



Cygnets

Issue: 29
March 2021



The e-Newsletter for the South West Federation of Croquet Clubs



Gosh, it seems a long time since the last issue of Cygnet. What a winter it's been but with the beautiful weather we've been experiencing lately (albeit intermittently), and the tantalising prospect of resuming play, let's hope everyone is getting vaccinated and preparing themselves for the season ahead.

The SWF committee is in regular email and Zoom contact: there's almost more to do when we're not playing than when we are! Our minutes may be found on our website and you'll find the Constitution there as well.

The Constitution has been updated by the addition of Notes. These do not form part of the Constitution itself but they are there to explain some terms and act as an aide-memoire. If you think anything else needs clarifying there, do drop us a line with your suggestions.

For these documents and past issues of Cygnet, just follow the links on the home page:
<https://www.swfcroquet.org.uk/>

*** STOP PRESS***

AC Laws Zoom session
Wed 24th March 7.00pm

Dave Kibble

Look out for the link coming to your inbox soon!

News from the Committee

You will be aware from the AGM that for health reasons, Richard Jackson wished to stand down from his roles as Coaching and Handicapping Officer but waited until replacements had been found.

We are delighted this happened very promptly with Roger Mills our new Coaching Officer as announced in December's Cygnet and Tony Mayer - already a stalwart SWF Committee member - will be taking on the responsibilities of the Handicapping Officer.

Contents

p1	News from the committee
p2	New Faces Early successes for the SW
p3	Leagues Coaching Zoom
p4	East Dorset Tournament: <i>advert</i> Return to play Grants Judith Moore Bursary
p5	Live Streaming PHC Mallets <i>advert</i>
p6	Sadly missed Data Protection Communications
p7	Beginner retention Diary Dates Advertising rates
p8	Appx 1 New Faces
p10	Appx 2 We're on the Lookout
p12	Appx 3 Coaching SW
p15	Appx 4 Judith Moore Bursary
p16	Appx 5 Zoom Jan 2021 notes
p19	Appx 6 Zoom Feb 2021 notes
p22	Appx 7 Zoom Mar 2021 notes
p25	Appx 8 Leagues Maps

Cygnet 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 Cygnet or any aspect of the SW croquet scene.
Contact: lindawithani@hotmail.com

We would like to record our thanks to Richard for his excellent work with the SWF during his years with us. His scholarly approach to moderating handicaps in the region (and further afield) was exemplary and he has not given up his interest in this aspect of the game as he plans a further article for the Croquet Gazette as play gets back to normal. Richard writes:

It has been my pleasure to be able to make a late-ish life contribution to croquet administration in the SWF and the CA, especially in the areas of coaching and handicapping. With all best wishes to the SWF in the future.

Many thanks for all your work over the years Richard - you will be missed on the Committee but we know we'll still come across you on the court!

New Faces - could you be one?

We are excited to introduce two new Committee members to you - Louise Smith (Sidmouth CC) and Andru Blewett (St Agnes CC). They will be familiar to many of you in the SW peninsula and it is excellent to have that part of the region represented on the Committee. You can read all about our three new members - Roger, Louise and Andru - in Appendix 1 p8.

They responded to our call for new Committee members and we look forward to their contributions. We still have vacancies on the committee - and we're particularly thin on people from Wales and the north and east of the region - **so do read the article in Appendix 2 p10 to get an idea of what we're looking for and get in touch.**

Early successes for the South West

We're delighted the accolades are building up already

Winterbourne Valley CC has been awarded the Townsend Club Award - so congratulations to them.



This is the South West's fifth club award since 2015 - an amazing success rate that reflects the skill and dedication of the clubs and the excellent support offered by our Development Officers over the years.



Our very own **Stephen Custance-Baker has been voted CA Coach of the Year** for 2020. Those of you who have read his book - Every Shot is Tactical or attended his coaching sessions - including the Zoom series Playing to the Rules, will know that this is truly well-deserved.

Congratulations Stephen - we look forward to even more from you.

Recordings of Playing to the Rules are available at

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLn9vkerUOhypup4mEw6kO9or1tW4Uof88>

And our Development Officer, **Paul Francis, has recently been appointed Chair of the CA Development Committee** - another great opportunity to spread the knowledge, skill and enthusiasm.



Leagues



Stephen provides us with this update, but do keep an eye on your in-box for up-to-the-minute information.

The summer leagues have now started to become reality. 27 clubs have entered a total of 111 teams in 7 leagues, which is down on the 29 clubs with 143 teams that were entered for 2020. This is no surprise, but unfortunately the entries for the B League were too low for it to be run this year. All being well, the B League will reappear in 2022, when we can expect a major resurgence of competitive croquet.

The maps for the blocks in each league may be found in Appendix 8 p25 with the dotted lines indicating those blocks where the teams will play each other twice.

You will find that each team has fewer games than in a normal season. It has been recommended that matches are arranged for dates after June 20th as that is the currently estimated date for the full relaxation of social distancing, so the matches will mostly be played in July and August.

The blocks have therefore been deliberately made smaller so that there are fewer matches per team and, in general, travel distances are less. All of the clubs have been notified which blocks their teams are in, so that they can arrange the match dates, and five clubs have already sent in the agreed dates for their matches.

The spring Short Croquet tournament at Nailsea has had to be cancelled this year but the autumn event at Budleigh Salterton (8th - 10th October) is well supported and will be played over 3 days with 6 divisions of 5 teams as usual.

Coaching update

The plans are moving ahead to get more coaches trained and to make coaching more widely available in the Southwest. Several coaches and clubs have already signed up to support the Coaching Southwest vision.

There will be a Zoom session at 7pm on Thursday, March 18th for anyone thinking about becoming a Club-Level Coach this year. Please put this in your calendar, if you are interested. Full details will follow shortly. In the meantime you can read our plans for coaching in the region in Appendix 3 p12.



Zoom



It's been marvellous to keep in touch with you via our monthly Zoom meetings - for those clubs who don't come along - you really are missing something. We've had three meetings since the last Cygnet. There is always a round up from clubs then we have a focus topic.

This year we have looked at Coaching, Child Safeguarding and some of the initiatives coming from the CA. You can find the notes from all these in the appendices and look forward to our next meeting on April 13th when Jonathan Towe, Development Officer East Anglia, will introduce the topic 'Accessibility: short- and long-term actions.' We can also expect a coaching update from Roger.

East Dorset Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club

Salterns Road, Parkstone,
Poole, BH14 8BL
www.edltcc.com



HIGH-BISQUERS' ONE-DAY TOURNAMENTS – GC & AC

(CA MEMBERSHIP NOT ESSENTIAL)

GOLF CROQUET C-LEVEL – Handicaps 7+
13-point level play Format AMD
Wednesday 30th June Entry Fee £10

ASSOCIATION CROQUET – Handicaps 16+
Full-bisque handicap play Format AMD
Thursday 1st July Entry Fee £10

Entry to **BOTH** events: £15
Play will commence at 9.30 am
LUNCHES & TEAS WILL BE AVAILABLE

Entries, by Monday 21st June, to:

Gary Brennan
16 Sundew Road
Broadstone
Dorset
BH18 9NX
Tel. 01202 690239

Please include the following with your entry:

Name and address
Phone no. and/or e-mail address
Your club name and current handicap/s
Entry fee (cheques payable to 'EDLTCC')
Or bank transfer details provided on request
Or cash on arrival

Return to Play: Small Grants

This fund will make awards, using National Lottery and government funding, of between £300 and £10,000, from a total pot of £15m, to help sport and activity groups, clubs and organisations respond to the immediate challenges of returning to play in a coronavirus-safe way.



This could include contributing to covering the costs incurred by having to deliver activity in smaller groups than normal, or having the correct hygiene and safety equipment.

In response to the current England-wide lockdown restrictions, this fund will also make a contribution of up to £3,000 towards the running costs of organisations supporting the most deprived communities.

Check out the details and Paul paulwfrancis@icloud.com is happy to help with your applications.

<https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/our-funds/return-play-small-grants>

Return to Play: Judith Moore Bursary

Now the Fixtures List is open for business, don't forget our own Judith Moore Bursary fund, made possible by the generosity of Peter Moore.

Full details may be found on our website <https://www.swfcroquet.org.uk/swf-bursaries/> and in Appendix 3 p12.

Live Streaming



Is anyone out there interested in developing live-streaming skills? **John O’Gorman at Budleigh Salterton CC** approached us towards the end of last year to find out if there are any like-minded souls in the region.

He has had initial discussions with Eugene Chang - croquet’s live-streaming guru - but with one thing and another - Eugene has become a father! - things haven’t moved on much.

He is still keen to contact anyone with the skills and expertise - or willingness to develop these - so we might build up our skills here in the south west. He writes:

The CA has the kit, but the team, and various skills required, to deliver the end results, and also provide edited highlights, is considerable. Camera operators, editing, commentating, technical/computing etc. I am not at all sure that we, or many clubs, would have the ability to do all this to a high standard. We might be an amateur sport, but viewers will want a professional product. Should we consider setting up a group who could do this well and cover the key events in the area?”

If you’re interested, do contact John: Chairman@budleighcroquet.org



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

Sadly Missed

Lym Valley recently lost a much-valued member, **Jack Hoare**, and sent us this tribute.

*What a beautiful day, hip, hip hooray
I will play croquet at Uplyme today,
If you're there at two
I will play against you
And we'll both have a glorious day.*

*Written by
Jack in April 2020*



In memory of our much-loved member Jack Hoare

And we have another memory of **William Ormerod**. John Airey, Swindon CC secretary and one of our founder members writes:

William's brother Henry was a Vicar at South Park in the 80s and the club's first Chairman. When he left the area, he left behind his mallet which is the long-handled round headed one with a cross incorporated in the decoration on the handle which still sits amongst the club's mallets in the greenroom.

Data Protection

This is a topic that came up at a recent Zoom meeting. A really good source of information and support - including a club self-assessment and template club privacy policy may be found at: <https://www.sportenglandclubmatters.com/club-planning/governance/policies-procedures/data-protection-policy/> - just follow the link to the Sport and Recreation Alliance.

And if you have any suggestions, please let us have them and we'll circulate.

Communications Guide

Have you seen the comprehensive guide the CA has published? It's certainly worth a look. It contains a lot of information but it's all very clearly set out so you can find the bits that are of most value to you.

Those of you who attended our Zoom meeting on the topic back in October last year will remember how helpful Paul Hetherington was and he is co-author of this toolkit. Check it out: <https://www.croquet.org.uk/> and enter communications toolkit into the search box.

Beginner Retention

A recent review of the membership records of one club in the region revealed a staggering statistic: that 50% of beginners leave within two years. These figures suggest they join for the full year following their Beginners' Course but then fall by the wayside.

A certain number will always be lost at this stage but 50% seems very high and represents a huge amount of effort and input from coaches and other club members. On the plus side, those who stay go on to play for years!



One other club reckoned they kept about 2 or 3 beginners each year irrespective of how many people underwent the AC beginners' course! Yet another club, which teaches GC and AC to beginners, the number of people playing AC are minimal and far more people turn up for the GC roll-up than the AC equivalent.

It would be really interesting to find out if other clubs experience a similar turnover or not. If you are successful, what do you put this down to? And if you are less successful, what have you tried to keep those figures up?

It seems a straightforward question has opened up a number of lines of thought:

- Are we coaching in the most effective way?
- Are we doing all we can to make new players feel welcome?
- Are we geared too much towards retired people?
 - Do clubs commonly find their lawns are hardly used at certain times?
 - Does this open up opportunities for reaching out to other groups of people?

Any comments or ideas anyone?

Diary Dates

24 th March 7.00pm	Zoom on new AC Laws with Dave Kibble
13 th April 7.00pm	SWF Zoom meeting: Focus on Accessibility
11 th May 7.00pm	SWF Zoom meeting
8 th June 7.00pm	SWF Zoom meeting
29 th June	SWF Committee meeting

Advertising rates

The following rates per issue will apply for Full-member clubs, Associate-member clubs, individuals and commercials.

Full page	Half page	Quarter page
£12	£6	£3

Adverts must be sent fully formatted so 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.

There is no discount for multiple entries but advertisers will be entitled to a short reminder entry (2-3 line) for subsequent issues (to a maximum of 4 diary entries) at no extra charge.

Appendix 1 New Faces

Louise Smith

I am relatively new to the world of croquet, having taken up the sport in 2015 alongside my husband, Stuart M. Smith. We began playing croquet at Northamptonshire Croquet Club under the expert eye of Lionel Tibble. Stuart's natural ability for the game soon outstripped my own, and he currently plays off a -4 hcp.

However, I found early on that I also enjoy managing croquet events, (probably due to my project management career), and have run several successful GC tournaments. This has been recognized by the CA, and we both have recently been accepted onto the CA GC Tournaments Committee.



Two years ago, we relocated to Devon and joined Sidmouth Croquet Club. We have had very few opportunities, (due to the current Covid crisis), to interact to any great degree with our new home club, but we have managed to play against some of our new club members and host an informal coaching session. This year, Sidmouth CC are allowing us to run the Sidmouth GC Team Challenge Cup, which we hope will be enjoyed by all participants attending from around the country.

Outside of the world of croquet, we work full time and so we do lead exceptionally busy lives. However, we try to make time for all of our hobbies which include tending the garden of our cottage and making crafts, some of which are sold by a local artisan shop. One of the things I enjoy most is scouring antique and vintage fairs looking for lost "treasures"!

Louise may be contacted at: mrsljsmith@outlook.com

Andru Blewett



My Croquet life started with a garden set many years ago which then got buried in the shed. A chance look at the local free magazine one Saturday morning in June 2013, I spotted an ad. for anyone interested in trying Croquet, to come along that afternoon to test the water to see if there was enough interest to start a club. I went along and have never looked back, although I sometimes find it hard to fit in my surfing, cycling and beekeeping!

The club was formalised the following year and a 15-year lease entered into for the site. I have been a member of the committee from the outset, and have since been elevated to vice-chair. One of the instigators of the formation of the club is a long-standing coach and referee who supported me in 2017 in gaining these qualifications to help advance the club. 2017 was also the year we first entered a team in the SWF league.

I am quite practical and enjoy making things such as our lawn equipment trolleys, and lots of bits and pieces for the lawn maintenance work as well as organising club competitions and coaching sessions for members.

2019 saw our best team performance with both the GC Handicap and High Handicap teams reaching their respective league finals. In 2019 I was very honoured to be awarded the CA diploma for services to Croquet.

I have attended the last five SWF AGMs as representative for St Agnes and like to contribute to discussions when I feel I have something to offer. I look forward to also being able to represent other Cornish clubs on the SWF committee.

You can contact Andru on: andru@bluboy.uk;

Roger Mills

When I moved to Sidmouth in 2011, I was going to take up fishing and golf. Then my wife saw an advert for croquet lessons, and life changed. I became slightly fanatical, first about croquet, and later about coaching.

Cliff Jones had the dubious pleasure of me attending eight of his coaching courses, and this was how I learned my trade and fed my appetite to learn, learn, learn. My coaching experience and style developed, and I helped create, and subsequently manage, the Southwest Croquet Academy at Budleigh.

This brought me into contact with some of the UK's leading coaches, and I complemented this experience by traveling far and wide to learn coaching skills from people such as James Hawkins and Paddy Chapman.

In 2017, I was really honoured to be awarded the CA Coach of The Year. The following year, I was made an Examining Coach, which means I can train and coach coaches - which is one of my passions. Then in 2020, I gained my AC Grade 3 Coaching badge.

How to follow this? The only thing was to write a book. Twelve months of toil has led to Getting Maximum Bang for Your Bishes being published later this month. Now, I have a new challenge as SWF Coaching Officer. I hope to bring more coaching to more people!

Roger's email should be familiar to you all now: rcm.mills@gmail.com



Appendix 2

We're on the lookout



We'd love to involve more people in planning and organising activities here in the South West.
As the saying goes 'Many hands make light work'

You don't have to become a committee member to do this. At the same time, there are vacancies on the Committee and if you have interests and skills that can help the Federation then contact us and tell us how you would like to help.

Already the Committee has people dealing specifically with coaching, handicapping, development and the leagues, as specified in the constitution. But there is much more that we are doing - and would like to do.

We're especially looking for hands-on people who can work **with** the committee (not necessarily **on** it) and with our member clubs, helping us all create and deliver a range of activities that enhance croquet in the region.

We've developed experience in this over the last 12 months

- ✓ Rhona edited and produced our very last edition of SWAN without becoming a committee member and when the pressure at her club calms down a little we hope she'll be helping with the future production of Cygnet.
- ✓ We established a Constitutional Review Group (Keith Southern, David Harrison-Wood and Dave Kibble) that worked with the Committee to review and improve our newly approved constitution. This was a process that used the available technology - this time exchanging emails.

Now we're looking for a wide range of skills and we'd like the SWF Committee to become more representative of the region in terms of geography, age, gender, ethnicity, disabilities plus our shared enthusiasm for croquet. Whatever your croquet skills level, the key is the talent and knowledge that you can make available on the organisational side of things.

As we now work very much by email exchange, 'phone calls and Zoom. Distance of travel to meetings is no longer a deterrent.

These are the sort of areas that we hope new volunteers can help with:

- ✓ **Player recruitment and retention**
Someone who's interested in helping pull together and share ideas on recruiting and retaining new players - someone who understands the interplay between a welcoming atmosphere and good quality sustained coaching and who is interested in all aspects of diversity.
- ✓ **Bringing in young people to the game**
Someone who's interested in encouraging the next generation and can work with schools and their organisations (LEAs and Multi-Academy Trusts)
- ✓ **Website Co-ordinator**
Alison Maugham provides an excellent service to us maintaining our website and we're not planning to replace her. But what we do need is someone with the time and skills to devote a little TLC to the website content to make the best of what we have to offer and to work with

Alison on making this a reality. Other Federations have up-dated and developed their web sites - which is one of the public faces of croquet - and we need to do the same.

✓ **Social Media:**

Is there anyone out there who has an interest and understanding of the use of social media to promote croquet using platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Tik-Tok, WhatsApp, etc?

Clearly some understanding of how websites and social media work would be really helpful, but enthusiasm and commitment are just as important. Another aspect could be to provide an advice point for our Clubs in using these technologies

✓ **Child Safeguarding Officer**

The CA is introducing an updated Safeguarding Policy and Federations will be required to appoint a Child Safeguarding Officer. The role will be of interest to someone with a concern for Safeguarding, sensitivity and a good feel for process. And we can expect a similar role with regard to Vulnerable Adults soon.

✓ **Following CA activities and other strategic initiatives**

The CA is developing many activities and organisations such as Sport England are pro-active in many areas. We'd love to be able to follow these initiatives a bit more closely and ensure that the Federation's voice is heard. Would you like to keep a track on these and help keep us all in the loop?

These topics and others that may arise in the future make demands on the Committee so VOLUNTEERS please step forward!

Appendix 3

Coaching SW

When I took over as Coaching Officer for the SWF last December, I was struck by two things about the SWF member clubs:

- 1 many do not have access to the type of coaching they would like for their members, and
- 2 around half the clubs do not have a single Club-Level or Graded Coach.

With the many excellent coaches we have in the Southwest, this doesn't seem right!

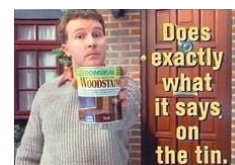
I sat down to think what could be done to improve the situation. The first task being to see if we could increase the number of Club-Level Coaches. The second task being to give all SWF croquet players access to the coaching they would like to have.

Getting more Club-Level Coaches - who?

The first step to get more Club-Level Coaches is to identify those players who would like to become a Coach. My understanding from talking with club representatives is there are a number of potential candidates out there, though some players do not know what is involved in becoming a Coach or how to go about it.

To address this, I am holding a Zoom session at 7.00pm Thursday, March 18th titled:

**Everything you wanted to know about
becoming a Club-Level Coach,
but were afraid to ask**



This will be one of those sessions that does exactly what it says on the tin.

In every club there will be players who help introduce new players to croquet, but who have not attended a Croquet Association Coaches Course to become a CA Registered Coach. There will be other players who have not yet tried coaching, but are interested to develop coaching skills and become a CA Registered Coach.

From the players' viewpoint, no matter how much coaching they may have done, a CA Coaches Course will be an opportunity to develop and hone their coaching skills. From a club's viewpoint, having CA Registered Coaches should assist their efforts to recruit (and keep) new members. Everyone wins!

Getting more Club-Level Coaches - how?

The CA Coaches Course involves some classroom-type sessions, as well as time on the lawn practising coaching. In the past, these have been run mainly by the various Croquet Academies. Whilst these courses are all excellent, they have two drawbacks. First, they cost a bit (up to £75 a head). Second, for most people they mean travelling some distance to an Academy and an overnight stay (even more dosh).

Well, the SWF has a solution to offer through its coaching arm, Coaching Southwest. We will arrange for the classroom elements of the course to be delivered to prospective coaches through three Zoom sessions, led by myself. The lawn practice sessions will follow afterwards and be delivered by one of our Examining Coaches coming to the attendees' clubs (or a nearby club).

What will be the cost, you're thinking? Here's even more good news. There will be no cost to the attendees! Zilch. Zero. We can do this by ensuring costs are kept low, so that they will be covered by the subsidy that the CA offers.

When? Zoom sessions will be early April, and lawn sessions mid-late April.

Sound good to you? I hope so!

Making coaching accessible to all players in the Southwest

Whilst some of our clubs offer excellent coaching within their club, there are many clubs without the coaching resources to do this. This 'coaching gap' is partly filled by the various Croquet Academies who offer a wide range of high-quality coaching courses. But, again, not everyone wants to travel far and wide to get coaching, or to incur the cost of doing this.

How about we make coaching *local*? What if we could make coaching available to all players in the Southwest without them having to travel long distances? That has to be good, surely?

This is a great opportunity for the Croquet Community in the Southwest to come together and develop a new approach to delivering coaching. Let's call it 'community coaching'. It would mean that every player in the Southwest could have the opportunity to attend coaching sessions for free and within an hour's drive of their home. That's the vision. What do we need to make this vision reality?

We just need three things: coaches, facilities, and organisers.

First, we need Graded Coaches who are willing to deliver coaching sessions to a wide range of players either at their club or at nearby clubs.





Second, we need clubs to make their facilities available to host the coaching sessions.




Third, we need one person at each SWF club to be a Coaching Contact to support me, the SWF Coaching Officer. The Coaching Contact's role will be to do two things. To gauge their club members' interest in the coaching sessions offered by Coaching Southwest, and to handle the logistics of running any of these sessions held at their own club.

Imagine what we could achieve if some of our clubs offer lawn time for 'community' coaching. And some of our Graded Coaches offer their time and expertise to run 'community' coaching sessions at their clubs or nearby clubs. And if every club had an enthusiastic Coaching Contact to help organise those sessions.

Any questions?

Yes, I'm sure you will have lots of questions:

 Will the coaching sessions just be for good players?	No, they will be for players of all standards. Though, we are not intending to provide introductory coaching sessions for people new to the game.
 Will they be for both GC and AC players?	Definitely.
 What about Short Croquet players?	We love Short Croquet here in the Southwest, so there's no chance this will be overlooked.
 How much will SWF's Coaching Southwest charge	How about nothing? Zilch? Zero? That's the plan for all the sessions led by an SWF-based Coach. We believe lead

players for attending any of these coaching sessions?	coaches will not wish to charge any fee - this is the spirit of coaching in the UK. The SWF will pay their travel expenses.
 Will the club's hosting the coaching sessions be paid for lawn hire?	No, but some clubs may wish, or need, to charge visiting players a Visitor's Fee.
 How much lawn time do you expect a host club to offer?	<p>As one of the supermarkets says, 'Every little helps'!</p> <p>This could be one or more mornings, afternoons, evenings, or whole days, when their lawns are underutilised. It could be a single lawn, or two lawns.</p> <p>Every club will have its own set of circumstances that will affect how many lawns and when they might be able to offer their facilities.</p>
 How do you see the benefits for the host club?	<p>Great question!</p> <p>There are quite a few:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - easy access to more coaching opportunities for your members - added attraction to prospective new members - opportunities for your club's coaches to get more coaching experience by leading or assisting in the coaching sessions - opportunities for your club's coaches to gain a higher level coaching qualification - last, but definitely not least, the satisfaction of contributing to the wider Southwest Croquet Community, and supporting those clubs with fewer resources to help them develop and grow.

Have a word with your club's committee in the first instance if you'd like to know more.

Appendix 4

Judith Moore Bursary Fund

Judith Moore was a well-known and well-loved figure throughout the South West croquet world. Sadly, she died in June 2019. Her widower, Peter Moore, another well-known and respected member at Budleigh Salterton, has generously established this bursary scheme to carry on her ambitions.

It was a particular desire of hers that new players should not just relax into social play at their clubs - they should engage as soon as possible in serious tournament play, the heart of croquet. She believed that croquet players should support the CA and should play outside of their familiar settings to strengthen not only their own play but to develop their appreciation of the wider world of croquet - new chums, new tactics, different ways of running things - and indeed of the wider world.

This bursary is administered by The South West Federation of Croquet Clubs, with Peter's continuing involvement. We are indebted to Peter and pleased to be able to keep Judith's aspirations and drive alive in the region.

Who can apply?

There are two types of application.

1. First CA Fixture
2. Second and Third CA Fixture

A CA Fixture is one that is promoted in the CA Fixtures Calendar which is published annually and may be found on the CA website: <https://www.croquet.org.uk/?p=tournament/CACalendar>

First Fixture

An application to the Bursary Fund may be made by a croquet player in the South West Federation region who:

- Is a member of a croquet club which is itself a member of the SWF
- Has not previously played in a CA Fixture
 - They may have played in club competitions and SWF League matches

Second and Third Fixtures

An application to the Bursary Fund may be made by a croquet player in the South West Federation region who:

- Is a member of a croquet club which is itself a member of the SWF
- Is a Premium Member of the Croquet Association
- Has not previously played in more than two CA Fixtures
 - They may have played in club competitions and SWF League matches

What costs will be covered?

The Bursary will be awarded to cover the Tournament Entry Fee only.

Process

An application may be made at any time on the application form below. It must be sent to the SWF Secretary to arrive at least 3 weeks before the start of the Tournament that the applicant wishes to enter.

The application will be checked for accuracy verified by a panel of three. This will normally include Peter Moore and two members of the SWF Committee.

The applicant will be informed of the Panel's decision within two weeks of receipt of the application.

Should the application criteria not be met, the applicant will be informed of the reasons for this and will be invited to apply again once the full criteria are met.

The application form may be found on our website: <https://www.swfcroquet.org.uk/swf-bursaries/>

Appendix 5

Zoom meeting January 2021

We got off to a brilliant start this year with the largest ever attendance at our monthly meetings: 39. So welcome back!

This is a summary of the discussion.

Round up from clubs:

- There was a fair amount of cautious optimism that we would be playing this season and several clubs have started to think about their league entries
- Although all play is suspended at the moment, quite a few clubs were holding winter competitions - so hopefully they'll begin again soon
- East Dorset have been nurturing a relationship with a local VI form college which they hope will bear fruit this year - plans to extend this and gain publicity
- Noted that the CA makes no distinction between large and small lawns in terms of restricting the number of players during covid
- Covid grants available but not every club will meet the criteria - check it out for your club: <https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/our-funds>

Coaching:

Roger summarised what he's been doing

Vision

- That all players in SW will live within 1 hr drive of a 'coaching hub' club
- That every club in the SW will have a qualified coach - at the moment about half our clubs are without one
- Suggested brand name: Coaching South West

Work

- He and Paul have been mapping the data and thinking about clubs that might be used as hubs - thinking about their facilities, the financial implications, their willingness etc
- He will be in touch with clubs but do contact him if your club is interested
- He has been in touch with other Feds who are very interested in this initiative

Needed

- Clubs to offer their facilities as hubs (12 potential identified)
- Coaching team (Roger, Paul, so far)
- Coaching menu
- Coaching liaison officer in each club- doesn't have to be a coach
 - Assistant coaches to work towards qualification
- He is hoping to attract excellent coaches from across the country to add a coaching session or so onto their visit when playing local tournaments

Questions

- How does the Academy fit into this - they are very open to all these plans
- Noted that this year will be odd - setting framework, running a few courses hopefully
- How do you motivate players to want coaching

League play:

Short Croquet

- The Spring Short Croquet tournament at Nailsea has been cancelled.

League play

- Stephen will be contacting all clubs towards the end of the month with entry and fee forms for the Leagues which you will be asked to return by 21st Feb.
- He plans a quick turnaround to let you know who plays who and you'll have 6 weeks or so to fix the dates and let him know.
- So, the assumption is being made that play will continue as normal but clubs will be asked to arrange their games later rather than earlier and there will be no penalties for teams unable to raise a team after they have entered.

Joint teams

- Some clubs have difficulty getting a team together
- There seems no reason for a couple of clubs to pool resources
- Second membership for a zero fee could be offered for the sole purpose of establishing a joint team

Question

- What if Covid restricts numbers on lawns - rethink formats - SWF committee will take this on board

And the message from a statistician is: Get vaccinated - statistically it's a no brainer!

Appendix 6

Zoom meeting February 2021

Another great attendance for this meeting - thanks everyone.

18 clubs represented with 34 attendees.

We started off with a round-up of news:

- Lym Valley - flood defences likely - what looks like a small stream can rapidly flood the lawns
- Winterbourne Valley - have completed their first season in their new home and found it was very well drained - bit of a slope round some hoops which they will be sorting - and they're hoping all members plus more will join this year - looking forward to playing again
- Beckford - lawns have been playable most days this year - 50% already signed up for the coming season which is par for the course for them - looking forward to playing again
- Abbey - 1 lawn flooded since 2019 but is now being sorted out - deadline for completion may slip due to weather - turfing rather than seeding is being undertaken
- Moreton in Marsh - a few pools appear - grass growing well but not sure if it'll be really ready for early season - improved air circulation round shady areas
- Swindon - moss infestation needs to be dealt - they will be erecting a memorial bench to remember members who have passed away - they lost 2 stalwart members recently
- Kington Langley - should be ready for season

League teams

- Stephen has heard back from 21 out of 30 clubs (deadline is 21st Feb)
- Entries so far are a little down on last year - 10% or so
 - Weston is the only club so far that has decided not to enter any teams this year
- But B League entries are low so may not run as the clubs are at the far reaches of the region
 - There is a chance if the remaining clubs enter teams
 - It will be possible for entries to be entered for Intermediate instead
- Clubs will be encouraged to play most of their matches during July & August
 - To facilitate completion of the blocks, these will be made smaller
- The SC Spring tournament at Nailsea has been cancelled but entries for the Autumn tournament at Budleigh are strong - almost at their usual level

Coaching South West

- Not a lot of movement on this so far - Roger has a publisher's deadline to meet and has not been able to ring around the clubs
- However, he has received some offers from coaches wishing to get involved
- Bath has offered its facilities as a coaching hub
- Roger will be back on the job soon and welcomes offers of help in the meantime
- St Agnes queried progress on the on-line taster session for potential coaches - this is still in the pot!

Compulsory vaccination?

- It was noted that clubs would be entitled to require anyone playing on their lawns to have had the Covid vaccination as long as this was applied in a non-discriminatory way so it did not apply to e.g.

- People who were not eligible / offered the vaccination - young people, those exempt
 - People continued to observe whatever restrictions were in place at the time
- Roger reported this is on the agenda for Saturday's CA Coaching committee

Covid and small lawns

- Since the discussion at the last Zoom, Bath contacted Linda who asked Ian Vincent (General Sec of CA) for clarification about the numbers of players allowed on a small lawn
- He replied:

We discussed this, but feel that the question is hypothetical until we know what the regulations will be when the current lockdown is eased. We will attempt to answer it then.

I understand the desire to allow as many people to play as possible, but also of our responsibility to ensure that they can do so safely and that those playing in view of the public do not appear to be breaking restrictions.

- So, this is something to keep an eye on when restrictions are lifted

Information sources

- Clubs are encouraged to sign up to receive the following bulletins (and circulate to members when appropriate)
 - CA newsletter
 - Sport England
 - Club Matters
- If anyone knows of any other source please let us know and we can compile a list
- There are various Government schemes to help businesses, including sports clubs, that have had to close during lockdown. Answering a few simple questions on <https://www.gov.uk/business-coronavirus-support-finder> will point you to any funds that you may be eligible to apply for.
- Check out Active Partnerships in your county for information etc

Safeguarding

- It was agreed to ask Ron Carter, the CA's new Safeguarding Officer to talk to us and answer our questions about the new policy, via Zoom. **Action: Paul**

Data protection

- This is an area that would probably merit further discussion. Initial scoping to be undertaken. **Action: Linda**

Risk assessments

- It is now a requirement that clubs undertake a risk assessment to be covered by the CA's Public Liability Insurance
- A Club webinar led by Ian Burrige (CA Hon. Treasurer) is being held on the topic of the CA Club Insurance Policy and Risk Assessments on Saturday 27th February at 9.30am, details can be found <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ca-webinar-ca-club-insurance-policy-and->

[risk-assessments-tickets-140529241745](#). If you have any specific questions which you know in advance that you wish to ask please could they be emailed to Ian Burrige (burrige.ian@googlemail.com) by Sunday 21st February at the latest in order that they can be referred to insurers for a definitive answer if necessary.

- A more comprehensive template than that provided by the CA is attached

Recruitment

- Sport England has set out a new strategy with priorities including getting more active
- This presents an excellent focus for recruitment so think about
 - Promoting the sport at GP surgeries - a possible 'prescription'
 - Keith Bryant suggested 'thank you' socials to front line health workers
 - Targeting those working from home
- Swindon has plans to set up a Companies League - probably to be delayed until next year

CA Development Committee

- Paul is now the Chair of this committee and the following priorities for the coming year have been set
 - Identify sources of funding for clubs
 - Promoting Club Matters / (Croquet Matters?)
 - Paul is looking for clubs interested in this, please contact him
 - Not yet known what will be replacing ClubMark but CA is committed to supporting it
 - Recruiting young players
 - Sidmouth and Winterbourne Valley each have plans to recruit more young players
- The CA will also be working with Bowls England as each are facing similar dilemmas
- Paul's email: paulwfrancis@icloud.com

New AC Laws

- These will be published shortly so look out for briefing sessions from the CA

Appendix 7

Zoom Meeting 10.3.21: Child Safeguarding

35 people attended

A recording of this session may be accessed:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/-oP8Xt8FIVpwQalz-nQNxvJxU8LNb_1c0oWoggjyoR9ywPeauz0rNi_ZhYbljT0M.z0beQzCdCO3AZf1i
Passcode: 9YqL6Ki@

We welcomed Ron Carter, the CA's newly appointed Safeguarding Officer who introduced us to the newly adopted CA Safeguarding Policy.

This is a comprehensive policy with accompanying guidance and pro-formas which may be found on <https://www.croquet.org.uk/?p=ca/schemes/safeguarding>

Ron's presentation is attached and the key points are:

- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility
- It's not only about sexual abuse but awareness of other reasons for vulnerability
- Emotional abuse is one possibility - this can happen to anyone: how often have we felt uncomfortable / anxious / threatened when playing doubles with some people?
- Focus on prevention - think about what might stop children enjoying croquet?
- Tie in with risk assessments - anticipate difficulties
- Be comfortable with reporting concerns
- Look out for vulnerable adults and general welfare later in the year

Why should a club with no under 18s have policy?

- Because CA wants to attract more children
- Because they may have visiting teams or tournaments involving U18s and need to understand who to liaise with and what their responsibilities might be
- Remember that good safeguarding procedures also protect members from unfounded and malicious allegations.

Discussion points

- Important to bring club members on board - be positive and talk about progress rather than change
- Pay as you play initiative will bring its own issues because people aren't known - sign up of the webinar on this [webinar on Pay and Play sessions](#)
- Could be an issue if unaccompanied U18s turn up e.g. on an Open Day
- Remember track and trace responsibilities are still in place

Please find below a pro-forma that you might find helpful to record your club's adoption of the CA Child Safeguarding Policy.

Feedback

- This is the first time Ron has given this presentation and he would welcome feedback. Please send your comments to Paul paulwfrancis@icloud.com or Linda lindawithani@hotmail.com

Coaching

- Roger urged everyone to look out for the email that will be arriving shortly which outlines the Coaching SW plans
- Bath, Budleigh and Camerton have signed up to be hub clubs - many thanks
- Clubs will also be receiving a link to a Zoom session for would-be coaches on 18th March: your club will receive details of this
- Brian urged people to attend this pointing out how much you can learn about your own play by becoming a coach

Leagues

- Stephen reported that everything is on schedule at the moment
 - 27 clubs have entered and will be fielding 111 teams
- Blocks are slightly smaller than usual so fewer matches will be played
 - Just as well as the playing season will be shorter than usual
- No B League this year but there is no reason why it should not resume next year
- Finals will be held over two weekends: 18/19th Sept and 25/26 Sept

Development

- Paul asked all clubs to complete the survey about Club Matters that was sent out by the CA on Paul's behalf
 - He plans a seminar for interested clubs in due course
 - Please note a Return to Play grant is available from Sport England
<https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/coronavirus/return-play>
 - You can check your chances by entering your postcode - but do apply anyway
 - Many Bowls clubs have already received these
- Active Partnerships exist across the country and incorporate an activity finder - you can get croquet listed there
 - There are Active Partnerships for Cornwall, Devon, Cornwall, SASP (parts of Somerset)
 - They are very helpful and will signpost you if they can't help

Future

- Our April session will be held on 13th April, and we are delighted that Jonathan Teye from the East Anglia Federation will be attending to give SWF clubs an insight on accessibility issues for members and visitors. Jonathan will explain what can be achieved in the short to long-term.
- Dave Kibble volunteered to run a Zoom session on the new AC Laws - date to be arranged and circulated



Policy Adoption Pro-forma

Child Safeguarding Policy

Name of Croquet Club

Date

Club logo

As a member of the Croquet Association, **name of club** Croquet Club accepts that the club Committee and its officers have lead responsibility in this area and has established checks and procedures to ensure the following are implemented:

- CA Child Safeguarding Policy: <https://www.croquet.org.uk/?p=ca/schemes/safeguarding>
- Safeguarding Codes of Conduct: <https://www.croquet.org.uk/?p=ca/schemes/safeguarding/conduct>
- Child Safeguarding Processes: <https://www.croquet.org.uk/?p=ca/schemes/safeguarding/processes>
- Child Safeguarding Guidelines: <https://www.croquet.org.uk/?p=ca/schemes/safeguarding/guidance>

The **name of club** Committee will ensure:

1. A Local Safeguarding Officer (LSO) is appointed and their details registered with the CA
2. All members of **name of club** are informed on joining, and annually thereafter, of their responsibilities:
 - a. Be aware of the need to safeguard children (i.e. those under 18 years)
 - b. Be good role models both in play and other croquet activities
 - c. Be aware of, and comply with, the CA Codes of Safeguarding Conduct
 - d. Know how to contact their Local Safeguarding Officer (LSO)
 - e. Report any safeguarding concerns they have to the LSO at the earliest opportunity
3. Those whose responsibilities will, or may, include Safeguarding responsibilities liaise with the LSO to ensure they are undertaken properly. These include:
 - a. Membership Secretary
 - b. Those with access to personal data
 - c. Coaches
 - d. Team Captains
 - e. Tournament and event organizers
4. Our adoption and implementation of this policy, and LSO contact details are available:
 - a. On our website
 - b. Clearly displayed posters on our premises
5. Implementation of this policy is monitored at each committee meeting and an annual report is presented to AGM.
6. This policy is reviewed at least every three years

This policy was adopted by the **Club Committee** on date

It will be reviewed date **in 3 years time**

Our Local Safeguarding Officer is:
Name and contact details

The CA Safeguarding Officer is:
Dr Ron Carter
dr.roncarter@gmail.com
079 732 393 19

This could be made a more attractive poster for the noticeboard by the addition of a suitable graphic. Advise keeping it fairly simple as people get fed up printing docs with lots of background colour.

Appendix 8 League Blocks Maps



