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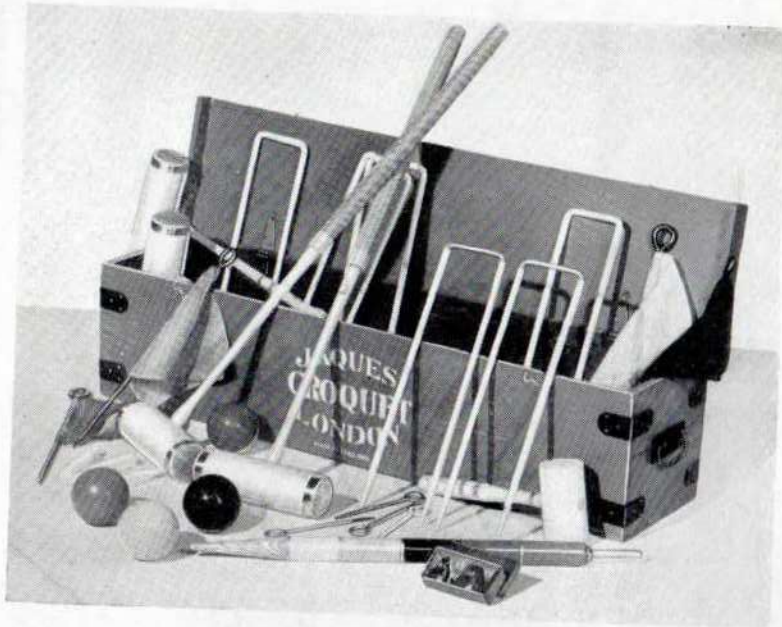
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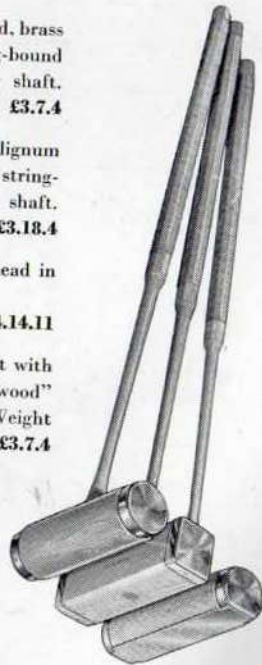
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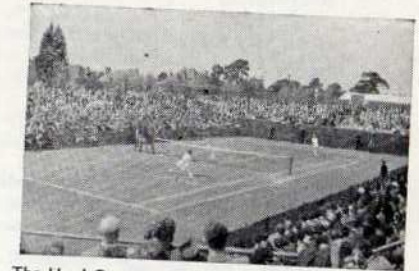
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373

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FIXTURES FOR 1954

May	3	Sidmouth. <i>Hon. Sec., Croquet Club, c/o. Cricket Pavilion, Sidmouth.</i>
"	10	Peel Memorials (Roehampton). <i>Secretary C.A., 4 Southampton Row, London, W.C.1.</i>
"	17	Brighton. <i>Hon. Sec., F. E. Corke, 28 Mansfield Road, Hove 3.</i>
"	24	Inter-County Championships (Hurlingham). <i>Secretary C.A., 4 Southampton Row, London, W.C.1.</i>
"	31	Men's and Women's Championships and Gold Caskets (Roehampton). <i>Secretary C.A., 4 Southampton Row, London, W.C.1.</i>
June	7	Ryde. <i>Hon. Sec., H. Compton, 67 Monkton Street, Ryde, I.O.W.</i>
"	14	Nottingham. <i>Hon. Sec., N. L. Bright, 5 Premier Road, Sherwood Rise, Nottingham.</i>
"	14	Woking. <i>Hon. Sec., Major J. W. Cobb, Farm Hotel, Woking.</i>
"	21	Buxton. <i>Hon. Sec., Mrs. D. Chorlton, 6 The Square, Buxton.</i>
"	21	Parkstone. <i>Hon. Sec., Mrs. L. H. Ashton, The Orchard, Parkstone.</i>
"	28	Bedford. <i>Hon. Sec., Miss D. D. Steel, Kings Close, Biddenham, Bedford.</i>
"	28	Compton. <i>Hon. Sec., Lt.-Col. R. A. Irwin, The Lawn, Willingdon, Sussex.</i>
July	5	Croquet Championships (Hurlingham). <i>Secretary C.A., 4 Southampton Row, London, W.C.1.</i>
"	12	Budleigh Salterton. <i>Hon. Sec., Lt.-Col. G. E. Cave, Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, Budleigh Salterton.</i>
"	19	Exmouth. <i>Hon. Sec., Miss A. E. Mills, Grey Friars, Budleigh Salterton.</i>
"	19	Cheltenham. <i>Hon. Sec., T. J. Gould, Croquet Club, Old Bath Road, Cheltenham.</i>
"	26	Warwickshire Croquet Club (Leamington Spa). <i>Hon. Sec., Major A. M. Deakin, Cliffe House, Guys Cliffe Avenue, Leamington Spa.</i>
"	26	Ladies' Field Cup and Silver Jubilee Cup (Hurlingham). <i>Secretary C.A., 4 Southampton Row, London, W.C.1.</i>
Aug.	2	Hurlingham. <i>The Games Secretary, Hurlingham Club, London, S.W.6.</i>
to	11	Match. Hurlingham v. Rest of England (Hurlingham).
"	7	Match. Hurlingham v. Rest of England (Hurlingham).
"	11	All England Handicap Final Stages (Roehampton).
to	13	Challenge Cups and Gilbey Cup. Golf Croquet, Ascot and Delves Broughton Cups (Roehampton). <i>Secretary C.A., 4 Southampton Row, London, W.C.1.</i>
"	21	Brighton. <i>Hon. Sec., F. E. Corke, 28 Mansfield Road, Hove 3.</i>
"	23	Hunstanton. <i>Hon. Sec., Mrs. B. C. Perowne, 65 Victoria Avenue, Hunstanton.</i>
"	30	Parkstone. <i>Hon. Sec., Mrs. L. H. Ashton, The Orchard, Parkstone.</i>
Sept.	6	President's Cup and Creyke Cups (Roehampton). <i>Secretary C.A., 4 Southampton Row, London, W.C.1.</i>
"	20	Roehampton. <i>Games Secretary, Roehampton Club, Roehampton Lane, London, S.W.5.</i>
"	27	Eastbourne, Devonshire Park. <i>Secretary C.A., 4 Southampton Row, London, W.C.1.</i>
Oct.	2	Match. Men v. Women (Devonshire Park).

NON-OFFICIAL FIXTURES

May	10	Budleigh Salterton. <i>Hon. Sec., Lt.-Col. G. E. Cave, Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, Budleigh Salterton.</i>
Aug.	23	Hunstanton (American). <i>Hon. Sec., Mrs. B. C. Perowne, 65 Victoria Avenue, Hunstanton.</i>
"	30	Brighton. <i>Hon. Sec., F. E. Corke, 28 Mansfield Road, Hove 3.</i>
Sept.	6	Cheltenham. <i>Hon. Sec., T. J. Gould, Croquet Club, Old Bath Road, Cheltenham.</i>

Two

CROQUET ASSOCIATION NOTICES

The Annual Subscription of £1 is due on January 1st. Cheques should be made payable to "The Croquet Association" and sent to The Secretary, C.A., 4 Southampton Row, London, W.C.1.

ELECTION OF ASSOCIATES

* * *
Major-Gen. Sir Miles Graham
Major A. P. E. Knapp
Mrs. S. M. Lawry
Mrs. J. R. Oxley
W. B. C. Paynter
Mrs. P. R. Richards
L. E. W. Stokes-Roberts
* * *

HANDICAP EVENTS IN TOURNAMENTS

During 1954 Tournament Committees are recommended to consider arranging for one of the authorised shortened games to be played in events limited to players with handicaps of 8 bisques or over.

DUTIES OF REFEREES

To enable the Referee of the Meeting to carry out the duties laid down in Reg. 15 (b) the Committee of the Tournament shall have available (a) a hoop gauge (b) a ball gauge (c) a yard-stick.

* * *
Associates who wish to become Referees may make their own arrangements with the necessary two Examining Referees to take the examination prescribed by the Laws Committee, or, in case of difficulty, they may send in their names to the Secretary, C.A. The names of the Examining Referees will be found in the 1953 editions of the C.A. Year Book and the Handbook of Laws, etc.

HANDBOOK OF LAWS

Price 1s. 6d. new edition (Non-Associates, 2s.).

ENTRY FORMS FOR TOURNAMENTS

Pads of 25 price 2s., can now be obtained from the Secretary, C.A., 4 Southampton Row, London, W.C.1.

SALE OF BALLS

"Brento" balls used at the Peel Memorials Meeting will be for sale at £3 10s. 0d. per set, carriage 1s. 6d. Apply Secretary, C.A., 4 Southampton Row, London, W.C.1.

EDITORIAL PANEL OF "CROQUET"

Miss D. Lintern
L. F. C. Darby
M. B. Reckitt
Rev. B. V. F. Brackenbury

LORN C. APPS,
Secretary.

CROQUET—AND YOU

WE live in an age of Publicity. We are not merely informed by those who claim to have hold of a good thing just how good it is. We are cajoled and invited to believe that our lives will be incomplete so long as we are spineless and unenterprising enough to remain unpossessed of their product. The world no longer believes, with Thoreau, that if I make a better mousetrap than anyone else, even though I live in the heart of a forest, the multitude will make a track to my door in order to obtain it. The mousetrap maker today will construct that track himself, and put loud-speakers in the trees to tell the world about it and make us all "mousetrap minded."

Some of us react against all this so far as to feel that if we have got hold of a good thing we prefer to keep it to ourselves. Those who have found out what a good game Croquet is, and how fascinating are the problems which it sets to hand and brain alike, have on the whole tended to take up this attitude in the past. As a consequence it has become necessary—and often far from easy—for people in general to "discover" Croquet for themselves. This is not only a selfish attitude for Croquet Players to assume but an absurd one, and it becomes especially ridiculous when it is maintained by people who complain in the same breath of an insufficient number of players at their Clubs and Tournaments. They are like the individual in Lewis Carroll's poem:

He had forty-two boxes all carefully packed,
And his name painted clearly on each;
But since he omitted to mention the fact,
They were all left behind on the beach.

Croquet Players well know what a fine game is theirs, but all too often they have "omitted to mention the fact."

The appearance of this journal is in effect a proclamation that this phase is at an end. The Croquet Association is determined that the game it was founded more than half a century ago to organize and control, shall no longer be "left behind on the beach." It is resolved to penetrate the fog of ignorance and prejudice by which Croquet has so long been, and is still, surrounded. It will seek to show that the game is not intended for the senile and half-witted, but for everyone who has the patience and the intelligence to master it. That it is meant, in fact, for YOU.

Croquet is perhaps the most skilful and ingenious of all games played in the open air. That the widespread impression should be the very contrary of this is at first sight somewhat mysterious. But it is not very difficult to account for this fact. The game did begin, just a century ago, as little more than a trivial pastime played with toylike implements as a garden party diversion. It has remained hag-ridden by its origins. And this for the good reason that even today scarcely anyone has the opportunity of seeing the game seriously played. For Croquet in the metropolis exists behind closed doors—the doors of the beautiful clubs at Roehampton and Hurlingham. Even in the provinces spectators appear at Croquet Clubs only by invitation. The game hardly ever comes out into the open. On the rare occasions when it does so, as, for example, at Devonshire Park, Eastbourne, each October, and last year at its birthplace, The All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club at Wimbledon, a strong curiosity and interest are at once aroused.

The Croquet Association is anxious to break down these barriers so far as possible. If application is made to the Secretary (4 Southampton Row, London, W.C.1), it will generally be possible to arrange for the inquirer to visit one of the London Clubs when a Tournament is in progress there. Again, the Secretary will be glad to supply a list of Provincial Clubs registered with the Association, the Secretaries of which will always be glad to welcome any who may be interested. But the most effective way to be put into touch with the game is for the inquirer to apply for Membership of the Croquet Association, which guarantees the opportunity of admittance to all Tournaments, on payment in certain cases of a small fee.

There is one other circumstance which, though wholly welcome in itself, has tended somewhat to conceal a knowledge of what Croquet essentially is. This is the popularity of the kindred game of Golf Croquet, an excellent game in its own way and one warmly patronised by the C.A. which organizes an Annual Tournament for it at which handsome trophies are awarded. This journal proposes to devote a regular proportion of its space to Golf Croquet; the first of a series of articles on the subject appears in this number. But Golf Croquet, though played with hoops,

Three

mallets and balls, is not strictly Croquet at all, since the essential characteristic of the real game, the Croquet stroke made with two balls in contact, is not employed in it. And another vital feature of true Croquet, the break, plays no part therein.

Croquet, if it is to be played up to Tournament standard, requires to be learnt and systematically practised, and so far as instruction can be given through a journal this will form a regular feature of our pages. A first article of this kind is from the pen of the present Open Champion, a young man of 21, whose success at this age gives the lie to the fallacy that Croquet is a game only for the aged. Certainly it is a game which its devotees can continue to play until a more advanced age than perhaps any other outdoor sport, and this is not the least of its advantages. But equally, as Mr. Ross points out in this number,

NOTES *by* ROVER

HAD the *Croquet Association Gazette* survived in its former shape it would now be celebrating its jubilee year. Its first number appeared on April 27th, 1904, and proudly declared that "for the first time in its history . . . the Association possesses an official organ devoted exclusively to its own interests, and the interests of the game which it has rescued from oblivion." How the C.A. had got on for eight years without such a periodical—as somehow it did—is difficult for us to understand. Perhaps fifty years from now the readers of *Croquet*, numbered we hope in tens of thousands, will wonder how—and if—the game was adequately served by a journal which circulated only among the "Associates" of the first half of this century.

When the 500th number of the *Gazette* was issued in June, 1925, its appearance was celebrated in a special series of Editorial Notes. (It is interesting, by the way, to observe that this number also recorded the earliest appearance in this country of members of the first team arriving here to challenge for the International Trophy.) World War II broke out just as the *Gazette's* 900th number was shortly to appear, and the long series was interrupted. A rough calculation indicates that about 70 issues have been published since September, 1939.

The introductory note in No. 1 awards the credit for the enterprise to the first secretaries of the Association, Col. Needham and Jarvis Kenrick, men whom there are few Associates left now to remember. The circumstances of the *Gazette's* editorship in its first ten years are somewhat obscure—much of the work appears to have been done in the office, then staffed by three full-time employees. But in 1920 the Council appointed Robert Leetham Jones as editor and he soon

Four

it is a game which children will do well to learn, if only that they may come back to it when more strenuous sports cease to be possible for them.

We who play the game are well aware that we have got hold of a good thing. We want to share it with many who now know nothing about it, but who would immensely enjoy it if they did. We want to tell them all about it in these pages: of the strokes which will demand their skill; of the tactics which will set fascinating problems for their intelligence; of the Tournaments where they will make new and lasting friendships.

This journal, while catering for all those already within the world of Croquet, seeks to open the door to those as yet outside. If you will read its pages you will soon find yourselves within. For your sakes—and for our sakes—we hope that you will. The door is open: do come in.

brought the *Gazette* to a quite new level of excellence. When he retired early in 1937, the Association was fortunate to find Mr. Crowther-Smith available to fill the post, and bring to it his wit, force and ripe experience. The C.A. has thus known only two editors over this long period of 33 years, each occupying the position for about the same length of time. With the metamorphosis of the journal the post has now gone into commission.

By a long established anachronism the May Week at Cambridge occurs annually in June. A much less familiar occurrence is the appearance in our Official Calendar of the "Caskets" tournament for a date in May. Readers may not feel much the wiser to be informed that the cause of this apparently premature arrival is the Solar Cycle, a mystery which the late Lord Doneraile would on occasion elucidate. As it is some years now (17 to be exact) since he expounded the matter in the *Gazette*, it may be enlightening to quote what he then set forth in its pages.

"The Solar Cycle is a period of twenty-eight years during which the days of the week and of the month correspond and repeat themselves in each century." The "operative date" for our purposes—and for those of a good many other sporting bodies—is the first Monday in August, and it is in relation to this that the weeks of the main "fixtures" in our Calendar are actually fixed. Lord Doneraile went on to tell us that in a Solar Cycle "these Mondays fall four times on each of the first seven days of August, the intervals separating them consisting of either six, eleven, six or five years, according to the incidence of the Leap Year." So now you know why the "Caskets" begin in May. Or do you?

Beginners, Please !

How to Play

WE suppose you to be asking about croquet and saying, "Tell me how you play the game? What are the rules and the general lay-out? Don't tell me too much: just enough to start me off trying to play: and tell me some more later." To answer you is the aim of this article and of others which will follow in later issues of *Croquet*. We are seeking now to give you enough information to enable you to understand the article on "Picking up a break" by John Solomon, and to understand the Question of Law column which will appear in each issue.

Let us take the game, then, from the very beginning. You go on to the lawn and find six hoops and a "peg" set in a particular order. The hoops are set in a rectangle of four, with two other hoops in the middle separated by a small post known as the "peg", which has the four colours painted on it. The balls are of four different colours, Blue, Black, Red and Yellow. One player plays with Blue and Black, the opponent with Red and Yellow. The object of the game is for one pair of colours to complete the round of hoops and hit the peg before the other pair can do so. The first hoop has its top bar painted blue, and the last hoop has its top bar painted red. The competitors—but not necessarily the colours—play by turns. The one in play can keep "in" as long as he is making points (running hoops), or hitting (roqueting) other balls, success in either of which gives him another shot. The round consists of thirteen points for each ball; twelve hoops and the peg. Starting from the first hoop, with the blue top, the four outside hoops are run or made clockwise; then the two in the middle. The return is then made anti-clockwise from the 2nd hoop, approached from the reverse side (and now called one-back), round the outside hoops and the two hoops up the middle, when the peg is hit as the culminating point of the game. Both balls have to make the complete round and hit the peg; so the game is made up of 26 points.

As each hoop is made, a clip of the colour appropriate to the ball which has made it is put on the top bar for the outward journey, and on an upright for the return journey. Hitting an object ball is called a "roquet": the balls are then placed touching each other, and the striker hits his own ball, having first positioned the balls so that his ball will go—as he hopes—where he wants it to go, and the object ball to another predetermined position. This is called the croquet shot and requires that the striker shall make a further stroke. When croquet has been taken from a ball it may not be hit again unless a hoop has first been made. In taking croquet, the object ball must be moved, or at least shaken; if this does not happen the stroke is a foul; the balls are then replaced in the position they occupied when the foul occurred, and the opponent is in

play. If, in taking croquet, either ball goes over the boundary line, the stroke is rendered invalid and the turn comes to an end.

The main difficulty for the beginner is to attain consistency in achieving the object aimed at—the hitting of another ball or the running of a hoop. Constant practice and thought given to grip and stance and the behaviour of the mallet are essential. The mallet may seem at first a clumsy weapon, but you will discover eventually that it has a kind of balance and can be handled like other good tools and made to obey your wishes. You have to experiment to find the method of grip and stance and swing which best suits you. But whatever method you adopt the shaft of the mallet should not lean to one side, and you should aim at a flat swing. Regulating the strength of the shot, which is "timing", comes only with much practice. It is a good thing constantly to handle the mallet, familiarising yourself with it, until you feel that you are using it and it is not dictating to you. Until you have mastered it you are apt to find yourself, having missed a short shot perhaps through turning the mallet head, standing like the Player in Hamlet, "Tears in his eyes, distraction in's aspect; a broken voice . . . and all for nothing."

The appeal of croquet, as of most games, is that it gives pleasurable, because interesting, exercise to both physical and mental abilities. Physical in the skilful co-ordination of hand and eye: mental in the exploitation of tactics, in an endeavour to make things as difficult as possible for the opponent and as straightforward as possible for yourself. So, in addition to shooting ability, you need a plan to work on. The essence of any such plan must always be to make use of all the balls on the court to help you along. By adopting such a definite plan you can make a series of hoops in one turn, and, when you are skilful enough, make a complete round. This running of hoops in series is called making a break. The approved method is always to have a ball to help you into position at the hoop you intend to make; another ball, called a pivot ball, somewhere about the centre of the court, and a ball as near as possible to the hoop next beyond the hoop you are making. You approach your hoop with the help of a ball you have roqueted, put it to the far side of the hoop leaving yourself in position, go through, roquet the ball again, take croquet from it to the pivot ball sending it to the hoop beyond the next, and having made use of the pivot ball go yourself to the ball at the hoop you are about to make. Continue the scheme to the happy ending or until you break down. When you have got one ball round beware of feeling cock-a-hoop; the second ball has to be got round too, and the old adage is all too frequently proved true, that the devil is wont to take the hindmost.

Five

GOLF CROQUET

"LET'S have a round of Golf." In Croquet parlance this means a game of Golf Croquet and a very good game it is to fill in a spare half-hour or more at the end of a day's work or play.

Golf Croquet enables beginners especially to learn how to take up their stance; how to hold their mallet; how to hit their own ball properly; how to run hoops; and how to shoot straight. It is an excellent preliminary to taking up Association Croquet. It is also good practice in running hoops and shooting for experienced Croquet players.

One of the advantages of Golf Croquet is that each turn consists of only one stroke. There is no croquet stroke in Golf Croquet. All the players are accordingly on the lawn all the time and do not have to retire from the lawn for anything from 10 to 25 minutes while the adversary is making a break!

It is not necessary to have a full sized lawn for Golf Croquet; lots of amusement can be obtained by playing on a lawn of almost any size or shape.

The Laws of Golf Croquet are very simple and the game is very easy to learn. There are only eleven rules which need be studied by beginners and they are advised to leave the complicated rules of Association Croquet severely alone until a later stage.

A suggestion has been made that a game should consist of 18 points as in golf instead of the present game of 13 points and the Croquet Association have authorised an alternative game of 18 points to be played as an experiment during 1954.

There are two alternative games. In the standard game (Alternative X) a point is scored by the player who puts a ball of any colour through a hoop; e.g. if Red sticks in a hoop the ball may be roqueted through by any of the other balls

CROQUET IN AUSTRALIA

THE December number of the *Australian Croquet Gazette* brings us news of the annual Interstate Tournament or "Carnival" to use the joyful name our Australian friends apply to this gathering. It was held this year at Perth in West Australia, at the "far end" of the Dominion, and a very long journey, whether by air, road or rail, for competitors from other states. We wonder what our London Associates would say if it were proposed to hold the Championships in Inverness. However, distance seems to be no deterrent to croquet enthusiasts in Australia. All six states were represented by official teams for the Interstate Cup and about 200 players helped to make the gathering a great success.

The tournament, which extended over a fortnight in the middle of November, included four main events; the Interstate Cup, won by the team from Victoria; the Australian Championship won by Mrs. E. Baner of Victoria, with Mr. H. Gunton of Tasmania as runner-up; the Championship Doubles won by Mr. Gunton and Mrs. H. P.

and the point counts to the hitter and not to the owner of the ball.

Some players think this is wrong but it is a penalty for a bad stroke and certainly speeds up the game and adds to the fun of the game.

In the Variation (Alternative Y) a point always counts to the side whose ball goes through the hoop and if a ball is stuck in a hoop (unless put there by an adversary) a point cannot be scored by either side if such a ball is caused to run the hoop.

There is quite a lot to learn in the tactics of the game but this will come with play and experience.

"To biff or not to biff" is one of the most important slogans. For instance:—If after making a hoop the next player makes a perfect approach to the next hoop and gets certain position, it is no good just rolling up (the odds against a stymie from a long distance are tremendous) the opponents should shoot and try to knock the ball away.

Another important thing to consider is which player should knock out a ball in position. If possible this should be done by the player next before the one in position; for example:—Blue is in position and Black well away on the boundary, Red and Yellow are in the vicinity of the hoop but not in position; in such a case Red should get in position and leave Yellow to knock Blue away, relying on Black not being able to hit Yellow away.

When knocking a ball out of position an effort should be made to hit it off the lawn and at the same time to stay near with a stop-shot; it becomes rather a boring game if everyone plays poky shots, not moving the ball more than a yard or two. In such a case it might take 20 minutes to make a point!

One more example:—If the opponents are both in position and your partner ball is well out of play, take a shot at a difficult hoop, if there is one, rather than just knocking one ball away.

B.H.W.

Rogers; and a fourth event which seems to have attracted at least as much interest as any of the others. This was the competition for the Silver and Bronze Medals presented by our Croquet Association. These are competed for by the Medal-holders of each state, and the contest attracted an audience of about 290 interested and enthusiastic people. Mr. Gunton won a narrow victory in the final by three points over Mr. Donaldson of West Australia. We offer our warm congratulations to both; how pleasant it would be to see them competing for our Gold Medals at Roehampton in June.

* * *

The standard of play seems in general to have been high, although we read that "unfortunately the triple peel, though attempted, was not completed by any player." (It seldom is here by any but two of our leading magicians.) Amidst much heartening news (the Victorian Association alone has a paying membership of 6,000) we find two unhappy items of news. Col. Saalfeld was absent from Perth owing to an operation on his eyes; and Major Tingey is "devoting his energies to the game of bowls." We sympathise with them both.

PICKING UP A BREAK

by

John Solomon

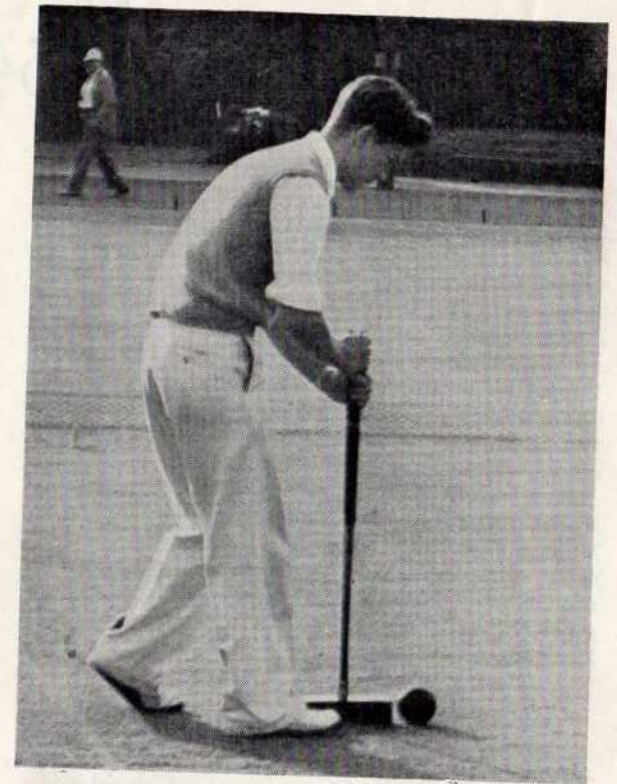
Holder of Open and Men's Championship, 1953

THE making of a break is of course the essence of the game of croquet, and we all get a great deal of satisfaction out of going from the first hoop to 4-back or the peg, especially when the opponent has presented us with a four ball break. But we cannot always win games on our opponent's mistakes, and only too frequently must do so on our own merits. In these circumstances, the player who is not afraid to bring the balls off the boundaries is at a great advantage. Now I can hear you say, "Yes, but how are we 8 and 10 bisquers to make a break with all the balls on the boundary?" Believe me, it is not nearly so difficult to make a break, starting with one ball in each corner, as is generally imagined.

One vital condition is that you should be able to play the rush stroke with reasonable accuracy, and here, practice is a necessity. Ten minutes practice every day, *by yourself*, is of more value than any number of friendly games.

Let us now take a position which occurs very frequently. We will assume that you have just hit your own tice and have roqueted it off the court at about the middle of the West boundary. Your opponent's balls are 2 or 3 yards up the East boundary from the 4th corner. This is a very simple break to collect provided you are prepared to make one shot, namely, a thick take-off to the 4th corner, sending your partner's ball to the second hoop. Set your balls for an ordinary take-off to the 4th corner spot, and then hit into your partner ball rather more than usual, but with about the same strength. Your partner ball goes near the second hoop, and your own ball goes almost directly to your opponent's. This is a most useful shot and well worth practising. Now, roquet the ball nearer the corner, and if they are fairly close together, a little stop-shot will send it to the fourth hoop where it can wait till you reach that hoop, at the same time getting a rush on the other to the first hoop, and you have a perfect 4-ball break. If your opponent's balls were not very close together in the fourth corner, you may find it easier to take-off to get your rush, but do try to get the ball off the boundary by at least a yard. Then, when making the first hoop, you must try to get a rush back to the fourth corner. You can then send that ball in nearer the fourth hoop and get a rush on the other ball either to the second corner, the West boundary or the stick. From any of these positions it is a simple split shot to send that ball to the third hoop, and get on to your partner ball at the second. *I would emphasise that none of these shots are beyond the power of a 10 bisquer, who is willing to practise them.*

Now let us take a slightly more difficult example. Your opponent has missed the tice and



Reproduced by permission of Messrs. Macdonald & Co.

Photo Harry Hardy Ltd. Eastbourne

has one ball on the West boundary a little beyond the first hoop, the other in the second corner, and your own balls are a yard apart on the East boundary, just outside the 4th corner. The best thing is to rush your ball down to the 3rd corner between the third hoop and the corner. If it does not come off, no harm is done, as you can easily retire and give yourself a rush. Assuming that you have done it, take-off to the second corner. If you are brave enough to try for the rush, all the better, but it is quite sufficient to be within a yard or two of it. Now you must do a thick take-off sending this ball about 3 yards along the North boundary and try for the rush on the tice ball to the first corner. You must try to get your ball on the yard-line and from here a little cut rush sends that ball about three yards in from the first hoop, a little to the West of it. Make the hoop and get a rush to the third corner, from where you can send that ball to the third hoop, getting a rush on your partner ball to the second corner. From here you can send it in to the second hoop, getting a rush on your opponent's ball to the second hoop. Alternatively you can rush your partner ball from the third corner direct to the second hoop, sending the ball to the right of the hoop on the approach, and run the hoop through to the boundary. This is where sending your opponent's ball along the North boundary when you took off to the tice is invaluable, as you can easily hit this ball and send it to the fourth hoop, and you have a perfect break again.

Building up breaks often involve variations of these methods. The only vital strokes needed are the rush—the most important in the game, and the *thick* take-off. Do practise them; you will find it well worth while.

The 1954 Season

IT is probably little realized by players in general how many are the questions which arise for discussion by the Tournament committee, and how much care is taken to see that all points of views are considered and changes made when these seem to be called for. All correspondence bearing on the subject is read and the interests of all classes of players taken into account. When the Committee's recommendations reach the Council they are subjected to a careful scrutiny, and it can safely be said that no alterations are made which have not behind them a preponderant weight of opinion among those who may reasonably be deemed, from their experience as Managers and legislators no less than as players, most competent to decide upon them. The number of changes which falls to be recorded here represents only a small proportion of the propositions discussed by those whose duty it has been to consider them.

It is clearly advantageous that the dates on which C.A. events are held should vary as little as possible from year to year. But owing to the operation of that "solar cycle" to which reference is made in a Note elsewhere in this number, there are certain years in which some of our most familiar fixtures may appear to occur a little unexpectedly. Some may feel this to be the case this year when they find the Men's and Women's Championships beginning on a date in May. But this is owing to the date of August Bank Holiday, is an "early" year; all C.A. fixtures are subject to this circumstance and in face there is no important alteration in respect of them. It is true that the date of the Coronation forced upon us last year what was in effect a postponement of "Caskets Week" (as some have come to call it), but it was felt better to revert this year to the arrangement by which this tournament follows immediately upon "Counties Week," in the hope that many players will be drawn to London by the prospect of a fortnight's play—in this case at both Hurlingham and Roehampton.

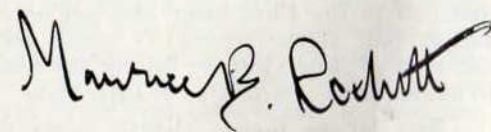
Here indeed we come to the most important change in our customary practice, and one which calls for an explanation. This is to be found in the fact that in recent years the Open Championships at Roehampton have synchronized with part of the Polo fortnight there. This has been found to be an undesirable arrangement for several reasons. The Club makes special admission charges during this period and in effect suspends the operation of ordinary vouchers, so that it is difficult to arrange for those who may wish to watch our Championships to do so. Moreover, the serenity desirable for so important a competition is disturbed by the jangling of bells from the polo ground and the invasion of our playing area by hordes of visitors thereto. It has been decided therefore that the least disturbance would be caused, both to our Calendar and to all concerned, by playing the Men's and Women's Championships at Roehampton and taking the Open Championships to Hurlingham in July.

This is perhaps the most appropriate point to intimate briefly that the possibility of reverting to the pre-war practice of playing the Men's and Women's Championships at a provincial club in alternate years is being explored. Desirable as it might seem to do this from some points of view, it is necessary to feel reasonably assured that such a transference would not have any grave effect on either the quantity or the quality of the entry for such important—and indeed historic—events.

Other matters need only a brief reference. It has been decided to revert to eight players for the "Ladies' Field" Cup, and it is therefore to be hoped that as many as possible of those who may be invited will accept the invitation so that the standard of play appropriate to such a competition may be maintained. The Silver Jubilee Cup will again be played for during this week and the Creyke Cups during the week of the President's Cup, the reasons for the alteration made last year not seeming to be urgent enough to warrant repeating it. The 3 11/16 hoops used for the President's Cup undoubtedly added interest to the games in this contest, and these will be set up again unless the courts at Roehampton should happen to be exceptionally fiery and difficult when the competition comes to be played. The "best of three" in the Golf Croquet singles sometimes led to universally protracted matches and a form of game involving 1½ rounds of the court has been devised and approved for this purpose.

Two further matters may be touched on in conclusion. The "intervening referee" was felt to have fulfilled a valuable function last season, but there seemed no reason why only two of these officials might be appointed, and in fact more were found to be needed at the larger tournaments. The Referee will now be able to appoint more such persons if he so desires.

Finally, a word should be said of the Council's recommendation that those in the "highest" class should play shortened games. This—not unnaturally perhaps—has been interpreted by some as unfair to players who pay entry fees equal to those of other competitors and may thus claim equal rights with them. The point of the recommendation is to provide conditions in which "time limits" may be avoided as far as possible, since the imposition of these so often spoils games by cutting them off before the most interesting part of them, which is the end, can be reached. If our higher bisquers will reflect on this we think they will realize that they will be the gainers by what is proposed, as it is certainly the Council's earnest wish that they should be.



Chairman, C.A. Tournament Committee.

Impressions . . . by Arthur Ross

New Zealand Open Champion 1953.
Dominion Referee 1933-1953

THE very first impressions were naturally of the players rather than of the game and these were extremely pleasant. No effort was spared to make us welcome and by lunch time on the first day of our first Tournament we felt that we had become "members of the family." We take this opportunity of thanking everyone for this expression of true hospitality.

At first we thought that English Croquet players belonged, in the main, to an older age group than those in New Zealand but as we became better acquainted with them we found this generalization to be as incorrect as such things always are. You have your octogenarians, so have we, and we consider it evidence of the great excellence of the game that such people should be able to take an active part in it. It has become quite obvious that the English attitude is similar.

While we both have our youngsters and regard them as assets of value there is no doubt that the average age is too high in both countries, as this is a matter of first importance may I venture to suggest one solution of the problem? I am convinced that most of those who start Croquet at an early age do so on the lawn in the garden at home—or next door; in New Zealand most gardens are too small to allow for such things but my impression is that half, three-quarter, and even full sized lawns could be laid down in many English gardens. If that were done and the youngsters encouraged to make use of them I *know* that many of them would respond with enthusiasm.

Further than that, there should be a small lawn laid out at every Club for the use of children; the Club to which I belong in New Zealand has such a lawn and I have watched two children aged not more than ten years spend a whole afternoon on it playing proper Croquet. The only times that we heard from them were when they required explanations, and afterwards they told us they had had a wonderful time!

Croquet is Fascinating

Croquet is just as fascinating to children as it is to adults and if they learn to play while quite young the tendency will be to return to the game later in life when the most strenuous games have become too much of a physical tax. I learned Croquet when I was about ten years old, left it for tennis, and returned to it as a matter of course later, when circumstances rendered tennis out of the question.

And while on this subject of age may I say that I have been hearing for over twenty years that the game will inevitably die out in England because its players are becoming older year by year and the supply of recruits is insufficient? If I had ever believed that dismal story (and I did not) what I have seen since my arrival here would have made me change my mind. The irresponsible individual who stated recently that the game had no future just didn't know the facts (the chief

one being the calibre of the people concerned), though he did put his finger upon one point of importance, the fact that there were only 33 people watching the important match that he found so absorbing. We are far from being satisfied in New Zealand over the number of spectators we have watching matches of importance, but the last round or so of the National Championships invariably draw them in hundreds and quite half of these are not Croquet players. If mere demonstration games can draw to the extent that we saw at Wimbledon last year, surely the Championship of England would, if advertised, draw even greater crowds. Croquet is one of the most absorbing of outdoor pastimes, both as an activity and a spectacle, and the fact that so little is known about it is *not* the fault of the game itself—that is not an impression but a conviction!

Comparative Standards

We have been asked about the comparative standard of play in the two Countries, England and New Zealand. Our impression is that though the top class in England consists of extremely fine players they are not by any means out of the reach of the similar class in New Zealand, but there appears to be a larger class of *good* players in England than in New Zealand, the reason being that only a small percentage of New Zealanders ever play in an Open Tournament.

In England, tournament play is the major activity, and an extremely enjoyable one it is too, whereas in New Zealand almost the whole of our attention is directed towards Inter-Club play. The players are graded according to their New Zealand Handicap and literally hundreds of graded Inter-Club matches are staged every year; while this provides many interesting matches for all of us, it has a tendency to prevent players in the lower grades from meeting players better than themselves and progress beyond a certain point is often difficult. Also, the top players are as a rule gathered in one or two localities only and many of our average players never see them in action simply because there is nothing provided that will attract them to many parts of the Dominion. In England, with its full programme of Open Tournaments the tendency must be for top players to appear at almost every place where Croquet is played.

This difference in activity creates problems in New Zealand that do not seem to exist in England, particularly in respect to refereeing. It is a comparatively simple matter to ensure that each of two or three Tournaments being played at the same time is provided with an experienced Tournament Referee but it taxes the ingenuity of even the most experienced organiser to see that dozens of Inter-Club matches, all being played at the same time but on dozens of lawns in various suburbs, are supplied with referees at all. Various techniques have been developed in order to cope with this difficulty, but many of us are convinced

that the Laws of Play might quite well be simplified and so rendered more simple to interpret and apply, without detracting from the interest of the game.

English Tournament Methods

The way in which English Tournaments are finished within the definite time limits allowed has filled us with admiration, though we doubt whether New Zealand players would submit as gracefully as English players do to games in which both time limits and shortened game regulations are imposed. The popular feeling is against both of these devices in New Zealand and it often becomes necessary to begin play (or is it work?) at 8.30 a.m. in order to cope with the situation.

Our impression is that you leave more to chance than we do in your refereeing, that we encourage our people to call for a referee to watch numbers of strokes that your people make without taking that precaution. In addition to that we have developed testing devices to aid our referees in arriving at their decisions; we have come to regard these as essentials and it has been interesting to find that English referees do not make use of them.

Other impressions we have gathered:—In our Country the matter of what is, or is not, a clean Croquet stroke, and whether the referee should be empowered to watch it and rule upon whether the other ball moved or shook when the stroke was made, have been burning questions for some

years; our impression is that these questions are burning just as strongly in England though there may not be as much open argument about them.

For years those of us in authority have been exhorting our referees to regard it as an essential part of their duty to make sure that their decisions are *understood* by all those concerned; from the surprised appreciation with which some of my explanations have been greeted it appears that this is not a local custom, may I suggest that this is one of the very best ways of spreading knowledge of the Laws?

Lawns:—The sward on English lawns is very beautiful and it is a joy to see the way in which the balls travel over it but they have their ups and downs, just like those we find in New Zealand! I must, at this point, hasten to explain that I have not yet had the privilege of playing at either Hurlingham or Roehampton so my experience cannot be regarded as complete.

One final thing that has struck us. We know that English people dislike fuss and some types of formality, but it did come as a bit of a shock to find that Trophies were simply handed over and not presented. We have always made rather a feature of our presentations for publicity reasons and our people would feel defrauded of their rights if we did as you do. Possibly we overdo it, we have been told so, by dragging in our Mayors and Members of Parliament but at least we get publicity for the game by doing so, and it needs it!

THE HURLINGHAM CLUB

THE photograph on the cover of this issue is of the well known Hurlingham Club and shows the picturesque setting of the croquet lawns with the club house in the background.

Though the club was originally founded in 1869 as a venue for pigeon shooting, it will chiefly be remembered as the first proper home of polo in Great Britain. Though polo is no longer played at Hurlingham, the club has a number of social and athletic activities and a large membership. We are here concerned with only one of those activities, croquet, for which six excellent lawns are provided.

Croquet was first played at Hurlingham in about the year 1900, and it was apparently in 1902 that the first Hurlingham Croquet Tournament was held. Within a very few years of that date Croquet Association events were regularly staged at Hurlingham. No account of Hurlingham croquet would be complete without reference to such names as those of Lord Doneraile and Sir George Murray; the latter so insistent on players being punctual for tournaments and rebuking the late arrivals.

Lord Doneraile's chief concern was to see that the lawns were as good as they ought to be; always very insistent that they should be marked out with meticulous accuracy. Mowing and rolling was no easy matter in the early years of this century.

The pony was often accused of making hoofmarks in spite of the boots it wore. With the advent of the motor mower this has ceased to be a trouble.

In the years just before the first war as many as thirteen lawns had to be prepared for a tournament. Now we have never more than eight. But these eight are in very good condition. Some people say the turf is as good as it is owing to the flood water from the Thames which covered them in 1928 and on receding left a deposit of mud. Be that as it may praise must really go to Mr. Tom Grey, Hurlingham's expert groundsman, who with his staff, takes such interest in providing excellent croquet lawns for the various tournaments which are held at Hurlingham.

These tournaments make a visit to the club well worth while. The Croquet Association holds several events here. In May comes the inter-counties championship and in July the open championships. In these events and in others, almost as important, first class players show how croquet really should be played.

Finally, Hurlingham holds its own club croquet tournament at the beginning of August in which any croquet associates may play. They will find themselves made very welcome at the club which accepts them as honorary members for the period of the tournament.

A QUESTION OF LAW . . . by Lex

THE intervening referee has apparently come to stay. There is, however, some doubt as to when the referee should actually intervene and when he should maintain a discrete silence. Fouls at Croquet fall into two categories. There are those fouls that a player can claim without appealing for a referee's decision. An example of such a foul would be playing with the wrong ball or touching a ball in play while it is moving. Then there are those other fouls which require a referee's decision such as a crush. Obviously only a referee can decide whether a stroke of this kind is a foul or not.

We suggest that it is only in fouls of this latter type that the intervening referee is intended to act. It is the duty of the out-player to claim fouls of the first category and it is not part of the referee's duty to do the out-player's work for him. He should be sufficiently alive to what is happening to make the claim himself. If he is not then he should suffer for his inattention!

It would be interesting to hear what our readers think about this.

We must here make our position clear. The final authority on all matters connected with the laws of Croquet is the Laws Committee of the Croquet Association Council with which this column has no official connexion whatever. Our views, however, though unofficial, are based on what we believe to be a correct interpretation of the Laws.

In this column each month we hope to ask you some questions on the laws and shall give the answers on a later page. Let us hasten to say that these questions are not intended for the learned referee, nor for the expert croquet player who has nothing new to learn (are there any?). They are for the ordinary player and for the newcomer to the game.

First Impressions

Croquet's an appalling game,
The hoops are far too small.
The mallet is a clumsy thing
With which to hit a ball.
You hit and miss, you miss and hit,
And take colossal risks,
And find that when you want them most
You've wasted all your bisques.
You join your yellow with your red,
In hopeful segregation;
Your looked-for rush becomes instead,
Divorce and separation.
And then, in spite of all the tips
You've had, when play is done
You find that your confounded clips
Are still on No. 1.

All rules seem complicated to the novice. Croquet's rules are no exception yet they can soon be mastered with a little study. Now this pre-supposes that our readers have in their possession a book of the rules or that they will buy one. This costs only 1s. 6d. from the Secretary of the Croquet Association.

Can you answer the following?

1. What is the weight of a croquet ball?
2. What is the maximum length of a mallet head?
3. What are the two forms of a crush stroke?
4. Can a ball (blue) be wired from another (red) while red is not wired from blue?
5. A player takes off fine in a croquet stroke and is asked by the out-player if he moved the other ball. Several nearby spectators call out "No." The player walks off the court leaving the balls where they are. What is wrong about all this?
6. In a croquet stroke the striker's ball goes off the court and the croqueted ball subsequently runs its hoop in order. Is this point scored?

Answers on page 17.

We shall be glad if our readers will send us questions for inclusion in later issues. We should welcome details of difficult problems with which referees have suddenly been faced upon the lawn. We should like to hear readers' comments on any matters dealing with the laws. Yes, even about law 44!

We heard it said the other day that the laws of Croquet are continually being changed to the detriment of the game. We believe this to be quite contrary to fact. No change of major importance has been made in the laws for a considerable time. Nor does it appear likely that there will be any major changes in the near future.

Second Thoughts

Croquet's an intriguing game:
For if success you'd gain,
You have to give it all you've got
Of hand and eye and brain.
It sets you problems by the score:
The more you play you find
It needs beside the shooting eye
The clear strategic mind. J.

Notes from the Clubs

WE hope in the course of the season to give in this column some account of club activities. We rely upon club correspondents to keep us well informed.

* * *
The Croquet section of the ROEHAMPTON Club held their annual general meeting on Saturday, 13th February. Colonel Adams was invited by Mrs. Nickisson, the Chairman, to preside, and in his opening remarks alluded to the successful season last year, and the pleasure the Club had, in having two visits from Lady Churchill in September. The Club was much indebted to Mr. L. Stokes-Roberts for the gift of a new Croquet Association flag.

Miss D. A. Lintern is the new captain and takes the place of Miss D. Jennings who has so ably performed the duties of captain for the last two years.

Mrs. Carrington, on behalf of new and long handicapped players thanked the committee and members for the advice and help that had been given them.

Arrangements were made for the various club competitions to be held in the course of the season, which we shall hope to report in due course.

* * *
We hear that the NOTTINGHAM Club is making some alterations in its tournament programme. The open event will be of the Draw and Process variety. The level singles of last year for players of five bisques and over will become a handicap event. These changes should appeal to competitors and will we expect, tend to increase the entry for this very attractive tournament. We can strongly advise any who have not visited Nottingham to do so. The lawns are in good condition and in a delightful setting. A warm welcome is assured to any visitors.

* * *
The raffle held in support of the COMPTON Club funds was a great success. Mrs. Rockliff won the turkey which she presented to the boys of Dr. Barnardo's Home where the recipients were

told that the gift came from a croquet player. Much speculation as to what is a croquet player followed and a few more heard of the game for the first time.

Lord Tollemache has resigned the Presidency of the Compton Club and has been succeeded by Mr. L. F. C. Darby. Lord Tollemache has become Patron of the Club.

The lawns of this Club have been having a great deal of attention during the winter and should be in good condition this year. This Club staged its first post-war tournament last year and it was a great success. We can imagine nothing so attractive as spending a week in Eastbourne in June and playing in the Compton tournament.

* * *
It is interesting to hear that the DULWICH Club has a membership of over forty who are all keen supporters of Golf Croquet. For them and other like-minded players our Golf Croquet article should prove instructive. It is from the pen of Mr. Bernard Wiggins, the Chairman of the Golf Croquet committee. We hope to report inter-Club Golf Croquet matches and should be very glad to help arrange dates for such matches if clubs will approach us.

* * *
We are indebted to the FOLKESTONE Club correspondent for sending us particulars of what he calls a Tournament Extraordinary. This, he assures us, provides a pleasant afternoon's entertainment when you are not looking for too serious croquet.

Choose two teams of equal numbers and of any number. Appoint a captain for each team and at a given time start play between one of each side. At intervals of fifteen minutes blow a whistle when two others, as arranged by the captains, will immediately carry on with his or her fellow-player's balls. Have a set time for finishing and the team with most points to its credit wins. This certainly seems to contain the germ of something that is worth while though there do appear to be one or two difficulties to be overcome.

(Challenge Cups), both of which I enjoyed immensely and derived much benefit from them. Even so I had to exceed my holiday ration.

There must be many in the same position as myself who would be able to play in more tournaments if Mr. Hodges' suggestions were adopted. I firmly believe some action of this kind is essential if the game is to become more popular than it is at present and if we "medium bisquers" are to have the much needed playing experience with the back markers.

Having drawn your attention to my sad story as a provincial "medium bisquer" may I trespass further to make some suggestions which I hope will not bring down the wrath of the metropolitan back-markers upon my provincial head.

(a) All tournaments to be limited to a maximum of six days, Monday to Saturday inclusive so as not to break into two weeks.

(b) If (a) cannot be considered then finals of all classes of open and handicap singles to be completed by the evening of the sixth day. Doubles to continue (or commence) after the sixth day.

(c) A time limit of 2½ hours to be applied to all single matches of any kind. Even I, as a "medium bisquer," dare to submit that if such a game cannot be completed in that time then the competitors should be decently removed from the court.

(d) Finally I am certain that we "medium bisquers" do not want to be spoon fed with four inch hoops, smaller courts or any other aid to make the game easier, we prefer to play real croquet and not a bastard form of it.

Yours faithfully,

P. W. ADSHEAD

Greenfields, Blakestreet, Nr. Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire.
18th December, 1953.

To the Editor, *Croquet*.

Dear Sir,

Associates of 8 bisques or over consider that they are robbed of their rights and the pleasure of a game when they are told they are only to play 20 points whereas the Laws of Croquet state that 26 points constitute the score.

These high bisquers represent a very large number of Associates and should be allowed to play the full 26 points for which they, and all other competitors, pay an entrance fee. An equivalent reduction in this fee alleviates but does not remove the unfairness in the reduction of points.

Where lawns are few in number it would surely be more just only to allow A players one game instead of "best of three."

In the old days, what happy Tournaments there were—and so well managed.

These restrictions are fatal and destructive to the game. Many will not now take up the game because of the Laws being so constantly changed.

Yours faithfully,

LYDIA ELPHINSTONE-STONE

268 Old Shoreham Road,
Southwick, Sussex.
January 2nd, 1954.

(Whatever the belief of the writer the fact is that the only major change in the game since 1946 has been the introduction of two lifts which normally affects only 'A' class players.—Editorial Panel.)

To the Editor, *Croquet*.

Dear Sir,

QUO VADIS

It has often been said that a country gets the government it deserves. The saying indicates that if the electors of the country had bestirred themselves they would have had other and better rulers.

SIR FRANCIS COLCHESTER-WEMYSS, K.B.E.

"A man so various . . ." Dryden's famous lines come to mind in attempting a tribute to the memory of our late President. Sir Francis had made contact with life at so many points, grave and gay, that it would occupy all our available space even to give a list of them. Few of us perhaps who knew him in the little "world" of Croquet had any idea of the number and variety of his interests, though we may have heard of his "expertise" as a fisherman and turned with a certain awe the pages of his authoritative treatise on *The Pleasures of the Table*.

"Frankie" as he was so often called by his friends, took up the game at the Cheltenham Club after World War I and came to the front as a player very quickly. If never quite among the very best, he was always a dangerous opponent right through the twenties, and was reserve for the "Best Ten" on at least one occasion. On his home courts he was supreme, and he won the Championship of the Club on eight occasions between 1922 and 1933.

But it was on the administrative side of the game that he chiefly made his mark, as a leading member of the Council (of which he was Chairman from 1930 to 1932), and still more perhaps as the presiding genius of the

As it is with a country so it may be with a game, even with the pleasant placid pastime of Association Croquet.

Upon paper Croquet is governed by a Council of about twenty-four, who are elected by the main body of the Associates by a postal vote. Every Associate pays the same subscription and any two can propose and second any member of the Association as a candidate for election to the Council.

One third of the Council retires each year and eight Associates are then elected to fill the eight vacancies. The Associates may elect a completely new eight. They may elect all or none of the eight who are retiring. The election is of a postal vote taken before the date of the General Meeting. The result of the election used to be announced at the General Meeting.

The last postal vote took place in 1936, eighteen years ago. During the war years 1939-1945 the Association was in a state of suspended animation but since 1946 eight of the Council have retired each year and the same eight or others co-opted by the Council are put up by the Council "en bloc" to fill the eight vacancies.

If this state of things goes on much longer the general body of Associates will wake one day to realize that their sole purpose is to find the money to run their game while their rulers can run the game as they think it best.

Unless I have misread the signs and portents one can see in verandahs and other places in clubs where players meet and gossip and fly kites, it is quite probable that our rulers will decree that the men and women's and the Open championships are to be played in 1954 on 3 11/16 inch hoops instead of the Regulation 3½ inch hoops, although at present the 3 11/16 inch hoops cannot be bought commercially and no club that I have heard of own any.

To continue in your Lotus Land lethargy, never exercising your rights, is to consign yourself into the hands of a Dictatorship. To rouse yourselves at the cost of some energy and trouble may save a game which has withstood the onslaughts of conditions produced by two world wars.

Having pointed out the danger I see ahead of this Association, I would utter a word of warning. Do not merely sweep away the eight of your governing body who are due to retire in 1954. Vote for the new candidates you propose and any of the old you wish to retain on their merits and remember this that the most brilliant players are not always the most sane rulers.

Yours faithfully,

Tibbs Court,
Brenchley, Kent.
December 3rd, 1953.
L. F. C. DARBY

(If the kites mentioned above were flown they crashed to earth when the tournament committee considered the conditions upon which the three championships were to be played in 1954.—Editorial Panel)

teams which went to the Antipodes to compete for the International Trophy in 1928-29 and 1935-36.

Sir Francis was a notable theorist on the behaviour of croquet balls and would take infinite trouble to expound his ideas on the effect of "side" and "spin" and the possibilities of hoop-running at sharp angles. A correspondent from Cheltenham testifies to this, and further adds "in old days he took complete charge of the tournament lunch here and it was a goodly sight to see him in cook's cap and apron wielding a steel. We all loved him here."

The Association was fortunate to find such a man for its President after the lamented death of Trevor Williams during the last war. But unhappily his services in this capacity were soon to be limited by increasing ill-health, and he had written resigning his office a few months before his death, which occurred within a fortnight of his impending 82nd birthday.

"Frankie" was a man who seemed to surround himself with happiness, and for this, no less than for his services to the game he loved, croquet players will long and gratefully remember him.
M.B.R.

CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor, *Croquet*.

Dear Sir,

Many Associates must be grateful to Mr. Hodges, as I am, for the views he put forward in the penultimate paragraph of his letter in the December issue of the *Gazette*.

I am a "medium bisquer" and one of the provincials under reference, I am very keen to play in first class tournaments for a number of reasons. Apart from a desire and the obvious need to improve my game, I like playing in tournaments and appreciate the opportunity to meet so many pleasant fellow Associates, the only possible occasion to do so for the provincial.

Alas, I have an occupation which keeps me very busy and with limited holidays. A moiety of my holidays is very properly devoted to my non-playing wife, the remainder to croquet. Last season I was able to play in two tournaments only, Leamington and Roehampton

OBITUARY

DR. G. L. STANLEY

We greatly regret to announce the death of Dr. G. L. Stanley, who had been a member of the Budleigh Salterton Club for three years. He was an extremely ardent tournament player in the post war years. By applying himself most studiously to the game, and by constant practice, he succeeded, in this comparatively short period, in reducing his handicap to 2. He won the Peel Memorials in 1952 and was runner-up in the Gold Caskets handicap singles in 1953. Much sympathy is extended to Mrs. Stanley in her sudden loss.

W. H. LYALL

The Cheltenham Club has suffered a grievous loss in the death of W. H. Lyall. For many years he had been an outstanding personality.

He was a club member for over thirty years during which period he had been successively Tournament Secretary and Chairman of the Committee. In his day he was a bold and enterprising player with a handicap of a half. You never quite knew what he would be up to next and at his best he was a worthy opponent for anyone.

As is well known he managed the Costebelle winter season for many years. He was much loved at Cheltenham for he was one to whom members felt they could always turn for a sane and balanced judgment. He was just one of those folk it is hard to replace and all deeply mourn his loss.

F. W. MERRICK

Mr. F. W. Merrick's many friends in South Africa and England will be extremely sorry to hear that he died very suddenly in Bournemouth on Christmas Day. Until poor sight obliged him to resign he had been a member of the Parkstone Club for many years. He was a very fine player and a great exponent of the art of triple peeling.

H. ARNOLD WOOLLEY

Mr. H. Arnold Woolley who died suddenly on January 5th, had only been a member of the Parkstone Croquet Club for one season. He was, however, an Associate of many years' standing and came to Bournemouth from Wembley. During his short time of membership at Parkstone he proved a most enthusiastic player and a most generous and kindly man. He will be much missed.

A. E. ROBINSON

Mr. A. E. Robinson, whose death occurred recently in Bournemouth, was for many years a keen member of the Dean Park Club, and played regularly in tournaments in the South of England.

He was a formidable opponent, and though in recent years he had been able to take little part in open events, owing to ill-health, he was always keenly interested in the game and was usually to be seen at Parkstone tournament as an onlooker.

Much sympathy is felt for Mrs. Robinson in her sad loss.

N. E. PRINCE

It is with regret, that we report the death of Mr. N. E. Prince of Bath. Mr. Prince was a member of the Bath Croquet Committee from the start of the Club, and the popularity of the open tournament held in pre-war years was in no small way a tribute to his efforts.

Mr. Prince was a good player on fast courts and had represented Somerset many times at the county championship meetings. He won his silver medal in 1903.

Associates will wish to extend their sympathy to Mrs. Prince and Mr. Sidney Robinson.

Fourteen

EDINBURGH CROQUET CLUB ANNUAL DINNER

This Scottish Club, now securely established after four seasons, held its second Annual Dinner in the Roxburgh Hotel, Edinburgh, on 19th November. About 40 ladies and gentlemen were present, the Chair being occupied by Mr. Moray McLaren, founder-President of the Club.

In "An Eulogy on Scottish Croquet," couched in elegant and erudite terms, Mr. McLaren remarked on the extent to which hope entered into Croquet, and referred to the hopes centred on the present Champion of England, now a young man of only 21 summers. Who knows, said Mr. McLaren, he might still be Champion of England in his sixties—somewhere about the year 2003?

The speaker then briefly traced the history of Croquet from its beginnings about 150 years ago in Brittany, when it was crudely played by farmers on rough fields with "crooked" sticks. From there it progressed to the smoother lawns of English vicarages, a fact apt to incur the undue attention of cartoonists. Mr. McLaren did not think this fair. Why should not the game be largely confined to clerics? After all, he said, a foursome with Mary, Queen of Scots and Cardinal Beaton on one side and John Knox and Jenny Geddes on the other, might have most interesting repercussions.

More seriously, Mr. McLaren ended with brief references to modern developments of the game from its first forms with sixteen hoops and tinkling bells. He was particularly delighted that the "Queen of Games" should have revived officially and so strongly on this side of the Border, where he hoped it would long have a firm and lasting place. The Edinburgh Club had just completed the most successful season of its short career to date.

Mr. Wilfred Taylor, well-known author and journalist, compressed much wit into his all-too-brief remarks on "The Croquet Hoop." "This peculiar instrument," he said, picking up an actual rover hoop from the table, "nearly always seemed too narrow for the balls or the balls too wide for the hoop." Unfortunately, he remarked, he had quickly to transfer his thoughts that evening from the green sward of the croquet green to the green lights awaiting him in his newspaper caseroom.

"The Croquet Ball" was handled—literally and verbally—in jocular vein by Mr. Norman Bissett. Toying with the blue ball in his hands, he spoke of Croquet as one of the few games introducing so much colour into its equipment. Red, he remarked, had sometimes today a sinister ring; Yellow perhaps hinted at a jaundiced "hang-over"; Black of a very lively hang-over; but Blue had a touch of Heaven in its colour.

Mr. R. J. B. Sellar proposed the final Toast—"The Croquet Mallet." Under this heading he skilfully suggested amusing diversions for waiting players while the green was occupied. Mr. Sellar declared that he had become a devoted admirer of Mrs. Rotherham as he watched her in action last May during her visit with Mr. Hicks, Dr. Wiggins and Capt. Reid-Walker. The way in which she quietly but unerringly willed her balls through hoops was sheer fascination, he said, and he would have welcomed provision of a shady arbour in which he might have captured some of the secrets of the art from this charming lady—and where, indeed, perhaps other and younger gentlemen could "sport with Amaryllis." Mr. Sellar also mentioned unique games he had seen in other parts such as "stool-ball" in the English Cotswolds and "stick-halfpenny" (flicking a moistened halfpenny stamp on to a ceiling by means of a coin) at which no less a person than Sir J. M. Barrie was a skilful exponent.

A warmly supported and thoroughly merited vote of thanks to the Chairman was pleasingly phrased by Mr. W. B. Laing and this concluded proceedings. J.R.S.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THE Annual General Meeting of the Croquet Association will be held at the Roehampton Club, Roehampton Lane, S.W.15, on Tuesday, May 11th, at 2.30 p.m.

(Associates will be admitted free on production of 1954 membership card and signing the Gate Book.)

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting.
2. Accounts and Balance Sheet.
3. Report of the Council for 1953.
4. Election of President. Sir Compton MacKenzie offers himself for election.
5. Election of Hon. Treasurer. Mr. L. F. C. Darby retires and offers himself for re-election.
6. Election of Eight Members of Council for a period of three years. The following retire by rotation and offer themselves for re-election: Mrs. R. C. J. Beaton, Rev. B. V. F. Brackenbury, Col. J. G. Clarke, Major J. H. Dibley, Mrs. L. E. G. Nickisson, N. Oddie, B. H. Wiggins. Lady Gurney-Dixon retires. Mrs. E. Rotherham proposed

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL 1953-54

IT is with profound regret that the Council records the death of Sir Francis Colchester-Wemyss who was President of the Association until a very short time ago when he resigned owing to continued ill-health. Sir Francis joined the Association in 1921 and became a Member of Council in 1923 and Chairman from 1930 to 1932. In 1928 he was a member of the team which went to Australia to compete for the International Shield. He was also a member of the visiting team in 1935 on which occasion he acted as Manager and Organizer of the tour. In 1938 he was responsible for the successful arrangements made when the Australian Team visited England. He was elected President in 1940. A fine record of croquet activity.

The Council have pleasure in announcing that Sir Compton MacKenzie has consented to be a candidate for the position of President.

The exhibition matches on the grounds of the Wimbledon Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club last September proved most successful. It was originally suggested by Mr. E. P. C. Cotter that the President's Cup should be played for at Wimbledon, but the necessary number of full-sized lawns were not available and thanks to the efforts of Capt. H. G. Stoker in negotiating with the Wimbledon Committee arrangements were made for some Exhibition matches to be played there. Not only was there a large attendance, but much interest in the game was evoked amongst non-associates, as evidenced by the many inquiries of various kinds received in the Office, and the unusually large sale of copies of the Laws to the public. Thanks are due to the players, Miss Lintern, Mrs. Rotherham, Mrs. Turketine, Mr. E. P. C. Cotter, Mr. J. B. Gilbert, Mr. H. O. Hicks, Mr. A. Ross, Mr. J. W. Solomon, Capt. H. G.

by the Rev. B. V. F. Brackenbury, seconded by H. O. Hicks, offers herself for election.

7. Any other business.

Notes:—

Rule VI. Election of Council. (a) Candidates for election shall consist of (i) Members of the Council retiring under Rule 11 (a) and offering themselves for re-election. (ii) Associates duly proposed and seconded by two other Associates of whose candidature notice in writing shall have been received by the Secretary at least thirty-one days before the date of the Annual General Meeting.

Rule VII. (b) Any Associate desirous of proposing a candidate for the office of President or Vice-President or of moving a resolution at the Annual General Meeting except on a question arising out of the Report and Balance Sheet, must give notice thereof to the Secretary at least twenty-eight days before the date of Meeting in order that the same may be published in *Croquet*.

(An amended Agenda will be published in the May issue of *Croquet* if necessary.)

Stoker and Dr. W. R. D. Wiggins who exhibited their skill at the game and to Rev. B. V. F. Brackenbury, Mr. D. E. Buckland and Dr. W. R. D. Wiggins, Members of the Publicity Committee, who were responsible for the final organization of the event. The Council also wish to record their thanks to the Wimbledon L.T. & C. Club Authorities for their courteous co-operation and hospitality, and the good work of their Ground Staff in the setting out of the courts.

The Croquet Dinner held at the Roehampton Club during the week of the Challenge and Gilbey Cups Meeting was a well-attended and enjoyable occasion and thanks are due to Mrs. L. E. G. Nickisson for organizing it.

During the year 49 new associates were elected. There were unfortunately a good many deaths, and some resignations, but nevertheless the membership shows an upward trend. There were also several additions to the list of registered clubs. It is most important that all clubs where the game is played should be affiliated as the Secretary of the C.A. often receives inquiries as to facilities for play in some particular locality. It is most probable that potential players, and club members, are lost when this information is lacking.

Though the Accounts show a small credit balance this is entirely due to no applications for grants having been received in time to be dealt with during the 1953 financial year, and is therefore less satisfactory than appears.

The Council would again wish to record their appreciation of the work carried out with such efficiency by Mrs. Apps, their Secretary, and to thank all those who have acted as Managers, Referees and Handicappers at the various tournaments throughout the Season.

Fifteen

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1953

	1952. £	1953. £	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
EXPENDITURE.						
To Medals	35		23	1	0	
Prizes at Meetings—						
Roehampton	48	45	2	6		
Hurlingham	15	11	2	6		
Eastbourne	42	40	0	0		
Expenses at Meetings—						
Roehampton	15	5	9	4		
Hurlingham	48	92	7	2		
Eastbourne	122	138	16	1		
Roehampton Club Associates' Fees	49	53	15	0		
Engraving and Carriage of Trophies	21	37	8	0		
Printing and Publications—						
Publication of C.A. Gazette	379	365	3	1		
Editor's Salary	59	58	16	0		
Printing Laws	46	68	10	0		
Printing Year Book	55	57	12	6		
Secretary's Salary	539	550	1	7		
Rent Office, Cleaning, Light and Heat	284	100	9	3		
Office Stationery	11	56	3	4		
Telephone	17	26	3	4		
Insurance Trophies and Office Contents	1	13	3	0		
Postage	1	6	15	0		
Audit Fee	11	24	8	9		
Travelling and Sundry Expenses	50	60	10	5		
Corporation Duty	3	3	7	3		
Excess of Income over Expenditure	1,458	1,468	10	2		
	5	7	19	9		
	<u>£1,463</u>	<u>£1,476</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>11</u>		
INCOME.						
By Subscriptions	582	582	4	6		
Donations	11	11	3	6		
Affiliation Fees Overseas Clubs	16	16	0	0		
Entry Fees—						
Roehampton	127	131	6	0		
Hurlingham	44	42	4	6		
Eastbourne	110	102	4	6		
Levy and Tribute	281	237	12	0		
Year Book	233	22	1	10		
Hints to Long Bisquers	70	61	19	3		
Croquet Entry Forms	21	2	1	9		
Advertisements in Gazette	101	3	16	4		
Dividends and Interest less Tax—						
Roehampton Club Debentures	71	10	15	0		
London County Consolidated 3½%	11	8	10	2		
P.O.S.B. Interest	8	3	3	2		
Rent Received	36	32	1	0		
	150	150	0	0		
	<u>£1,463</u>	<u>£1,476</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>11</u>		

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1953

	1952. £	1953. £	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
LIABILITIES.						
ACCUMULATED FUND—						
As at 1st January, 1953	75	2,757	19	11		
Add Excess Income 1953	572	7	19	8		
VICTORY FUND—						
As per last Balance Sheet	50	50	2	4		
SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED IN ADVANCE	2,818	13	11	0		
SUNDY CREDITORS—Expenses Outstanding	137	47	10	0		
	<u>2,962</u>	<u>2,887</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>		
ASSETS.						
OFFICE FURNITURE—						
At Cost per last Balance Sheet	75	75	18	0		
Trophies	572	2,775	19	8		
INVESTMENTS AT COST—						
£488 8s. 0d. London County Consolidated 3½% 1958-68	480	480	10	0		
£488 8s. 0d. War Stock 3½%	500	500	0	0		
(Market Value 31.12.52, £798 8s. 2d.)	931	931	10	0		
(Market Value 31.12.53, £858 17s. 0d.)	510	510	0	0		
£500 Roehampton County Club Debentures	500	500	0	0		
£10 Roehampton County Club Ordinary Shares	10	10	0	0		
CASH—						
At Bank	652	573	10	7		
Post Office Savings Bank	216	221	14	3		
In hand	6	6	10	8		
	1,441	1,441	10	0		
	<u>£2,962</u>	<u>£2,887</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>		

E. P. DUFFIELD, Chairman of Council.
Col. C. C. ADAMS, Vice-Chairman of Council.
L. F. C. DARBY, Hon. Treasurer C.A.

We have received all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of our audit. In our opinion proper books of account have been kept. We have examined the Balance Sheet and annexed Income and Expenditure Account which are in agreement with the books. In our opinion and to the best of our information and the explanations given to us, the Balance Sheet gives a true and fair view of the Association's affairs at 31st December, 1953, and the Income and Expenditure Account gives a true and fair view of the excess of Income for the year ended on that date.

3 RAYMOND BUILDINGS, GRAY'S INN, LONDON, W.C.1.

13th January, 1954.

BEGBIE, ROBINSON & CO., Chartered Accountants.

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

We have considered the motion proposed by Mrs. R. C. J. Beaton as to raising the annual subscription of £1 10s. and the amendment proposed by Dr. W. R. D. Wiggins advocating that it be raised to £2. We recommend that before the Council submits any resolution to the Annual General Meeting a letter from our Chairman be sent to all Club Secretaries, setting out the position and proposals, and asking them to obtain the reaction of their members to them. Alternative suggestions for putting the finances of the C.A. on a realistic basis to be invited.

We have considered an application for a grant from the Compton Club, and recommend that £10 be given.

An application from the Cheltenham Club has been put back for future consideration pending receipt of further information.

We recommend that Mr. H. F. Crowther Smith be given the position of Official Reporter and that in consideration of his undertaking the following duties, he be paid the sum of £60 for the year 1954. The duties being 1, Reporting of all official tournaments; 2, Proof-reading, and correction of tournament score-sheets; 3, Compiling of annual prize list.

We have been informed of the result of the Sweepstake, namely a profit of £75 3s. 6d. and desire to record our great appreciation of the efforts of the organizers Col. J. G. Clarke, Mrs. R. C. J. Beaton and Mr. G. V. Evans. Particular thanks are due to Col. Clarke who undertook the very onerous clerical work.

SUMMARY OF ALL HANDICAP SINGLES GAMES PLAYED AND FINISHED AND REPORTED IN THE GAZETTE 1953

Bisques	Games		Percentage of games Won		
	Won	Lost			
1	—	2½	83.33		
2	—	0	76.19		
3	—	5½	75.00		
4	—	3½	72.73		
5	—	3	65.15		
6	—	4	62.16		
7	—	7½	61.63		
8	—	2½	59.55		
9	—	1½	57.41		
10	—	1	56.44		
11	—	4	56.15		
12	—	6	55.97		
13	—	49	55.06		
14	—	1	53.41		
15	—	11	51.22		
16	—	2	50.62		
17	—	3	50.38		
18	—	8	50.00		
19	—	5½	48.28		
20	—	1	47.86		
21	—	6½	47.26		
22	—	5	47.06		
23	—	2	46.81		
24	—	7	46.16		
25	—	2	46.09		
26	—	3½	44.68		
27	—	8	43.24		
28	—	9	43.12		
29	—	4½	42.65		
30	—	10	38.46		
31	{	13	3	9	25.00
32	{	14	12	36	
33	{	12	22	67	24.72
		1432	1432		

The Council Resolved . . .

At the meeting held on November 19th, it was reported that Messrs. Jaques could not supply ball gauges for tournaments. It was reported that it seemed feasible that the Gazette might be developed as a medium of propaganda, but that the cost might exceed the present net amount of £300 by as much as £600. It was decided to invite associates to guarantee this sum. It was agreed to accept the invitation of the Hurlingham Club to arrange for a team to play the Club. The proposal that a quarter bisque be introduced was defeated. It was decided to hold the Annual General Meeting of the Association at the Roehampton Club during the Peel Memorials Tournament. The question of raising the C.A. annual subscription was discussed and referred to the Finance Committee.

At the meeting held on December 10th, letters protesting against the introduction of shortened games for players of handicap 8 or more were read. It was decided that the Chairman of the Tournament Committee should explain the reasons for the proposals.

It was announced that the £600 guarantee to finance the Croquet magazine had been promised, but that certain modifications in the method of production, suggested by an associate, would probably considerably reduce its cost. The Council agreed that to take the place of the Editor of the Gazette an editorial panel, elected by the Finance and Publicity Committees, should be appointed to produce the new magazine. It was suggested that Mr. Crowther Smith should continue to report official tournaments and correct tournament proof sheets, for which he would receive substantially the same salary as at present.

It was decided that in Block D in the Gilbey Competition one of the authorised shortened games might be played at the discretion of the manager.

At the meeting held on 4th February, it was reported that Miss D. Lintern, Mr. L. F. C. Darby, Mr. M. B. Reckitt and the Rev. B. Brackenbury had been elected to serve on the editorial panel of Croquet.

It was announced that Sir Compton Mackenzie had consented to be a candidate for the office of President of the Association.

The report of the Finance Committee was presented and accepted, with the one amendment that Mr. Crowther Smith's salary should be increased to £60 in 1954 for his work in connexion with Croquet. It was decided to invite Mr. Crowther Smith to attend Council meetings as a visitor.

A motion by Mr. J. W. Solomon that the half bisque should be abolished was discussed and negatived.

Colonel Clarke reported that the sweepstake had resulted in providing the C.A. funds with a sum of approximately £75. The Chairman warmly congratulated Colonel Clarke and thanked him on behalf of the Council.

ANSWERS

- 1.—15¼ to 16¼ ounces.
- 2.—There is none.
- 3.—(a) Strike the ball so as to cause it to touch an upright on the peg while still in contact with the mallet.
(b) Strike the ball, when lying in contact with an upright on the peg otherwise than away from the upright or peg.
- 4.—Yes, particularly when blue is near to and a little beyond a hoop.
- 5.—(a) It is for the striker only to reply to the question.
(b) Etiquette requires spectators to abstain from comment.
- (c) If the croqueted ball was not moved the balls are replaced as they lay at the beginning of the stroke, and the turn ends.
- 6.—Yes.

DIRECTORY OF CLUBS

- Bedford**—Hon. Secretary, Miss D. D. Steel, King's Close, Biddenham, Bedford.
- Birkdale (Southport)**—Hon. Secretary, Rev. F. I. Denbow, East View, Liverpool Road, Rufford, Ormskirk.
- Blackheath (Blackheath Park)**—Hon. Secretary, Mrs. E. M. Gordon, 7 Pond Road, Blackheath, S.E.3.
- Bowdon**—Hon. Secretary, Mrs. M. Curnick, Corwar, Hazelwood Road, Hale, Cheshire.
- Budleigh Salterton**—Secretary, Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, Budleigh Salterton.
- Buxton Croquet Club**—Hon. Secretary, Mrs. M. Dean, 7 Bath Road, Buxton.
- Carrickmines Croquet and Lawn Tennis Club**—Hon. Secretary, Capt. J. H. Wilson, Littlegate, Carrickmines, Dublin.
- Cassiobury (Watford)**—Hon. Secretary, Miss B. Hurst, 97 Mildred Avenue, Watford.
- Chelmsford and Mid-Essex Croquet Club**—Hon. Secretary, Miss G. Metcalfe, Yoredale, Finchley Avenue, Chelmsford.
- Cheltenham**—Hon. Secretary, Major R. D. Marshall, Cheltenham Croquet Club, Old Bath Road, Cheltenham.
- Clifton and County Croquet Club**—Hon. Secretary, Miss L. Newman, 60 Hampton Park, Bristol 6.
- Colchester**—Hon. Secretary, E. P. Duffield, Acland Lodge, Acland Avenue, Colchester.
- Compton (Eastbourne)**—Hon. Secretary, Lt.-Col. R. A. Irwin, The Lawn, Willingdon, Sussex.
- Crouch Hill Recreation Club** (85a Crouch Hill, N. 4)—Hon. Secretary, Mrs. E. G. Simmonds, 7 Crouch Hill Road, Crouch End, N.8.
- Dulwich Croquet Club**—Hon. Secretary, Mrs. N. L. Baker, 23 Rollscourt Avenue, London, S.E.24.
- East Dorset Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club (Parkstone)**—Hon. Secretary, Mrs. L. H. Ashton, East Dorset L.T. & Croquet Club, Salters Road, Parkstone, Dorset.
- Edgbaston (Birmingham)**—Hon. Secretary, Dr. B. R. Sandiford, 150 Great Charles Street, Birmingham.
- Edinburgh Croquet Club (Lauriston Castle)**—Hon. Secretary, J. R. Spence, 11 Stanley Road, Edinburgh 6.
- Exmouth Croquet and Lawn Tennis Club**—Hon. Secretary, F. J. Marshall, The Club House, Cranford, Exmouth.
- Ferranti Staff Recreation Club**—Crewe Toll, Edinburgh—Hon. Secretary, A. W. Dawson.
- Folkestone L.T. and Croquet Club**—Hon. Secretary, Lady Climo, 158 Sandgate Road, Folkestone.
- Guernsey Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club**—Hon. Secretary, J. Griffiths, Les Fontaines, King's Road, Guernsey, C.I.
- Heathfield** (Lyford Road, London, S.W.18)—Hon. Secretary, W. Goodrich, 25 Crockerton Road, S.W.17.
- Hunstanton**—Hon. Secretary, Mrs. B. C. Perowne, 65 Victoria Avenue, Hunstanton.
- Hurlingham**—The Secretary, Fulham, S.W.6.
- Ipswich (Arboretum)**—Hon. Secretary, Miss Allen, 101 Constable Road, Ipswich.
- Littlehampton Croquet Club**—Hon. Secretary, H. T. Heming-Johnson, A.C.A., Rosemary, Fitzalan Road, Littlehampton.
- Northern Lawn Tennis Club (Croquet Section) Didsbury, nr. Manchester**—Hon. Secretary, W. Brownsword, 488 Wilmslow Road, Fallowfield, Manchester.
- Norwich**—Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Edmund Reeve, Sutton Lodge, Ipswich Road, Norwich.
- Nottingham Croquet Club**—Hon. Secretary, A. O. Taylor, Woodville House, Sherwood, Nottingham.
- Oxford University Croquet and Lawn Tennis Club**—Hon. Secretary, H. S. Clemons, 7 Marston Ferry Road, Oxford.
- Reigate Priory Croquet Club**—Hon. Secretary, L. W. Buckley, St. Monica, Alma Road, Reigate.
- Roehampton**—The Secretary, Roehampton Club, Roehampton Lane, S.W.15.
- Rydal Croquet Club**—Hon. Secretary, Hugh R. Hulbert, Rydal Mount, Ambleside.
- Ryde Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club**—Hon. Secretary, Harold A. Compton, Play Street Lane, Ryde, I.o.W.
- Shepton Mallet**—Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Cooper, 44 Victoria Grove, Shepton Mallet.
- Sidmouth Croquet Club**—Hon. Secretary, c/o. Cricket Pavilion, Sidmouth.
- Southsea**—Hon. Secretary, Miss E. M. Watson, 24 Bembridge Crescent, Southsea.
- St. Ives L.T. Club and Croquet Club**—Hon. Secretary, H. L. Branson, Ocean Breezes, St. Ives, Cornwall.
- Sussex County (Brighton) Croquet and Lawn Tennis Club**—Hon. Secretary, F. E. Corke, 28 Mansfield Road, Hove 3.
- Upton**—Hon. Secretary, E. Brighouse, 27 Heath Road, Upton, Wirral.
- Warwickshire Croquet Club (Leamington)**—Hon. Secretary, W. R. Bolton, The Warwickshire Croquet Club, Guy's Cliffe Avenue, Leamington Spa.
- Woking Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club**—Hon. Secretary, Major J. H. Cobb, Farm Hotel, Woking.

THE CLUB TEAM CUP (Handicap)

Presented by William Longman, Esq.

Committee.—The Tournament Committee of the Croquet Association.

Manager and Referee.—Secretary, Croquet Association.

Secretary.—The Secretary, C.A., 4 Southampton Row, London, W.C.1.

Holder—Woking

1. Competitors must be both members of the C.A. and bona-fide members of the Club for which they play. No individual may play for more than one Club during the Competition.
2. The teams shall normally consist of 4 players who will play 2 Doubles and 3 Singles. By mutual consent, however, the teams in any match may consist of 6 players. In this case the match will include as a minimum 3 Doubles which must be completed, and 2 Single games, though two competing Clubs may increase the number of Single games to 4 or 6 if they mutually agree to do so.
3. HANDICAPS. This Competition is to be played under C.A. Handicap. The gross handicap of any team of four players must be at least 12 bisques, or 18 bisques for a team of 6 players. The gross handicap of any pair in a team must be at least 6 bisques. Every Competitor must have a C.A. handicap of at least half a bisque.
4. To be played with the same general arrangements and conditions as hold for the All-England Handicap and the Inter-Club Championship in so far as they apply.
5. The Clubs entering will be drawn on the "Bagnall-Wild" system.
6. Competing Clubs will play on mutually agreed grounds. If they cannot agree, the match shall be played on a convenient neutral ground chosen by the Manager. If such ground cannot be found, or made available, the Manager shall draw lots as to which side has choice of ground.
7. The results of matches with names, initials, and handicaps of the players should be sent by the winning teams to the Secretary, C.A., who will arrange for publication in *Croquet*.
8. PRIZES. The winning Club will hold the Cup for one year, or until the next Competition, whichever is the shorter period.
9. There are no entry fees.
10. Entries must reach the Secretary, C.A., by the 8th May, 1954.

ALL-ENGLAND HANDICAP 1954

Winner 1953—Major J. H. Dibley (2)

Committee.—The Tournament Committee of the Croquet Association.

Manager, Referee and Handicapper.—Miss D. A. Lintern.

Secretary.—The Secretary, C.A., 4 Southampton Row, London, W.C.1.

1. Competitors must be members of the C.A. or members of a Registered Croquet Club.
A member of the C.A. not being a member of a Registered Club must arrange to play in a Registered Club's All-England Competition in order to become eligible for the Final Stages.
A Competitor may not play in more than one Registered Club's Competition.
2. Preliminary Stage.—Each Club, members of which enter for the All-England Handicap, will hold a competition, under Club arrangements, to be finished by the 18th July.
Clubs entering 16 to 31 competitors will be entitled to have two representatives (the winner and the runner-up) in the Final Stages.
3. Final Stages.—The Club representatives will be drawn on the Bagnall-Wild System and will meet in London during a period extending over August 11th to 13th.
The Final will be played at Roehampton on August 14th. Where there are two representatives from a Club they will be allocated to opposite quarters of the draw.
4. Qualification to hold a competition:—
No Club with an entry of less than 4 competitors is eligible to be represented.
5. Handicaps.—In the Club Competitions the handicapping will be under Club arrangements.
In any match of the Final Stages a competitor shall play on the C.A. Handicap that he would have been playing at in an Official Tournament during that week.
If a Non-Associate wins or is runner-up in a Club Competition, the Club Secretary will furnish the Manager with sufficient data to enable him to allot a handicap.
6. Entry Fees.—Entry Fee for each Competitor 3s., to be paid to the Club Secretaries. 1s. of the Entry Fee will be retained by the Competitor's Club, and 2s. will be sent to the Secretary, C.A., by the Club Secretary.
7. Club Secretaries are requested to notify the Secretary C.A., by the 8th May, if they are holding a Competition.
8. The results of Club Competitions should be sent to the Secretary, C.A., to reach her not later than July 19th.
9. Matches of single games throughout.
10. Prizes.—Winner and Runner-up, The Tingey Trophies, others in last eight, Bronze Medals.

Maurice B. Reckitt

CROQUET TODAY

The author of *Croquet Today* has been a tournament player for nearly half a century, was Men's Singles Champion in 1935 and 1946, and joint holder of both the Open Doubles and the Mixed Doubles Championships on four occasions. His is the most ambitious book on the game that has appeared for forty years and during that time new developments have rendered most of its predecessors out of date.
TO BE PUBLISHED THIS SUMMER

Illustrated with original photographs and diagrams
12s. 6d.

MACDONALD

In Our May Number—

FINISHING A BREAK

By HUMPHREY HICKS

ROEHAMPTON CLUB (Cover)

By DR. N. H. OLIVER

CROQUET RECRUITS

GOLF CROQUET

By H. F. CROWTHER SMITH

A QUESTION OF LAW

BEGINNERS, PLEASE

THE SECOND LESSON

NOTES FROM THE CLUBS

THE PEEL MEMORIALS

will be played for at

THE ROEHAMPTON CLUB
The Headquarters of the Croquet Association

On **MONDAY, MAY 10th, 1954**
AND FIVE FOLLOWING DAYS

Committee.—The Tournament Committee of the Croquet Association.

Manager and Handicapper.—Mrs. G. J. Turketine.

Referee.—T. Wood-Hill.

Assistant Referees on the Official List will be appointed on the ground under Reg. 15 (a).

Secretary.—The Secretary, C.A., 4 Southampton Row, London, W.C.1.

EVENTS.

Open to Associates only.

- 1.—“PEEL MEMORIAL HANDICAP” SINGLES for men. Entrance Fee, 9s. 6d. Prizes: A Silver Challenge Bowl, and the number of other prizes will be according to the number of entries received. **This Event will be played under the “Two Life” system.** Holder—Brig. A. E. Stokes Roberts (10).
- 2.—“PEEL MEMORIAL” HANDICAP SINGLES for Women. Entrance Fee, 9s. 6d. Prizes: A Silver Challenge Bowl, and the number of other prizes will be according to the number of entries received. **This Event will be played under the “Two Life” system.** Holder—Miss D. A. Lintern (—3).
- 3.—HANDICAP DOUBLES (Combined handicaps scratch or over). Entries must be made in pairs. Entrance Fee, 9s. 6d. for each person. Prizes: Two Silver Challenge Cups presented in memory of Lady Murray, and the number of other prizes will be according to the number of entries received. Holders—F. H. Fisher and Brig. A. E. Stokes Roberts (11½).

CONDITIONS.

Hoops 3¼ in. wide. “Brento” Balls will be used. At least seven courts will be provided.

The winners hold the respective Challenge Trophies for one year or until the next competition, whichever is the shorter period.

The Committee reserve the right to refuse any entry without assigning a reason and to decide any question that may arise.

Every Competitor shall wear such flat-soled boots or shoes as cannot damage the Court.

ENTRIES.

The Entries, accompanied by the Entrance Fees, for Events 1 and 2 must be sent to the Secretary, C.A., 4 Southampton Row, London, W.C.1, so as to reach her not later than the first post on **Wednesday, May 5th**, and for Event 3 by noon on **Tuesday, May 11th**.

Competitors must give with their entries the address at which messages will reach them during the Tournament.

PLAY.

Play will begin at 10 a.m. daily unless otherwise notified.

Competitors must report themselves to the Manager on arrival, and ascertain, if not previously notified, at what hour they must be ready to play.

Any Competitor who wishes to leave the ground before the conclusion of play must obtain the permission of the Manager.

Any Competitor who is not present, or is otherwise unable to play when called upon to do so, will be liable to be scratched.

DRAW.

The Draw for Events Nos. 1 and 2 will take place at 4 Southampton Row on **Wednesday, May 5th**, at 11 a.m.

BRIGHTON

ANNUAL SUMMER CROQUET TOURNAMENT

On the Grounds of the
**SUSSEX COUNTY CROQUET AND LAWN
TENNIS CLUB, VICTORIA ROAD, SOUTHWICK**

on

MONDAY, MAY 17th

AND FIVE FOLLOWING DAYS

(Under the Laws and Regulations of the C.A.)

Committee.—The Croquet Committee of the Club.

Manager and Handicapper.—Major J. H. Dibley.

Referee.—N. Oddie.

Assistant Referees will be appointed under Reg. 15 (a).

Hon. Secretary.—F. E. Corke, 28 Mansfield Road, Hove 3.

EVENTS.

- 1.—OPEN SINGLES. “THE ABBEY” CHALLENGE CUP. Presented by W. H. Abbey, Esq. Entrance Fee, 8s. 6d.
This Event will be played under the “Two Life” System.
- 2.—HANDICAP SINGLES. Entrance Fee, 8s.
- 3.—HANDICAP SINGLES. “X.Y.Z.” system of draw. Entrance Fee, 8s.
- 4.—HANDICAP DOUBLES (Unrestricted). Entrance Fee, 8s. each player.
Any Competitor may enter for any 3 out of 4 Events. The provisions of Regulation 13 (a) will apply at the discretion of the Manager.
Entrance Fees include C.A. Levy.
Extra Event if time permits.

ENTRIES.

Entries for Events 1, 2 and 3 must reach the Hon. Secretary by the first post on **Thursday, May 13th**. Those for Event 4 may be made on the ground up to 2 p.m., **Tuesday, May 18th**.

Entries in all cases must be accompanied with Entrance Fees.

Non-Associates (except members of the S.C.C. and L.T. Club) pay a tribute of 10s. to the C.A. (5s. if they enter in only one Event); but on becoming an Associate any tribute paid in the current year is credited against the subscription.

The Committee reserves the right of refusing any Entry without assigning a reason.

THE DRAW.

The Draw for Events 1, 2 and 3 will take place at Southwick on **Thursday, May 13th**, at 2.30 p.m. Event 4 on **Tuesday, May 18th**, at 2.30 p.m.

PLAY.

Play will commence at 10 a.m. and continue till 6.30 p.m. or later if necessary each day.

Players coming from a distance requiring leave should notify it on their Entry Form. No leave will be granted later than 12 noon **Monday**, unless the exigencies of the Draw permit.

PRIZES.

According to Entries.

Standard Setting and Jaques’ “Eclipse” Balls will be used.

Every Competitor will wear such flat-soled boots or shoes as cannot damage the Court.

Competitors will be made Hon. Members of the Club during the Tournament.

Ten Courts will be available.

Light Luncheons and Teas will be obtainable on Ground.

Motor Bus Service from BRIGHTON every 10 minutes via Western Road or by Green Bus along the Front. Also Train Service to Southwick Station.

Free Parking for Cars on the Ground.

THE INTER-COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP CUP

Presented to the C.A. by the Hon. Arthur Capell, will be played for at THE HURLINGHAM CLUB (By kind permission of the Committee of the Hurlingham Club)

On MONDAY, MAY 24th, 1954 AND FOLLOWING DAYS

Committee.—The Tournament Committee of the Croquet Association.

Manager, Referee and Handicapper.—Mrs. L. E. G. Nickisson.

Assistant Referees on the Official List will be appointed on the ground under Reg. 15 (a).

Secretary.—The Secretary, C.A., 4 Southampton Row, London, W.C.1.

—Surrey

—Holders—Surrey

—CONDITIONS.

1. The team for each County consists of three pairs, and the qualifications to represent a County are:—

a. Birth in the County, or
b. Present residence in the County of two years' standing, or

c. A previous residence in the County for an uninterupted period of five years, other than as a pupil in a school or college.

d. No one is qualified to represent a County who has represented a different County in the year immediately preceding the competition unless he has previously represented that County, or except in the case of a County which has not competed during the past five years, or unless the County he has represented in the previous year is not competing.

e. An ordinary member of a registered croquet club, of not less than two years standing, not being invited to play for a County for which he is eligible, or being eligible for a County which does not enter a team may play for the County in which his club is situated.

f. Channel Islands, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales to be treated as Counties.

2. A player living in a house other than as an owner or occupier shall only be eligible on satisfying the Council that he or she is *bona-fide* a resident in the County.

3. Care must be taken by those who have undertaken the collection of teams to see that all their members are properly qualified, otherwise their teams will be liable to disqualification. All qualifications must be accurately defined when the names of the teams are submitted.

4. Each County shall appoint a duly qualified Captain. Unless the Captain is included in the list of the eight nominated players (see Condition 5) he will be unable to play for the County, though he will arrange the teams, but must not give advice to any of the team during the progress of a game.

5. The collector of a team shall send to the Secretary, C.A., before May 8th, a list of the names of not more than eight players, from which the playing team of three pairs for any match must be selected, and also the name of the Captain. In a match the players may be combined to form pairs in any manner that the Captain thinks fit, but the pairs must be arranged in the order of the joint amount of bisques, the lowest amount corresponding to the A pair, the highest to the C pair. The constitution of the team must be given to the Manager before any match. If in any match only two pairs from a team should be available for play, these pairs must be matched against the "A" and "B" pairs of the opposing team.

No player can be on the list of nominated players for more than one County.

If a player is obliged to withdraw before a game is concluded, such game shall go by default to the opposing pair.

6. A match between any two Counties shall consist of three games, each of the three pairs of a County playing a single game against the corresponding pair of the opposing County.

7. If the number of Counties entering is too large to permit each County to play all the others, they will be

(Continued at foot of next column)

BUDLEIGH SALTERTON

A CROQUET TOURNAMENT (Unofficial)

will be held on

THE CLUB GROUNDS

On MONDAY, 10th MAY, 1954

AND FOLLOWING DAYS

(The week after the Sidmouth Tournament)

(The Laws and Regulations of the C.A. will apply)

Manager and Handicapper.—Miss A. Mills.

Referee of the Tournament.—To be appointed.

Tournament Secretary.—Lt.-Col. G. E. Cave (Budleigh Salterton Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club).

EVENTS

1.—OPEN SINGLES. Draw and Process. (The Raydon Stone Challenge Cup.) Entrance Fee, 7s. 6d.

2.—RESTRICTED HANDICAP SINGLES, 2½ to 10 bisques. (The Godfrey Turner Challenge Cup.) Entrance Fee, 5s.

3.—HIGH HANDICAP SINGLES, 11 bisques and over. (The L. G. Walters Challenge Trophy.) Shortened game under Regulation 12 (d). Entrance Fee, 5s.

N.B.—No competitor may enter for more than one of the above events.

4.—X.Y. HANDICAP. Entrance Fee, 7s. 6d.

5.—HANDICAP DOUBLES, Handicap limit 6 bisques. Entrance Fee, 5s. each player.

Entries for Events 1, 2, 3 and 4 must reach the Secretary not later than 1st post Wednesday, 5th May.

The Draw for these events will take place at Sidmouth Croquet Club on the afternoon of May 5th.

Entries for Event 5 must reach the Secretary by 10 a.m. Tuesday, 11th May, and the Draw will take place at 2 p.m.

At lunch time, coffee, but not lunches, will be available at the club house.

Teas, a licensed bar, and bridge rooms will be available as usual. Normal conditions of play. 6 Courts will be available.

The usual Official Tournament will be held on Monday, 12th July, 1954, and days following. (See May and June Croquet.)

(Continued from previous column)

so drawn as to allow any County to play as many other Counties as time permits.

8. The winning County shall be that which wins the greatest percentage of matches played. In the event of a tie between two or more Counties the County which has won the greatest number of games shall be the winner. Provided that in the event of all Counties not being drawn to play the same number of matches the Manager shall have power, in the later stages of the competition, to withdraw matches unplayed which have no material influence on the result and substitute others if thereby an equal number of matches are ensured to the leading Counties. If there still be a tie, the Challenge Cup shall be held jointly.

9. The winning County holds the Challenge Cup for one year or until the next Competition, whichever is the shorter period.

10. Every Competitor shall wear such flat-soled boots or shoes as cannot damage the Courts.

11. Play will begin at 11 a.m. on Monday and at 10 a.m. on other days unless otherwise notified. Entries to be made to the Secretary, C.A., by May 8th.

12. A limit of 3½ hours will be imposed on all games. Two rounds a day will be played. Play will not normally extend beyond 6.30 p.m.

13. Event to be played under Variation "B."

No Entrance Fees.

Prize.—The County Championship Cup.

Hoops 3¼in wide, and Jaques' "Eclipse" Balls will be used.

THE MEN'S & WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIPS MEETING

The Men's Championship and Gold Casket, The Women's Championship and Gold Casket, The Mixed Doubles Championship, and The "Du Pre" Cup

will be played for at

ROEHAMPTON, on MONDAY, MAY 31st, 1954 AND FIVE FOLLOWING DAYS

Committee.—The Tournament Committee of the Croquet Association.

Manager and Handicapper.—Rev. B. V. F. Brackenbury.

Referee.—Mrs. E. Reeve.

Assistant Referees on the Official List will be appointed on the ground under Reg. 15 (a).

Secretary.—The Secretary, C.A., 4 Southampton Row, London, W.C.1.

EVENTS.

Open to Associates only.

1.—THE MEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP. Entrance Fee, 11s. 6d. Matches best of three games. Prizes: The winner becomes the holder for the year of the Gold Challenge Casket presented by the late Viscount Doneraile, and a Challenge Trophy presented by the late Sir Francis Colchester-Wemyss, K.B.E., and the late Col. C. E. Wilson, and will receive a medal. The number of other prizes will be in accordance with the entries received. Holder—Gold Casket, J. W. Solomon.

2.—THE WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP. Entrance Fee, 11s. 6d. Matches best of three games. Prizes: The winner becomes the holder for the year of the Gold Challenge Casket presented by the late Viscount Doneraile, a Challenge Silver Bowl presented by "The Ladies' Field," the Gold Challenge Badge and Gold Locket, and will receive a medal. The number of other prizes will be in accordance with the entries received. Holder—Gold Casket, Mrs. E. Rotherham.

3.—THE MIXED DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP. Entrance Fee, 11s. 6d. each person. Matches of single games. Prizes: A Pair of Silver Challenge Cups, presented by the All-England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, and the number of other prizes will be according to the number of entries received. Holders—Dr. W. R. D. Wiggins and Mrs. E. Rotherham.

4.—THE "DU PRE" CUP. Open to competitors in Events 1 and 2 who have not qualified for the Third Round. Matches of single games throughout. This event will be played under Variation "B." Entrance Fee, 6s. Level Play. Prizes: A Challenge Cup presented by the late Lt.-Col. W. B. Du Pre, and the number of other prizes will be according to the number of entries received. Holder.—M. B. Reckitt.

5.—HANDICAP SINGLES. Entrance Fee, 6s. Open to competitors in Events 1 and 2, at the discretion of the Manager. Matches of single games throughout.

CONDITIONS.

Hoops 3¼in. wide. Jaques' "Eclipse" balls will be used. Eight courts will be provided.

No leave can be granted till after the draw.

The winners hold the respective Challenge Trophies for one year or until the next competition, whichever is the shorter period.

The Committee reserve the right to refuse any entry without assigning a reason.

Every Competitor shall wear such flat-soled boots or shoes as cannot damage the Courts.

(Continued at foot of next column)

SIDMOUTH

A CROQUET TOURNAMENT

will be held on the CLUB GROUNDS

On Monday, May 3rd to May 8th, 1954 (Under C.A. Laws and Regulations)

Manager.—Miss A. E. Mills.

Referee and Handicapper.—H. O. Hicks.

Hon. Secretary.—Croquet Club, Cricket Pavilion, Sidmouth.

EVENTS.

1.—OPEN SINGLES (CLASS "A"). ("Two Lives" system). Entrance Fee, 9s. 6d.

2.—LEVEL SINGLES (CLASS "B"). Open to players of 1—4½ Bisques. Entrance Fee, 8s. (Rule 44 suspended).

3.—HANDICAP SINGLES (CLASS "C"). Open to players of 5 Bisques and over. Entrance Fee, 8s.

4.—HANDICAP SINGLES. Open to all. Entrance Fee, 8s.

No competitor may enter for more than two events of Events 1, 2, 3, 4.

5.—HANDICAP DOUBLES (Unrestricted). Entrance Fee, 8s. each player.

CONDITIONS.

Entries for Events 1, 2, 3 and 4 must reach the Hon. Secretary, Croquet Club, The Cricket Pavilion, Sidmouth, by first post on Thursday, April 29th.

Entries for Doubles by midday Tuesday, May 4th. As only five courts are available, entries will be strictly limited. The Committee reserve the right to refuse any entry without assigning a reason.

Competitors must not leave the ground without finding out what time they will be required the NEXT day.

Competitors shall wear such flat-soled footwear as cannot damage the courts.

Lunches and Teas will be provided on the ground. Entry forms and any further particulars can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary if required.

(Continued from previous column)

ENTRIES.

The Entries, accompanied by the Entrance Fees, for Events 1 and 2 must be sent to the Secretary, C.A., 4 Southampton Row, London, W.C.1, so as to reach her not later than the first post on Wednesday, May 26th, and for Event 3 by noon on Tuesday, June 1st. Entries for Events 4 and 5 can be received only on the ground.

Competitors must give with their entries the address at which messages will reach them during the Tournament.

DRAW.

The Draw for Events 1 and 2 will take place at 4 Southampton Row, at 2.30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 26th, and for Events 3, 4 and 5 as will be announced on the ground.

PLAY.

Play will begin at 10 a.m. daily unless otherwise notified.

Competitors must report themselves to the Manager on arrival, and ascertain if not previously notified, at what hour they must be ready to play.

Any Competitor who wishes to leave the ground before the conclusion of play must obtain the permission of the Manager.

Any Competitor who is not present, or is otherwise unable to play when called upon to do so, will be liable to be scratched.

The semi-finals and finals will be so arranged that play in them will extend over the afternoons of Friday and Saturday.

Twenty-three

BUXTON

THE NORTH OF ENGLAND TOURNAMENT

will be held in
The Pavilion Gardens, Buxton

on
Monday, June 21st, 1954

AND FIVE FOLLOWING DAYS
(Under the Laws and Regulations of the C.A.)

Manager, Referee and Handicapper.—Miss D. D. Steel.
Hon. Treasurer.—J. Hunter, Old Hall Hotel, Buxton.
Hon. Secretary.—Mrs. D. E. Chorlton, 6 The Square, Buxton.

Committee.—W. T. Bell, A. L. Megson, J. Hunter, Mrs. Oram, Mrs. Dean, Mrs. Chorlton.

EVENTS

- 1.—OPEN SINGLES. "Two Lives." Final—Best of three games. Variation B. The Winner will be entitled to hold for one year The North of England Challenge Cup. Entrance Fee, 10s. 6d.
- 2.—LEVEL SINGLES. "Class B." Open to players of 3½ bisques and over. Law 44 suspended. Entrance Fee, 7s. 6d.
- 3.—HANDICAP SINGLES. "Class C." Open to players of 8 bisques and over. Entrance Fee, 6s. 6d.
- 4.—HANDICAP SINGLES. Unrestricted. "X.Y.Z. System." Entrance Fee, 10s.
- 5.—HANDICAP DOUBLES. Unrestricted. Entrance Fee, 7s. 6d. each player.

All Entrance Fees include C.A. Levy.

CONDITIONS

First and Second Prizes will be awarded for each Event in addition to Silver Trophies.

Non-Associates pay a tribute of 10s. to the C.A. when playing in an Official Tournament, or 5s. if competing in one Event only.

The Management claim the right to cancel any Event advertised should there not be sufficient entries. Six Lawns will be provided and Jaques' Balls and equipment will be used.

Morning Coffee and Afternoon Tea can be obtained on the ground.

ACCOMMODATION

A list of Hotels and Boarding Houses will be sent on application to the Hon. Secretary.

PLAY

Play will commence at 10 a.m., unless otherwise stated.

ENTRIES

Entries, made on the official form, and accompanied by the Entrance Fees, should reach the Hon. Secretary by Saturday, June 19th (excepting for Event 5, Entries for which close on Tuesday, June 22nd).

THE DRAW

The Draw for Events 1, 2, 3 and 4, will take place on Saturday, June 19th, at 8 p.m. The Draw for Event 5, on Tuesday, June 22nd, at 5 p.m.

COMPTON, EASTBOURNE

AN OPEN CROQUET TOURNAMENT

(Under the Laws and Regulations of the Croquet Association.)

will be held on the grounds of

THE COMPTON CROQUET CLUB, COMPTON PLACE ROAD, EASTBOURNE

from

MONDAY, JUNE 28th, to SATURDAY, JULY 3rd, 1954

Manager and Handicapper.—Major J. H. Dibley, M.C.

Referee.—Sir Crawford Douglas-Jones, C.M.G.

Committee.—The Committee of the Compton Croquet Club, Major J. H. Dibley, M.C.

EVENTS

- 1.—OPEN SINGLES. (Draw and Process Variation B.) Entrance Fee, 9s. 6d.
- 2.—LEVEL SINGLES. —3 bisques and over. (Single Games. Law 44 suspended.) Entrance Fee, 7s. 6d.
- 3.—HANDICAP SINGLES. Entrance Fee, 7s. 6d.
- 4.—HANDICAP SINGLES. 6 bisques and over. Entrance Fee, 7s. 6d.
- 5.—HANDICAP DOUBLES. Combined Handicaps to be not less than Scratch. Entrance Fee, 7s. 6d. each player.

MEALS

Lunch and Tea, at reasonable prices, will be provided at the pavilion.

Fees include C.A. Levy charge of 2s.

First Prizes in all Events. Second Prizes if entries are sufficient.

All entries to be sent to the Hon. Secretary (Lt.-Col. R. A. Irwin, The Lawn, Willingdon, Nr. Eastbourne, Sussex), who should also be informed of the proposed Eastbourne addresses and telephone numbers of competitors. Entries for Events 1, 2, 3 will close after first post Thursday, June 24th, and for Event 4 at midday Tuesday, June 29th, 1954. The Committee reserve the right to refuse an entry without assigning a reason.

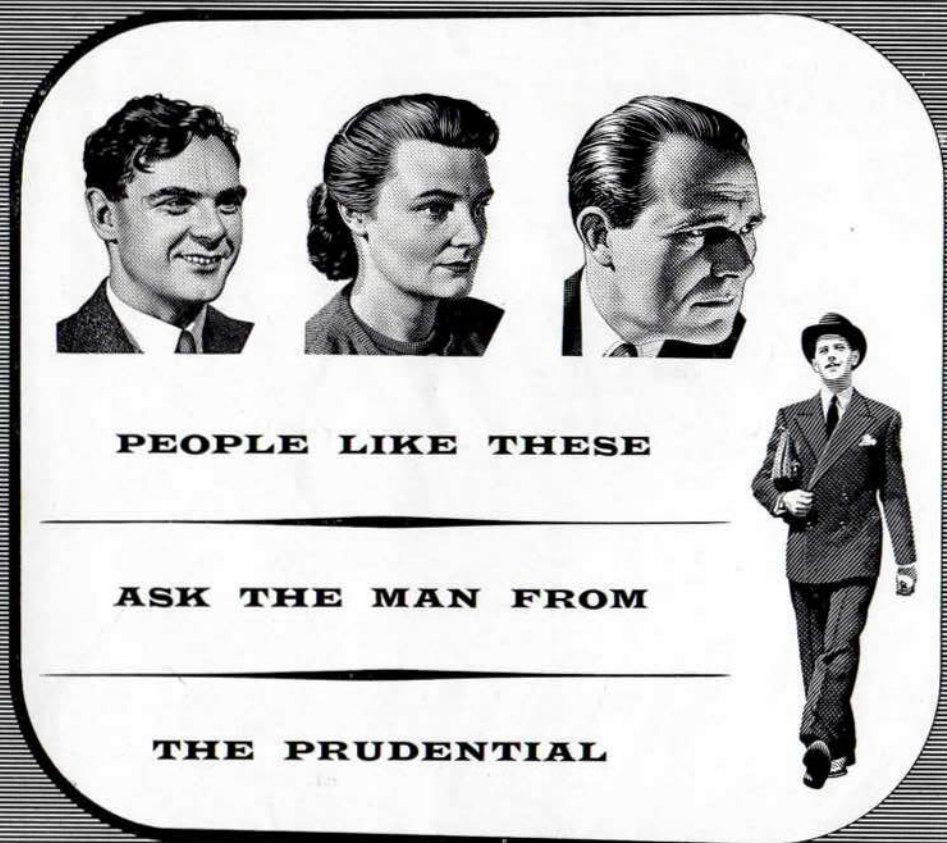
The Draw will take place at the Compton Croquet Club at 2.30 p.m., Thursday, 24th June.

Play will commence each day at 10 a.m. (or earlier if so arranged by the Manager).

Players wanted at 10 or 11 a.m. on Monday will be notified. All others will please report to the Manager on arrival each day.

Five Lawns will be available. Every competitor will wear such flat-soled shoes as cannot damage the lawns.

3½ in. Hoops and Jaques' "Eclipse" Balls will be used.



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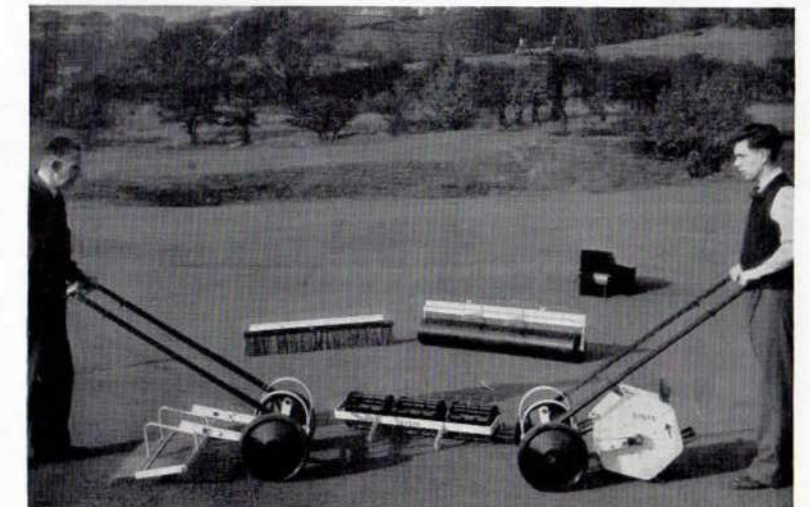
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