



Sunday 13 September 2026

Golf Croquet High Handicap (10+)

Level Play Tournament

9.15 am arrival for 9.30am start.

Bring your lunch. Entry fee £5.

This will be level play singles 13-point games. The format for the day will depend on the number of entries.

Send your entry by email to Sue Custance-Baker, suehcb@icloud.com.

Success in the GC Inter-counties tournament

The Somerset County team achieved a very creditable 3rd place in the 1st Division of the GC Inter-counties tournament.

This required 7 wins from 11 matches.

The team was led by Neil Fillery and included Colin Britt and Andy Loakes from Camerton & Peasedown, Dom Aarvold and David Goacher from Bristol and Kriss Chambers from Nailsea.



**Colin, Andy, Dom, Neil and Kriss
with the Red Dragon of Somerset**

Brian Toomey

Brian, who has died at the age of 96, was an early member of Taunton Deane Croquet Club and an active committee member. For many years he was the Match Secretary, responsible for arranging our team matches in the South West Federation leagues.

In 1999 it became apparent that we would have to leave our lawns, find a new site and raise substantial funds to create new lawns.

A sub-committee of John de Winton, Derek Beard and Brian set out to find new premises. Eventually a site at Taunton Vale Sports Club was located, surveyed and costed. The members agreed that we should pursue this possibility. Brian was appointed New Lawns Treasurer with the responsibility of raising the considerable amount of £39,000 necessary to create three first class croquet lawns and purchase additional equipment. He persuaded members to make donations and loans amounting to approximately £11,000 which was required before we could pursue grant funding. He then produced the budgets and financial projections requested in applications for grants to Sport England, Taunton Deane Borough Council and the Croquet Association. The applications were successful and we started playing on our current lawns at Taunton Vale Sports Club in 2005.

In the 1990s Brian donated a cup for a club AC competition to encourage high handicap members by pairing them with a low handicapper. The Brian Toomey Cup for Association Croquet Doubles is competed for every year.

In 2026 Brian was made an Honorary Member of Taunton Deane Croquet Club in recognition of his immense contribution to the club.

He will be missed by those of us who knew him, as he was always friendly, encouraging and cheerful.

In 2014, he presented the Brian Toomey Cup to Tim Jolliff and Jean Nation, who beat Don Waterhouse and Jean Beard in the final.



2026 August Matches

So far this season we have won 25 of our 47 fixtures, with one draw. Four of our teams won their blocks, but two have been eliminated in a play-off.

The GC High Handicap team, led by Beverley Tapper, will play a quarter-final at home against Swanage on September 4th.

The GC Level Play 10+ team, led by Christine Jones, will play the final at home against Bude on September 12th.

On August 26th the GC High Handicap team (Beverley Tapper, Eileen Clout, John Warren, Margaret Adams, David Haldenby, Angela Horseman) 14.5-1.5 at home against Winterborne Valley.

On August 25th the GC Level Play South team (Gordon Butler, Lorne Loxterkamp, Lloyd Kimber, Phil Wight, Judith Hutton, Patience Kimber) lost 9-11 away at Exeter.

On August 24th the AC Advanced team (Tim Jolliff, Neil Fillery, Lorne Loxterkamp) lost 2-3 at home to Cheltenham B.

On August 21st the GC Level Play 10+ team (Christine Jones, Mark Atlay, Eileen Clout, John Warren, David Haldenby, Norma Atlay) won 16-4 at home against Dowlish Wake.

2026 August Matches

In their quarter-final on August 16th, the GC Handicap team (Judith Hutton, Gordon Butler, Phil Wight, Sue Custance-Baker, Sue Speller, Paul Ridge) played Camerton & Peasedown B away, but lost 9-11.

On August 21st the AC Intermediate team (Lorne Loxterkamp, Judith Hutton, Dave Lusk, Anthony Myers) lost 2-5 away at Camerton & Peasedown.

On August 13th the GC High Handicap team (Beverley Tapper, Eileen Clout, John Warren, Margaret Adams, Kaye Inglis, David Haldenby) lost 5-11 away at Winterborne Valley.

In their semi-final on August 12th, the SC Open (South) team (Martin Wicks, Tim Jolliff, Stephen Custance-Baker, Sue Custance-Baker) played Glamorgan away, but lost 7-9.

On August 5th the AC Intermediate team (Lorne Loxterkamp, Judith Hutton, Dave Lusk, Sue Baker) won 4-3 at home against Weston-super-Mare.

On August 3rd the SC Open (South) team (Martin Wicks, Tim Jolliff, Stephen Custance-Baker, Sue Custance-Baker) won 12-4 at home against Budleigh Salterton C.

A couple of tournament successes

GC Veterans, July 21st to 23rd

This event, for players of 60 or over, was played at East Sussex on very fast lawns. Stephen Custance-Baker came 4th overall, but won the Richard Brooks Vase for the best result for an Over-75 player.



English National Doubles, July 24th/25th

Neil Fillery and Stephen Custance-Baker competed at Cheltenham against very strong opposition. The 16 pairs included several internationals, the eventual winners being Levl Franks (-5) and Sam Cuthbert (-3).

Neil and Stephen missed out on the main knockout but won all their games in the Plate and received the trophies from Louise Smith.





THE VIC STILWELL GC TOURNAMENT

SUNDAY 19 JULY 2026

**24 of our members took part in this Mixed
Doubles Golf Croquet event, organised by
Sue Custance-Baker.**



**The winners were Christine and David
Jones, who received their trophies from Val
Stilwell.**



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

The GC Handicap team has won its block and will therefore play Camerton & Peasedown B in the quarter-final on August 16th.

On July 30th the AC Federation team (Dave Pennack, Martin Wicks, Lloyd Kimber, Anthony Myers) won 5-2 away at Sidmouth.

On July 30th the GC Level Play (Premier) team (Stephen Custance-Baker, Tim Jolliff, Neil Fillery, Steve Beer) lost 7-9 away at Bristol.

On July 29th the GC Level Play (South) team (Gordon Butler, Martin Wicks, Lloyd Kimber, Phil Wight, Judith Hutton) won 12½-7½ at home against Sidmouth.

On July 23rd the GC Handicap team (Judith Hutton, Gordon Butler, Sue Custance-Baker, Sue Speller, Paul Ridge) won 13-7 away at Swanage.

On July 22nd the Short Croquet Open (Central West) team (Lorne Loxterkamp, Neil Fillery, Gordon Butler, Judith Hutton) lost 6-10 at home against Glamorgan.

On July 21st the AC Advanced team (Tim Jolliff, Neil Fillery, Martin Wicks) lost 2-3 away at Sidmouth.

On July 20th the GC High Handicap team (Beverley Tapper, Miriam Bolger, John Warren, Margaret Adams, Kaye Inglis, Angela Horseman) won 14-2 at home against Tisbury.

2026 July Matches

On July 19th the GC Level Play (Premier) team (Stephen Custance-Baker, Tim Jolliff, Neil Fillery, Steve Beer) won 12-8 away at Nailsea.

On July 18th the AC Federation team (Martin Wicks, Neil Fillery, Lloyd Kimber) won 3-2 at home against East Dorset.

On July 17th the GC Handicap team (Judith Hutton, Gordon Butler, Phil Wight, Sue Speller, Paul Ridge, Beverley Tapper) won 11-9 at home against Budleigh Salterton.

On July 15th the GC Level Play 10+ team (Christine Jones (npc), Mark Atlay, Christine Smith, Andy Bennett, Eileen Clout, John Warren) won 12-8 at home against Bath.

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.

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.

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.

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.

