



Cygnnet

Issue: 35
April 2022



South West Area Newsletter

Hello everyone and let's hope the season will be well on the way for most of us by the time you receive this. One of the key indicators is our Spring Short Croquet Tournament which returns to Nailsea at long last. Hope to see some of you there and we look forward to the report and photos in the next issue of Cygnnet.

And as we look forward to the next issue – do remember to send us some exciting photos from your Charity 1-Ball events and share those extravagant costumes. We're dying to see how everyone celebrated this.

Committee Catch-Up

The full minutes of our March meeting are available on our website <https://www.swfcroquet.org.uk/> but you might like to note in particular:

- ✓ We reviewed our mileage rates – mileage is payable to those undertaking official SWF business and to those claiming mileage under either of our bursary schemes. They will remain payable at 40p per mile which is in line with CA rates. This will apply to all cars: petrol, diesel and electric.
 - It would be interesting to know if any of you are reviewing how you pay expenses on electric cars particularly given the wide range of charging costs and options – do share your ideas with us

Grants and Bursaries

A reminder that we run various schemes – the full details are available on our website and they are:

- ✓ Development Grant – for clubs
- ✓ Qualifications Bursary – for individuals
- ✓ Expenses – for previously approved travel
- ✓ Judith Moore Bursary – for individuals in the early stages of competitive play

We will be reviewing the detail of these at our May committee meeting and will then be posting the updated criteria on our website. Please contact us if you would like to find out more in the meantime.



Cygnnet is emailed to our club contacts who are requested to pass it on to individual club members. It is also available shortly after publication on our website: www.swfcroquet.org.uk

We welcome queries, suggestions and feedback about Cygnnet or any aspect of the SW croquet scene. Contact: lindawithani@hotmail.com

Contents

Committee Catch-Up	p1
Grants and Bursaries	p1
Safeguarding	p2
Dawson Balls	p2
Advantage GC	p2
PHC Mallets – advert	p3
Budleigh Strip	p3
Diary Dates	p3
Julie Horsley – Obituary	p4
Donald Gugan – Obituary	p5
Advertising Rates	p6
Appendix1: Safeguarding Checklist	p7

Regional Safeguarding Officer

Following a brief mention in the February Cygnet that I had taken over the role of Federation Safeguarding Officer I thought I should take the opportunity to let you know a little more about my role.



All member clubs should have a Local Safeguarding Officer (LSO) as part of their management team who have their own responsibilities at club level, and the CA are responsible for producing and implementing the policy. The Federation Safeguarding Officer sits somewhere between these.

I see my role as providing an oversight of safeguarding within the Federation member clubs by working closely with the Federation management to ensure that the safeguarding policy works effectively within our Federation.

I hope to achieve this by advising on safeguarding training opportunities for coaches and volunteers, and providing guidance to clubs, with particular focus on clubs new to safeguarding. I will also monitor how any safeguarding incidents within our Federation are recorded and reported in accordance with CA policy.

Attached as Appendix 1 is a useful Summary of Safeguarding Responsibilities checklist, put together by Linda Shaw for Nailsea CC which she has kindly allowed me to share.

Andru Blewett, SWF Safeguarding Officer

For sale: Dawson Balls

Sidmouth Croquet Club has some sets of used Dawson balls for sale, 4 sets each of Primary and Secondary. They are in good condition and are priced at £100. If any club, or individual, is interested please contact Ed Dolphin: eddolphin@sccl.com

Advantage GC

There is now an official alternative way to play handicap GC, which does not involve extra strokes. It has become official because it is included in the new GC Rules (6th Edition) which came into force from March 27th.

The new system, called Advantage GC (or AGC for short) was trialled last year in the Southern Federation leagues and this is being continued for another season, with some modifications.

Essentially, it works like Level Play GC except that one side has to score more hoops than the other in order to win. I am scheduled to do a zoom talk on April 19th about the new GC rules and how they differ from the previous rules. I will also cover AGC, describing its operation and summarizing its pros and cons.

It would be a good idea if as many South West clubs as possible could have a day (or more) to try it out within the club. If these are informal sessions, combined with roll-ups or coaching, then the games will not affect handicap cards. This will also be true for any games played as doubles.

If a club, after trying it out internally, wanted to go one step further than a friendly match against another club would be a good idea. In this case, any singles matches would need to be entered on the card.

The aim is that, by the end of the 2022 season, we will have enough clubs and players in the South West with an informed opinion about AGC. This will mean that we will be able to make a decision about our own leagues for 2023 based on a genuine understanding of the new version of the game.

Stephen Custance-Baker, SWF League Secretary



**P.H.C.
Mallets**

Beautifully crafted mallets from South Africa.
Aluminium or Carbon shaft, peripherally weighted,
Ex stock or bespoke. You choose
From £140 inclusive of postage

A Delight to Play With
Contact: Marie Stuchfield
Tel: 01392 757672
Mob: 0792940893
Email: mlstuchfield@gmail.com

Budleigh Strip

Jayne Ellery and husband haven't been wasting the winter months – they model their superb new strip for camera

Diary dates

Sunday 8th May Camerton & Peasedown 64 Challenge: Doubles. Entries by 3rd May to Trish Naish: 07885 912723 - Patricia.naish@hotmail.com - £15 per player, includes lunch.



the

GC

Julie Horsley Obituary

We were very sad to hear that Julie has passed away. She was well known across the South West Federation for managing many of the SWF Short Croquet and other club Tournaments, and as Secretary of the Federation. She was elected to this post at the AGM in 2006, standing down an astounding 8 years later at the AGM in 2014.

She was certainly the fount of all knowledge for newcomers to the Committee – ‘welcoming and very efficient’ in Ros Key-Pugh’s words. Ros also remembers:



‘Because of her the SWFed Committee ran smoothly and helped ensure tournaments were held around the whole SW Area to encourage all clubs to get their members to join in and experience a wide variety of styles of play and open their eyes to a wider range of tactics. Personally, she was always calm and efficient and usually smiling!’

And Marcus Evans remembers “Julie was extremely efficient and always willing to volunteer for whatever tasks needed doing. As such she was a great asset to the region and her club for many years and will be sadly missed.”

Many Gazette readers across the UK, and probably further afield, will be saddened to hear that on 2nd March Julie succumbed to a debilitating illness after two years of struggle.

Her background was hotel management and she was a more than competent ‘cook’. One can see where the precise, no nonsense, tournament management skills originated. She loved gardening, having a very large, productive one at Woodpeckers, which sustained her interest in cuisine.

Julie was a member of Budleigh Salterton Croquet Club for 14 years, serving on the committee from 1999 until 2005, including a 4-year stint as secretary.

She also lent her secretarial skills to the SWF in 2006 and was still going strong in the role, if looking to step down, in 2014 when she was awarded a much-merited CA Diploma.

To Sidmouth Club’s great fortune Julie joined us in 2007. Although she was not formally an elected committee member until October 2017, a quick scan of our minutes demonstrates, over and over, how involved she was; internal tournament organiser, external tournament manager, developing referees, coaching and the ‘go to’ for advice and guidance. Her grasp of the whys and wherefores of managing CA liaison on external tournaments is a skill few appreciate until they have to do it.

As so many will know, her name as Manager of a tournament was, in itself, a draw to the event. You were guaranteed efficiently planned, maximum play that was not perturbed by rain, hail or snow. Above all, she gave freely of her time to many clubs and players and I am very grateful for her mentorship in developing my managerial skills; she is a very hard act to follow. I like to think the photo, as she awards a prize, sums up her good humour at all times with a hint of ‘don’t mess with me!’

It is far from just me or Sidmouth and Budleigh that will miss Julie’s personable manner, humour and efficiency. What a lady!

Chris Donovan

Donald Gugan Obituary

Those of you with longer memories will remember fondly Donald Gugan who passed away peacefully last December. Ray Ransom writes this tribute on behalf of Bristol CC:

Donald, and Rosemary, joined Bristol C.C. in 1981. Donald quickly became one of the members who could be relied upon to help with any of the myriad of jobs that needed to be done. When I took over the job of Lawn Secretary in '83 Donald and I normally took on the task of setting out the lawns and hoop setting. Donald was a stickler for making sure that all was accurate and we used Pythagoras to decide whether or not the corners were square. Donald also made, or had made, sets of feeler gauges and a ball gauge. In those days we used Jacques balls and although they were generally liked, the manufacturing process meant that they could not be relied upon to be completely spherical or of a uniform dimension. This involved matching like sized balls to lawns and setting hoops accordingly.



At the time, apart from twice weekly mowing, the members did all lawn maintenance work. Donald would be one of the first to volunteer to use the rented scarifier or hollow-tiner and was always there to help with the clearing up afterwards. We did adjust the mower blade height from time to time and at the end of the season had to take the mower off for servicing. Fortunately, Donald and Rosemary had a VW Camper Van which was a perfect vehicle for transportation. It was a blow when they decide to swap it for something a little more modest.

Donald receives CA Diploma from Bernard Neal – President of CA – in 2009

One amusing story, but perhaps not for Donald, occurred when he was stung on the head by a wasp. We found that there was a nest in the shed and wondered what we could do about it. In the end, we decided to start up the mower, put it in the shed and close the door. This we did, letting it run for about 30 minutes. Opening the door, we were confronted by a swarm of very angry wasps but it did do the trick and the nest was vacated.

As you may know, Donald's background was in physics and he was interested in the dynamics of moving balls, especially in croquet strokes.

He wrote a number of short papers on the subject which can be found on the Oxford site listed, with others at <http://www.oxfordcroquet.com/tech/index.asp>. He also wrote one paper on the statistics of handicap matches and the value of home advantage.

Other club members recall:

Around 1980 the club had about 30 members and I did a series of coaching courses one spring. Donald and Rosemary, along with Ray and Frances Ransom, were in the first large intake. A couple of years later Rosemary was Club Secretary. Donald and Rosemary put in a lot of work when the club was growing rapidly and we built the first part of the new clubhouse. Donald always had a very cheerful demeanour and was a pleasure to play against.

John McCullough

I remember Donald well and his very structured, scientific approach to croquet (I think he was a retired physicist!). He taught me on my beginners course (not a great advert, I realise) along with Deirdre Duggan.

His wife, Rosemary, was one of the top players in the club at the time.

Ann Fraser

Donald (together with Daniel Mills "croquet Dan" and Ray Ransom) was my coach when I responded to an advert by Deirdre Duggan (then BCC Membership Secretary) to try croquet. It was an excellent introduction to the delights of our fantastic sport. I'll be forever grateful to Donald for all his time, patience and dedication to detail, that he spent teaching me.

Richard Williamson

Donald was an early activist within the SWF and was the Development Officer in 1987 but it will take a bit more exploration of the archives to find out more – if anyone has any memories of this we will be pleased to include them in the next issue of Cygnet.

Advertising in Cygnet

All adverts must be sent fully formatted in such a way as they can be easily inserted (copy and pasted) into Cygnet. We are not in a position to undertake any artwork or correct for errors or omissions.

Charges include a 2/3-line entry in the Diary Dates column in up to three subsequent issues.

Charges

Full Page: £12

Half Page: £6

Quarter Page: £3

Appendix 1

Summary of Safeguarding Responsibilities checklist 2022
All members <ul style="list-style-type: none">Understand and undertake their responsibilities as described in the CA Code of Conduct https://www.croquet.org.uk/?p=ca/schemes/safeguarding/conduct
Local Safeguarding Officer <ul style="list-style-type: none">Understand and undertake the responsibilities described in the CA policy https://www.croquet.org.uk/?p=ca/schemes/safeguarding/rolesReport to all Committee meetings and AGMInform the NDCC committee when they are no longer able to continue in this role, giving as much notice as possible.
Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none">Understand and undertake their responsibilities described in the CA policy https://www.croquet.org.uk/?p=ca/schemes/safeguardingFollow the Safeguarding processes described in the CA policy https://www.croquet.org.uk/?p=ca/schemes/safeguarding/processesMake use of the guidelines described in the CA policy https://www.croquet.org.uk/?p=ca/schemes/safeguarding/guidanceEnsure LSO submits a report to each Committee meeting and AGMEnsure the LSO is informed about who is undertaking any of the roles listed belowEnsure Child Safeguarding policy is reviewed at least every 3 years
Membership Secretary <ul style="list-style-type: none">Ensure the information in section 2 of the policy is included in the beginners' enrolment, membership application and renewal formsRemind people about confidentiality of info in contacts list each time it is circulatedLiaise with the LSO to ensure the parents / guardians of under 18 members are provided with the necessary information and consents https://www.croquet.org.uk/?p=ca/schemes/safeguarding/templates
Coaches <ul style="list-style-type: none">Understand and undertake their responsibilities as set out in the CA policy with particular regard to the role of Responsible Adult https://www.croquet.org.uk/?p=ca/schemes/safeguarding/roles#ResponsibleAdultRole
Team Captains <ul style="list-style-type: none">Understand and undertake their responsibilities as set out in the CA policy particularly with regard to the role of Responsible Adult https://www.croquet.org.uk/?p=ca/schemes/safeguarding/roles#ResponsibleAdultRoleUnderstand and comply with SWF League Play rules https://www.swfcroquet.org.uk/
Tournament organizers <ul style="list-style-type: none">Understand and undertake their responsibilities as set out in the CA policy https://www.croquet.org.uk/?p=ca/schemes/safeguarding/processes
Organizers of social and other events <ul style="list-style-type: none">Understand and undertake their responsibilities as set out in the CA policy https://www.croquet.org.uk/?p=ca/schemes/safeguarding/processes
Publicity <ul style="list-style-type: none">Anyone creating any publicity must check with the LSO to ensure the necessary consents have been obtained
Safeguarding Officers <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Insert your Club name here:</i> <i>(Insert your club LSO name & email here)</i>South West Federation: Andru Blewett andru@bluboy.ukCroquet Association: Ron Carter dr.roncarter@gmail.com