



THE VIC STILWELL GC TOURNAMENT will be on SUNDAY 19 JULY 2026

This is a Mixed Doubles Golf Croquet event. Entry fee is £5 pp. All members are invited to enter, either as individuals (to be paired by manager), or as a pair (with combined handicaps no lower than 7).

If you would like to take part in this informal club event, just email Sue Custance-Baker (suehcb@icloud.com) with your name and, if you have one, your partner's name. The format for the day will be: Arrive 9.30 for 10.00 am start. 12 pairs to play in 3 blocks of 4 pairs followed by semi-finals (3 block winners and best runner-up) and a final and playoffs for everyone else. 13 point games. Level play.

This is open to all members of all levels and will be a fun event with tea and cakes all day. If you don't feel like playing, then come along anyway to cheer.

Sue Custance-Baker Manager 07811 731278

Wednesday July 8th

The 2nd Jonathan Wolfe Memorial

Short Croquet Tournament

The six teams, Bristol, Budleigh Salterton, Kington Langley, Nailsea, Tisbury and Taunton Deane, played a Swiss movement in very difficult conditions.



The courts were very dry and fast, making ball control tricky, and the day, which started hot, steadily got hotter, reaching the mid-30s by early afternoon. Although the day was planned to have 5 rounds, some players elected to stop after 3 and it was agreed that 4 was quite enough in the prevailing conditions.

In the end, the home team, Taunton Deane, dominated and won the trophy with 425 Swiss points. Bristol and Budleigh were equal second on 399.



Lorne Loxterkamp, Martin Wicks, Tim Jolliff and Neil Fillery received the team trophy from Stephen Custance-Baker and Martin received the bottle as the best individual player.

2026 July Matches

On July 13th the GC Level Play (Premier) team (Stephen Custance-Baker, Tim Jolliff, Neil Fillery, Steve Beer) won 13-3 at home against Glamorgan.

On July 6th the GC Level Play (South) team (Gordon Butler, Martin Wicks, Lloyd Kimber, Patience Kimber, Judith Hutton) lost 8-12 away to East Dorset.

On July 3rd the SC Central West team (Lorne Loxterkamp, Neil Fillery, Dave Pennack, Judith Hutton) drew 8-8 at home to Bristol C.

On July 1st the AC Federation team (Dave Pennack, Neil Fillery, Stephen Custance-Baker, Judith Hutton) lost 3-4 at home to Budleigh Salterton.

John de Winton

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

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 21st: 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

The extreme weather conditions meant that several June matches have been postponed.

On June 19th 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 17th 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 15th 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 13th 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 3rd.



2026 June Matches

On June 11th 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 8th 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 5th 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 3rd 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 3rd the Short Croquet (South) team (Martin Wicks, Tim Jolliff, Stephen Custance-Baker, Sue Custance-Baker) won 12-4 at home to Cornwall.

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

Greenslade Taylor Hunt

On Thursday May 29th 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 (2nd 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 21st the GC High Handicap team (Beverley Tapper, Miriam Bolger, Kaye Inglis, Angela Horseman, Kathy Pugh) won 11-1 away at Tisbury.

On May 20th 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 19th 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 13th 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 6th 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 14th the AC Intermediate team (Anthony Myers, Judith Hutton, Patience Kimber, Dave Lusk) won 4-3 away at Budleigh.

On May 14th 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 (2nd 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.