Galpin won games 2 and 3 and did his first tournament triple-peel, before Trimmer managed to find some of his previous form and took the last two games.

The consolation event, for the Du Pre Cup, was run as a Swiss, and by the end of the day Daniel Gott was on a very impressive 6 out of 6 wins, including three triples.

Earlier in the day, the crowd had been amused to see Robin Brown get a bit of a fright from Sophie McGlen playing in her first A class tournament, and they watched him play a careful four-ball break in torrential rain with his trousers soaking up more and more water – it was touch and go whether the break would be completed before the trousers became so heavy they would no longer stay up!

Saturday: **Women's final, Men's semis**

As Saturday dawned the rain clouds continued to sweep in, accompanied by a stiff breeze.

The Women's final was contested by Jenny Clarke and Annabel McDiarmid, with the former completing a competent triple to take the first game.

The second game was very close, and both players showed signs of nervousness, but Clarke finally emerged triumphant, and took the title (+26tp, +3).

The Men's semi-finals were both won 3-0, with Mark Suter defeating an unusually out of form David Maugham, and James Death defeating Pete Trimmer in his continuing peeling fest.

By now it had become apparent that whenever there had been torrential rain on any of the days, Death was in the bar and Suter was in play.

With Suter's new slimline appearance we began to wonder if he was just shrinking in the rain.

In the Du Pre Cup, the best eight players who were not involved in any of the other finals went through to the knockout stage, and the experienced Louise Bradforth and David Goacher progressed to the semi-finals, along with rising stars Daniel Gott and James Galpin.

The last semi-final match of the mixed doubles was played in pleasant evening sun, with Mark Suter completing a straight triple-peel to take him and his partner Sarah Hayes through to the final against Chris and Jenny Clarke.

Sunday – Men's final

The thermometer was reading double figures for the first time as play started on Sunday, and a bit of early drizzle gave way to some much-appreciated sunshine.

The better weather brought out a small crowd of spectators, who were treated to a very entertaining Men's final.

James Death was displaying the easy flowing and imaginative style for which he is well known, whilst Mark Suter demonstrated concentration and remarkable hitting ability.

First blood went to Death, but only after he had failed a sextuple with five peels done.

In the second and third games, Suter took the first ball round to 3-back and 4-back respectively, only for Death to peg him out on both occasions.

However, Suter's hitting ability got him over the line.

The fourth game saw Suter stick in hoop 1, and Death then going to 4-back and popping Mark to 3.

From the ensuing contact, Suter played a very good pick-up to get a TPO going, but he missed his return rush after 2-back, allowing Death to finish with a double peel.

In the final game Death had a change of tactic, and instead of just pegging out Suter, he pegged out his own ball as well leaving Suter on hoop 2 and himself on hoop 1.

A hugely entertaining two-ball commenced.

At hoop 4, an impasse was developing when Death decided to jump the hoop in order to roquet Suter's black ball.

The series of photographs (taken by Daniel Gott) shows James's red ball clearing the hoop by a couple of inches before dropping short of black and bouncing just an inch over the target.

Suter pounced and took the two-ball break as far as 2-back, where his approach was short.

He thought long and hard about his options before he decided to take on the 4-yard hoop shot.

The crowd groaned as it not only bounced off the wire but left Death with a rush to hoop 4.

Death embarked on a similar two-ball break, but his approach to 2-back was also short, leaving striker's ball about eight feet from the hoop and the reception ball just south.

He too decided to have a go, even though the potential return roquet would be six

yards pointing north.

The luck was with him though, because the mighty swipe at the hoop not only resulted in the hoop being made, but it rattled around sufficiently in the jaws to scabble through, leaving a perfect rush to 3-back.

He completed the nine-hoop two-ball break and took the crown to much applause.

Death had won +26, -4qpo, -14otp, +16, +6tpo.

Consolation Du Pre Cup Final

The Du Pre Cup final was a single game between David Goacher and Daniel Gott in which Goacher won the opening and got the first break, only to stick in 2-back.

Gott took his ball to 4-back conceding a contact and, after a few exchanges, Goacher approached 2-back for a second time and stuck again.

Gott embarked on his triple to finish, but a trickle at his 1-back pioneer missed, and he had only completed the 4-back peel.

After a few further exchanges, Gott hit and finished off with a double peel to win +19.

Mixed Doubles Final

The mixed doubles final between Chris and Jenny Clarke and Mark Suter partnering Sarah Hayes was delayed until after the presentation of the other trophies, because Suter had been playing the Men's final.

Jenny went to 4-back and Suter did a TPO pegging her ball out, on the way to winning +12tpo with partner Hayes.

Western Championship

The Western Championship up has had a familiar name again added to it because David Maugham won it for the seventh time (including that last three in a row) at East Dorset in mid-May.

Chris Roberts reports (looking in from afar) that Maugham cruised to the final without dropping a game, in getting past Chris Williams, Alison Maugham and Daniel Gott, a feat equalled by the host's Jonathan Powe who took out Tom Weston, David Harrison-Wood and Christian Carter. Powe took first blood in the final with a TPO and backed it up with a second game no peeling turn win, but Maugham came back to win the next three games with a TP in the decider: -11tpo, -23, +15,+19, +25tp.

East Midlands Championship

Mark Suter beat Paddy Chapman +15tp, +26tp in the play-off of the East Midlands Championship, held at Nottingham, **reports Ian Vincent**.

The first two days were played in bright sunshine, after a very wet week, but the Sunday was cloudier, and as I write this it is just starting to spit with rain. The flexible Swiss plate was won by David Maugham, who beat his wife Alison with a Sextuple in the final of the play-off.

Coles Championship

Christian Carter won the Coles Championship at Cheltenham in early May with an impressive run of uninterrupted peeling turns in the later stages, **reports Chris Roberts** (looking in from afar).

Carter beat Martin Murray without a peeling turn in the first round, dropped the first game of his match with Dave Kibble, but scored his first triple-peel in the second game, as he cruised into the quarter-finals.

It was then TPs in straight games all the way, past Raouf Allim, David Maugham and, with a straight triple to finish; he beat Duncan Reeve in the final.

Looking at the results alone, they suggest that Reeve had progressed in quieter fashion past Omid Hallam and Sarah Hayes, before he survived an OTP by Samir Patel in the deciding game of their quarter-final and scored a triple of his own to beat David Goacher in his semi. The most eventful match elsewhere appears to have been the Harry Fisher v James Death encounter which saw a straight triple from Fisher in game one, countered by a quad from Death in the second and Fisher taking the third despite Death's OTP.

It was good to see eighteen year old James Galpin's name in this very strong field and that of 'croquet returnee' Raouf Allim, who gave notice when he took out Mark Suter in straight games.



Photographs clockwise from top left:
 (1) Daniel Gott in action.
 (2) James Death - the agony of a jump over a hoop and then bounce over the target ball.
 (3) David Maugham, winner of the Western Championship.
 (4) James Death with the Men's cup.
 (5) James Galpin receiving his Gold Merit award from CA Vice-President Andrew Hope.
 (Photos by Samir Patel, Daniel Gott and Alison Maugham)

Recent Coaching Appointments

I am pleased to say that several coach training and qualification courses were held at the start of the season and badges have been awarded as follows:

AC Graded Coaches

Grade 2

Raouf Allim - High Wycombe & Phyllis Court
Derek Blow - Nottingham

Grade 1

Richard Forman - Huddersfield
Tony Thomas - Southport & Birkdale
Bill Strachan - Aberdeen
Ted Flexman - Ripon Spa
Dave Hudson - York
Des Honey - Cornwall
Colin Groves - Woking
John Wright - Medway

GC Graded Coach

Grade 2

Raouf Allim - High Wycombe & Phyllis Court

Grade 1

Andrea Huxley - Guildford & Godalming
Ron Carter - Ealing
Valerie Edwards - Purley
Stewart Newman - Sapcote

Club Coaches

David Jones - Taunton Deane
Bob Cash - Cornwall
Felicity Owen - Cornwall
Celia Fastnedge - Littlehampton
Nick Saxton - Cheltenham

Finally – Graham Brightwell of Surbiton passed his Club Coach award in 2006!

That was only 13 years ago but had never been acknowledged.

I can only apologise for the oversight, and hope that you now have the badge and certificate, Graham.

Thanks to everyone involved with running the courses.

Sarah Hayes,
Chairman CA Coaching Committee

The Women's Coaching day

Make it happen" I was told and so, with not much time and no venue, I set to work. This was to be a free to enter coaching day organised by the CA Coaching Committee mainly to target players of higher handicaps, hopefully encouraging them to start playing competitively; lower handicap players also to be included in the hope they might gain the confidence to progress to the next tournament level.

A date was eventually fixed and so all that was needed were attendees - and someone to attend to the Golf Croquet side of things - and to cover a 'mindfulness' session.

After a quick email I had secured *The Kibble!* Oh joy, everything was in place for the day to go ahead.

Adverts were placed and thanks to Linda Shaw for spreading the word through the SWAN (SW Federation's newsletter) and an event created within the online fixtures system.....so "sit back and wait" I told myself. Five days later the attendees had rocketed to 20 and I quickly closed the entry. Being an old softie, I did squeeze in one more late entrant, so eventually we were 21 females plus Dave Kibble.

And so the day began – Dave and I had a plan that broke the time into one-hour sessions, with two in the morning followed by an hour of mindfulness, then lunch, after which, two more sessions in the afternoon.

So that the women could decide which session (AC or GC) to attend each hour – we called it the 'pick n mix' and lots of fun was had with Dave and I touting for business with ever more elaborately presented tasters of what the next hour would involve.

By midday we were already running 40 minutes late and the mindfulness session turned into 'munchfulness' as Dave kindly allowed us all to have our lunch during his presentation. I was very pleased with the day; I met old friends and made new contacts, there was lots of laughter and everyone seemingly had a good time.

On the AC side, higher handicap players soon found their feet and I received several emails all asking me to pass on a big "thanks" to my assistant AC Grade 1 Coach, Julia Lowery.

As AC won-out each hour, it was necessary to use two courts and the AC coaching could not have been achieved so smoothly without Julia. Sarah Melvin was also extremely helpful; an experienced graded coach who was able to give pointers



to anyone struggling. Everyone received supporting notes after the event.

All the women asked when the next Women's Day will be, at which point both Dave and I were seen running off down the Old Bath Road, although his stilettos made progress slow.

~

Everyone had been told the wearing of whites was optional, but The Kibble had been in touch with his feminine side and turned up looking fabulous!

Everyone supported the new look especially the hair extensions. (*Permission obtained from DK*)



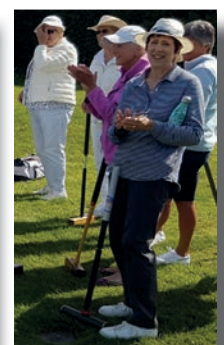
I hope everyone had as good a time as David and I did I will certainly be putting a suggestion to all the Federations to see if a similar day can be arranged in their area before the end of the season. I offer my gratitude to Dave Kibble for all his work; without him the event could not have happened. Thanks again to Julia Lowery for her coaching and to Cheltenham CC for finding a gap in their busy diary for me, on behalf of the CA, to hold the event.

The biggest thanks of all goes to each and every person who attended – I was amazed how quickly the spaces filled.

Don't forget if you have any questions please email to Dave or me.

Look forward to seeing you all again soon and now get out there and practise everything you learned!

Sarah Hayes



Tournaments for high handicaps

Further to my article regarding an event at Cheltenham (*May Gazette 379*), I have received information regarding a similar event at Southwick from Frances Low – thank you for this Frances!

We really must get beginners involved in playing else I fear numbers will dwindle.

Here is what Frances had to say:

I saw your article extolling the virtues of High-Bisque Tournaments for newish AC Players and I agree, because that is how I got started 25 years ago. We have a long established High-Bisque Tournament in Southwick – it is in its 27th year I think!

We aim to play three 14-point games each day and provide coaches on the courts with full feedback on the first day, plus help with shots if needed after the games, and also provide information about the AC laws.

All games are played to a bisque base – normally base 6 or 8 depending on the entries – so there are plenty of opportunities to set up and maintain a four-ball-break!

This is an annual event now run by the Croquet Academy at Southwick (usually in early July), so is one for your 2020 diaries!

Come on all you higher handicaps – step into that brave new world of tournament play! You might just enjoy yourself.

~

And for high handicap GC players

there are plenty of opportunities all round the country to enter one or more of the C-Level Series tournaments (like the players below, at the Phyllis Court C-Level event).

These are tournaments for players with handicaps of 7+ and all dates were detailed in the May Gazette no.379.

They are also in the online CA Fixtures Calendar and Fixtures Book.

Most of all – get out there and have some fun – even meet the love of your life!

Who knows?

Sarah Hayes,
Coaching Committee Chair



GC IPDS ~ Lionel Tibble

The International Performance Development Group for Golf Croquet

What is the IPDG GC?

Following the earlier introduction of the IPDG for Association Croquet, the IPDG for Golf Croquet was set up in 2016 with the following goals and objectives:

(1) To help aspiring international players gain the skills to graduate to the England Squad and be selected for top-flight international play.

(2) To provide squad members with individual goal-setting and motivation, mentoring, tactical discussions, on-lawn coaching, and guidance on which events they should be entering to maximise their experience.

(3) To create a collective focus on playing at the top international level.

(4) To arrange suitable theory, practical and email sessions to help extend the players' understanding of the more complex or subtle aspects of the sport.

With international competition in the GC field growing rapidly in Europe, Australia and especially with the highly successful scheme bringing younger players into the game in New Zealand, these objectives are pivotal in furthering player development in this country.

How does it work?

The IPDG GC setup is based around three distinct levels:

Elite players – players with grades over 2350 are invited to join this group with the prerequisite that they will take an active part in the Development Group syllabus.

Development Squad – players who have a rapidly improving grade profile who may not have been playing for many years, exhibiting the potential to improve further and reach top-flight levels of play. Primarily but not solely aimed at A class GC players.

Coaching Pods – Club-based coaching for mainly B and C class GC players looking to graduate towards A class play.

It seems to fit in well with the excellent hierarchy of National A-, B- and C-Level Series of tournaments set up by the hard-working Chris Roberts and the GC Tournaments Committee, and gives players clear goals to aim at and the means to get there.

Focus on the Dev. Squad

The main IPDG focus concerns the players selected for the Development Squad. After their two years in the Development Squad, players should be transitioning into playing comfortably in GC Championship Series tournaments as well as the A-Level Series, creating more competition for places and a higher standard of play overall.

This upward-moving trend in playing standards means that, perhaps within five years, the pool of players in the running for selection should have expanded considerably, introducing an increasingly competitive element for representative selections.

'Fast tracking' young talent

There are two major considerations which will have a major impact:

– The encouragement and 'fast tracking' of young talent which, unlike the concerted efforts made in New Zealand, pops up infrequently in this country.

– The encouragement of our top AC players to emulate the icons of our sport, like Reg Bamford, Robert Fulford and Stephen Mulliner, and embrace both AC and GC codes.

Unfortunately, both of these factors are largely beyond the direct influence of the IPDG but, through an indirect approach, inroads have been successfully achieved in both of these areas over the last two years.

~

Anyone wishing to find out more about the IPDG GC should follow the link to the CA website: <https://www.croquet.org.uk/?p=games/golf/coaching/gcipd> or manually navigate this route: "Home; Games; Golf Croquet; Coaching" – and see the fifth paragraph heading.

Lionel Tibble,
International Performance Director (GC)



GC Coaching Pods

Taunton Deane CC and Stephen Custance-Baker continue to offer players the opportunity to expand their knowledge and skills with a programme of sessions suitable for a range of abilities.

Tuesday 25 July - Extra Strokes for Improvers (handicap range: 5 – 9)

Various aspects of the use of Extra Strokes - calculating how many, deciding when to use them, optimising and wasting them, playing against extra turns.

Wednesday 14 August: 'Two-in-One' strokes (handicap range: -1 to 5)

Achieving two results from a single stroke – clearing plus, hooping plus, gaining position, partner support.

~

Under the guidance of Andrew Cowing, the **Cheltenham CC** Pod has already completed a number of coaching sessions.

The most recent was in mid- June and covered A-Level and Championship Level tactics and more are probably planned.

~

Anyone interested in enrolling for these or any other Pods should contact either Stephen Custance-Baker or Andrew Cowing, or go to the member's area of the CA website and register their interest.

<https://www.croquet.org.uk/?p=members/DevelopmentPods/golf>
Lionel Tibble, IPD (GC)

In aid of



Croquet's Charity One Ball 2019

The final of this year's Charity One-Ball Competition took place on Sunday, 12 May, at Surbiton CC.

There were 42 players, who had qualified for free places for doing well in their club heats, and they travelled from far and wide including from Bristol, Norfolk, Manchester and Yorkshire.

They really got cracking in the sun at Surbiton and the courts were perfect.

By 4pm we had 168 games played - that's an average of exactly eight per person, although some played nine and two played ten games!

The overall winner was Cliff Hunter (Surbiton) with 8 wins from his 9 games, beating Roger Tedstone (Reigate) on 7/9, in an exciting final, watched by most of the competitors as they munched their tea.

Margaret Moss (Bowdon) was third, having narrowly lost her last game against

Tedstone, which, if she had won, would have secured her the top prize outright.

The 'Best of the Rest' prize went to Robin Wootton (Southwick), who won all of his last five games and Steve Stuart-Matthews (Guildford) won a bottle of bubbly for the 'best break' which was nine hoops.

In the broader competition, which had been running since Christmas, we had 44 heats, in which 588 players competed and each made a charity donation.

For this year's charity, the Alzheimers Society, we raised a whopping £5860, with an additional £1010 of Gift Aid, making a grand total of £6870.

Every year we seem to be surpassing the previous year's record and the total, for the dozen years this has been running, is £42,000.

Kevin Carter

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From Paddock to Croquet Lawn on a shoestring

My garden is big enough to fit in a full-sized court but when I bought the house two years ago it was just a rough paddock with a hedge snaking across it and it also housed seven small trees.

1) A friendly JCB driver took out the hedge and trees in a couple of hours and charged £50.

2) I discovered a very sandy topsoil available at a local Carrstone pit and paid £220 for 12.5 tonnes.

I spread this single-handedly across the lawn and used a 12-foot ladder to drag across the lawn, filling the worst of the hollows and smoothing the surface.

3) Then I spread seed onto the levelled areas and covered it with seeding compost. The result was a playable croquet lawn with a noticeable hill and the hoops were difficult to approach due to the slopes.

4) The Carrstone pit had run out of topsoil so I bought a tonne of sport sand/loam top dressing and used this to level the hoop approaches. This was easy to do using a 5-foot plank and spirit level. I seeded using a seed slotter but the result was lines of grass which is rather annoying. This proved yet again that seed covered with seeding compost is the way to get really good results.

Now, I have a croquet lawn cut at 6mm and fairly fast with reliable hoop approaches. Nutrition is my normal biological approach using a granular and liquid regime including a superb new wetting agent that I have been testing.

The lawn is in use weekly with two U3A groups and we will be playing in the AC League as well. The lawn does have a hill which makes it challenging to play but a great result for a shoestring budget.

Duncan Hector, (contact details: see my advert, left)

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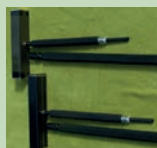
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Flower Power at Budleigh

Forming links with your local community is an obvious marketing strategy for clubs and here is a good idea that is as simple as it is beautiful – full marks to Budleigh CC for this initiative.

And thanks to Klim Seabright of the CA Marketing Committee, who took the above photo to share with the Gazette.

'Try Croquet' at York

York Croquet Club used the National Croquet Day this year to play a round of the National Short Lawn Competition with Penrith CC as their guests.

The event aroused great interest and flew the flag for competitive croquet.

A 'Try Croquet' drop-in session proved popular throughout the afternoon; five of the participants have now enrolled for an introductory course and several more have asked for more information.

John Harris

The Croquet Association Website

www.croquet.org.uk

is a fabulous resource for croquet information covering: membership, news, laws & rules, coaching, who is who, and tournament details (complete with an on-line entry system).

Croquet jargon

The CA website also has a full glossary of croquet terms, jargon and acronyms that are sometimes used in Gazette reporting.

To find the glossary go to: **Advice & Technical/ Other Articles / Croquet Jargon**

or use this link:

<https://www.croquet.org.uk/?p=tech/other/jargon>

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Publication Details

The Croquet Gazette is published six times per year, usually in February, April, June, August, October and December.

Copy should reach the Editor before the 20th of the month before publication is due.

However if you have something that you think the Editor may be willing to expand this deadline for, please contact him direct.

E-mail contributions, including tournament reports should be sent direct to the Editor, or copied to the Editor if they are being posted to the Nottingham List.

Digital images are preferred, but photographic prints may also be acceptable.

Please send digital jpeg or tiff format files.

Please accompany all images with a description of the subject.

If you require any material to be returned please enclose a SAE. Queries regarding the delivery of the Gazette to members should be directed to the Manager of the Croquet Association and not to the Editor.

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Made in Australia

PFC HOOP MAKER MALLETS

THE PFC HOOP MAKER ZELATRON STRIKING FACE Mallet

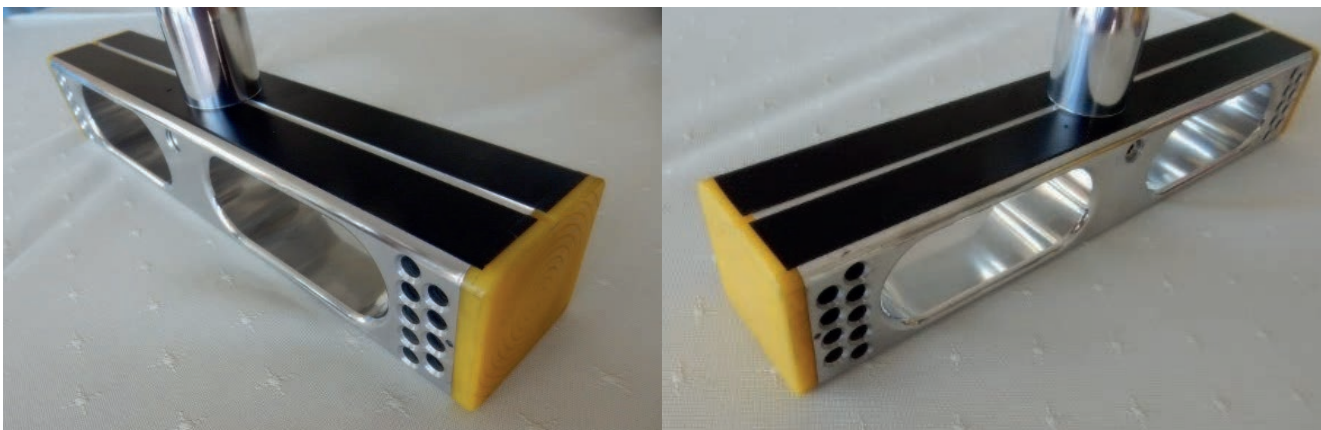
Today's technology has enabled the manufacture of the ZELATRON striking face mallet using a compound formulated by a croquet playing chemical engineer early in 2018.

Being a little softer than other striking faces it 'grips' the ball better enabling more predictable rolls, passing rolls and rushes in AC and more predictable distance strokes and jumps in GC.

AND

With **SHOCK ABSORBING TECHNOLOGY** – to make each stroke a pleasure.
With **IMPACT SENSITIVITY** – to give you maximum feel in each stroke.
With **SWEET SPOT IMPACT SOUND** – to tell you have hit the ball in the centre of the mallet, your croquet game will reach a new level of pleasure.

All these features are possible only using UNIQUE ALLOYS, UNIQUE STRIKING FACES and our patented INTERNAL DESIGN, made on a quarter of a million-dollar machine to within 1,000th of an inch tolerance, to give you the possibility of far greater control over your game



9 5/8" STANDARD

11" COMPETITION

Both mallets are available weighing
2lbs. 6ozs or 2lbs. 14.9ozs. (with a 36" handle)

For more details please visit our web site
www.croquetmalletmetal.com

All PFC Mallets are finely engineered using weather and moisture resisting Alloys, and come with a 5 year parts and labour guarantee.

The Croquet Association has stock so please contact Mark or Jack.
Telephone: 01242 242318

Come and see the Best Players in the World

The WCF Simon Carter Golf Croquet World Championship



The Championship has been awarded to
Sussex County CC (at Southwick, near Brighton), together with
Compton CC (Eastbourne), **Tunbridge Wells CC** and **West Worthing CC**

Fri 26 July	Opening Ceremony and players reception (7pm)
Sat 27 – Wed 31 July	Block rounds at all four locations
Thu 1 August	1st Round of Knockout at Sussex County (<i>Southwick</i>)
Fri 2 August	Quarter Finals at Compton (<i>Eastbourne</i>)
Sat 3 August	Semi Finals at Sussex County
1 – 3 August	Plate and Bowl events at Sussex County and Compton
Sun 4 August	Finals of all events at Sussex County

Full details can be found on the Championship website www.gcworlds2019.org
Entries from at least 19 countries have been received, with an extremely strong entry from Egypt.

- Viewing top level Golf Croquet is spectacular and visitors will be most welcome at all four clubs.
- Entry will be by programme costing £5 at the gate.
- The clubs ask that you bring your own chairs due to limited seating availability.



- Sussex County has arranged for ample parking spaces adjacent to the club.
- Visitors are encouraged to travel by coach or mini bus.
- A full catering and bar service at Sussex County. For facilities at all venues, see the GC Worlds website www.gcworlds2019.org