



NEWSLETTER

November 2018

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);

Ian Cobbold (Cheam: Development Officer);

Jon Diamond (Royal Tunbridge Wells: Webmaster);

Jonathan Isaacs (Sussex County: Coaching Officer);

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);

Hilary Smith (Compton: Treasurer).

Your attention is, as is customary, drawn to the website at www.southeastcroquet.org.uk. This contains details of the Federation's current activities; photographs of all and sundry; some fascinating history and (if the truth were revealed) most of the information set out in this Newsletter.

A copy of the draft Calendar for 2019 is already available on the website. 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 for 2019

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

AC Teams Weekend: Sat/Sun 18/19 May at **Southwick**

One Ball Teams Tournament: Sun 2 June at **Canterbury**

Ladies AC Teams Day: Wed 3 July at **Southwick**

Ladies GC Teams Day: Wed 17 July at **Southwick**

The Southern Challenge Division One: Sat/Sun 29/30 June at **Southwick**

The Southern Challenge Division Two: Sat/Sun 6/7 July at **Southwick**

Golf Croquet 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 January 2019. You will note that Division Two of the Southern Challenge has been amalgamated into one event. This is not because of lack of interest. On the contrary, we may find it difficult to accommodate all of the teams who may wish to enter. It is simply because Surbiton are unable to host a Division Two North Tournament in 2019 and there is no viable alternative other than a single Division Two tournament on the extensive lawns at Southwick.

I should remind aspiring participants that all teams entering the SECF tournaments in 2019 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 will receive an enhanced fee for the hire of their lawns and balls in 2019 but they still rely heavily upon catering profits to cover their costs and keep their facilities in good order.

The Roll of Honour

Congratulations should be extended to the following winners of the 2018 Leagues:

AC A League: **Surbiton**

AC U (Unrestricted) League: **Ramsgate**

AC B (Beginners) League: **Sussex County**

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

GC Level League: **Sussex County A**

GC Level R (Restricted Handicap) League: **Cheam**

GC Handicap League: **Ealing** (from the East Division) will be playing **Littlehampton** (from the West) in a play-off as soon as that can be arranged.

The AC Team Doubles Tournament (for club teams of 4) at Southwick was won in May 2018 by **Cheam** (with **Purley Bury** in second place).

The resurrected One Ball Teams tournament at Canterbury (for club teams of 3) was won by **Surbiton**.

The winners of the 29th annual AC Ladies' Day at Southwick were **Sussex County (The Sussex Sizzlers)**

The second annual GC Ladies' Day was also held at Southwick. Twelve teams entered. In a close finish, the winners were **Reigate Priory**, with **Cheam**, **Purley Bury** and **Rottingdean** just behind them.

Division One of the sixth annual Southern Challenge was won convincingly by **Dulwich** (with **Ryde** as runners up). The star-studded winning team were undefeated throughout and won 9 of their 11

matches by a 3-0 margin. Division Two North (at Surbiton) was won by **Merton** with **Ryde 2** runners up. Division Two South (at Southwick) was won by **Canterbury** with **Littlehampton** close in 2nd place.

The winners of both of the GC Team Competitions held at Southwick in August (Doubles and Singles) were **Reigate Priory 2**.

Development news

Significant progress continues to be made at **Finchley Victoria**. They have produced a video which is available on their web site. It illustrates the successful cooperation of bowls and croquet players in the formation and development of a thriving club.

Following the provision of three new, laser-levelled courts at **Canterbury**, the club erected a new pavilion. The very considerable efforts of the members were supported by a modest grant from the Federation. The club also received £2,800 from the CA towards the cost of a mower so that they can mow their lawns more frequently themselves. The club is keen to impress visitors with their smart facilities and the sylvan valley view. They did so in June 2018 when they hosted a new SECF One Ball Tournament, involving much wine and conviviality. They will be doing it again in 2019.

Ealing have a problem with their Council. The local authority want more money for maintaining the lawns and to take one of the lawns to rent it, and the large clubhouse, to a commercial organisation. The Development Officer and the CA National Development Officer (Dave Gunn) have taken the Club through "Club Matters" to help them plan ahead. The Club has done a great deal in a short time: working out a cheaper way to maintain their lawns, increasing membership by 60% and generating support locally. They hope they have done enough to get a stay of execution from the Council but they are not in the clear yet.

Coaching at the Academy in 2019

Attendance at the Academy was slightly down in 2018. More coaching within Clubs (by coaches trained by the Academy) and the new GC "pods" reduced demand for their courses. 2019 will be their 12th year. The programme will be circulated shortly. Book early as many of the popular course fill up quickly. 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. 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. In 2019 there will be additional, refresher courses for referees and coaches to assist them in understanding and applying the new GC rules. Details of these will be sent to Clubs separately.

Croquet Association news

Having been elected to replace David Mooney (Roehampton and Surbiton) as SECF Representative on the Council of the Croquet Association, the Secretary was rapidly catapulted into action. At the Council meeting on 20 October he was elected as a member of the Management Committee and invited to join both the Constitutional Reform Group and the Governance Implementation Group. Flurries of frenzied emails followed. There is much to be done. The Secretary has reported separately to his constituents and your attention is drawn to that document.

The CA National Development Officer (Dave Gunn) has only 6 months left in post and he is very keen to try to leave as good a legacy as possible with the initiatives he has launched, so that the CA and its members will continue to benefit into the future. 'Croquet Matters' is his section on the CA web site. It is accessed from the 'Clubs and Federations' tab on the main menu. Dave wishes to run as many club development workshops as possible around the country before next April, for the benefit of clubs. They are very good.

The pilot phase of the CA's free-of-charge, centrally hosted and administered, club website template has now concluded and has been a success. 12 clubs (including Ramsgate from our Federation) now have their own tailored versions of it. Many of these clubs previously had no website and a couple wanted to replace existing sites. If your club falls into either of these categories, you are invited to have a look at a couple of particularly good examples from the pilot scheme to see what might be achieved: <https://croquet-websites.org.uk/ashby/> and <https://croquet-websites.org.uk/colchester/>. If you would then like more information, or would like to sign up for the offering straight away, please contact Dave Gunn directly (davegunn59@gmail.com). Plenty of support and guidance is available and has been proved to work well during the pilot. You could be up and running well before your marketing campaigns to attract new members for next season commence.

And finally – this is quite important

2019 AGM - Save the date

The **Annual General Meeting** of the Federation will be held on **Sunday 27 January 2019** 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.