

Cygnet

South West Area Newsletter

Celebrating Croquet Across the Region

Issue 50: October 2024

Believe it or not, this is the 50th edition of Cygnet. Thanks to everyone who has helped keep it going – do keep those photos and articles coming in for the next 50 issues ... and beyond.

It may be the end of the season, but don't go to sleep for the winter – our AGM, monthly Zooms and more Cygnets. Stay awake!

This issue focuses on the successes of the season with reports from the League finals and the autumn Short Croquet Tournament.

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AGM

The deadline for nominations and proposals has now passed and details for all these will be circulated by 27th October - in good time for your committee to consider and prepare delegates to comment and vote.

At the same time, Full details of all the arrangements will be circulated so keep an eagle eye open for these. It's your Federation, so have your say.

Autumn SWF Zoom Schedule

These monthly sessions will take place on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.00pm and are scheduled to last 1 hour. They are a great opportunity to get a feel for what's happening across the region and to explore ideas. We usually create breakout rooms to allow more people to participate in the discussions and a summary is fed back to the full meeting. Notes are subsequently circulated so there is a record of the event.

Invitations are sent to club contacts a week or so in advance. All members are welcome to attend especially those with a particular interest in the topic. If you'd like to attend, do make sure your club contact knows this and sends you the link.

The first one has been held and notes circulated to all clubs. This is what's in store:

November 12 th NB Meeting extended to 90 minutes	Check in on the SWF AGM arrangements. Discuss Advantage GC v Extra Strokes GC
December 10 th	GC rules refresher Christmas quiz
January 7 th	New Year resolutions?? Tournament management for beginners.
February 11 th	Getting out there – fundraising and promotion
March 11 th	Handicapping- getting ready for the new season.

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

Obituary Roger Thorn 1937 – 2024

Roger was a coach at Exeter CC and died suddenly in August 2024.

His early years were spent in the Merchant Navy, in the Signals branch, prior to taking up his responsibilities in the family china shop in Exeter.

With a group of friends Roger played squash avidly and, when age forced him to relinquish this in the mid-1990s, he turned enthusiastically to Croquet joining the Exeter Club where he became a much valued and hard-working member.

During much of this time he was the club coach and only retired from that role recently. Despite having to give up playing because of arthritis, he continued to take a keen interest in the club and attend coaching sessions from time to time.

From the outset Roger played AC and was diligent in seeking to introduce new members to that code. With the increase in the popularity of GC Roger adapted his role accordingly but never ignored the interests of AC.

Initially Roger played in the SWF Leagues and latterly qualified as a Club Coach, a role to which devoted hours of his time and often would be found at the club four or five days a week. He was welcoming to new players and always patient and understanding with those of limited ability. He was an encouragement to all.

Roger was a man of compassion who took it upon himself, for a period of time, to bring an elderly member to the club and also a member confined to a wheelchair. Furthermore, when one of our senior members succumbed to dementia Roger would regularly visit her and, for as long as it was possible, involve her in the life of the club.

Small clubs like Exeter cannot survive without the likes of Roger Thorn. He is sorely missed.

League Reports

League	Advanced Division 1: Parkstone Trophy
Result	Bristol A
Report by	Dave Kibble

This year this prestigious trophy was contested for the 30th time. Bristol won it for the 20th time, beating Nailsea, who have won it on 3 previous occasions.

The weekend saw both our top AC teams playing at home against Nailsea's A team: our A Team on Saturday, and our B Team (which surprisingly beat our A team at the beginning of the season) on Sunday. Nailsea fielded their three best players on both days accompanied by another club member on each day.

At the start, all three teams could have won the league and the coveted Parkstone Trophy - Bristol B by winning their match on Sunday, Bristol A by beating Nailsea and Bristol B losing on Sunday, and Nailsea A by winning both matches well.

A good number of club members came to watch what were very interactive matches, helped by the lawns playing at a good fast pace.

Bristol A set down the gauntlet by winning 5-2 on Saturday, but Bristol B lost all six games that finished, and the seventh was saved by Richard Williamson winning by 2 on time despite his missing an after-time shot to feed his opponent a break opportunity. It just shows that at every level, there's something to learn!



Linda Shaw presents Nailsea (bottom of the League) team captain, Marcus Evans, with the wooden spoon. Geoff Hughes, Kriss Chambers and James Galpin smile bravely.

So, Bristol A were victorious and their captain, David Goacher, was presented with the Parkstone Trophy, making us the first club to win both the GC and AC division 1 level-play trophies. It's also interesting that the winning GC and AC squads are almost the same set of players.

Unfortunately, our B team's performance was not bad enough to get demoted to the second division, so we remain with two teams in division 1 and one in division 3 - a statistic that shows the considerable strength of our three-lawn club!



Bristol Team Captain, David Goacher holds the trophy, with all finalists Geoff Hughes (Nailsea), Kriss Chambers (Nailsea), Wayne Wiseman (Bristol), Marcus Evans (Nailsea), Richard Williamson (Bristol)

This is the situation for each of the Advanced divisions:

	Division 1	Division 2	Division 3
First	Bristol A	East Dorset	Bath
Second	Bristol B	Glamorgan	Bristol C
Relegated	Nailsea A	Sidmouth A	

League	Federation
Contenders	Garway v Bath
Venue	Bristol
Result	Bath 4:3
Report by	Linda Shaw

Every player deserved a medal by the end of this day. Torrential rain and unplayable conditions morphed into steady rain and squelchy courts in time for an only slightly late start – just as well really as part of the Garway team had been held up in stationary traffic for 45 minutes.

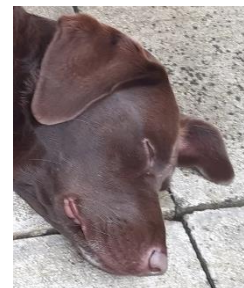


Wet weather montage

Martin Alabaster, David Prescott, Brent Watkins, Simon Collinson. Marian Watkins, unidentified, Neil Pinker

But croquet players are made of strong stuff and came through the day smiling and cheerful, thanks in no small part to Rachel's excellent chocolate brownies.

All the games were well fought and at lunch the score was 2:1 to Garway. All to play for. In the end the final score came down to who would win the final game – it was Bath winning 3 out of 4 of the afternoon's games so winning 4:3. Couldn't be much closer.



As you can see (right) the excitement was just too much for Oakley

For both teams this was their second final of the weekend, a particularly fine achievement for Garway who are playing League games for the first time this year. The late Brian Shorney gave them a lot of support as they became established and Sarah Hayes has provided a lot of coaching. Everybody's hard work paid off and in the words of the song – 'coming second best is close to ideal.'



Left: Linda Shaw presents the trophy to Bath captain, Neil Pinker.

Thanks to Martin Leach and Dave Kibble for their refereeing services.

Thanks are also due to Susan Bellew, Susan King and Eric Soakell, who, motivated by nothing more than love of the game, were at the club at 8.30 that morning, in full wet-weather gear, swishing, setting hoops and laying out the courts – truly above and beyond the call of duty.



*Sunshine and smiles at the end of the day
 Garway: Brent Watkins, Bryan Gidley, Simon Collinson, Mark Oldale , Sarah Hayes
 Bath: Neil Pinker, Philip de Glanville, David Prescott, Martin Alabaster*

League	Federation
Contenders	East Dorset v Garway
Venue	Taunton Deane
Result	East Dorset
Report by	Stephen Custance-Baker

Three Garway players competed against four East Dorset players at Taunton Deane on a day that started grey and damp with dire forecasts of downpours. The morning included some heavy showers, but East Dorset prevailed to move to a lead of 2-0 at lunchtime.



The weather gradually improved to give us a very pleasant sunny and warm afternoon. The first two singles after lunch went to Garway, and after about 2¾ hours the score in the third was 18-18 with all bisques gone, so the whole match was in the balance. Hugh Gallagher of East Dorset managed to gain the advantage and reached a score of 22 before time ran out, winning the game +4 and the match 3-2.

Left: Vince Kill of East Dorset receiving the trophy from Stephen Custance-Baker

*Below: L-R: East Dorset -John Freeman, Neil Cleverley, Hugh Gallagher, Vince Kill (capt).
 Garway - Bryan Gidley, Brent Watkins (capt), Ted Crossley*



League	B League
Result	Worcester Norton

The team came first in the Block with 5 wins, Weston super Mare and Bristol tying on 3 wins each and Bath bringing up the rear (unusual for them this year!) with 1 win.



L – R Brigid Amor, Sarah Clay, Jacqui Sprague, Chris Coleman, Chris Southworth, and team mascot, Molly celebrate their win.



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League	Short Croquet Open
Contenders	Nailsea v Bath
Venue	Nailsea
Result	Bath 13:3
Report by	Linda Shaw

Despite dire weather predictions of thunder and rain, conditions were calm and dry once the match got under way and by the final (as it emerged, superfluous) round, we were sweltering. Just as well it was dry as Nailsea are still making good the work undertaken installing a new irrigation system and the cardboard bridge saved many a slip in the morning.



The first round saw a 3:1 lead to Bath and this continued throughout the day. Lunchtime and Nailsea had scored only one more win. Still all to play for but it was going to be tough.

Referee Dave (Left) kept his eye on the game while polishing the silver!

Fortified by lunch in warm sunshine, Nailsea just couldn't get it together while Bath kept up its strong play and by the end of round three, it was clear who the winners were with Bath on 9:3 and going on to win all the final round games.

There were one or two close results in individual games but on the whole, Bath were the clear and worthy winners against last year's defenders.

Right: Linda presents Bath Captain David Prescott with the trophy and shield while Roger Hayes looks on.



All friends at the end: L – R:

Sue Burns (Nailsea), Lynne Passfield (Bath), Neil Pinker (Bath), David Prescott (Bath), Kathy Wallace (Nailsea), Brian Roynon (Nailsea), Roger Hayes (Bath), Paul Arbos, Nailsea



League	Short Croquet Restricted
Contenders	Bath v Camerton & Peasedown
Venue	Bath
Result	Bath 9:7
Report by	Paul Francis

Bath completed a bumper season with victory in Restricted League Short Croquet Final narrowly triumphing 9 - 7 over Camerton and Peasedown (C&P) in this season's restricted short croquet final.

The outcome of this local derby was in the balance until the very last game of the day. A win for C&P would have tied the match at 8-8 and with more hoops scored C&P would have triumphed. However the Bath captain, Philip de Glanville used all his experience to achieve a plus 3 win over David Milford.



Looks like the end of a chilly day! The teams huddle for warmth.

Three of the four rounds were evenly shared by the clubs but it was round 2 where Bath took three of the four games that determined the outcome. Bath's Tony Jackson was also a key factor with four out of four wins along with aforementioned de Glanville with three wins.

Both sides should be congratulated on their impeccable sporting behaviour throughout the day.

So the conclusion of an impressive season for Bath with an array of trophies:

- ✓ AC Advanced Div 2
- ✓ AC Federation
- ✓ SC Open
- ✓ SC Restricted
- ✓ GC Level Play

Paul Francis presents captain Philip de Glanville with the trophy



League	GC Level Premier
Contenders	Bristol v Taunton Deane
Venue	Taunton Deane
Result	Bristol: 3 wins and a draw
Report by	Stephen Custance-Baker

In the last match in the GC Level Play Premier block, Bristol drew with Taunton Deane, 10-10. Congratulations to Bristol who have therefore clinched the title with 3 wins and a draw.



The trophy was presented to the Bristol captain, David Goacher, by Stephen Custance-Baker, retiring League Secretary.

The GC Premier block is to be increased from 5 to 6 next year so the winners of the North and South blocks will be promoted and there will be one relegation.

*The victors: L – R:
Martin Murray, Dom Aarvold, David Goacher
(Captain), Dave Kibble, Richard Smith*

This is the situation for the GC Level Play

League overall:

	Premier	North	South
First	Bristol	Bath (promoted to Premier)	Dowlish Wake (promoted to Premier)
Second	Nailsea	Cheltenham	Exeter
Relegated	Camerton & Peasedown		

League	GC 5+ Level Play
Contenders	Swindon v Budleigh Salterton
Venue	Budleigh Salterton
Result	Swindon 11:9
Report by	Andru Blewett

A beautiful day greeted us for the GC 5+ level play final between Swindon the home team, and Budleigh Salterton the away team at their home club!

Due to a variety of reasons Budleigh were only able to field a team of four giving the potential for a long day, timed games were considered but the decision deferred until later in the day. Two rounds of doubles started us off with a win for each team in each round, even stevens as they say.

These were so hard fought it was approaching 1 o'clock before the next round of singles started - timed games in the offing? We'll see. Swindon pulled ahead in this round gaining a 5:3 advantage. I was impressed with the standard of play, and also that as referee I was regularly being called upon to observe those trickier shots. The fourth round and Budleigh clawed back to 6 all. The fifth round ending 8 all. Nail biting stuff!

And so to the final round with the prospects of a deciding doubles game being required. First game to Swindon, second game to Swindon on the golden hoop, could Budleigh pull it back? As the third game concluded a cheer went up, Swindon had done it. The last game to finish in which the Swindon captain was playing went to Budleigh, but when the news was relayed by their Chairman, emotions came to the surface. Captain Terry had come to Budleigh convinced his team was going to win, so much so that the bubbles were on ice back at the hotel!

I think this final epitomised everything you would want it to, good sportsmanship, high standards of play, played really competitively and with good humour and comradery. And the referee really enjoyed the day as well.

Congratulations to Swindon ending the match 11:9.

Referee and SWF Rep, Andru Blewett (L), presents the trophy to Swindon captain, Terry Clements



League	GC Handicap
Contenders	Cheltenham v Swanage
Venue	Swindon
Result	Cheltenham 11:9
Report by	Tony Mayer

Cheltenham prevailed in windy conditions to win the GC Handicap League Final.

Last year Swindon was due to host this event but was unable to do so because it lacked easy access due to the development work going on around the Club. Now it sits in pole position in the multi-million-pound Moredon Sports Hub and so could host this Final between Cheltenham (the 'home' team) and Swanage.

The day before, when the courts were being prepared was a glorious sunny and warm autumn day. But the day of the final dawned with overcast conditions and a strong and very cold north easterly gale blowing. In fact, the wind was so strong that 'casting' was often quite difficult. Amazingly, we even had three hardy spectators, sheltering from the gale! Everyone appreciated that the Swindon CC secretary, Wendy White, kept everyone refreshed with hot drinks throughout the day ending with tea and cakes for all.



All games were untimed and, except for one, finished around the hour mark, even when double-banked. As the captains had set up two or more rounds in advance it meant that new games started once players and lawns became free. In the case of the one slow game, both captains agreed to impose a 10-minute time limit and, even then, the game was timed out.

Tony Mayer (Chair SWF) presents the GC Handicap Shield to Naomi Whitehead, captain of Cheltenham

Cheltenham's handicaps ranged from 3 to 10 with Swanage spanning 2 to 6 so that, over the whole match Cheltenham had 31 extra strokes to Swanage's 9. Most games were hard fought and close, as one would expect in a Final with half the games finishing at 7 – 6 or 7-5.



The morning consisted of two rounds of two doubles and a double-banked singles with two rounds of double-banked singles completing the fixture (using all three courts) in the afternoon. Cheltenham took the lead following the first and second rounds and after the third round had reached 10 games won. However, in the final round Swanage fought back strongly so that there was a very tense finish with Cheltenham managing the one win to take the Shield by 11 to 9.

Swanage (in blue) on the left and Cheltenham on the right at the GC Handicap League Final

League	GC High Handicap
Contenders	Swanage v Llandaff
Venue	Camerton & Peasedown
Result	Swanage
Report by	Nigel Wolcko

After a very wet couple of weeks on the Mendips, the morning of Saturday 28th September was dry. Although there was a heavy dew, three lawns were deemed playable. All of the competitors had arrived in good time, and play was able to commence as planned at 10 o'clock. This final between Swanage and Llandaff was a repeat of the 2023 final, which had gone Llandaff's way, and although played in a friendly atmosphere, it was clear that the competition would be fiercely contested. And it would be intriguing to see how the handicap system would work out - the



average handicap of Swanage's six players was just under 9, while Llandaff's team had an average handicap of just over 11. By the end of the contest, the results sheet shows that Llandaff had had 50 extra strokes available, compared with Swanage's 5!

The first two rounds confirmed the competitiveness, and the score stood at 4-4. The third round continued in a similar way to give a score of 6-6. The captains had agreed to play untimed games, and the closeness of some of the games meant that there was no "lunch break" as such, to allow play to continue without unnecessary delays.

Nevertheless, the teams made a good start on the cakes provided by the host club. By the end of round 4, we had a team ahead, but only because there had been three games, so that the last round would be five singles games, and it was Llandaff who had the edge with the score standing at 8-7.



By the time the final five games got underway, summer had finally arrived, with fleeces and coats being discarded and suncream being applied. By this time, the captains were checking the league rules to see what would happen if the 20 games finished 10-10. This is exactly what happened, so we had one final doubles contest...

Llandaff captain David Palser and young Gareth Harris took to the lawn,

with Mike Wells and Virginia Claridge representing Swanage. Another close game ensued – we expected nothing less – and with neither team moving ahead by more than one hoop, we arrived at 4-4. Then Mike Wells ran hoop ten with a twenty-odd-yard effort, to take it to 6-4. Team-mate Virginia's nerves of steel ensured that her ball ran cleanly through hoop eleven, and we had a result.



OK, what shall we do now!

Croquet England AC and GC All England Competitions

Kington Langley had a finalist in both these competitions this year which is quite an achievement for the club. We have had many players in the AC final over the years but it is the first time since the club started entering the GC competition in 2017 that we have had a member win an Area Final and get through to the final.

The GC All England final was held at Guildford and Godalming over the weekend of 14th/15th September. Fiona Hancock took on the challenge having qualified at Bath. It was a gruelling two days, playing 7 games on the Saturday and 6 games on the Sunday. At the top it was very tight, and it came down to the last game. Fiona did extremely well in her first Croquet England competition.

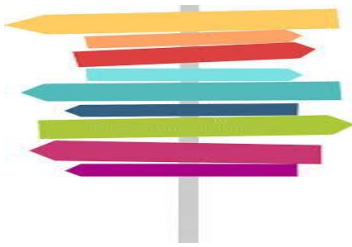
The AC All England final was held at Blewbury over the weekend of 21st/22nd September. The weather went from wet to hot and sunny on Saturday to heavy downpours on Sunday. Margaret Murray, who had won a place at an Area Final, won two of three games on the Saturday. On Sunday she won a further 2 games so giving her 4 wins out of 5 games. Two other players also had the same score which gave the Manager a maths problem as who won against who didn't work!! Eventually Margaret was given second place the winner being the only person who took a game off her!!

There was only one other SWF club, Glamorgan, represented at the AC Area Final. It would be nice to see more clubs from the SWF taking part in this competition

South West Federation October Short Croquet Tournament at Budleigh Salterton

Chris Donovan managed this event with his unique style and sense of occasion. He would be the first to acknowledge John Grimshaw's invaluable support in this. Chris writes:

The end of season short Croquet Tournament saw **Division 5 with a new Division 6** gathering on Friday 4th October. The weather was glorious, bright and sunny with a comfortable temperature. Perfect for croquet. Budleigh's supply of two thousand bisques just managed to accommodate the forty players who had prior planning permission from Rachel Reeves for the many 'bisque fences'.



Despite the short lawns being numbered, explained at the brief and a map on the noticeboard finding the right lawn seemed problematical for quite a few. Next year individual lawn guides will lead players to their respective lawns.

Nonetheless, the teams then behaved themselves to produce a clear runner-up and winner:

*Division 6 winners: Weston super Mare
l-r Jon Knowler, Jan Scotchmer, Doug Norfolk and Sue Norfolk.*



Division 5 saw the debut of Blewbury, Southern Federation. Joe King, long time player in Budleigh's tournaments, bemoaned the non-availability of such a fun tournament at season end in his federation and pleaded asked nicely for admission. John Grimshaw was persuaded and so permitted entry of the winning team with 11 wins. Bradford on Avon were runners-up on 9 wins. They fielded their novice, rapid improver player, Carl Brown, who won the individual tournament salver on Wednesday on HC6 but was not so fortunate on Friday with, now, HC4.



Welcome to visitors from Blewbury (their lawns are a delight) Brian Jamieson Minty Clinch, Joe King (capt) Andy Evason

Determination of the team to be relegated saw tie between Exeter B and Sidmouth Connaught on 6 wins apiece. However, Exeter B had had a bye in round 5 and their captain declared that he could not stay for a tie-break and, if the tie situation arose, he would accept uncontested relegation – it did – they were.

Division 4 also had an interesting situation at end of play. Camerton & Peasedown won 11 games and so took the winner's shield. However, Chris Williams [Glamorgan] was a guest player for Camerton & Peasedown with 4 wins which, deducted from the 11 gave net 7. The runners-up were Budleigh Salterton Mallets on 9 wins so they gained the promotion.



Camerton & Peasedown: Fran Ralli, Ann Munton, Simon Munton, and guest Chris Williams from Glamorgan

Division 3 by contrast provided a clear result. Budleigh Salterton Roquets won with 10 points beating East Dorset with 9 points. To the surprise of some Taunton Tiggers bounced to relegation with 6 wins.

By now the Budleigh Carnival was playing loud music and forming-up for the procession and the players knew they had to leave by 7pm at the latest or stay until whenever. So, with malice aforethought Bath Buns and Nailsea thought it would be a good idea to test the manager's temperament by playing an inordinately long Golden Hoop which would result in 6 wins each. This they achieved. Twilight was rapidly giving way to dusk, the ghastly music unabated. Nailsea hit the post 1 – Nil. All over after Bath Buns miss, miss and miss. Then 1 all. As midnight, it seemed, approached Nailsea went to 2 – 1 and won the sudden death shoot-out. Bath Buns deflated and relegated. **[Afternote: 24 hours later the manager was advised that with only 4 teams in Div 4 there was no relegation -as Punch used to say 'collapse of stout party']**



Sunday 6th October saw Dawn struggling to break through low cloud / fog and miserable, drenching rain – a 'soft Devon' day. Amazingly club members turned up to play roll-up games! Players played, the weather improved and the lawns remained playable. Post lunch play started and so did the rain. Some 40 minutes or so into the 3rd round, lawn 6 [Short Lawns 7 & 8] became unplayable. The manager conferred with John Grimshaw and in the next 15 minutes standing water gathered apace on all lawns. Tournament abandoned.



*Above: a stalwart spectator – photo: Dave Kibble Bristol CC
Right: Budleigh Lakes – photo: Bob Scott Bristol CC*



We now enter uncharted waters [H₂O H₂O] and deliberation on deciding winner and losers took place. The complex calculations are too difficult to explain here and the evidence was unfortunately water damaged beyond recovery immediately following the decisions. So it was that Division 2 Was won by the Bristol Boys and Sidmouth Fortfield relegated.

Eric Soakell, Bristol Boys, receives the trophy from Chris

Division 1 was won by the Kington Langley Aardvarks [the presence of John Grimshaw in the Aardvark Team is just a remarkable coincidence!]. Relegation was deemed to fit the Glamorgan team and so down they go.

Hardly had a second damp shield been handed over when the 40 wet and bedraggled players, full of joy and enthusiasm, determined to return next year charged for the exit.

Thanks to our Budleigh Salterton hosts and particularly the hoop setters who have come out in some dreadful weather to prepare for us.

John Grimshaw gleefully accepting first place for his team in Division 1



PS: Would the Division 3 holder/s of the missing black and yellow clips please return them to Budleigh.

Results at a glance:

Division	Winner	Points	Runner-up	Points
6	Weston super Mare	11	Kington Langley Coyotes	10
5	Blewbury	11	Bradford on Avon	9
4	Camerton & Peasedown	11	*Budleigh Salterton Mallets	9
3	Budleigh Salterton Roquets		Not stated	
2	Bristol Boys		Rain stopped play so these results were calculated on the basis of percentages	
1	Kington Langley Aardvarks			

- Budleigh Salterton Mallets were promoted following adjustment for guest player wins

Division	Relegated	Points	Comments
6	Budleigh Salterton Rushes	5	Actually the wooden spoon
5	Exert B	6	
4	None		Only 4 teams in the division
3	Taunton Tiggers		
2	Sidmouth Fortfield		
1	Glamorgan		

GC Doubles at Camerton & Peasedown

Tuesday, 17th September arrived with a sunny morning for the Open Doubles tournament at Camerton and Peasedown. This year, entries had been arranged via the CE web site

This was the 8th year of this prestigious tournament and it could be claimed to be an 'international event' – whilst most couples were from the South West, there were 2 players from Wales and another who represents Belgium!!

There were 32 players (16 couples) whose individual handicaps ranged from -3 to+ 12. Couples were allocated into 4 blocks of 4 couples, each with a mix of handicaps. It was 'all play all' and the quality of play was to a high standard, competitive and sporting. All evidenced by the number of matches that went to the 13th hoop or results of 7-5

We then moved onto the 'knockout' where the 1st and 2nd of each group played for the Trophy and everyone else had the opportunity to fight for the 'Plate". The standard of play seemed to improve as more matches were won by 1 or 2 hoops

The pressure increased with the 2 semi-finals being 'a very close thing' (one match was just won by 6-5 with couples whose handicaps of 3 and 6 just beat one of 7 and 12 – whilst the other saw a couple (handicap -3 and 4) just winning by 7-6 over their opponents (handicaps 6 -10)

The Final was between the "First Seeds", James Field (-3) and Caroline Denny(4) and the "15th Seeds", Robert Ware (7) and Mathew Parsons (12). This monumental match pitted experienced players (Caroline and James) against Robert and Matthew who have only been playing for 2 years, as they are members of one of the South West's newest clubs (Bradford on Avon). At the end of the allotted time Caroline and James won 6 -4

Meanwhile, during all this excitement, the Plate had continued through the afternoon. This series of matches ended with a Final where Steven Hares and Tony Mayer (Swindon) won 7-4 against and Jill Shaw and Jonathan Flatt (Camerton and Peasedown)



Winners, James Field & Caroline Denny receiving the Trophy from Fran Ralli, chair of CPCC and Mo Boys

The sun was still shining at the end of the day when the prizes were presented by Fran Ralli (CPCC Chair) who extolled the quality of play by everyone. The winners thanked Camerton and Peasedown for their welcome, the quality of the lawns, the organisation (with special thanks to the Tournament Organiser and Manager Mo Boys) - and everyone followed suit – a fitting tribute to a fantastic day's croquet. 'We look forward to seeing you all next year' said Mo.

Diary Dates



Zoom Tuesday 12th November – Advantage GC and AGM prep

SWF AGM Sunday 24th November

Zoom Tuesday 10th December – Xmas Quiz

Zoom Tuesday 7th January – Tournament Management

Zoom Tuesday 11th February – Fundraising and promotion

Zoom Tuesday 11th March - Handicapping

Useful Links

Croquet England	https://www.croquetengland.org.uk/
Croquet England Youtube channel	https://www.youtube.com/@CroquetEngland/streams
Croquet England on Facebook	Search for CroquetHub
Croquet England slo-mo videos	https://www.croquet.org.uk/?p=games/golf/refereeing/slomo
Oxford Croquet - coaching	http://www.oxfordcroquet.com/
Chris Clarke - coaching	https://clarkecroquet.com/
Reg Bamford – the psychology of the game	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qw_jiBpnCug
Hit Inn – Alison Maugham chats with characters from the croquet world.	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bf5gM-cswiQ
Canva – a free poster / flyer / logo design tool	https://www.canva.com/en_gb/

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

Do get in touch

We love your accounts of matches and tournaments you play in and of general club activities – a personal experience is always worth sharing and a photo can paint a thousand words – so don't forget us when you're doing something interesting.

Send them to: lindawithani@hotmail.com