



NEWSLETTER

November 2019

Your Committee has been as active as ever this year. They are:

Bill Arliss (Sussex County: Chairman and Tournament Manager);

Ian Cobbold (Cheam: Development Officer);

Jon Diamond (Royal Tunbridge Wells: Webmaster);

Jonathan Isaacs (Sussex County: Coaching Officer until October 2019);

Roger Loram (Ramsgate and Canterbury: Kent Representative);

John Low (Sussex County: Leagues Organiser);

George Noble (Surbiton: Lawns Officer and caterer);

John Reddish (Dulwich: Secretary and CA Representative until October 2019);

Hilary Smith (Compton: Treasurer)

Richard Carline (Sussex County, Coaching Officer from October 2019).

There will be changes in 2020.

Having been elected to the Council of the Croquet Association and elected by that Council as its Chairman, Jonathan Isaacs has decided to retire from his position as Chairman of the Croquet Academy and he has also been replaced on the Committee as Coaching Officer by Richard Carline. However, Jonathan will continue to be a member of the Committee if the proposed constitutional amendments are approved at the AGM in 2020 (unless he declares his unwillingness to be deemed co-opted). Similarly, Samir Patel (Surbiton) will be co-opted to the Committee in 2020 as an elected member of the Council for the South East Constituency.

John Reddish's position as SECF CA Representative was abolished in October but he will be standing again for election as Secretary of the SECF in 2020, probably for only one more year. Recent disclosure on social media of some unfortunate observations that he made about croquet in his school magazine in 1965 have compelled him to reconsider his position.

Hilary Smith will not seek re-election as Treasurer in 2020 and a successor is being sought. Please see the formal notice at the end of this Newsletter. If you have appropriate skills please communicate with the Secretary at your earliest convenience. The job is not onerous (just a few cheques a year and counting the fees when they are paid). Hilary will be available to provide guidance during a hand over period. Your Federation needs you!

Roger Loram will not seek re-election as a member of the Committee in 2020 and any potential successor (preferably from a Kent club) should also communicate with the Secretary forthwith (if not before).

A copy of the draft Calendar for 2020 is already available on the website

www.southeastcroquet.org.uk . If you have a Club event that you would wish to advertise as being open to non-members or a news item or a picture that you think might be worthy of electronic publication, please communicate with the Webmaster by email (webmaster@southeastcroquet.org.uk).

SECF tournaments in 2020

The dates for the programme of events have been fixed as follows:

AC Teams Weekend: Sat/Sun 16/17 May at **Southwick**

One Ball Teams Tournament: Sun 7 June at **Canterbury**

Ladies AC Teams Day: Wed 1 July at **Southwick**

Ladies GC Teams Day: Wed 15 July at **Southwick**

The Southern Challenge Division One: Sat/Sun 27/28 June at **Southwick**

The Southern Challenge Division Two North Sat/Sun 27/28 June at **Surbiton**

The Southern Challenge Division Two South: Sat/Sun 4/5 July at **Southwick**

GC Teams Day: Sun 11 August at **Southwick**

Entries are encouraged for all events. You will be able to register when the forms are sent out in February 2020. You will note that Division Two of the Southern Challenge will again be divided into two regions, if there are sufficient entrants. The manager has already invited Clubs to indicate their provisional intentions with regard to entries. All previous participants have done so but if you have not entered before and wish to do so in 2020 – please hurry.

The entry fees for these SECF events will be the same as in 2019.

I should remind aspiring participants that all teams entering the SECF tournaments in 2020 will again be expected (subject to special dietary exceptions) to take and pay for lunch and refreshments at the host club at the rate of £12 per person per day. Host clubs still rely heavily upon catering profits to cover their costs and keep their facilities in good order.

The Roll of Honour

The percentage of matches that were not played (and walks-over given) in the Leagues was gratifyingly low in 2019 (ranging from 0% in the S League to 5% in the U League) save in the A League, where it was 17%. Greater flexibility will be allowed there to enable teams to field only 3 players if necessary. Combined teams from Clubs finding themselves short of a full cohort of players willing and able to compete and travel will also be accepted.

Problems arising from the participation of “away only” teams remained unresolved during the year. Thanks are due to **Dulwich**, **Surbiton** and **Sussex County** for hosting all 4 of their matches in the GC R League to enable the League to function. More definite rules relating to a financial contribution to the host club by away-only clubs might be required. This will have to be considered at the AGM. John Low will produce a paper for circulation prior to that meeting.

Congratulations should be extended to the following winners of the 2019 Leagues:

AC A League: **Surbiton**

AC U (Unrestricted) League: **Hampstead Heath**

AC B (Beginners) League: **Ember**

AC S (Single Lawn) League: **Cheam**

GC Level League: **Sussex County A**

GC Level R (Restricted Handicap) League: **Reigate Priory**

GC Handicap League East: **Ramsgate**

GC Handicap League West: **West Wittering**

West Wittering have been invited to represent the SECF in the 2020 National Inter-Federation GC competition and they will do so provided that they first become full members of the Croquet Association. Only clubs that are full members may enter CA competitions. West Wittering are currently only affiliated to the CA.

The AC Team Doubles Tournament (for club teams of 4) at Southwick was won in May 2019 by **Medway**.

The One Ball Teams tournament at Canterbury (for club teams of 3) was won by **Sussex County** in June 2019.

The third annual GC Ladies' Day was held at Southwick in July 2019. The winners were (for the second year in succession) **Reigate Priory**.

Division One of the eighth annual Southern Challenge was won at Southwick by Winchester (with East Dorset as runners up). Division Two (also at Southwick) was won by **Rottingdean 1** with **Sussex County 3** close in 2nd place.

The winners of the GC Team Competitions held at Southwick in August 2019 were **Dulwich 1** (Singles) and **Reigate Priory 1** (Doubles).

The AC Ladies' Day at Southwick was not held in 2019 but will be held again in 2020 with teams of 4 as usual – but not necessarily from the same Club. Before the event, the manager will call for the nomination of teams of 4 and also groups of fewer than 4. He will thus create a pool of unattached or only partly attached players and assist them to form combinations (probably with interesting combined club names) to boost the overall number of participating teams.

Development news

An application for a grant from **West Worthing** for installing solar panels on their clubhouse will be on the agenda for the next meeting of the CA Development Committee on 30 November 2019.

Surbiton have also be put forward an application for a grant in relation to the composting and/or disposal of grass cuttings.

An application for a grant from **Reigate Priory** for resurfacing their lawn will be coming forward shortly but is unlikely to be ready in time for the next meeting of the Development Committee.

Littlehampton are working to increase their membership and are considering a major upgrade to their lawns. This plan (and another by **Worthing**) will only come to fruition in the longer term.

During 2019 "Croquet Matters" presentations took place at **Littlehampton**; **Medway** and **Canterbury**, with several clubs participating.

Hayes, Bromley & Keston has moved to new premises at a local former bowls club. The removal of the bowlers was fortuitously timed since it coincided with the Club's loss of their accommodation and it has given impetus to the club's plans for expansion and player development.

The Development Officer now had 3 sets of newly sandblasted and repainted hoops (and some other kit).

Coaching at the Academy in 2019

More coaching within Clubs (by coaches trained by the Academy) and competition from other regional academies caused the Academy to reach a plateau in its 12th year. The programme for Year 13 will be circulated shortly. Book early as many of the popular course fill up quickly. The person to contact is Chrissie Merrington (courses@thecroquetacademy.com).

A subsidy can be given to those undertaking refereeing and coaching courses. The CA subsidy is £25 and the SECF £15. All subsidies are subject to terms and conditions but they are not onerous. For example, if you fail the referees' course you will not be subsidised when you retake it

Croquet Association news

At the CA AGM at Hurlingham in October the major programme of reform was completed. The new Council (12 voting members plus the President, the Secretary, the Treasurer and the Chairman of the Executive Board) was installed and, shortly thereafter, the new Executive Board was appointed.

Our very own Jonathan Isaacs (Sussex County) was elected as the Chairman of the Council. The other South East representatives on the Council are Samir Patel (Surbiton) and Ian Cobbold (Cheam)

Jonathan Isaacs (Sussex County) and Stephen Mulliner are both Vice-Presidents of the CA.

The Chairman of the Executive Board is Roger Staples (Middlesbrough) and the members of the Board are John Bowcott (Hurlingham); Eugene Chang (Sheffield); Peter Death (Nottingham); Tim King (Ashby); Beatrice McGlen (Nottigham); and the Secretary, Ian Vincent (Nottingham).

The Board has appointed 14 Committees to deal with specific matters. Many SECF Club members serve on these Committees.

Bill Arliss (Sussex County): AC Laws; GC Rules and GC Tournaments

Pierre Beaudry (Dulwich): GC Selection

Ian Cobbold (Cheam): Development

Jeff Dawson (Woking): Bursary Panel; ICT and AC Laws

Linda Gavigan (Sussex County): Marketing

Patrick Hort (Surbiton): ICT

David Mooney (Roehampton) Coaching and Handicap

Stephen Mulliner (Surbiton) Mentoring Officer; AC Laws; AC Selection; GC Rules (Chairman); GC Selection and GC Tournaments

Sam Murray (Surbiton): Handicap; AC Tournaments; AC Selection and International

George Noble (Surbiton): Development

David Openshaw (Roehampton): Bursary Panel (Chairman) and International

Samir Patel: ICT; Publishing; AC Selection and AC Tournaments

John Reddish (Dulwich): Development (Chairman) and Marketing

Tobi Savage (Ramsgate): Marketing and GC Tournaments

Hilary Smith (Compton): AC Tournaments

Michael Town (Woking): AC Tournaments

Last, but obviously by no means least, a former Secretary of the SECF – the indefatigable Quiller Barrett (Watford) was again elected as President of the CA for 2020.

2020 AGM - Save the date

The **Annual General Meeting** of the Federation will be held on **Sunday 23 February 2020** at **Surbiton** Croquet Club, Alexandra Drive, Surbiton, KT5 9AA. The meeting will, as is usual, commence at 10.45 a.m. and will be followed by lunch. 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.

Treasurer Wanted

A new Honorary Treasurer of the Federation will be nominated for election at the 2020 AGM following the retirement of Hilary Smith. The Treasurer is responsible to the Federation for providing independent leadership and guidance in financial matters, encouraging the highest standards of integrity, effectiveness and openness and ensuring the Federation's regulatory compliance.

The duties

Management of the Federations financial assets and systems and keeping records of its financial activities.

Processing a limited range of transactions.

Preparing and presenting annual accounts.

Advising on a broad range of financial matters including systems, investments, insurance, fees and subscriptions.

The person

The following attributes are desirable:

An innovative and proactive team worker, preferably with experience of financial management of an organisation

Good verbal, written and interpersonal skills with the ability to work to tight deadlines and to a high standard

Education to secondary school level or higher, with competence in computer literacy (whatever that might be)

Applications

For further information please contact Hilary Smith (hilary85smith@btinternet.com)

Interested candidates should forward a *curriculum vitae* and a letter detailing their suitability for the role by 30 November 2019 the Secretary (jreddish@btinternet.com)



The end is nigh