

HELD ON MONDAY 4th November 2024

1	Apologies	
2	The Minutes of the meeting on 7 th October were approved.	Action
3	Matters arising I. The revised membership list is in hand and the handicaps should be updated.	
4	Committee Membership I. Committee contact details were confirmed. II. No other members have confirmed that they will join the committee, but there are still some possible recruits. III. Philip Harris is taking over leading the AC Handicap Committee and Kelvin Dent is joining. Thanks to Jane Babbage for her work in the role.	SD, MG
5	Feedback - I The section AGM was well attended, Rev. Roy Hubbard did an excellent job of presenting the trophies, members were very appreciative. The only issue was the club needs a better microphone. - II Draft AGM minutes will be circulated to members.	SD ED
6	Finance I. The various cash funds are in line with expectations at the end of the season.	
7	Forthcoming events I. Club sessions will continue with, subject to approval by Toby, a reversion to a start time of 10.00. II. Coffee and chat sessions have started and are running smoothly. III. The first board games session is set for 5th November, including refreshments. IV. 32 people have booked for the Christmas lunch. Crackers will be provided by the club if they are not being supplied by the hotel.	MG
8	Open Tournaments 2025 I The schedule of open tournaments to be submitted to CqE was agreed.	PN
9	Croquet Section Programme 2025 I. A draft programme for 2025 was agreed. II. Reminders will be sent out two weeks before one day tournaments inviting late entries. III. The internal tournament programme experienced the usual difficulties this year with low entries to some, late withdrawals and blocks not completed on time. It was agreed that there would be another attempt to run the low entry competitions, players who withdraw will have games ceded to the opponents, unplayed games to be recorded as 0:0, and reminders will be sent out prior to the closing dates for block completion.	SD RT

	IV. One lawn will be reserved on Friday afternoons for short croquet and AC coaching.	RT
10	SCTCC CIO EGM I. Members are to be encouraged to attend the main club EGM on Saturday 9 th November at 11.00.	All
11	SWF AGM I. Ed will attend as delegate. II. It was agreed that we will support proposals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 & 10. III. It was agreed that we will support proposal 7 on the order of play in Short Croquet Tournaments if it is applied to all rounds at the start of the tournament. If it requires a new draw for each round then we cannot support it. IV. It was agreed that we will abstain on proposal 9 on the introduction of Advantage play in GC matches. V. Volunteers for the AC Intermediate Team and Manager will be sought.	ED SD
12	CqE Return I. We have recorded 99 adult and 2 junior members.	
13	Committee Members I. The new cupboard has been fitted in hut 3. A fold away shelf will be fitted beside it. II. Upgraded Wi-Fi has been installed. The key is FieldNT8Fort III. A fund raising suggestion from Steve Pearson with square metre sponsorship for a court was noted and may be adopted if we have a capital project that needs funding.	RT

The date of the next two meetings will be Monday 2nd December and 6th January.

MINUTES OF THE CROQUET SECTION COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 2nd December 2024

Present: Sue Dent, Ed Dolphin, Marian Gadian, Peter Regan, Richard Thurlow. Philip Harris & Steve Pearson joined at 11.00

1	Apologies Peter Nelson	
2	The Minutes of the meeting on 4 th November were approved.	Action
3	Matters arising I The draft AGM minutes are yet to be circulated. II The revised membership list is awaiting distribution. III The Friday Short Croquet coaching sessions will be delayed until the spring. IV Motion 7 at the SWF AGM on Short Croquet Tournaments was withdrawn. V Following further discussions across the club, it was agreed that we would vote against Motion 9 GC Advantage play, but the motion was passed, from 2025 SWF GC handicap teams will play under the Advantage system. VI Neil Price will be invited to join the committee by co-option in January.	ED RT
4	South West Federation I. Following the decision on GC Advantage, it was agreed that we will enter two GC Level teams and one Advantage HC team in 2025. II. We are not able to run an AC Intermediate Team, but we will run a Federation team and two teams in the Advanced Leagues. III. It was agreed that internal GC competitions will be played under untimed Advantage rules with the proviso that managers of whole day competitions have the option to impose time limits if games are over running. IV. Previous members of GC teams will be invited to attend a training/practice day on Advantage. The use of bisques in the ground as score markers will be explored. V. The GC skills refresher morning on 3rd May will be followed by an afternoon of games played under Advantage rules open to all interested members. VI. Steven Custance-Baker will be invited to run his GC faults half-day. This will be followed by an afternoon of GC Advantage games open to all interested members.	SD
5	Feedback from the SCTCC special meeting and GMC I. The croquet section was well represented at the SGM with 42 members. The motion to set up the new organisation was approved. II. The GMC has negotiated a temporary contract for a bar manager, a permanent contract with a different provider is being progressed, but they have been unable to secure a catering contract.	

	III. The proposed resurfacing of the tennis courts is yet to be agreed pending a third quotation and the tennis section raising fifty percent of the cost. IV. There will be a joint meeting of the various sections' safeguarding officers arranged by Mike Goodman. V. A decision on subscription levels was deferred. VI. We have been asked for a long-term capital projects plan. This will be on the agenda for January.	MG ALL
6	Finance I The various cash funds are in line with expectations at the end of the season.	
7	Events I Participants have taken on responsibility for the coffee and chat sessions. II The second board games afternoon is due for Tuesday 3rd December. III There are 47 confirmed reservations for the Christmas Meal. It was agreed that social group seating can be arranged with other people taking pot luck on the day. Crackers are being provided.	MG
8	CqE Tournament bids for 2027 I It was confirmed that we will only accommodate one closed major tournament per year alternating GC and AC and that we will only bid for tournaments involving less than five days. II It was agreed that, subject to agreement from PN and in order of priority, we will bid for the AC All England HC Final 18th-19th September, the AC Selectors' Weekend 10th-12th September, or the AC Second 8 Chairman's Salver 9th-12th September 2027.	PN
9	Croquet Section Programme 2025 I The final programme will be circulated to members before Christmas.	SD
10	Gratuity I It was agreed that a gratuity will be given to Toby from section funds.	SD
11	Committee Members I Club sessions are working well, the addition of numbered key fobs for partnering is proving successful. The sessions will continue subject to any needs for lawn closure. II Some lawn preparation has been hampered by the weather and Toby being ill. We will continue the policy of only making polite enquiries on lawn progress. It will be confirmed that he is still receiving expert advice and support. III The 'private' signs will be put up at the start of next season.	ED PR

The date of the next two meetings will be Monday 6th January and 3rd February 2025.

MINUTES OF THE CROQUET SECTION COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 6th January 2025

Present: Sue Dent, Ed Dolphin, Marian Gadian, Peter Nelson, Neil Price, Peter Regan.

1	Apologies Richard Thurlow	Action
2	Neil Price was welcomed and co-opted onto the committee. Apart from a contribution to the general work of the committee, he will work with Richard Thurlow on internal tournaments, and help liaison between GC players.	
3	The Minutes of the meeting on 2 nd December were approved.	
4	Matters arising - I There has been no response to the draft AGM minutes circulated to members. - II The new membership list will be circulated soon. - III The bid for CqE high level tournaments has been sent and acknowledged. A decision will be made soon. - IV Steven Custance-Baker will run an afternoon session on GC Advantage on Monday 14th April. Payment of costs will be agreed at the next meeting. He may offer skills coaching in the morning.	
5	Feedback I The Christmas meal was a success. 47 people attended and there were many compliments about the organisation and the food. Some members thought the drinks were expensive. Thanks were expressed to Marian and Margaret for all their work. One guest was so impressed with the friendliness of the others she has agreed to join the club. The Belmont will be considered for next year's meal subject to progress on a catering contract for the club.	
6	Events - I The rota for the coffee and chat sessions is running. They will continue for as long as there is enough interest. - II The board games afternoon went well with 10 people enjoying the session. The next one will be on Tuesday 7th January. - III The quiz and afternoon tea will run on Thursday 13th March. Final arrangements will be discussed at the next meeting.	
7	Finance - I The SWF fees came to £116, they have been paid. - II We have received £2,321 from CqE for tournament lawn hire and entry fees. - III The social fund has a satisfactory balance to cover future needs. - IV The GMC will be setting the 2025 subscriptions, it was agreed that an increase will be necessary. - V It was agreed that we would not welcome a split club and section membership fee. - VI Alan reports ongoing difficulties with QuickBooks.	
8	Capital Expenditure	

	I It was agreed that the likely projects in the next 5 years will be the purchase of a set of new primary and secondary balls at approximately £1,000 and a set of hoops, stainless steel £650 or two sets of powder coated £700.	
9	GMC Update I Tennis section issues with the court surface and lights remain to be settled. II We have passed 50% of the Foundation Subscribers giving permission to transfer the grounds to the new CIO. III We have been asked to provide a section newsletter for 19th January.	SD
10	General Updates I It was agreed that the fee for two new members this late in the year will be £25. II The court surface continues to be a concern. It will be on the agenda for the GMC. III Discussion of the SWF GC Pyramid competition was deferred until the next meeting. IV GC roll ups are working well and popular in fine weather. AC roll ups are attracting very few players. V The water has been turned off in hut 3 for the rest of the winter. VI It was agreed that we will not be nominating anyone for Honorary Membership this year.	SD
11	Committee Members Matters/AOB I Marian is meeting with Mike Goodman concerning club wide safeguarding. II It was agreed that we can host either the SWF GC or AC Federation League Finals on the weekend of 27/28th September 2025. There is some confusion over our GC High Handicap Team which needs to be resolved with Richard Wood. III The possibility of a GC Pyramid competition as mentioned in the latest SWF Cygnet will be discussed at the next meeting.	ED

The date of the next two meetings will be Monday 3rd February and 3rd March 2025.

MINUTES OF THE CROQUET SECTION COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON TUESDAY 4th February 2025

Present: Sue Dent, Ed Dolphin, Marian Gadian, Peter Nelson, Neil Price,
Peter Regan, Richard Thurlow.

1	Apologies N/A	Action
2	The Minutes of the meeting on 6 th January were approved.	
3	Matters arising I The membership contact list has been updated. II Marian has met with Mike Goodman for discussions on safeguarding. III The confusion over GC teams has been corrected.	
4	Feedback I The coffee mornings are still thriving, members are happy that it has reverted to Hut 3. II Board game sessions are also going well. III It was noted that the coffee and games' sessions have brought forward more enthusiastic volunteers to help the club.	
5	Events I The kitchen will be available for the Quiz afternoon. Members will be asked to bring cakes, etc. II The date for the Spring Lunch will be reviewed at the next meeting to coincide with the full opening of the lawns. A buffet will be provided, local caterers will be approached, if none available then Waitrose will be used. The price for members will be set according to the cost with the possibility of subsidy from the Social Fund. III Taster sessions will be Saturday 5th & 12th April. 10 copies of Know The Game will be ordered. A GC focused introductory book will be sought. A promotional flag will be purchased from the section allocation. An article will be sent to the Sidmouth Herald. A flyer to be sent to the Tennis Section. IV A separate taster session will be arranged for U3A members in association with Amanda Haste. V GC players will be encouraged to enter local tournaments including the new D-level event at Budleigh.	MG MG NP SD RT SD SD
6	Internal Tournaments I It was agreed that the Elaine Woodward Salver, Devonian Cup and Fermor Bowl trophies will be delayed with a view to staging fresh competitions later in the season for inexperienced players. II Competition details will be sent out in early March. There will no charge for entry. III The Charity One Ball will be supporting Alzheimer's Society and the theme colour will be light blue. IV It was agreed that one lawn will be set as two short croquet courts during AC roll ups as an active scheme to promote AC among GC players and to develop high handicap AC players.	RT
7	GMC Update	

	I The GMC finance paper and fund-raising subcommittee reports, circulated previously were noted. II The Easy Fundraising scheme will be recommended for exploration. III The section capital expenditure plan was accepted, but to raise the cost of hut 3 replacement to £40,000. IV The recommended subscription rate of £210 was approved on condition there are comparable rates for other sections. V Attempts to secure a catering contract are ongoing. VI The club has received a generous bequest from the estate of Sheila Adams which will be divided among sections and the main club. VII CqE has agreed that their 2 votes can be cast in favour of transferring the ground to the new charity.	RT/NP SD
8	General updates I A series of miscommunications and misunderstandings over the GC Team Challenge has led to considerable upset among members. Those members will be approached personally to discuss the situation and it is hoped that a line can be drawn under these and lessons learned for next year. The club will continue to welcome the teams from other clubs. All of the entry fees have been transferred to the club account. II Taunton Deane has invited interest in a new Short Croquet event but no details are available yet. III Discussion of the GC Pyramid Competition was deferred to later in the year. IV The GC WhatsApp group is having some success in drawing members together.	SD, PN
9	Beginners' Coaching I Richard and Ed agreed to lead the coaching sessions which will start a week later than last year to allow more time for arrangements to meet demand. II The format will be similar to last year and focussed firmly on balls skills rather than either code of the game.	RT, ED
10	Sidmouth Youth Hub Project I It was agreed that we will be listed on the project and offer a taster session for juniors at a date agreed with Sidmouth College. II	ED
11	Committee Members Matters/AOB I. It was agreed that we will arrange a session for Exmouth walking group through Mike Franks. This will be charged at the usual rate of £5 per person. II. It was noted that the GC Tournament on 21/22nd June will use Quadway Hoops supplied by CqE.	SD

The dates of the next two meetings will be Thursday 27th February at 2pm and Monday 31st March 2025 at 10am.

MINUTES OF THE CROQUET SECTION COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY 27th February 2025

Present: Sue Dent, Ed Dolphin, Marian Gadian, Peter Nelson, Peter Regan, Richard Thurlow.

1	Apologies Neil Price	Action
2	The Minutes of the meeting on 4 th February were approved.	
3	Matters arising I It has been decided that the GC Team Challenge will run with the club's support and CqE tournaments will be reviewed as usual in the autumn. II A brief entry has been submitted to the Youth Activity Hub with contact details should there be any take up. For reference, the tennis section youth membership is £33.	
4	Feedback I The coffee mornings and board game sessions are still going well but will finish after the first week of March.	
5	Events I The kitchen will be available for the Quiz afternoon. Members have agreed to supply cakes, etc. The charge will be £2.50. Message out to membership. II The Spring Lunch will be Tuesday 25th March, catering by Kirsten from The Chatterry, we will provide tea and coffee. The price will be subsidised at £15. The bar will be open and staff paid from the social fund. Notice to go out to members. III Taster Sessions set for Saturdays 5th and 12th April. a. Richard will coordinate publicity. A club flag will be purchased for £181. b. Ed will arrange for social media posts. c. Volunteer helpers will be approached individually. d. If they do not come directly to hut 3, visitors will be greeted at the Pavilion and taken to lawns 2 & 3 by a volunteer for a twenty minute chat and play session. Anyone interested in joining will be taken back to the Pavilion to have details recorded and to receive information about introductory coaching. The coaching will be £15, paid on taster day or at start of coaching. e. Richard and Ed will meet to finalise the coaching. Whether or not to issue free copies of Introduction to Croquet will be decided later. Alternative materials will be explored, IV U3A taster session May 7th 2pm, being organised by Amanda, lawn 4 has been booked and will be set as half lawns.	MG PN MG RT ED SD RT, ED

6	General Updates - I The 2027 bid for CqE Championships was unsuccessful. - II Subject to the weather, all 4 lawns will open on 1st April but with winter rules continuing. Full play will begin 21st April. GC Saturday roll ups will start 7th June. - III The committee agreed to their contact details being available to members. - IV The committee acknowledged the introduction of the CqE Player Pathway but will wait to see the final version.	
7	- I GMC Update - II As of 11th February, we are a charity. - III The GMC has kept the 2025 subscription at £203 and it will rise to £210 in 2026, but a special general meeting has been called for because the tennis section are disputing the subscription setting process. - IV Two people are to be interviewed for the new post of bar steward. A contract for the provision of cricket match teas with occasional other catering provision is almost complete.	
8	New Season Documents I The format for the new season documents was agreed.	
9	GC Advantage - I The committee was briefed by Peter Regan on preparations for GC Advantage. Peter, Philip and Steve are arranging introductory sessions for SWF team members and other members. - II It was agreed to purchase 3 sets of extra clips. - III Target score display requirements are being investigated.	ED PR
10	Committee Members Matters/AOB - I AC roll up players have been alerted to the need to help new AC players to try short croquet. - II A hut 3 cleaning session has been set for 9.00 Thursday 20th March. - III It was decided not to pursue team shirts for SWF teams. - IV GC tournaments have attracted good entries while AC tournaments are struggling for entries. - V Thanks to Andrew, Peter and Peter were recorded for their efforts decorating the Pavilion. - VI Margaret Regan may take on the role of Secretary from autumn 2025, she will be supported by Ed	ED

The dates of the next two meetings will be Monday 31st March 2025 at 2pm and Monday 5th May, also at 2pm.

MINUTES OF THE CROQUET SECTION COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 31ST MARCH 2025

Present: Sue Dent, Ed Dolphin, Marian Gadian, Peter Nelson, Neil Price, Richard Thurlow.

1	Apologies Peter Regan	Action
2	The Minutes of the meeting on 27 th February were approved.	
3	Matters arising I We have a picture of Neil for the website. II The amended committee list will be circulated. III Andrew and Peter R. have completed more improvements to the Pavilion.	ED SD
4	Feedback I The Quiz and Afternoon Tea were a success. The prizes and cakes were appreciated greatly. It was agreed that more winter meetings should be planned in future. II The Spring Lunch was a success also for the 42 people who attended. The team from the Chatterry did an excellent job and the event made a positive impression on cricket section members.	
5	Events I Arrangements for the Taster Sessions are set for Saturdays 5th and 12th April. a. Publicity has gone out to various media, the flag has arrived and the banner is up, but it is dilapidated. b. It was agreed that a new banner will be needed next year. c. Final paperwork will be circulated. d. The CqE leaflets Play Croquet A Quick Guide will be distributed. e. Lawn 2 will be set as half lawns. II Arrangements for new member coaching are in place. Volunteer helpers will be approached when we know how many members have signed up. III The GC Faults Training is fully booked for 14th April. IV The Charity One Ball will be managed by Philip and Peter N. V Peter Nelson will present the trophy for the Haste Cup. VI The visiting Wimbledon Croquet Club team has 6 players. VII SWF matches have been timetabled. VIII The GC training on May 3rd is set. The GC team managers will be arranging extra training for their teams. IX Philip is liaising with the Handicap Committee to issue new HC cards.	RT ED RT PN

6	Booking requests - I It was agreed to accept the request for a group session from Mike Franks on Thursday 3rd July for a Walking Group., £5 per head, 2 lawns to be reviewed when numbers known. - II It was agreed that we would support a joint party to celebrate two members reaching 90. Arrangements will be made for cake and sparkling wine. - III We have been asked to promote member support for a VE Day celebration on the cricket outfield, Monday 5th May.	MG, SD
7	Internal Tournaments Entry levels are very mixed, some very well supported, others less so. Entries to GC competitions are lower than expected but that may be because at least 20 members have not renewed their subscription yet. Further reminders will be sent out.	RT
8	Finances - I We have 74 full and one country membership paid so far. - II The Section Cash Fund has sufficient resources to cover needs. - III The social fund has sufficient resources to cover the needs. A rota for providing milk, and managing the water, has been established. Members are to be encouraged to claim for the milk. - IV It was agreed to keep the travel expenses at last year's level, including double payment if Peter R. transports the whole team in one vehicle. - V The GMC will be reminded that Croquet Section members have donated over £450 in addition to their membership fees.	MG PN
9	GMC Matters - I Finding staff for the bar and a contractor for catering is an ongoing matter. - II There are positive signs that the various sections are working together more effectively. - III The parking permits have been restored and renewed. - IV It was agreed that we would support equality with the tennis section for membership fees in future years. - V The section has secured some sponsorship linked to advertising banners but local companies are not able to offer much support.	
10	Lawns The weather continues to hamper Toby's work on the lawns and the support he was receiving from Budleigh has stopped because of Richard's health. We are concerned that the verticutter is not being used. We will explore ways of supporting him more effectively through Andrew and Doug.	SD

11	Individual Committee Members and AOB I. The England/Spain match which we offered to host with Budleigh on 19/20th June 2026 continues to be under discussion. II. When CqE emails arrive marked for circulation, there should be a discussion with relevant committee members about the audience before being sent to the email manager. III. The key safe for hut 3 is showing signs of wear, Andrew will be asked to repair or replace it. IV. Weeds in the block paving will be cleared. V. Participation cards will not be needed for the upcoming year. VI. Concerns re the Club's water supply and climate change need to be kept in mind.	ED, SD PN RT
----	---	--

The date of the next meetings will be Monday 28th April and Monday 2nd June, both at 10.00.

MINUTES OF THE CROQUET SECTION COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 28TH APRIL 2025

Present: Sue Dent, Ed Dolphin, Marian Gadian, Peter Nelson, Neil Price,
Peter Reagan, Richard Thurlow.

1	Apologies	Action
2	The Minutes of the meeting on 31 st March were approved.	
3	Matters arising I The key safe has been fixed by Andrew. II The England Spain match has been allocated elsewhere. III Andrew and Peter were again thanked for their work on the Pavilion.	
4	Feedback I The taster days ran very well and we have 32 people signed up for coaching. It was agreed that we need a new banner for next year and that coaching dates are fixed well in advance to prevent clashes with events such as SWF matches. II The faults training course with Stephen Custance Baker was well received. It was agreed that future courses should have a feedback form available to participants. III The Charity One Ball raised £185 which rises to £222 with Gift Aid. Duncan Hasell was the winner and he will be taking part in the southern final. IV The Haste Cup was successful with several members watching the high quality play. Louise was keen to stress her thanks for all the preparatory work led by Andrew. It was agreed that we should have a record of the preparation work needed before tournaments to ensure that there was adequate help available.	
5	Events I All preparations are in place for the visit by the All England Club GC players from Wimbledon, they are bringing 7 players. II Philip will be running the GC skills and Advantage sessions, there has been a good response from members. III The U3A taster session will be on lawn 2 set to half lawns. IV As above, we need volunteers for the hoop setting prior to the GC Team Challenge. V The Medics are bringing a team of 10 for their visit on 15th May. VI We need to arrange for lawns 2, 3 & 4 need to be set for the Dorothy Toye short croquet. VII Expected take up for the introduction to AC event is unclear. VIII The tennis Bright Ideas event has been cancelled. IX The welcome for new members event will be Tuesday 20th May. Peter will ask Laura to run the bar. Marian will arrange drinks tickets. X The Canton 14 point HC will probably not run due to lack of support.	SD SD SD PN, MG RT PN

	XI Entries to AC Midsummer tournament are low, lawn bookings will be adjusted to match the need.	
6	Booking requests I The VE Day event Monday 5 th May will not affect the croquet lawns. II It was agreed that the East devon Ramblers will be asked to postpone their event until 4pm on Tuesday 22 nd July.	SD
7	GMC Update I The transfer of the site from the subscribers' descendants was successful with all of the 71% eligible voters contacted agreeing. The ownership will pass from the club to the new CIO by 1 st October. Thanks again to Roger Mills for his exceptional efforts. II Temporary arrangements for the bar are working well. III Temporary arrangements for catering are mixed and may impact on a permanent solution.	
8	Individual Committee Members and AOB I The Honours Boards have been moved with the implementation of the new Honours Book. II It was agreed that we will buy a new boiler urn. III It was agreed that we will try to arrange occasional teatime talks for the autumn and winter. IV The AC Open Tournaments are under-subscribed. V Membership stands at 98, but the signs from the new member coaching are positive.	MG MG

The date of the next meetings will be Mondays 2nd & 30th June, both at 10.00.

MINUTES OF THE CROQUET SECTION COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 2ND JUNE 2025

Present: Sue Dent, Marian Gadian, Peter Nelson, Neil Price, Peter Regan,

1	Apologies Ed Dolphin, Richard Thurlow	Action
2	The Minutes of the meeting on 28 th April were approved.	
3	Matters arising I Duncan Hasell was not available to attend the Charity One Ball southern final II A hoop setting rota has been displayed. Several volunteers have signed up. III The East Devon Ramblers have agreed to postpone their event to 4pm.	
4	Feedback I The Wimbledon Club visit was much enjoyed with the visitors delighted with their stay at The Royal Glen. A reciprocal match is likely for 2026. II The GC Skills event was well attended and much enjoyed; the skills competition on lawn 3 and skills coaching on lawn 4 with Sue L and Steve P was a good combination. III The U3A taster received only 4 attendees. None wanted to progress this further. IV The Medics visit was much enjoyed by 10 of our regular GC players. V The Introduction to AC for GC players had only one participant. VI The Welcome evening was well attended by the beginners. Their drinks of £66.95 were paid to the bar from PN's Cash Fund. Thanks were expressed to Peter N., Neil and Andrew for unexpectedly having to manage the bar. Future events requiring the bar need to be confirmed with the bar manager directly.	MG
5	Events I The AC Midsummer tournament has only 6 entries for the handicap event. It is unlikely to be offered next year. Chris D. to manage. Lawns 1 and 2 have been released for the GC roll-up. Care must be taken to ensure the GC players do not disturb the tournament. II The One Ball entries have been circulated. Richard T. to manage. III The Wine and Shared Buffet arrangements are in hand. For another year we must ensure this event is not on a date when cricket matches are taking place with the bar open. IV The Open Series tournament is understood to be fully subscribed. Louise Smith to manage. V The GC Internal Tournaments are expected to be managed by Peter R. Entries to be supplied by Richard T. VI The Skills afternoon was discussed. The GC event is likely to replicate the May arrangements run by Philip in which AC players should not compete. Consideration to be given to whether the AC	SD/PN RT MG RT/PR

	event is viable with so few AC players. A simplified version on one lawn to be considered which would be self-managed. a. Jackie Yeabsley to be approached regarding the provision of tea and cakes in the pavilion at 4pm for approximately 40 people at £3-5 /head.	PN SD
6	New Members I We anticipate 10-15 new members. Jon is updating the contact list for distribution. As soon as this information is available Philip will issue lawn booking pins and Marian will issue membership cards. II New members and others to be informed that lawns can only be booked for practice after 4pm. III Committee members to be alert to any comments about GC club sessions being too busy.	MG ED ALL
7	GC Coaching Offer I An offer from David Wise to run a one day training of AC skills for GC players to be declined.	MG
8	GMC Update I A notification from the SCTCC of the withdrawal of the request for a Special General Meeting has been circulated to croquet members. II The formal complaint by the tennis section has been addressed. III Examples of unacceptable behaviour were shared with the committee at the request of the SCTCC.	
9	Individual Committee Members and AOB I Marian reported the Social Fund to have a balance of £31.90 II Following the meeting Peter N. supplied a statement of the Cash Fund which took account of the New Members drinks and purchase of a replacement urn III Peter R. reported that the exit door from the men's toilets had on occasion been left open overnight. Simon Bowler to be informed. A notice 'Fire Exit Only' was suggested. IV We have heard that David Clarke, a prominent former member, had died. Jon to send out a notice. V Peter R. reported that an enjoyable SWFed GC league match had been held at Dowlish Wake. No reciprocal match is scheduled for this year. They have suggested visiting Sidmouth for a friendly. Given that the committee was averse to hosting the East Devon Ramblers on the lawns in daytime - for consistency it is suggested that Dowlish Wake could be invited in September or October when competitive games are over.	SD SD PR

The date of the next meetings is to be confirmed

SD

MINUTES OF THE CROQUET SECTION COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 14TH JULY 2025

Present: Sue Dent, Ed Dolphin, Peter Nelson, Peter Regan.

1	Apologies Marian Gadian, Neil Price, Richard Thurlow	Action
2	The Minutes of the meeting on 2 nd June were approved.	
3	Matters arising I The new tea urn and ball markers have been purchased. II Members have been reminded that lawns should not be booked for practice before 4pm but an unbooked lawn can be used after the booking slot has begun.	
4	Feedback I The various competitions since the last meeting ran successfully. The AC Open Mid-summer Tournament will be reviewed next year because of declining entries. II The Wine and Buffet event was very successful with 58 participants. It would have been better if more substantial food items had been donated, the possibility of supplied catering could be considered next year. III The Skills afternoon was also very successful, the catering was excellent but with 50 attending, the pavilion almost overwhelmed. The imbalance between AC and GC needs to be addressed, one suggestion was that the GC skills precede a lunchtime food break to be followed by the AC skills.	PN
5	Forthcoming Events I AC HC Doubles tournament has been cancelled. II The CqE B level advanced AC has only 10 entries, it will be revised to two days next year. Lawn 1 has been allocated for practice on the Thursday afternoon. Peter Nelson to manage. III The CqE GC B & C Level weekend 9-10th Aug needs to be checked with Philip. IV The GC I ternal tournaments weekend 14-15th Aug is in hand. V The Section General Meeting will be 4pm in the week beginning 22nd September when availability of the pavilion and Marian is confirmed. Peter Nelson could make the bar available. VI Arrangements for the President's Cup were discussed. CqE are in charge, they might arrange live TV coverage. Financial arrangements to be checked as to whether the lawns should be cut every day. Peter Nelson to host. VII GC Seagull arrangements to be checked. Participation should be open to all members.	ED SD RT PN PN SD
6	New Members I Thanks to Cilla and Margaret for the series of friendly games that has concluded very successfully with several inexperienced players joining their first competitions.	

	II It was agreed that the schedule of membership fee for people joining mid-season will be 60% for starting July-September, 40% for October-December, and 25% for January-March. III A format for an informal competition for new members will be explored.	SD
7	Lawns I Following the receipt of a formal complaint from a member, a meeting of relevant club officers has reviewed the lawn regime. Changes to the irrigation have been put in place and other treatments are being followed up.	
8	CqE AC Project I The CqE attempts to promote interest in AC had some useful suggestions but we have all of them in place already.	
9	Finance I The Cash and Social Funds are all in a healthy balance.	
10	GMC Update I The Ladies' Lunch was a great success and was followed by a group of non-croquet players having an impromptu trial. Four ladies have expressed interest in joining. II The disappearance of two parking permits is being dealt with. III Thanks were expressed to Andrew and Peter Regan for work undertaken to increase security of the groundsman's equipment stores. IV The GMC is to be asked to purchase an upgraded microphone.	SD
11	Winter Speakers I It was agreed that the subject of a programme of winter speakers will be discussed at the General Meeting in September.	SD, MG
12	Individual Committee Members and AOB I Inexperienced players in the GC teams are enjoying the experience. II The AC Federation team is struggling to field teams. The possibility of proposing a change to the SWF League structure will be considered. III It was agreed that we will try to arrange a Christmas meal for 40 places at the Belmont on Tuesday 9th December. IV Thanks were recorded for Pam who is standing down a GC roll-up host. A peg system for allocating pairs and lawns will be trialed. V Players will be asked to ensure that pre-arranged matches do not take up all the lawns during AC roll-ups and that there are sufficient players available to join the roll-up session. VI Supplying club polo shirts will be discussed at the general meeting in September. VII John Dixon to be invited to present the trophies at the AGM.	ED MG, SD PR SD SD SD

The date of the next meeting will be Monday 1st September at 10.00.

MINUTES OF THE CROQUET SECTION COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER 2025

Present: Sue Dent, Ed Dolphin, Peter Nelson, Philip Harris.

1	Apologies Marian Gadian, Neil Price, Peter Regan, Richard Thurlow	Action
2	The Minutes of the meeting on 14 th July were approved.	
3	Matters arising I. The Ladies' Lunch has not resulted in any new members joining. II. The Christmas meal has been booked provisionally for 40 places with an option up to 50. A deposit needs to be paid to secure the booking. III. John Dixon is delighted to have been asked to present the trophies at the AGM.	SD, MG
4	Feedback III The AC HC Doubles event was cancelled because of insufficient entries. IV The CqE B Level advanced AC tournament was successful. V The CqE B and C Level GC weekend experienced some difficulties because several competitors were unaware of procedures and protocols, but we managed to get to the end. VI The club GC Doubles events ran smoothly, particular thanks to Peter Regan for dealing with the administration of the HC Advantage Day.	
5	Forthcoming Events II. Preparations for the GC Seagull against Budleigh are in hand. III. The President's Cup preparations are in hand. IV. Preparations for the AC Seagull are in hand. V. Members are to be informed that lawns 3 & 4 will be closed for maintenance from 15th September. VI. The club sessions and booked lawns will switch to winter rules at the end of October. VII. A draft agenda for the Croquet Section Open meeting on 2nd October will be circulated to the committee.	SD, ED
6	Open Tournaments 2026 I. It was agreed that we will offer to host the GC Open Haste Cup in April, GC Team Challenge in May, GC C-level and GC B-level tournaments in August 2026. II. It was agreed that we will offer to host the CqE AC Midsummer Tournament in June 2026 but reduced to a 3 day Class event and stand down the HC event. III. It was agreed that we will offer to host the CqE AC B-level Advanced Tournament in July 2026.	PN

	IV. We are scheduled to host the CqE GC First Eight event at the end of August 2026. Dates to be clarified. V. For 2026 we do not intend to host the GC A-level (0+) tournament in May nor the GC Open Series tournament in June. Louise Smith to be contacted on these decisions.	PN
7	SWF leagues VIII GC Advantage for SWF league and internal tournament matches will be discussed at the Open Meeting in October.	
8	Golf Croquet II It has been proposed that two lawns are set aside on Tuesday afternoons in 2026 for GC players who are willing to play in team matches to play competitive full 13 point games. The proposal will be put to the Open Meeting in October. III Arrangements for team selection for the GC Seagull are under review.	
9	Late season membership I. Experienced players wishing to join late in the season will be advised that restrictions on play might make it poor value for money. II. Inexperienced players will be advised that there will be no opportunity for coaching and they will be better delaying joining until the new member sessions in the spring. III. There was a reminder that the agreed reduced membership fee for joining in September is 60% or £125, for October to December it is 40% or £80, for January to March it is 25% or £50.	ED ED
10	Committee and other Posts 2026 I. There are several committee members who are willing to continue, possibly taking on new roles. We have not yet secured a Chair nor a Membership Secretary. II. It was agreed that it would be a good idea to enlarge the committee to include a small number of people with no specific responsibility identified to allow them to 'learn the ropes'.	
11	Finance I. The section's various funds have healthy balances in hand.	
12	Croquet Section Open meeting I. The meeting is confirmed for Thursday 2nd October at 4pm. The bar will be open. II. A full agenda will be circulated prior to the meeting. Speakers for each point will be agreed nearer the day.	PN ED
	Croquet Section AGM I. The meeting is confirmed for Tuesday 14th October at 6pm. II. Arrangements for election of a new committee will follow the procedures set down in the club and section rules. III. Arrangements for the trophies are in hand.	ED RT

	IV. Arrangements for a meal are still being developed.	MG
	Individual members' matters and AOB I. 5 bottles of wine have been passed across to Sue for safe keeping and may be used as future prizes. II. Jon Ball will be away when meeting papers will need to be distributed. Arrangements are in place to ensure no disruption. III. Sue will be away for much of September.	SD ED

The date of the next meeting will be Monday 6th October at 10.00.

Sidmouth Croquet Section Open Meeting 2nd October 2025 – A summary of the discussion.

More than 40 of the 124 members attended the meeting.

1. For the winter season we are not accepting any requests for winter only membership nor enquiries from inexperienced people wanting a taster session.
2. In response to increased pressure on lawn bookings, members were told that there will be fewer open tournaments in 2026, releasing lawns for approximately 7 more days.
3. In response to requests for more full game GC opportunities, lawns will be reserved in 2026 for team members roll up sessions when no tournaments are taking place where full games can be played and coaching would be available if requested.
4. All members will be canvassed at the start of the season to see if they wish to play for any of the teams in SWF leagues.
5. New GC handicap cards with more space will be produced, but members are reminded they should use the appropriate card rather than modifying the first one they can find in hut 3.
6. A list of experienced GC players will be authorised to check and sign handicap cards when players pass a trigger point. Members will be made aware of the list of people who will be able to do this. Players should play off their revised handicap as at the end of the day even if their card has not been signed off.
7. There was discussion about whether the historical handicaps will be listed against the names on the membership list for people who no longer play in competitions. The membership secretary will investigate further.
8. At the SWFed AGM our club will need to vote as to whether we wish to continue playing handicap games under GC Advantage rules or revert to GC Extra Strokes. Further views will be sought.
9. Members would welcome a regular section newsletter. Richard Thurlow has offered to do this and take on a publicity role.
10. Family Croquet days were suggested. This would need considerable organisation and equipment and some concerns were expressed. The suggestion is noted. If it were to be considered further a working party is likely to be set up.
11. There was discussion as to whether members choose to sign up to internal competitions in hard copy or electronically. Details will be available at the start of next season from the new internal tournament organiser.
12. Members were reminded that we have several excellent coaches in the club, a list is in hut 3. If a member wants coaching, then please ask.
13. Taster sessions for short croquet will be organised in the Spring. This is a version of AC which uses half lawns, fewer hoops are run and it takes less time.
14. There are several one off and regular social activities pending.
 - a. Details of the Christmas meal on 9th December will be circulated soon.
 - b. Peter Regan will be giving the first in a series of talks on Tuesday 11th November 2pm-3pm. Members are invited to offer other talks through the Winter.
 - c. Pam and Julie will run Canasta sessions open to the wider Club members on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month.
 - d. Board games sessions will run once a month starting on Tuesday 28th October from 2pm to 4pm, details to follow.
 - e. Sessions of rubber bridge are run on Fridays from 1.30 organised by Ian Palmer, a social member, for the full Club. These are playing sessions not

teaching sessions, participants will need to know the rules. It would be helpful if people could join in pairs; singletons can be paired up at the start of the season.

Ideas for other social events are welcome.

15. A suggestion was received and supported for a GC ladder competition. Richard Abrahams to take this forward.
16. Margaret Regan reminded members that there is a Whatsapp group for finding GC playing partners, speak to her if you would like to join.
17. When members are looking to buy their first mallet, Andrew Thomas may have some renovated mallets, Roger Mills is happy to advise people on the measurements that will suit you.
18. There was little support for:
 - a. the wearing of name badges
 - b. club logo clothing
 - c. coffee 'n chat sessions over the winter
 - d. having one lawn set aside at GC club sessions for Low Handicap players
19. Members are invited to join the committee. Nominations are now closed but anyone interested would be invited to attend some meetings, and later be co-opted onto the committee with a view to taking on a specific role. Please see Ed or Peter Nelson if interested. We will need a new chair this time next year at the latest...or sooner if someone is available.

Ed Dolphin
October 2025

6 Oct 25 to come

Sidmouth Croquet Section Open Meeting 2nd October 2025 – A summary of the discussion.

More than 40 of the 124 members attended the meeting.

19. For the winter season we are not accepting any requests for winter only membership nor enquiries from inexperienced people wanting a taster session.
20. In response to increased pressure on lawn bookings, members were told that there will be fewer open tournaments in 2026, releasing lawns for approximately 7 more days.
21. In response to requests for more full game GC opportunities, lawns will be reserved in 2026 for team members roll up sessions when no tournaments are taking place where full games can be played and coaching would be available if requested.
22. All members will be canvassed at the start of the season to see if they wish to play for any of the teams in SWF leagues.
23. New GC handicap cards with more space will be produced, but members are reminded they should use the appropriate card rather than modifying the first one they can find in hut 3.
24. A list of experienced GC players will be authorised to check and sign handicap cards when players pass a trigger point. Members will be made aware of the list of people who will be able to do this. Players should play off their revised handicap as at the end of the day even if their card has not been signed off.
25. There was discussion about whether the historical handicaps will be listed against the names on the membership list for people who no longer play in competitions. The membership secretary will investigate further.
26. At the SWFed AGM our club will need to vote as to whether we wish to continue playing handicap games under GC Advantage rules or revert to GC Extra Strokes. Further views will be sought.
27. Members would welcome a regular section newsletter. Richard Thurlow has offered to do this and take on a publicity role.
28. Family Croquet days were suggested. This would need considerable organisation and equipment and some concerns were expressed. The suggestion is noted. If it were to be considered further a working party is likely to be set up.
29. There was discussion as to whether members choose to sign up to internal competitions in hard copy or electronically. Details will be available at the start of next season from the new internal tournament organiser.
30. Members were reminded that we have several excellent coaches in the club, a list is in hut 3. If a member wants coaching, then please ask.
31. Taster sessions for short croquet will be organised in the Spring. This is a version of AC which uses half lawns, fewer hoops are run and it takes less time.
32. There are several one off and regular social activities pending.
 - a. Details of the Christmas meal on 9th December will be circulated soon.
 - b. Peter Regan will be giving the first in a series of talks on Tuesday 11th November 2pm-3pm. Members are invited to offer other talks through the Winter.
 - c. Pam and Julie will run Canasta sessions open to the wider Club members on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month.
 - d. Board games sessions will run once a month starting on Tuesday 28th October from 2pm to 4pm, details to follow.

- e. Sessions of rubber bridge are run on Fridays from 1.30 organised by Ian Palmer, a social member, for the full Club. These are playing sessions not teaching sessions, participants will need to know the rules. It would be helpful if people could join in pairs; singletons can be paired up at the start of the season.

Ideas for other social events are welcome.

- 33. A suggestion was received and supported for a GC ladder competition. Richard Abrahams to take this forward.
- 34. Margaret Regan reminded members that there is a Whatsapp group for finding GC playing partners, speak to her if you would like to join.
- 35. When members are looking to buy their first mallet, Andrew Thomas may have some renovated mallets, Roger Mills is happy to advise people on the measurements that will suit you.
- 36. There was little support for:
 - a. the wearing of name badges
 - b. club logo clothing
 - c. coffee 'n chat sessions over the winter
 - d. having one lawn set aside at GC club sessions for Low Handicap players
- 19. Members are invited to join the committee. Nominations are now closed but anyone interested would be invited to attend some meetings, and later be co-opted onto the committee with a view to taking on a specific role. Please see Ed or Peter Nelson if interested. We will need a new chair this time next year at the latest...or sooner if someone is available.

Ed Dolphin
October 2025

MINUTES OF THE CROQUET SECTION COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 6TH OCTOBER 2025

Present: Sue Dent, Marian Gadian, Peter Nelson, Neil Price, Peter Regan,
Richard Thurlow

1	Apologies: Ed Dolphin In Attendance Margaret Regan	Action
2	The Minutes of the meeting on 1 st September were approved.	
3	Matters arising I. The proposals for dropping some GC Open Tournaments were discussed with Louise Smith and in consequence amended to: - drop the GC A-Level (0+) Tournament in May - drop the GC C-Level series in August - retain the GC Open Series for 2026 with a date change to 4th and 5th July. This tournament to be reconsidered for 2027. II. Future GC Seagull events are likely to be managed by Sue Lightbody.	ALL
4	Feedback The Open Meeting was attended by over 40 members. Consideration can be given to holding future meetings in the dining area. A better understanding of the microphone equipment is needed.	PN
5	Forthcoming Events A deposit of £400 has been paid to the Belmont for the Christmas lunch. A menu suitable for circulation has been requested.	
6	Finance I The Main Account. Alan Gadian has provided details up to the end of September 2025. Details to be extracted for the AGM. II The Croquet Cash Fund. Peter Nelson provided a current report which has a healthy balance, mainly held in the bank. III The Social Fund. Marian identified a surplus of £90. An account to be provided. IV Petty Cash. Sue provided a statement of the season's petty cash used for SWFed travel expenses identifying £212 spend against a budget of £379. There is a nil balance.	
7	Issues arising from the Open Meeting I. All points in the listing supplied by Ed were discussed and some amendments made. II. A report of the Open Meeting to be drawn up and distributed.	SD
8	GMC Update IX When the charitable status of the SCTCC is operational, one trustee will provide oversight to each playing section and will be able to attend	

	their committee meetings. It is anticipated this is to ensure the values of the Club are upheld such as -respect/participation/inclusivity. X With Guy's summer contract having finished, the need was identified to ensure necessary work is carried out on the croquet lawns. The GMC has asked the croquet section to devise and agree a specification for the groundsman, to be discussed and agreed with him and the Grounds Chairman. This would feed into the groundsman's appraisal.	PN
9	The SW Fed proposals for their AGM I Ed's intention to support Jonathan Powe's proposals for constitutional change was supported. II Re GC Advantage v GC Extra Strokes it was considered that views expressed at the Open meeting were very mixed. Members who play in our SWFed handicap league teams to be asked their views with Ed to vote accordingly. If views were evenly split Ed is asked to abstain.	ED
10	The Croquet Section AGM I. Committee members to supply their reports to Sue by Thursday 9th. II. Committee requested to attend by 5.30 to arrange seating. III. Laura to be asked for her staff to open the bar from 5.30pm to 8pm. IV. Trophies are in hand. V. Margaret Regan and Sue Lightbody to be hostesses for the meal to be served promptly at 7pm. VI. Marian reported that 39 have booked for the meal; all but 2 have paid. VII. Emma, the caterer, to be paid the remainder of what is due on the night. VIII. Gratuities to be collected and passed across.	PN/PR MG/RT ALL PN MR MR
11	Committee Roles and Responsibilities I. Although no expressions of interest to join the committee have been received, April is interested in the Membership Secretary role but outside the committee and is meeting Jon and Philip to discuss this. John Howton has offered his help as have Richard and Steph Abrahams. II. If members come forward later it is suggested they be invited to attend several meetings, then, if still interested, are co-opted onto the committee at that stage. III. Richard Thurlow has offered to do publicity and the newsletter. He is available to attend the committee as required.	PN
12.	Individual members' matters and AOB I. Marian is concerned that lawns are not being swished and the divots not repaired in a timely fashion. These matters will be included in the Winter Rules update and training given, possibly at the start of a GC Club session. II. Peter Regan wants players to be aware that information on mallets is on the SWFed website	SD ED/AT PR

	III. Richard Thurlow has offered to manage the Charity One Ball competition.	RT
	IV. Richard Thurlow suggested Hut 3 renovation and cleaning to be planned for March.	RT
	V. Peter Nelson recommends Hut 3 is fitted with new doors and windows. Funding to be sought for the SCTCC	PN
	VI. Richard has proposed that tournament entries are made via an updated website. The proposal is noted. The incoming Internal Tournament Organiser to consider how he wants to manage tournament entries for 2026.	NP
	VII. Sue stated that she had done the Club Coach training last year but needed to lead 4 practical sessions if she were to receive this qualification. It was agreed that SC coaching can be held in the Autumn using lawn 2 as half lawns. Sue will approach GC players to see if they are interested.	SD
13.	Thanks Thanks were expressed to the outgoing committee for all their hard work and commitment over the last 12 months.	
14.	Dates of Future Meetings With GC players now on the committee an alternative day might suit them better for committee meetings. Tuesdays were suggested.	PN

The date of the next meeting will be Tuesday 4th November at 10.00.

Venue to be notified.

Sidmouth Cricket, Tennis and Croquet Club

Croquet Section

Minutes of the AGM held in the Pavilion at 6pm, Tuesday 14th October 2025

1. The Chairman welcomed 53 members to the meeting.
2. A minute's silence was held in remembrance of David Baldock, Michael Cunliffe and Margaret Piper who have died during the year.
3. Apologies were received from; Colin and Debra Lewin, Jane Babbage, Richard Williamson, Steve Pearson, David Scrace, Roy Hubbard, John Garner, and Marian and Alan Gadian.
4. The draft 2024 minutes were accepted unanimously.
5. The Chair's and Committee Reports were delivered, see attached. There were no comments nor questions on the reports. Thanks were extended to those serving the Main Club (the SCTCC), our own Croquet Section committee and those who have roles outside the committee making such a valuable contribution.
6. It was proposed that the committee: Peter Nelson (Chair), Margaret Regan (Secretary), Ed Dolphin, Marian Gadian, Neil Price and Peter Regan, was re-elected en-bloc. This was passed unanimously. An appeal was made for more members to consider stepping forward to learn about the work of the committee ready to stand in future.
7. As one of the longest serving members of the club and a stalwart for so many years from being chair, to organizing competitions, and particularly his contribution to coaching from new members to many of our current top players, John Dixon was invited to present the trophies.
8. There was a vote of thanks for John and he responded with typical generosity for all the things that being a member had given him. There was a vote of thanks and a presentation for Sue Dent's contribution as chair of the section and to Ed Dolphin for his work as secretary.
9. Details of the Christmas dinner and other upcoming social events were reported.
10. There was no other business and the meeting closed at 6.55pm.

Sidmouth Croquet Section

Chair's Report for the Croquet Section AGM – October 2025

I would like to start by updating you on the issues relating to the SCTCC (the Sidmouth Cricket, Tennis, and Croquet Club) of which we are a part. I refer to this as the Main Club.

Charitable status has been granted and the subscribers have approved the transfer of the ownership of the ground from the Grounds Trust to the new charity with the formal transfer scheduled for December 1st. This will give us security going forwards. Roger Mills has worked tirelessly on this project which was recognized by awarding him Honorary Life Membership by the Main Club at their AGM last month.

The Croquet Section has for years been well regarded and has contributed a lot of expertise to the running of the Main Club. Some of our members will recall Tony Dustan-Smith and David Temple with their important work in installing a water tank, a bore hole and a sprinkler system as well as having all the lawns reseeded. The involvement of Croquet players with the Main Club continues. Peter Nelson is President, Stuart Haydon is Honorary Secretary and Simon Bowler has just stood down as House Chairman after more than 4 years though is still available to assist. Simon's contribution was recently recognized with the award of Volunteer of the Year. Being House Chairman involves acquiring quotes for such things as thatching and security but also engaging contractors where there are gas or electricity issues or water leakage such as occurred recently above lawn 2. We are pleased that the post vacated by Simon has now been filled by David Taylor, one of our new croquet members. Offers of support have been received from Peter Regan and Steph Abrahams. Thank you to them all.

But what most of us enjoy, and for which we joined the croquet section is playing croquet and we have a whole range of playing opportunities to suit all standards.

Our season got off to a good start with two taster days followed by coaching sessions from which we gained 24 new members, bringing our total to 124, an increase of 13 over the previous year.

Club sessions are popular, especially amongst the Golf Croquet (GC) players who have to wait their turn to go on the courts. For beginners, friendly games have been arranged against Budleigh and Exeter to give them their first taste of competitive play. League matches for GC and AC, both level play and handicap games, have been played across the South West, from Poole to St Agnes and up to Bristol and beyond. Our thanks to all who have managed those tournaments.

Internal Tournaments have been popular with players likely to know their opponents. For those wanting a higher standard of play, Open Tournaments are held here for players across the country which our players can sign up for. The culmination of our season was hosting The President's Cup – an AC Tournament to which the top 8 national players are invited by Croquet England.

Our whole year has benefitted from the beautiful weather so matches could take place as scheduled – a rare event. We are also very grateful to our volunteers and Andrew Thomas in particular for working alongside the groundstaff to prepare lawns and set hoops – we will need more hoop setters next year please.

Club sessions continue over the winter and lawns can be booked for friendly games although everything is weather dependent.

Finance Report for the Croquet Section AGM – October 2025

This report provides financial statement for the period 03/09/24 to 27/09/2025. There were initially problems with the operation of "quickbooks" for all the CTCC accounts and thus there may be missing transactions for the early months.

Period 1 .. 13th September 2024 to 21st March 2025

Membership fees.	£85.00
Visitor fees.	£289.00
Tournament fees.	£3297.00
Total:	£4851.50
Payment to Croquet England.	-£1742.50

Period 2 .. 21st March 2025 to 25th September 2025

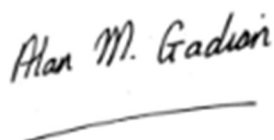
Donations.	£442.50
Membership Fees.	£24744.50
Visitor fees.	£898.50 (this includes ~ £7.50 for badges)
Tournament fees	£260.00
Total:	£26085.50

Period 3.

Projected / Estimated income (Autumn 2025) from Tournament fees (projected by P Harris) ~ £2600 with estimated expenditure of £1700 to Croquet England. These figures are provisional.

Note that there was a donation of £10,000.00 given to the croquet section in September 2024 to be spent at a future date on croquet facilities etc.

A full spreadsheet of all known transactions is available from Alan Gadian



Date: 25th September 2025

The Treasurer of the Main Club produced an Income and Expenditure Account which was distributed to you all electronically in advance of their AGM at the end of September. Their accounts are for the financial year ending March 2025.

Alan Gadian is our Finance Assistant and oversees our section's bank account which is directly linked to the Main Club account. All our income from subscriptions, donations and visitor fee, transfers automatically to the Main Club Account at the end of each month and we, as a section, have no access to it. He has supplied a report below.

There has been no significant capital spend this year.

Alan maintains a detailed spread sheet he can share with you if required.

We also have some funds managed by different members. Balances are small and updates are regularly reported to the committee. The Social Fund is held by Marian Gadian and the Cash Fund by Peter Nelson for mallet sales for example with expenditure paid out for travel expenses for SWFed matches.

Andrew Thomas has a small amount from mallet refurbishment which he spends on mallet grips and some maintenance bits and pieces.

Croquet Section Social Report - Marian Gadian,

It is pleasing that our main social events have been supported and enjoyed by about 40 members. We had our Christmas Lunch last year at The Belmont Hotel, a Spring Lunch here in the pavilion supplied by The Chatterly, a Quiz and Afternoon Tea and the Wine and Shared Buffet with crazy croquet down on the lawns. This evening we will have our post AGM meal cooked by Emma Brock and her team.

On a smaller scale, various activities have taken place in the pavilion and hut 3. Many thanks to those who helped support those events -. Clive and Rita with others who ran the Board Game afternoons, the morning Coffee 'n' Chat organisers, the cake makers for the quiz and tournament matches and the suppliers of water and milk for the club sessions...and thanks to Philip for the never-ending supply of biscuits.

But thanks go to all of you for being a warm and sociable group who have welcomed our new members and mix and match well on the lawns.

The social fund has a healthy balance of £109.

Internal Tournament Report 2025 –Richard Thurlow

First of all, congratulations to all winners of internal tournament competitions.

We started the full playing year in April with the first Tournament in mid-April for a "One Ball" charity tournament, where 22 players raised £185 for the Alzheimer's charity, this competition is run each year through the Croquet clubs in the Country. £8759 was raised in total. When this comes round next year please do enter, it's great fun.

There were five "Season's" tournaments for AC and three for GC, and five AC "Day" tournaments for AC and six for GC. Sadly six tournaments had to be abandoned this year as there were insufficient entries. Please do enter Tournaments; you'd be surprised how enjoyable competitive play is.

Neil Price is organising Internal Tournaments next year, please do give him the support that you have given me.

Open Tournament Report – Peter Nelson

Nine open events were held this year, three AC and six GC events totalling 18 playing days. In addition we hosted the President's Cup in September. These events generated an income of £3727.

The committee are aware that there is more club play at weekends than hitherto, and have decided to reduce the number of open events in 2026 by removing the AC handicap, the GC A Series and the GC C Series events from the calendar.

SWFederation League Matches Golf Croquet Report – Peter Regan

I look after the SWF golf croquet games which are played at home and away. They comprise of four or five level play games and up to six handicap games. The level play are for those with a handicap of 5 or more and the handicap games are for those with a handicap of 8 or more. This year in the 5+ level play we one 1 out of four games but in the 8+ handicap games we one four out of six games.

Despite the scores the games were close and was pleased with the performance of all those that took part and those that did had an enjoyable day. Next year I will be sending out an Email asking for volunteers once again to play in these games. It is a fun day out you will gain experience meet other players and help to improve your own game.

SWFederation League Matches Association Croquet

Teams were entered in the Parkstone League and Federation Leagues this year. We no longer have enough players to play in the Intermediate or B level Leagues. Matches were held both at home and away. Although matches were enjoyable only our top team which plays in Division 2 had much success. They won 3 of their 4 matches.

Sidmouth Croquet Club

Competition Winners Season 2025

			Winner	Runner Up
Association Croquet				
1	Humphrey Hicks Cup	Level Advanced Singles	Roger Mills	Richard Wood
1	Sheila Adams	Handicap Advanced	Philip Harris	Roger Mills
1	Belmont Challenge Cup	Handicap Singles	Chris Donovan	John Garner
1	Owen Cup	Intermediate Handicap Singles	Amanada Haste	John Garner
2	Corbett Spoons	One Ball	Low Handicap	Ian Friedlander
			High Handicap	Stephen Stych
2	Dorothy Toye Cup	Short Croquet	Amanda Haste	Ian Friedlander
1	Short Croquet	Short Croquet	Richard Wood	Philip Harris
2	Charity One Ball	Handicap One ball	Duncan Hasell	
Most Improved Player				
Longworth Cup		Low Handicap	Roger Mills	
Sidmouth Croquet Club Cup		Higher Handicap	John Garner	
Robert Case 'Shot Game' - Skills				
2	Robert Case Shield	Score	Jon Ball	-
2	Robert Case Tankard	Score + handicap	Richard Abrahams	-
Golf Croquet				
1	Level Play Trophy [No name]	Level Play	Philip Harris	Neil Price
2	Hatherley Cup	Singles Low Handicap	Stephen Pearson	Neil Price
1	Macadam Cup	Singles Low Handicap	Jane Bell	Bill McKee
1	Macadam Cup	Singles High Handicap	Neil Price	Martin Powell
2	Cunningham Salver	Handicap Singles	Paul Bradley	-
2	Salcombe Hill Cup & Peak Hill Cup	Level Play Doubles	Bill McKee & Mike Franks	Richard Abrahams & Peter Orchard
2	Cunningham Salver & Cup	Doubles	Richard Abrahams & Philip Harris	-
Most Improved Player				
Regency Cup		Low Handicap	Richard Abrahams	-
The Jubilee Cup		High Handicap	Neil Price	-
'Shot Game – Skills'				
2	Beacon Hill Cup	Score	Gill Powell	Mike Ellingham
2	Core Hill Cup	Score + Handicap	Mike Ellingham	Gill Powell
Other Competitions				
2	Ninety but not Pegged Out'	American Block AC Singles	Michael Hide	-
2	New Members	20 Minute GC Dbls – 4 Rounds / Changing Partners	Marcus Husbands	-
Association Croquet Competitions in Abeyance				
1	Woodward Salver	Level Advanced Singles	Not Played	
1	Fermor Rose Bowl	Ladies Handicap Singles	Not Played	
1	Devonia Cup	14 Point High Handicap Singles	Not Played	
2	Canton Trophy	Egyptian 14 Point Tournament	Not Played	
2	Colclough & Sidmouth Cups	Handicap Doubles	Not Played	
3	Challenge Cup	Winter Short Croquet Singles	Not Played	
1 – Full Season		2 – One Day Tournament	3 – Winter Months	