

# **SOUTH EAST CROQUET FEDERATION**

## **Development Report October 2017**

**Finchley Victoria Bowling and Croquet Club** Significant progress was made in the first full season of this newest club. Membership has doubled to 59. Richard Hilditch, Secretary of the SECF, is now a club member and giving valuable help and guidance to Gary Bargroff who brought croquet to the two court bowling club last year.

Gary is now president of the club and expects croquet to take a bigger role ahead of bowls in the future. He is setting the croquet up as a separate section. Several bowls players have started playing croquet. New comers include several players who already play AC. AC sessions and coaching will be introduced next season as well as taking part in competitive play including federation leagues.

Chelsea Pensioners were invited to the club in July which achieved a great deal of local publicity in line with the President's aim to raise the social awareness of the club in Finchley.

**Lodsworth** The pavilion was erected in time for the new season and is now much used and appreciated.

**West Worthing** The new clubhouse is now in use as reported in the Gazette. The club now has the challenge to improve its courts in time for the 2019 World Championships.

**Canterbury** Following the provision of three new croquet courts by the parent club, the Polo Farm Sports Club, the club opted to go for new pavilion rather than move its old and decrepit shack. The floor, electrical wiring and internal lining and painting of the exterior are being done by club members, with help from other individual experts thereby keeping the cost down to £14,000. The installation of kitchen facilities will complete the project. The completed building will have cost in the region of £14,000 but has already been in use since last May.

The new pavilion has made a huge difference to the appearance of the new lawns. It looks smart and modern. The club has welcomed over 80 visitors from groups such as U3A, Ramblers etc. and gained ten new members.

The next project will be to replace a rented porterloo with a permanent disabled toilet. This will cost £10,800. A grant from the Kent Capital Grants for Sport has been applied for. If granted the work will be done over the coming winter months.

**Compton** The replacement of the wooden windows and doors, and UPVC fascia to the front and front ends with all UPVC was completed in the New Year followed by the relocation of the Ladies changing room which includes disabled facilities. The complete refurbishment of the Gentlemen's cloakroom facilities is work in hand, and should be finished before the start of next season. New windows have been installed in the changing room, WC and the kitchen. The kitchen is to be redecorated throughout and as funds allow, remodelled and refitted. New outside floodlights have been installed, walls and soffits painted and guttering replaced and repaired - all by members.

The club is earmarked to co-host the 2019 World Championship for the pool stage.

**Littlehampton** The £5000 CA grant was approved in May for the over £26000 project for a new clubhouse and toilet. The balance was raised within the club including some generous donations from members.

Building starts in November. Water will be connected and at the same time ducts laid for electricity cables to be installed as an additional project costing £11000 sometime in the future.

**Non-starters** Enquiries were made by **Rottingdean** about a grant towards a new court at a nearby golf club. It would be made available to the croquet club as a second court. Regrettably such a grant did not meet the criteria required.

Another request came from a lady at Sedlescombe who wanted to start a club at the local cricket club. Hillary Smith from Compton visited the site on my behalf. She found that space for two courts sharing with the cricket outfield was available and the facilities including use of the golf clubhouse were good. However, there are issues so we've decided to put the project on hold until the end of the season to see if any progress had been made in the meanwhile.

Michael Hague  
SECF Development Officer

23 October 2017