



## NEWSLETTER

November 2011

Your attention is drawn to the SECF web site at [www.southeastcroquet.org.uk](http://www.southeastcroquet.org.uk). This contains details of all of the Federation's current activities and some of its illustrious history. The site has been enlarged but does not yet include a copy of this newsletter. A copy of the draft Calendar for 2012 is available. You will see that this is incomplete. Precise dates will appear as and when reported to the Secretary. If you have any Club event that you would wish to advertise as being open to non-members, please communicate with the Secretary (John Reddish) by email ([info@southeastcroquet.org.uk](mailto:info@southeastcroquet.org.uk)). Events which will appear in the CA Fixtures Book are not usually included in the SECF Calendar.

We have installed a full list of the Federation Clubs on the web site. If you would like to establish a link from the SECF site to your own club's site, just email [info@southeastcroquet.org.uk](mailto:info@southeastcroquet.org.uk) with your request. The Webmaster is preparing "Club Pages" for all registered Clubs and you will hear more about these in due course.

Congratulations should be extended to the following winners of the 2011 Leagues:

Association A League **Woking**

Association U League **Reigate Priory or Surbiton** (a play off is required before April 2012)

Association B League **Woking**

Golf Level League **Dulwich**

Golf Level B League **Sussex County**

Golf Handicap League **Ivychurch A**

On 22 May 2011 the Association Croquet Team Doubles Tournament (for club teams of 4) was won, not for the first time, by **Guildford & Godalming**.

On 6 July 2011 the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Ladies' Day was held, as usual, at Southwick. Winners of the Shield were "**The Purley Bury Queen Bees**" (Penny Hinton, Margaret Hampson, Pat Stern and Irmgard Tonolo).

On 7 August 2011 the winners of the Golf Croquet Team Competitions held at Southwick were **Ramsgate** (Doubles) and **Littlehampton 1** (Singles).

On 18 September 2011, Kent won the Golf Croquet Inter-Counties Tournament at Southwick with Surrey as runners-up. The Kent team was Simon Carter (Dulwich/Sydenham); Pierre Beaudry (Dulwich); James Goodbun (Ramsgate) and David Dray (Ramsgate). The county won their seventh Inter-Counties title confirming their position as the most consistently successful team in the Tournament

On 1 October 2011, SECF Club **Surbiton** beat a powerful team from Ashby 4-3 at Letchworth to win the National GC Inter Club Trophy for the fifth time. Team captain Don Beck secured the victory in a close finish against Rachel Rowe (3/7 7/6 7/5). John Spiers had a vital win against Ray Mounfield (1/7 7/6 7/6). Samir Patel played in his usual assured manner when defeating both Ray Mounfield (7/4 7/4) and Tim King (7/3 7/6).

Also on 1 October 2011, another SECF Club, **Woking** won the Mary Rose Trophy. Having beaten Medway in the semi-final, they beat Wrest Park 4-3 in the final at Surbiton. In the doubles, Malcolm Bigg and Alan Edwards beat Bryan Haral and George Collin (+25). In the singles, Alan Edwards beat George Collin (+6); Annabel McDiarmid dramatically defeated Terry Mahoney (+1) and Collin Southern had an equally tense and remarkable win (+2) against the same player after all four clips were on the peg.

### Development news

**West Worthing Croquet Club** took advantage of an offer from **Woking Croquet Club** to collect from them their 1982 croquet hut, which was surplus to their requirements and was found to be capable of dismantling. There was a problem when a door was left behind but that was overcome.

Last year the Federation agreed to make a grant of £250 to the **Worthing Croquet Club** towards the cost of their proposed new storage hut. Worthing have now acquired and erected their new shed.

**Ember Croquet Club** (part of the Ember Sports Club in Esher) have sunk a bore hole for water to irrigate their one and a half courts as the first phase of a project to improve its playing facilities and revitalise the section. The CA has made a grant of £2,500 towards the cost of the second phase and the Federation has added a grant of £200 further to assist the Club with the project.

**West Wittering Croquet Club** now has a 21 year guarantee of tenure from their local Parish Council and the Club is moving swiftly to establish good facilities. It has already carried out the first phase and has re-laid two good, irrigated courts at a cost of £36,000. The CA has made a grant of £1,500 and a loan of £1,000 towards completing the project. The Federation has made a grant of £200 further to assist the Club.

Towards the end of the 2011 season an opportunity arose to take over a defunct bowls club in a park in **Cheam**. The London Borough of Sutton has offered the bowling green with its clubhouse, changing rooms and toilets for a peppercorn rent of £10 per annum with a 21 year guarantee of tenure. The proposed new croquet club will be obliged to maintain the lawn but the Borough will continue to look after the surrounding trees and flower beds. The lawn will accommodate one full size or two three quarter size croquet courts. Three local Associate Members of the CA (John Timberlake and Jean and Ian Cobbold) are enthusiastic about the project and have volunteered to take up the challenge of forming a new club. A recruiting drive is being planned for March 2012 and, if that is successful, the new club will be seeking court equipment from the CA and the SECF. The CA has provided a grant of £200 towards the cost of launching the new club and the Federation has made a modest grant of £75 towards the cost of advertising the Cheam launch.

### Future playing opportunities

Winter croquet tournaments will be held at Southwick on Sunday 26th February 2012 (Association Croquet Alternate Stroke Doubles) and on Sunday 11th March 2012 (Golf Croquet Singles). Full details and entry forms are available from John Low on 01273 388910 or via the SCCC website: [www.sussexcountycroquetclub.org.uk](http://www.sussexcountycroquetclub.org.uk).

The 2012 Calendar will have all the details of the SECF events and Club events open to non-members. These will include tournaments at Southwick, Surbiton, Tunbridge Wells, Dulwich, Woking, Roehampton, Littlehampton and Ramsgate.

A few places are still available on a Golf Croquet Holiday in Corfu which will take place from 13 to 22 May 2012. Contact Ian Cobbold Tel: 0208 624 0533.

Reactions to the announcement of the new "Southern Challenge" GC Tournament were positive. The Level Play Tournament will be held at Southwick (Division One) and Surbiton (Division Two) on 7 and

8 July 2012. Invitations for entries will be issued soon. On the assumption that the 8 Clubs currently forming the Level Play GC League (Dulwich; Compton; Ramsgate; Woking; Ryde; Surbiton; Sussex County and Tunbridge Wells) indicate an intention to enter, they will form Division One in 2012. If more than 6 other Clubs indicate an intention to enter Division Two, an ad hoc committee of senior players, to be convened by the Chairman, will decide who should be included. If there is an unexpectedly large entry for Division Two, consideration will be given to creating Division Three. The top two Clubs in Division Two in 2012 will be promoted to replace the bottom two Clubs in Division One for the Tournament in 2013.

#### Association Croquet Handicap Cards

It has been suggested that, sometimes, players are playing Association Croquet games with the wrong handicap (too high or too low) because they have not been maintaining their handicap cards, either deliberately or through neglect. The CA regulations already require players to bring cards to events but this has not been enforced. At a recent meeting, the Federation Committee discussed this. It was agreed that there should be a motion at the AGM suggesting a remedy when a player in an SECF Association Croquet league match or tournament does not bring his or her card. Accordingly, at the AGM Richard Hilditch will propose the adoption of the following rule: 'Players who cannot produce an Association Croquet handicap card should play off a handicap 2 steps below their current handicap for the event and this should be reported to their club's Association Croquet handicap coordinator.' Please be prepared to share your views on this proposal at the forthcoming AGM.

#### 2012 AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Federation will be held on **Sunday 29 January 2012** at Surbiton Croquet Club, Alexandra Drive, Surbiton, KT5 9AA. The meeting will commence at 10.45 a.m. and will be followed by lunch. Attendance will be entirely voluntary. You will receive an invitation to disclose how many from your Club will be attending the meeting and the lunch and a copy of the formal agenda nearer the time.