



## NEWSLETTER

December 2017

You could be reading this on your Club notice board. You may have received it as an email attachment from your Club's SECF contact. Or you may have encountered it in some other way. In any event, the Secretary again welcomes you to a review of the activities in the South East Federation.

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

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

**Jon Diamond** (Royal Tunbridge Wells: Webmaster);

**Michael Hague** (Woking: Development Officer);

**Richard Hilditch** (Hampstead Heath and Finchley Victoria: Leagues Organiser);

**Jon Isaacs** (Sussex County: Coaching Officer);

**Roger Loram** (Ramsgate and Canterbury: Kent Representative);

**David Mooney** (Roehampton and Surbiton: CA Representative);

**George Noble** (Surbiton and Hunstanton: Lawns Officer and caterer);

**John Reddish** (Dulwich; Norwich and Hunstanton: Secretary);

**Hilary Smith** (Compton: Treasurer).

**Your attention is drawn to the website at [www.southeastcroquet.org.uk](http://www.southeastcroquet.org.uk). This contains details of the Federation's current activities; photographs of all and sundry and some fascinating history.**

A copy of the draft Calendar for 2018 is already available on the website. If you have a Club event that you would wish to advertise as being open to non-members, please communicate with the Secretary by email at [info@southeastcroquet.org.uk](mailto:info@southeastcroquet.org.uk).

The Webmaster would like to remind clubs that don't have websites that we offer you the facility of a page on our site which you can use to showcase your club, with photos etc. (see the Iychurch and Rottingdean pages currently in use - via <http://southeastcroquet.org.uk/clubdetails2.htm>.) Your club's details are also shown on this page. If, when you have checked them, you find that they are out of date or otherwise erroneous, please notify the Secretary accordingly.

We hope that you appreciate the changes that have been made to the website this year. Plans for next year include expanding the amount of news we show, over and above our own SECF tournament and sharing news of club tournaments and other club activities. Please feel free to submit

news items and pictures to the Webmaster at any time, via email ([webmaster@southeastcroquet.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@southeastcroquet.org.uk)).

### Data Protection

Did you know that the Data Protection Regulations are changing in May 2018? Of course you did. I am sorry that I asked. We are planning to produce a policy for the Federation, which will be dependent on our member clubs having a suitable policy as we don't collect personal information directly, except from Committee Members. A club policy will effectively be required as part of the new Croquet Association membership scheme. This will probably include some recommendations for clubs. We will circulate it when it becomes available.

### SECF tournaments for 2018

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

**AC Teams Weekend:** Sat/Sun 19/20 May at **Southwick**

**Ladies AC Teams Day:** Wed 4 July at **Southwick**

**The Southern Challenge Division One:** Sat/Sun 30 June/1 July at **Southwick**

**The Southern Challenge Division Two North:** Sat/Sun 30 June/1 July at **Surbiton**

**The Southern Challenge Division Two South:** Sat/Sun 7/8 July at **Southwick**

**Golf Croquet Day:** Sun 5 Aug at **Southwick**

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

**One Ball Teams Tournament:** on a date to be fixed at **Canterbury**

Entries are encouraged for all events. You will be able to register when the forms are sent out in January 2018.

### The Roll of Honour

Congratulations should be extended to the following winners of the 2017 Leagues:

Association A League: **Woking**

Association U League: **Sussex County**

Association B League: **Merton**

Golf Level League: **Surbiton**

Golf Level R League: **Merton**

Golf Handicap League: **Cheam A** (from the East Division who beat **Sussex County** from the West in the play-off in October).

Richard Hilditch has been organising these leagues ever since the Federation was formed in 1987. He recently announced that he would soon be getting married and leaving the jurisdiction (to live conjugally in Amsterdam). He rejected the suggestion that he would still be able to administer the

leagues from the Netherlands. He will depart with the grateful thanks of the Federation for all of his very considerable work since its formation.

Richard will be difficult to replace - but an able successor has been found and appointed. The League Organiser for 2018 will be John Low (Sussex County).

The Association Croquet Team Doubles Tournament (for club teams of 4) at Southwick was won in 2017 by **Sussex County**.

The winners of the 28th annual AC Ladies' Day at Southwick were **Purley Bury (The Queen Bees)**.

The inaugural GC Ladies' Day was also held at Southwick. The winners were **Sydenham**.

Division One of the sixth annual Southern Challenge was won by **Winchester** (by a very narrow margin from **Dulwich**). Division Two North (at Surbiton) was won by **Roehampton** with **Surbiton** runners up. Division Two South (at Southwick) was again won by **Rottingdean** with **Littlehampton** close in 2<sup>nd</sup> place.

The winners of the Golf Croquet Team Competitions held at Southwick in August were **Littlehampton 1** (Doubles) and **Dulwich 1** (Singles).

Cooks at croquet clubs are vital and need to feel loved. The money generated by them is much needed by the clubs who host SECF events. The Committee has agreed that all teams entering the tournaments in 2018 will be informed that they are expected (subject to special dietary exceptions) to take and pay for lunch and refreshments at the host club for £12 per person per day. The position will be reviewed at the end of the season and, if the host clubs have still not been able to generate the revenue they need, other, less voluntary measures will have to be introduced in 2019.

### **A new League**

From 2018 there will be a new 3-player league with the match to be played on a single lawn. This will enable clubs with only one lawn to play matches at home and it will also make it easier for everyone to raise a team. The format will be Association Handicap unrestricted. There will be two sessions of pairs of 26 point games (morning and afternoon). In each session a singles game and a doubles game will be played making a total of 4 games (thus a draw is possible for 2 league points each). A different player must play in each of the singles games. Substitutes will be permitted between the two sessions. A similar competition is held in East Anglia (for details see) [http://www.angliacroquet.co.uk/2017/ac\\_northern\\_league.php](http://www.angliacroquet.co.uk/2017/ac_northern_league.php).

A proposal for a Short Croquet League (to encourage more AC and more holes in full lawns) will be placed before the 2018 AGM with a view to its introduction in 2019, if sufficiently supported.

### **A new event**

Following the successful launch of the Ladies GC Teams Day at Southwick this year, the Committee turned their attention to the proposed **Festival of Croquet** (featuring the champions of member clubs in both AC and GC). A revised format involving a Club Team of 6 players (3 GC and 3 AC) has been devised. It will not be possible to fit the Festival into the calendar at Southwick until 2019. Meanwhile, if you wish to share your views about the proposal (to add to those who already have) please send an email to [info@southeastcroquet.org.uk](mailto:info@southeastcroquet.org.uk).

### **Development news**

Significant progress had been made at **Finchley Victoria** (where Richard Hilditch has done much coaching and Gary Bargroff has taken over as President). Membership has increased to 59. A party of Chelsea Pensioners (*editor's note: is that the correct collective noun?*) was invited to the club in

July. This achieved a great deal of local publicity in line with the Club President's aim to raise awareness of the club.

The pavilion at **Lodsworth** was erected in time for the 2017 season and was much used and appreciated. The Federation offered £500 towards the cost but the Club graciously declined since they had already raised sufficient funds – thus setting a fine example to all clubs in the region.

Following the provision of three new croquet courts at **Canterbury** (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; internal lining and the painting of the exterior were done by club members, with help from individual experts, thereby keeping the cost down to £14,000. The Federation made a grant of £500. The installation of kitchen facilities will complete the project. The partly completed building has 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 and the Ramblers and has gained ten new members. The next project will be to replace a rented port-a-loo with a permanent disabled toilet. This will cost £10,800. A grant from Kent Capital Grants for Sport has been applied for. If a grant is made, the work will be done over the coming winter months.

The replacement of the wooden windows and doors of the pavilion at **Compton** and the installation of UPVC fascia to the front and front ends was completed in early 2017. This was followed by the relocation of the ladies' changing room, which includes disabled facilities. The complete refurbishment of the gentlemen's cloakroom facilities is in hand and should be finished before the start of next season. New windows have been installed in the changing room, WC and in 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 Committee has approved a grant of £500 towards the costs of the works.

A £5,000 grant to **Littlehampton** by the CA was approved in May 2017 for their £26,000+ project to create a new clubhouse and toilet. The balance was raised within the club, including some generous donations from members. The Federation will add a grant of £500 to the fund.

The Federation has acquired sets of hoops which were surplus to requirements at **Hurlingham**. They will be repainted and then lent out to member clubs when required.

### **Coaching at the Academy in 2018**

The Academy had had another good year in 2017. 2018 will be the 11<sup>th</sup> year for Academy Courses. The programme for 2018 has already been widely circulated. By the time you read this, most of the courses will have been solidly booked. Some places may still be available. The person to contact is Janet Hoptroff (courses@thecroquetacademy.com) 01903 859417.

A subsidy can be given to those undertaking refereeing and coaching courses. The CA subsidy is £25 and the SECF £15. The cost of courses varies but will exceed the subsidies by a modest margin. All subsidies are subject to terms and conditions.

And finally – this is quite important ....

#### **2018 AGM - Save the date**

The **Annual General Meeting** of the Federation will be held on **Sunday 25 February 2018** 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.