

## **John de Winton**

**One of our most senior members, John de Winton, who was Chairman, and then President, for many years, died on June 11<sup>th</sup>.**

**Many of us remember him with great respect and affection, for his kindness and his dedication to the club over many years.**

**Tim Jolliff remembers being coached by him:**

**John was for many years the best player in the club, playing off an AC handicap of 2 and travelling to tournaments, particularly if they could be combined with playing bridge. He was an excellent tactician who was a fine proponent of the cross-wire leave. He played with an elegant side swing, not much seen in modern croquet. His break play relied on accurate take-offs and rushes rather than too many rolls. As oppo you would see him leave a ball behind in the break and get your hopes up of him breaking down, only to see him later take off behind it and rush it to where he wanted.**

**He was a strong advocate for advanced play in the club and it is fitting that the Advanced level play trophy is the president's shield of which he was the first winner.**

**John was also deeply involved in the move to our current lawns. When he was awarded a CA Diploma, the citation read:**

In 1999 it became apparent that we would have to leave our lawns as the ground was to be used for housing development. The possibility of finding a new site seemed remote. Many avenues were pursued without success and the future of the club looked doubtful. John de Winton persisted in searching and eventually located a potential site for 3 lawns at Taunton Vale Sports Club with its modern spacious facilities.

He then set about the daunting task of leading a team to obtain substantial funding from Sport England as well as persuading Taunton Deane Borough Council, the CA and our members to contribute. Having raised the funds, he oversaw the construction of the lawns. In 2005 we commenced play on our 3 superb new lawns in a pleasant location and have already attracted new members to our thriving club. Without John's unstinting dedication it is unlikely that Taunton Deane Croquet Club would exist now.

**John had a long and distinguished naval career, retiring in 1980 after being the Director of Naval Air Warfare (MOD).**

## **Sunday June 21<sup>st</sup>: The Summer Party**

**The participants at the club summer party enjoyed 10 games of Pirates, Crazy Croquet and a cryptic quiz on GC terms.**

**The day was organised by Sue Speller and Steve Beer. Steve turned up in full pirate regalia, as did Sue Jervis and Margaret Adams.**

**The winner of the Pirates competition was Stephen Custance-Baker, who got a bottle of bubbly, with Sue Custance-Baker second and Angela Horseman and Gordon Butler equal third.**

**Sue Speller won the quiz with an excellent 11 out of 13.**

**A good time was had by all on a lovely day.**

## **2026 June Matches**

**On June 19<sup>th</sup> the GC Level Play (South) team (Gordon Butler, David Jones, Lloyd Kimber, Lorne Loxterkamp, Dave Lusk, Beverley Tapper) won 11-9 at home to Dowlish Wake. Gordon reduced his GC handicap.**

**On June 17<sup>th</sup> the GC Level Play (Premier) team (Stephen Custance-Baker, Tim Jolliff, David Jones, Lloyd Kimber, Lorne Loxterkamp) lost 9-11 at home to Budleigh Salterton A.**

**On June 15<sup>th</sup> the GC Level Play (South) team (Gordon Butler, David Jones, Martin Wicks, Lloyd Kimber, Lorne Loxterkamp, Judith Hutton) won 13-7 at home to Winterborne Valley.**

## **Success at Bude**

**On June 13<sup>th</sup> Sue Custance-Baker won the C Level tournament at Bude with 6 wins in 7 games. She also reduced her GC handicap.**

**Sue Speller came 3<sup>rd</sup>.**



## **2026 June Matches**

**On June 11<sup>th</sup> the Short Croquet (South) team (Martin Wicks, Tim Jolliff, Stephen Custance-Baker, Sue Custance-Baker) won 9-7 at home to Cornwall. Sue's handicap has reduced.**

**On June 8<sup>th</sup> the GC Handicap team (Judith Hutton, Lorne Loxterkamp, Gordon Butler, Phil Wight, Sue Speller, Paul Ridge) won 12-8 at home to Dowlish Wake. Gordon reduced his handicap.**

**On June 5<sup>th</sup> the GC High Handicap team (Beverley Tapper, Eileen Clout, John Warren, Margaret Adams, Kaye Inglis, Kathy Pugh) won 13-7 at home to Dowlish Wake. Beverley reduced her handicap.**

**On June 3<sup>rd</sup> the Short Croquet (Central West) team (Lorne Loxterkamp, Dave Pennack, Anthony Myers, Gordon Butler) won 13-3 away at Camerton & Peasedown. Dave and Gordon both reduced their handicaps.**

**On June 3<sup>rd</sup> the Short Croquet (South) team (Martin Wicks, Tim Jolliff, Stephen Custance-Baker, Sue Custance-Baker) won 12-4 at home to Cornwall.**

**On June 2<sup>nd</sup> the Advanced team (Tim Jolliff, Neil Fillery, Stephen Custance-Baker, Martin Wicks) lost 2-5 at Bristol.**

## **Greenslade Taylor Hunt**

**On Thursday May 29<sup>th</sup> we hosted a very successful corporate event for GTH, who brought 27 people to take part in Pirates and a Barbecue.**

**In addition to Pirates, we offered 5 Crazy Croquet puzzles. The top two visitors, after three rounds of Pirates, then played GC against David Jones and Neil Fillery. The visitors were coached by Stephen Custance-Baker and managed a very creditable 3-7 defeat.**



**Several members of the club got involved as scorers, coaches and referees.**



## 2026 May Matches

**On May 27th the AC Advanced (2<sup>nd</sup> Division) team (Tim Jolliff, Neil Fillery, Stephen Custance-Baker, Martin Wicks) won 4-3 at home v Budleigh.**



**On May 26th the GC Handicap team (Judith Hutton, Dave Lusk, Phil Wight, Gordon Butler, Sue Speller, Sue Custance-Baker) won 11-9 away at Budleigh.**

**On May 21<sup>st</sup> the GC High Handicap team (Beverley Tapper, Miriam Bolger, Kaye Inglis, Angela Horseman, Kathy Pugh) won 11-1 away at Tisbury.**

**On May 20<sup>th</sup> the GC Level Play 10+ team (Christine Jones, Natasha Smith, Eileen Clout, Mark Atlay, Norma Atlay) lost 9-11 away at Dowlish Wake.**

**On May 19<sup>th</sup> the SC Open Central West team (Neil Fillery, Dave Lusk, Gordon Butler, Judith Hutton) lost 7-9 away at Nailsea.**

## **2026 May Matches**

**On May 13<sup>th</sup> the GC Level Play Premier team (Stephen Custance-Baker, Neil Fillery, Steve Beer, Martin Wicks) beat Budleigh B 16-4 for our first win of the season. Stephen reduced his handicap to 0.**

**On May 6<sup>th</sup> the GC Handicap team (Judith Hutton, Phil Wight, Gordon Butler, Sue Speller, Tony Stone, Sue Custance-Baker) lost 8-12 away at Dowlish Wake.**

**On May 14<sup>th</sup> the AC Intermediate team (Anthony Myers, Judith Hutton, Patience Kimber, Dave Lusk) won 4-3 away at Budleigh.**

**On May 14<sup>th</sup> the GC 10+ team (Christine Jones, Natasha Smith, Sue Custance-Baker, Andy Bennett, Eileen Clout, Mark Atlay, Christine Smith, Norma Atlay) lost 9-11 away at Bath**

## **2026 April Matches**

**Our 2026 match season has not started well. The AC Advanced (2<sup>nd</sup> Division) team (Stephen Custance-Baker, Neil Fillery, Martin Wicks) lost 0-5 away at Nailsea.**

**The GC High Handicap team (Beverley Tapper, Sue Custance-Baker, Miriam Bolger, Margaret Adams, Angela Horseman, Kathy Pugh) lost 8-12 away at Dowlish Wake.**

## **Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup>: GC High Handicap Tournament**

**The annual May tournament for High Handicap GC players took place in perfect weather. 12 players with handicaps from 7 to 20 played Level Play in three blocks of four.**

**The block winners and the best runner-up then played a knockout. These four were the four lowest handicappers, all 7s.**

**In the semi-finals, Phil Wight beat Gordon Butler 7-3 and Judith Hutton beat Sue Speller 7-5.**

**In the final Judith beat Phil 7-2 to claim the prize and Gordon beat Sue in the 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> play-off.**



**The players and Sue Custance-Baker (Tournament Manager) congratulate the winner.**

# **British Association of Landscaping Industries**

**On Wednesday May 6<sup>th</sup> we hosted a very successful corporate event for BALI, who brought 16 people to take part in Pirates and a Barbecue.**

**In addition to Pirates, we offered 5 Crazy Croquet puzzles and Minesweeper Croquet.**

**An exhibition GC game was staged by the organiser (Richard Gardiner) and Stu Smith (England captain in the Home Internationals). Stu won 7-4 in a very impressive display of precise hooping.**



**Richard Gardiner and Dan,  
the Pirates winner.**



**Stu Smith, handicapped in  
Pirates by using a child's mallet.**



**Pirates in action.**



**Crazy Croquet**

## Success at East Dorset

On April 26<sup>th</sup> Stephen Custance-Baker won the  
A Series 2-day tournament at East Dorset.

