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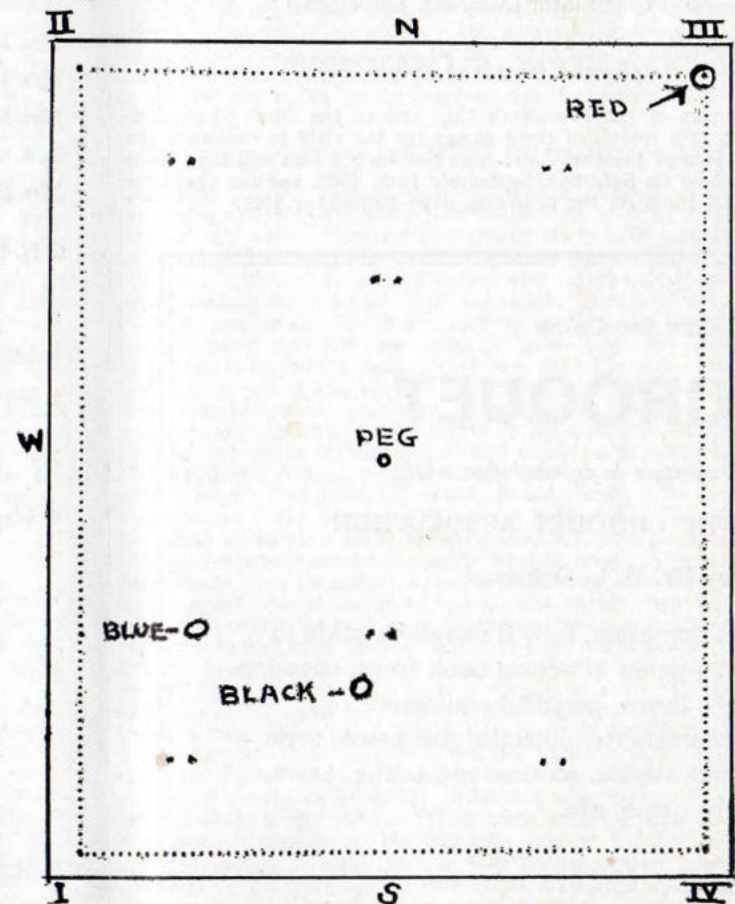
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Number 101

July 1968

AGAINST THE CLOCK

This is a problem of playing against the clock in a time-limited game. The game is Semi-Advanced singles play between players of the 1-3 Bisques calibre. At the beginning of the preceding turn, the sides were level, with both Blue and Black being on 3-Back whilst Red was on 1-Back and Yellow on penultimate. Yellow has watched Blue make 3 hoops and miss the Rover off his own ball. On the first stroke of his turn Yellow has roqueted Blue and the position of the three balls is as shown on the Diagram. As the striker picks up Yellow in preparation for the croquet stroke, he shouts to the time-keeper "How long to go?" He receives the reply "Exactly one minute."



How should the striker play and what should he have been thinking towards the end of the preceding break?

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Calendar Fixtures 1968

July	15 - 20	Men's & Women's Championships—Roehampton
"	22 - 27	Open Championships—Hurlingham
"	29 - 3	Colchester
"	29 - 3	Cheltenham
Aug.	5 - 14	Hurlingham
"	16 - 18	Cheltenham (American non-official)
"	17 - 24	Carrickmines—Championship of Co. Dublin
"	19 - 24	Nottingham
"	26 - 31	Southwick
"	30 - 2	Colchester (Week-end)
Sept.	2 - 7	Southwick (non-official)
"	2 - 7	Hunstanton
"	9 - 13	President's Cup—Hurlingham
"	9 - 13	Chairman's Salver—Nottingham
"	9 - 13	Surrey Cup—Cheltenham
"	9 - 13	Ladies' Invitation Event—Parkstone
"	16 - 21	Parkstone
"	(Date not confirmed)	All England Finals
"	20 - 22	Cheltenham (American non-official)
"	23 - 28	Roehampton
"	30 -	Devonshire Park
Oct.	12	1st week: September 30th—October 5th 2nd week: October 7th—October 12th
"	18 - 20	Cheltenham (American non-official)

CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS

The winners of the President's Cup and of the Open Championship will play a match of three games for the right to challenge the present holder of the title—Mr. John Solomon. This will take place at Hurlingham on Saturday, September 14th, 1968, and the challenge will be held there on the following day—September 15th.

Know the Game

CROQUET

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C.A. Notes

Once again I have to report there are at least 100 subscriptions outstanding—due 1st January—which is a disgraceful state of affairs and I would remind Associates of Rule XXIV, "If he plays in a Calendar Fixture he shall be liable for Tribute."

Three new Clubs have registered with the Croquet Association—Glenochil Croquet Club, Glenochil Research Station, Menstrie, Clackmannanshire, Scotland; Langside Croquet Club, Davos, 364, Albert Drive, Glasgow, S.I., Scotland; Phyllis Court Croquet Club, Secretary, D. C. Ferguson, Phyllis Court, Henley-on-Thames.

Roehampton sent a team of four to Edinburgh to play with the members of the Club and give them help and encouragement. This was very much appreciated by the Scottish players, who—under the stimulus of Commander Sinclair, who had the Centenary Cup presented to him by the Queen last July—are making great efforts really to put Scotland on the Croquet map. Now there are four Clubs there is opportunity for more competition. The best of luck to them all.

Associates may be interested to hear I had a letter recently from a lady member of the Alexandria Club—asking me to order her a new mallet as she wished to play in the Championship of the United Arab Republic! I hope to hear further particulars.

We apologise for the delay in fulfilling orders for the new Law Books—they are being reprinted now—but the demand has been astonishing and the first 600 were sold out immediately.

Miss D. A. Lintern has kindly consented to manage the Open Championships.

V. C. GASSON,
Secretary.

NEW ASSOCIATES

Mrs. R. E. Tucker	13 Compton Road, Brighton BN1 5A1.
Mrs. P. Cross	20 Hanger Lane, W.5.
Mrs. S. J. Turner	53 Surrenden Road, Brighton BN1 LP4.
R. J. Chapman	Wimbish Manor, Shepreth, nr. Royston, Herts.
Mrs. R. Pretty	9 Abbott Street, Sandringham, Victoria 3191, Australia.
J. N. Robinson	Downing College, Cambridge.

EXTRACTS FROM COUNCIL MEETING

held after the Annual General Meeting on 27th May, 1968

- 2 (iii) Mr. Rivington proposed and Mr. Roper seconded that Mr. J. W. Solomon be made a Trustee and he accepted.
- 3 Lt. Col. D. M. C. Prichard took over the Chairmanship of the Council from Dr. W. R. D. Wiggins.
- 4 (ii) On Mr. Solomon's proposal, it was agreed that the outgoing Chairman of a Committee should be responsible for calling its first meeting.
- 7 Dr. R. W. Bray, Capt. H. F. Nalder, Mrs. B. L. Sundius-Smith and Dr. A. L. Yoxall were elected to the Council and took their seats.
- 8 (ii) Mr. Baillieu's motion that two delegates from the Test Tour Team should be appointed to discuss Law 2 (d) was agreed.

CLUB MATCH

SOUTHWICK v. ROEHAMPTON

Played at Southwick on Saturday, June 8th, 1968.
Southwick names first.

SINGLES (Level)

Mrs. H. F. Chittenden ($-1\frac{1}{2}$) beat Miss D. Lintern (1) +8.
W. E. Moore ($-1\frac{1}{2}$) beat J. B. Gilbert +25.
Comdr. G. Borrett ($-1\frac{1}{2}$) lost to Prof. B. G. Neal (-3) -8.
H. A. Sheppard (2) lost to Mrs. G. W. Solomon (1) -8.

DOUBLES

Comdr. G. Borrett and W. E. Moore beat Prof. B. G. Neal and J. B. Gilbert +8.
Mrs. H. F. Chittenden and H. A. Sheppard beat Miss D. Lintern and Mrs. G. W. Solomon +16.
Southwick won 4-2.

NOTES by ROVER

DOUBLES PLAY

The disappointingly low number of teams in the Inter-County Championship (as reported elsewhere in this issue) has prompted this Rover to search for the cause of decline of this, the one exclusively doubles tournament, in the Croquet Calendar. Many comments were heard from competitors about the expense of sending a team to London for a week and from team captains who gave hair-raising accounts of the organisational complexities that were involved, but these are mere symptoms. The root cause is surely attributable to that scientific approach from which croquet is presently said to be benefiting, yet which can be accused of neglecting those aspects of the game closely associated with doubles, and consequently of primary importance to the existence of the "Counties."

Recent publications, of which issues of "Croquet" are but some, have detailed the techniques and tactics of croquet and there is no doubt that these have helped individual players to improve their play. Perhaps more importantly in so writing the authors have also demonstrated potentialities in our game known and realised previously by few, if any. But little has been written of that other, the human, side of croquet which dominates the majority of games: that of a player playing against himself and the emotional struggles consequent thereupon. To be convinced that it is an important and interesting part of our game one need only observe the number of spectators who still prefer to watch a long drama between two middle or high bisquers rather than the surgical operation at the minus level: the repertoire of cut and thrust of the former is so manifestly superior. Yet it is fast becoming improper to admit having "nerves" or avoiding strokes for fear of ignominy. Our propagandists (are they still motivated by Carrollian nightmares?) mention little of this aspect of the game and the poor player, even though his experience dictates otherwise, is led to believe that it must play a minor role in his tragedy.

But, alas, in doubles even the witless partner can penetrate an attempt to disguise one's foibles, whether they be minus or plus. A player's soul is laid bare by the slightest of discussions ("how wide shall I join on the boundary, partner?"). So players now avoid doubles games or treat them in an offhand fashion, much to the chagrin of managers who seem permanently employed as a partnership agency. They even try to argue that the game is a hangover from a former age: surely the strictures on peeling partner's ball through at most four hoops is a severe handicap to the modern player? The truth is that doubles reveals too much.

What can be done to restore the status of doubles? Certainly it is open to us to propagandise some of the strategies of playing with partner against the opponents: thus a comment heard recently ("we won but my partner lost") could be explained to the uninitiated. Perhaps, too, a few lessons on partner behaviour would not be inappropriate: a lists of uses and abuses of "well done, partner," would be a good starter, followed closely by hints on the use of chairs and umbrellas. But the formal explanation of subtleties can lead not only to misapplication, with possible disastrous results, but also to a debasement of the art of croquet. And thus we return to the art-versus-science situation and back to one of the major problems which croquet players have not been prepared to discuss openly—to date.

TIME, GENTLEMEN, PLEASE

How seldom is the end of a time-limited game properly conducted. Too often we hear a player, as he leaves the court, say, "I think it is time now," or perhaps the out-player say diffidently, "It was time in the middle of your turn but I did not like to interrupt." Such imprecision can only cause confusion . . . or worse.

The correct procedure is for players to synchronise watches either at the beginning of a timed game or when a time-limit is imposed. About ten minutes before the expiry of the time-limit an independent person should be called in to act as time-keeper. This time-keeper should call "Time" loudly at the precise moment the time-limit expires even though a player may be in the act of striking. This is most important, because if the last shot of a turn has been struck before time is called the opponent's turn is deemed to have started and therefore the striker is entitled to the last turn. This Rover would go so far as to recommend that the time-keeper should stand with his back to the game at this point to avoid being influenced. A study of Regulation 8 and the adoption of the above procedure would obviate much unnecessary friction.

ROVER ON THE COVER PROBLEM

During the break the striker should have been watching the clock. As Blue was approaching the penultimate, he should have registered that by hitting in with Yellow and pegging out he would be one

point ahead. After the penultimate had been made, this manoeuvre would only allow him to draw level. One minute and a fraction is little time in which to run two hoops and make the peg point, more especially if he is to give himself a chance of winning the extra point after time. His best chance, therefore, is to play so that he will get an extra turn within the time limit. This means the turn he is now playing must end within the minute. It further means he must plan to play his last turn with Red, hoping that Red can make a break. Therefore Blue must be posted at 2-Back on the croquet stroke and Yellow must simultaneously get a rush on Black towards the North Boundary preferably West of 1-Back. This is not a precision stroke and can be played quickly. Black is then left at or near 1-Back and Yellow takes off for Red. If he feels he has the time, Yellow requests Red and leaves a perfect rush for 1-Back. If he feels he lacks the time, he leaves a rush on the continuation stroke. This Rover made an experiment, and by leaving a rush on the continuation stroke he had 20 seconds in hand. Blue and Black now have a problem. Any positive shot, if missed, will simplify the task of Red and Yellow. The natural ball to play is Black. Where should he play it? If he is quick-witted and there are ten seconds still to go, he might get an extra turn with a lift. If, however, time is called before he strikes his ball, that will be his last turn unless both sides are level at that moment. Possibly the best place for Black would be on the East Boundary about $3\frac{1}{2}$ yards from the third corner. This would prevent Red and Yellow laying up in the fourth corner after making 3-Back and drawing level. Now consider a slightly different problem. Let it be assumed that Yellow was told that he only had 20 seconds to play after his roquet on Blue. He can still be in the game. He splits Blue to 1-Back sending his own ball towards the East Boundary. He then aims his ball to the North Boundary giving Red a cut rush towards 1-Back. He has 20 seconds in which to make two strokes. He will get his extra turn even if time is called whilst his striker's ball is travelling towards the North Boundary. The moral to be learned from this problem is that the out-player must be thinking ahead all the time so that he can jump to his feet and make use of every second of the time available.

STALEMATE ON THE CROQUET LAWN

Nothing is more tedious than watching a game of croquet when the in-player monopolises the play for half an hour or more without making any points. The turn invariably starts with a simple roquet on one's partner ball, a second roquet on the enemy ball near the boundary, followed by a third roquet and an attempt to play a rush stroke beyond the competence of the striker. Let it be assumed that all balls are for the first hoop, and the in-player is joined near the second corner and the out-player is joined near the third corner. The final rush usually ends somewhere near the peg. This is followed by a roll stroke, so that one enemy ball will be laying at the first hoop before the next turn if the hoop is not made. It rarely is made, and the striker then retires to his own ball without a rush and the out-player rejoins in the third corner, illustrating the futility of leaving one ball at the first hoop. The process is then repeated ad nauseam. This note, of course, is addressed to the mediums to long bisques. The first take-off from a partner ball should be carefully played, so as to leave the croqueted ball in a position near the boundary where it can be rushed to the first hoop. The most distant ball should then be roqueted and a small stop shot should place it in the court beyond the third hoop. The striker then turns on the other ball which he will have to roquet back on to the boundary. Now the striker must play a split shot with the roqueted ball going towards the South Boundary, and the striker's ball going over the second hoop. This should leave a margin of error for the striker's ball and at the same time leave it near enough to the partner ball to lay a reasonable ruah. There is no merit in placing the croqueted ball at the first hoop because it will not be there at the beginning of the next turn. Therefore the striker should aim it towards the middle of the South Boundary to leave a wide margin of error, and also to simplify the stroke. Then some progress may be expected. It is unlikely that the striker will get a rush to the first hoop sufficiently accurately to allow him to take the hoop, but this should be possible on his next turn. This Rover has been considering what inducement could be offered to players to put a premium on the type of play set out above, and at the same time to discourage the stalemate tactics. This Rover would like to see a few games played under the supervision of an expert with the following innovation of the Laws:—

"A striker may not make a roquet on his partner ball on the first stroke of the turn on more than three consecutive occasions unless in the meantime either (a) the striker has made a point or (b) the adversary has made a roquet."

ROVER NOTES *continued*

If this were adopted there would arise the necessity for a further accessory which, like the clips or the bisque sticks, could act as a guide to the state of the game. The suggestion is that each side should bring out three bisque stick painted Blue and Red respectively. When, as usually happens, the in-player begins with a roquet on his own ball, it would hardly be necessary to remove a bisque. If, however, he failed to score and the adversary missed and once again he started with a roquet, two such bisque sticks would be put down. The striker would then realise that he only had this chance, and one further chance in which to get going. The time is not yet ripe to say whether this suggestion could ever form part of the Rules of Croquet, but surely the time is ripe to try and reduce the number of stalemates that occur in games between long bisques. These stalemates have driven out of the game quite a number of beginners.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held at the Hurlingham Club on Monday, 27th May, 1968

Apologies: Dr. R. W. Bray, Mrs. H. F. Chittenden, S. S. Townsend.

Present: M. B. Reckitt (President), I. Baillieu, D. C. Caporn, Major J. H. Dibley, E. P. Duffield, G. V. Evans, Miss D. A. Lintern, B. Lloyd-Pratt, Capt. H. F. Nalder, A. A. Reed, J. H. Rivington, E. A. Roper, Mrs. E. Rotherham, J. W. Solomon, L. E. W. Stokes-Roberts, Mrs. B. L. Sundius-Smith, Dr. W. R. D. Wiggins (Chairman), G. Williams, Mrs. V. C. Gasson (Secretary), Mrs. S. M. Adler, Mrs. F. J. Bentley, Cmdr. G. Borrett, Mrs. E. E. Pressey, Mrs. D. C. Caporn, Mrs. M. H. Carrington, A. J. Cooper, Mrs. F. H. N. Davidson, Mrs. D. Isaacs, Mrs. W. Longman, Prof. B. G. Neal, A. J. Oldham, B. G. Perry, Lt. Col. D. M. C. Prichard, Mrs. M. L. Thom, Miss E. J. Warwick, J. G. Warwick, Dr. A. L. Yoxall.

Our President welcomed the Council and the Associates and pointed out that the Annual General Meeting was the Associates' chance of voicing grievances, offering suggestions, etc. There was no reason why anyone should not move a motion or have a vote taken on it—but this could not be binding on the Council. One could move a motion of which notice had previously been given at the proper time which would be binding on Council.

We should realise, he continued, that we are as much trustees for the future of croquet as were those whose zeal for the game founded the Croquet Association 70 years ago. For countless reasons they had a much easier task than we have. It is hardly too much to say that Croquet will only survive on the scale and with the prestige due to it if enough of us are determined it shall.

I feel that this Association has got to wake up to the difficulties by which we are faced at this opening of the second century of our history. Too many once flourishing clubs have died from a failure to realise this in time. Possibly it might be well to hold a Delegates Conference in the Autumn, to be mainly a strenuous effort to tackle this question. Our great players have gained for Britain the undoubted leadership of the croquet world—let us in foresight, in energy, in generosity of service and, where possible, of money, prove equal to the position which their skill has earned for our country.

Plans for the Test Tour are going ahead, as you will hear from Dr. Wiggins. The team will be selected on the form they show this Summer—about mid-August.

As is usual, we will now turn our thoughts to the players we have lost. Mrs. de la Motte, Capt. Vaughan-Jenkins, de la Nougerede, widely and deeply loved, a great servant of the Croquet Association, Enid Haigh Smith, a great enthusiast; Spencer Ell, a croquet hero in the wonderful manner in which he triumphed over his physical disabilities; Dr. Bentley, much missed at Hurlingham; and Capt. and Mrs. Synge, equally missed at Southwick.

Dr. Wiggins then rose and spoke of the loss of Aimée Reckitt, a concert violinist, a ballroom dancer, tennis and croquet player and devoted wife of our President, to whom we give our deep sympathy. Let us stand for a moment in memory.

Dr. Wiggins said of course the highlight of 1967 was the unforgettable visit of H.M. the Queen. Thanks are due to Hurlingham Club for providing such a beautiful venue, and particularly to L. E. W. Stokes-Roberts for his organisation of this great occasion.

Regarding the Test Tour, he gave details of a package travelling deal saving £150 per person, also the welcome news that Professor Neal had heard that there was every hope of getting a grant from the Sports Council.

He paid a tribute to the Secretary, who kept the office going single-handed for 5½ months and welcomed Miss W. Reeves, her new Assistant.

Mr. Oldham gave a brief review of the Accounts and said it was a satisfaction to him that even in Centenary Year we made a small

Two

profit. With rising costs in all the Public Services and in the running of the office Mr. Oldham said it was inevitable that more money must be found. Mr. Rivington proposed and Mr. Rothwell seconded that the Report and Accounts be accepted. The Treasurer was re-elected with a vote of thanks. Nicholas, Reid and Corney were re-appointed Auditors on the same terms as last year, i.e., 60 gns.

COMMITTEES, 1968

Laws

E. A. Roper
Dr. W. R. D. Wiggins
J. W. Solomon
R. F. Rothwell
Ian Baillieu
Prof. B. G. Neal
J. M. Rivington
Dr. A. L. Yoxall
Capt. H. F. Nalder

F. & G. P.

A. J. Oldham
S. S. Townsend
J. M. Rivington
Miss D. A. Lintern
L. E. W. Stokes-Roberts
G. V. Evans
J. H. Dibley
D. C. Caporn
Mrs. B. L. Sundius-Smith
Dr. W. R. Bray

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Dr. W. R. D. Wiggins
G. V. Evans
E. Birch
Mrs. E. Rotherham

Tournament

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L. E. W. Stokes-Roberts
J. W. Solomon
R. E. Rothwell
E. Birch
Major J. H. Dibley
D. C. Caporn

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A. A. Reed
Miss D. A. Lintern
G. V. Evans
Major J. H. Dibley
D. C. Caporn
Dr. A. L. Yoxall
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Capt. F. H. Nalder
B. Lloyd Pratt

Golf Croquet

G. V. Evans
D. C. Caporn
Miss D. A. Lintern
Mrs. B. L. Sundius-Smith

CORRECTION TO THE JUNE ISSUE

On page 7 of this issue under Extracts from Council Meeting it was stated that the F. & G. P. Committee recommended that the Captains of the County teams should collect £5 from their teams to help pay for the lawns and that this was passed with the amendment that the Groundsman's money should be taken out of this. This is not correct—the amendment was not passed.

CROQUET ON THE MOVE—NEW LEAVES

This article is a continuation of the one by Dr. Ormerod in the last issue, and I should like to start by suggesting criteria for good leaves alternative to his.

As with the theory of openings, leave theory is principally concerned with the retention of the innings. It is convenient to consider two classes of opposition, good shots and not-so-good shots, and arrive at different sets of criteria. For our purposes a not-so-good shot is a player who is sufficiently uncertain of his 13 yard shots that, when he has a good defensive stroke as an alternative to the short lift shot, he will take the defensive stroke. Nearly all players are in this category. Against such a player one should make a leave where a missed short lift shot would give at least one extra ball to play with as compared with the most defensive stroke. At the same time, there must follow the opponent's failure to make longer roquet penalties proportional to his chances of succeeding.

This rather cryptic summary includes such cases as (a) A missed short shot gives an excellent chance of a triple peel, but a cornering shot gives a hardish 3 ball break; and (b) A missed short shot gives an easy 3 ball break with distinct possibilities of a 4 ball break and triple peel, but a cornering shot makes even a 3 ball break difficult.

Dr. Ormerod's Leave 2 is an example of (a), and an example of (b) is his Leave 6, but with Yellow a foot or two out of the second corner, and with Black for hoop 2.

These criteria differ from Dr. Ormerod's in that they lay weight on the relative chances of a triple peel and a 3 ball break, but make neither of them essential features. In particular, if a good player leaves himself a simple 3 ball break his opponent has no chance unless he hits in, so that he will take the short shot.

It is when we consider how to make leaves against good shots that the fun really begins. There are a number of players who reckon that their chances of hitting the short lift shot are high enough for them to take it with little regard for the consequences of failure. At the same time, situations often occur where a player

must take the short shot because the match depends on his gaining the innings, particularly near the end of a game.

Now our criteria become very simple:

Either (i) **The short shot is discouraged very strongly indeed**, e.g., missing it loses the match outright, whereas cornering leads to a very good defensive position.

or (ii) **There is no short lift shot at all.**

Since one usually needs to have a good initial position to attain either of these aims, an alternative but inferior criterion is (iii) **No shot is safe.**

To deal with (iii) first: Admittedly this criterion begs the question "What is safe?", but this is a tactical question requiring ad hoc decisions. An example of a leave satisfying this criterion is the same modification of Dr. Ormerod's Leave 6 as was mentioned above, but with a backward rush. This leave can be obtained from almost any initial position.

Leave 1: This satisfies criterion (i).

Blue (for 4-back) and

Black (for 1) both about two yards outside corner 2, Blue about two feet N.E. of Black.

Red in hoop 5, not rushable anywhere near hoop 1.

Yellow in hoop 6.

Neither Black nor Blue has a rush to anywhere interesting. If now Yellow is played to corner 3, Black and Blue will have to play expert croquet to avoid giving Red or Yellow a decent shot before long. Any short lift shot gives Black the best chance of a triple peel he is likely to get. If Red shoots at Yellow from A baulk, then Black can just cut rush Blue near enough to Red to give him a chance of going out, and a similar shot by Yellow at Red leaves Yellow within approaching distance of Black's hoop.

The leave is probably best made by leaving Yellow after making 6, and by making 2-back off Red and then rushing it to the playing side of the rover hoop, with Black near at hand. If Red is not properly positioned at the first attempt it can be tidied up after 3-back, and then Black and Blue are left in corner 4 instead of corner 2, again with no rush: not such a good leave, though, since the short shot is not so certain to invite heavy punishment.

No doubt many readers are now wondering how I am going to illustrate my second criterion—no short lift shot at all. In fact, the method is simple when you see it: you hide all four halls in or behind hoops so that none can be seen from a nearby baulkline. The problem is to do this and still retain the innings. Here are two ways:

Leave 2:

Blue (for 4-back) tucked behind hoop 4.

Black (for 1) tucked behind hoop 4 so that Black has a rush either to 1 or 2 (though not simultaneously). Black and Blue should be nearly touching so as to present a poor target from B baulk.

Red in hoop 2 or a foot S.W. of it.

Yellow in hoop 2-back wired from Black and Blue by that hoop, yet not presenting a good target from A baulk.

Red is left after 1-back, and 2-back is made with Black two feet to its left and slightly short of it, and Yellow an inch or so to the right of the hoop. Then Yellow is given a soft cut rush and gently croqueted into position while a dolly rush on Black is obtained. Black and Blue are positioned after 3-back, a manoeuvre which is quite easy after a little practice.

The only difficult thing about this leave is the placing of Yellow, especially if there is a rabbit run in the hoop. I have used this leave on occasion, and although I did not always complete it perfectly, the outcome was usually satisfactory.

On the other hand, I have only ever done this next leave in practice. It is very difficult, but is a match-winner if it succeeds:

Leave 3:

Blue (for 4-back) one to two feet S.W. of hoop 2.

Yellow in hoop 2, unable to roquet Blue.

Black (for hoop 2) one or two feet N.E. of hoop 4.

Red in hoop 4, unable to roquet Black.

Wowee!

To make this leave, peel Black through the first hoop at an early stage if it has not already made it. Put Yellow in a suitable position around 2 after making 1-back. Make 2-back off Black with Red close to 3-back, and rush Black over to 3-back. After making 3-back, poke Red into hoop 4 and rush Black to a good spot for doing a very thin take-off down to hoop 2. Readers will appreciate that the peg is a serious obstacle for this shot. Finally, either play straight for position with Blue, Yellow having been placed, or roquet Yellow and complete the leave. There is a secret about the best place to put Yellow after 1-back which I shall not disclose here: it is "left as an exercise for the reader."

All these leaves require some accurate play, but not one of them is as difficult as one that was put forward by Dr. Ormerod—his

Leave 4—which involves putting a ball almost exactly in the middle of a hoop. This manoeuvre is a very chancy one. My Leave 2 requires a similar placing of Yellow, but whereas a slight inaccuracy in doing this is not disastrous, any miscalculation in Dr. Ormerod's leave is liable to leave a very short shot for the opponent, particularly since at the vital stage Blue has already made 3-back.

Finally, here is a leave for use by the downtrodden minus player against the marauding medium-bisquer in handicap play. I give it without comment, except to say that it will probably relieve the medium-bisquer of two bisques that he could well do without, and that it has actually been successfully used in a match:

Leave 4:

Blue (for Rover) in hoop 4, hidden from the South boundary.

Black (for 3) two-thirds through 3, partially run in order, having been peeled through the first two hoops.

Red (not for 3, 4, 3-back or 4-back) in hoop 6.

Yellow (ditto) very near corner 4.

There are dozens of leaves like the four I have given—a leave to suit any occasion—and it would not be possible to enumerate them here. In fact, one can invent one's own leave to fit the situation of a game already in progress. As an illustration of this, Leave 1 was dreamed up on the spur of the moment for this article (though it may have been used before) thus justifying the title of this series of articles—"Croquet on the Move."

K. F. WYLIE.

FOR MIDDLE BISQUERS

It was with some hesitation that I accepted the invitation to write this article: being unqualified to dispense expertise, I am very conscious of the risk of being too obvious. My intention is to emphasise the fact that in handicap play the six bisquer cannot afford to be over-defensive, and that inflexible application of theory is usually to his disadvantage. I ignore those games in which (6) has so many bisques that he can afford to keep firm control and to be cautious before allowing his (minus) opponent an occasional (or ideally an only) long shot. In playing (0-5), however, I believe (6) should always attempt to attack, even if the risk at times seems considerable. His opponent is not infallible (otherwise his handicap is false and he will win anyway) and a breakdown or miss by him will, with an intelligently taken bisque, yield (6) disproportionate rewards. (6)'s object must be not only to play within the limits of his own game but also to assess the capacity of his opponent. Defensive play will generally assist (0-5) because (a) it is more difficult for (6) to use bisques profitably; (b) (0-5) is more likely to make something of difficult positions; and (c) a defensive game takes longer and gives (0-5) an opportunity to play himself in, thereby neutralising some of the initial advantage a bisque receiver obtains.

The conventional opening is, in my view, used too rigidly and is only of real application in minus play, where any hit-in is dangerous and really accurate rushing from end to end must be expected. If going in first, (6) should always attempt to put pressure on from the beginning by getting a rush somewhere. He can dribble his first ball to the East boundary and hope it stops a foot or two out: thereafter his second ball is sent off behind it, avoiding a double from A baulk if the balls are five or six yards North of the 4th corner. If the first ball in fact goes off, (6) will at least have got an early feel of the strength of the lawn, and he can always try again for the rush with his second ball. Alternatively, he can shoot both balls from B baulk to the 4th corner but on the South boundary. Both these positions give away very little more than the conventional if the tice is hit, while allowing (6) substantially more if it is missed.

If going in second, (6) must bear in mind that (0-5) is unlikely to go for a tice (unless really insulting), since a miss immediately loses the initial advantage for which presumably he has opted. He will not achieve much with only three balls on the lawn anyway. The tice should therefore always be fairly short. A tice laid between the 6th and 2nd hoops is also effective if (6) is a reasonably good hitter-in (and particularly if he has played already that day) since it gives the prospect of an immediate break. (6) should aim to go off in the first corner if he misses so as to prevent (0-5) subsequently rolling towards the 1st hoop. If (0-5) seems to be out of practice, or if the lawn conditions are unusual, it might be quite amusing to follow his first ball conventionally placed near the 4th corner by putting the second ball in play into the second corner. (0-5) may well shoot at it with the 3rd ball on: a hit is no worse than a hit tice, but a miss will leave him no subsequent rush to the first hoop, and may leave a double. If no really attractive target is offered, (6) puts the 4th ball into the 4th corner. (0-5) is immediately forced to do a maximum length take-off. He may well make a fabulous break, but it is an unenviable shot which even experts seem to misjudge regularly. It is likely at least to off-balance him. As an alternative, if a longish conventional tice has been made it might be interesting to see the reaction of an over-confident (0-5)

Three

if the 4th ball is deemed played in the 1st corner. If greedy, an early breakdown is likely since it is no easy thing to get a rush on the tice from the first corner while posting the corner ball to the second hoop. If cautious, (0-5) will probably lay a rush on the tice: this is then sent out of the way to the 3rd corner, leaving the corner ball as a guard against the setting up of short rush to the first hoop, and also as an inducement to (0-5) to over-extend himself.

During play itself (6) should, in my view, largely ignore the theoretical prohibitions on laying up near a joint hoop. A short rush is his best prospect of making it, and of getting away. A good hit in may certainly be expensive, but a long rush is much more likely to cause him a breakdown and a panic bisque. (0-5) will feel obliged to shoot at the "perfect rush": a miss may yield a break if the boundary was adequately guarded, but (6) will at least be fairly certain of his hoop, and he can thereafter pick and choose, with the opposition already separated. For the same reasons I think it is usually better to ignore the giving of a long double if the potential rush is really good. (0-5) will become mesmerised by the thought of hitting it instead of joining up, which is usually far more of a threat since (6) will then be very conscious of the pressure on him to make his hoop.

The theory of always shooting at a perfect rush is only as strong as the capacity of an opponent subsequently to execute it. A short shot must obviously be taken, but if (6) misses the long shot he remains separated and allows (0-5) to pick him up or to trundle on. (0-5) will not be certain of the long rush: if he fails, he will take off and probably try again on (6)'s balls. He may be able to set up a break, but if (6)'s balls are a long way from (0-5)'s hoop the margin of error has usually been increased, and a subsequent breakdown welcomes a bisque.

I consider that the merits of "joining up wide" are also doubtful. There may well be times when (6) should not join up at all. If, however, he wants to be really sure of hitting his partner ball it is unlikely that he will want to be more than four yards or so apart, in which case he is close enough to give (0-5) the prospect of acquiring a rush anyway, without having given himself the chance of getting in.

I have played a number of games in which I have not once been wired, even accidentally: why, I do not know. Great concentration is invariably expended on hoops and breaks, but it is my impression that wiring is given far less attention than it deserves. Even an imperfect wire usually achieves its object at long range and prevents that particular shot. The effect can only be to assist (6) since it allows him to dictate and makes (0-5) waste a turn, or risk giving a break by taking the wrong shot. If as a matter of routine (6) attempts before laying up always to place his opponent's balls meticulously, there can be no point in not also trying for the wire. This may fail lamentably, but the loss is minimal if the balls are widely spaced: if achieved, the effect on relative morale is considerable.

In conclusion, I must concede at once that it is impossible to generalise. I do feel that in "plus play" too little importance is attached to what tennis commentators call "unforced errors." The prospect of these undoubtedly justifies the taking of risks, and against the right opponent the cheapest way of getting a break may well be to leave a ball somewhere near his hoop "by accident." If he has allowed one ball to get too far ahead (e.g., to 4-back), a ball which has failed to go to the boundary (intentionally) may, if left near it, induce him to make the hoop and punt, (and possibly even Rover) before he has really thought about it, leaving him vulnerable to obvious consequences. (0-5) covers a large range of players, many of whom are out of practice. To beat those who are improving (6) must probably pray a little because the handicap may not truly represent the difference. To beat the rest, however, I am sure it is worth having a go and being a little rash. It's certainly more interesting, even if it means running the gauntlet of informed criticism: only the result is relevant. HUGH CARLISLE.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Question:

Pegging Out—Rule 39

Sir,

A—A minus player with both balls for the peg, pegs one of them out.

B—a plus player with both balls for the Rover, runs the hoop and endeavouring to join his partner ball inadvertently hits the peg. As the Rule stands, this ball is pegged out.

This would appear to raise the question of the intention of the Rule. If inter alia, it is intended to protect the plus player from such a contingency (not infrequent), I suggest the Rule should read . . . "Unless a player has already pegged out an adversary ball. . . ." Would someone care to comment?

Yours sincerely,

W. H. AUSTIN.

Answer:

The object of the Rule is not to protect either a plus or a minus player from the damaging consequences of an unintentional peg-out. The tactic which gave rise to the Rule was one adopted by Lord Tollemache when he was playing a long bisquer. At every opportunity possible he made an all-round break and pegged himself out, even although his partner ball was still for the first hoop. He reckoned that a long bisquer could not effectively use his bisques with only three balls on the Court. The powers-that-be then devised this Rule to protect the long bisquer against this practice.

SCOTTISH CROQUET

(Notes from the Northern Boundary?)

Croquet in Scotland is undeniably different from the Southern variety. This stems in part from our isolation from the courts of learning but possibly more from the coarseness of our lawns. Coarse is possibly the best overall description of our play so far.

But we do try. Recently we have been trying harder and our standard is on the way up. Last season's Centenary Tournament helped focus a new enthusiasm in the Edinburgh Club in the best possible way. A great many people did a lot of work to make the early rounds and our Area Final successful. A complete new Club, hitherto unknown, emerged as well as an encouraging number of new players. The Scottish Area Final attracted a large crowd and attention from the Press and Television. After that the English had no chance in the Final. On the strength of all this we re-established the Championship of Scotland last year. The trophy for this is a mallet inscribed "Champion of Scotland" and dated, genuinely, 1871.

Croquet historians may be interested to know that there is clear evidence of tournaments in Scotland in 1870. I will admit that we have looked, so far in vain, for evidence of a tournament earlier than the Evesham one in 1867! So we will have to content ourselves with a Scottish Centenary in two years' time, and it would be nice to hold this at Moffat where it appears most of the early Scottish croquet was played.

Before new charges of Nationalism are levelled against the Scots, however, let me make it clear that it is closer ties with the Croquet Association that we seek. Therefore we asked the C.A. to arrange a visit this year of some leading players. We were delighted when, last month, Professor Neal brought a missionary band to the North. They gave us two most valuable days at Launston Castle. A full day on Saturday included a most entertaining exhibition and our more serious players took part in a Sunday teach-in. The audience for the exhibition was probably increased because we had been able to get a small paragraph of advance publicity into the "Scotsman."

And what about the future? We are running our own Scottish Open and Handicap Tournaments at the moment. There are long-running unofficial competitions which culminate in a full day's semi-finals and finals at Edinburgh on July 6th. We have entered for the All Britain Tournament and our Area Final will be in Glasgow. Our major aim is to establish an official tournament in Scotland and we are hoping to do this every year. If we hold it the last week of the Edinburgh Festival, i.e., the first week of September, will you all come? R. D. S.

P.S. It isn't meant to be taken too seriously!

Dear Sir,

May I enter a strong protest against the habit that is creeping in of holding doubles on Tuesdays instead of Wednesdays. I give two reasons why I object to this:

(1) A player—a high bisquer—cannot be given a game on Monday. He has been allotted a stranger as his partner in the doubles. He is playing at a Club that he has not visited before. His first game in the tournament puts him at a great disadvantage and this seems to me to be unfair.

(2) Another player—a minus player—has not entered for the handicap or the doubles. His first game is on the Wednesday. He has wasted two days with all the expenses of hotel, club luncheons, etc.

I do not believe that holding doubles on Tuesday makes a ha'porth of difference to managers if they do their job properly. Finally, to start a tournament with a handicap event seems to me to be a smack in the face for A players, and as the draw for doubles would have to be on a Monday, there is no time left for players, who are not already fixed, to find partners.

Yours faithfully,

E. ANTONY ROPER.

HURLINGHAM v. WESTHAMPTON MALLET CLUB

Two years ago Hurlingham's peaceful and traditional calm was slightly shaken when a challenge was received, at very short notice, from the Westhampton Mallet Club. The initial overtures indicated that there was some difference in the game as played here and in America, but the emissary from the U.S. was not of the opinion that this would be insurmountable. As a result, within a very short time, a team arrived to play croquet under our rules, and it soon became apparent that the differences were such that a serious contest was quite impossible. The game played by our visitors was similar to that played here between 1867 and about the turn of the century. It was apparent that although the U.S. has a reputation for being considerably in advance of us in many fields, on the croquet field the reverse is the case.

The word field is used advisedly, for when Hurlingham visited Westhampton for the return match last year, of which team I was able to be a member, we found that their fields were indeed just this, not only in size but in quality. An account of this match, which was played under American rules, appeared in a supplement in last year's "Croquet," and at that time, few, if any, of us thought that Westhampton could make any serious challenge under British rules for many years to come.

In the event, it was surprising to us that they have made as much headway as they have, and although no one would contend that the match was played on anything like equal terms, Westhampton had obviously made great efforts to get to grips with our game. The results appear below, but this in no way tells the full story.

I personally played Jack Osborn and I have no doubt that he would become a first class player of Association Croquet with a first class croquet brain in a very short while. They have nothing to learn from us in the art of shooting or hoop-running. They have still a lot to learn in the art of playing the variety of croquet strokes employed in 3 and 4 ball breaks. Those of us who know our game realise how little can be done in the course of half a week's practice. Nevertheless, some of them at least have achieved a good deal as was demonstrated by the enlightened questions they frequently asked from their advisers.

I think they were most surprised to find a lady in our team, but Jocelyn Sundius-Smith by her play made them realise that she was a member strictly on the score of merit.

The match was to have been played over the weekend of Saturday and Sunday, June 8th and 9th. In fact, one game was played on the Friday and Sunday's play was cancelled because this was a day of public mourning for our visitors following the tragic death of Robert Kennedy. The weather was as unfortunate as that we had experienced in Long Island in 1967, but this did not mar the remarkable bond which has grown up between the two clubs. Walter Margulies and Henry White had visited us in 1966. Ned Prentis came in 1967 and, with his charming wife Betty, introduced us to the American game on a court set up on the cricket field. We all missed Betty on this occasion, but we were glad to be able to welcome another charmer, Margaret Bohner, the wife of Bill Bohner, who was making his first visit to this country. Bill's match was an unfortunate one as he couldn't hit in, although I know him to be one of their best shots and his knowledge of our game is as advanced as any of them, as I discovered in a few minutes' knock-up on my own lawn a few days later.

The other new faces were Jack Osborn and their captain David Seiner. We thank them all for their visit and would like to congratulate Westhampton on the choice of their distinguished ambassadors. We entertained them to dinner on the Friday night at Hurlingham and this was followed by another dinner given by our visitors in town the following night.

I think only two things are needed for Westhampton to become a serious threat to English croquet. One is an English type lawn, and I hear that they have every intention of laying one down at the earliest opportunity. The other is the formation of an American Association for the purpose of reaching agreement between the clubs on the rules of their own game as a preliminary to scrapping them altogether in favour of our own. All this will take a little time, and meanwhile it is unthinkable that these contests should not continue. It is not easy to arrange for a team from Hurlingham to travel to America. If, however, they pay us the compliment of playing our game, we should pay them the compliment of going to America. On the last occasion our fares were paid by Pan American, but on the next we shall have to fend for ourselves. But those of us who went on the last occasion enjoyed an unforgettable trip and the word will be passed around.

Friday p.m.—Mrs. Sundius-Smith beat Walter Margulies.

Saturday a.m.—John Solomon beat Jack Osborn.

Alex Karmel beat Henry White.

Robin Godby beat Bill Bohner.

Jim Townsend beat Ned Prentis.

Saturday p.m.—John Solomon and Alex Karmel beat Jack Osborn and Henry White.

Robin Godby and Jim Townsend beat Ned Prentis and David Seiner.

Mrs. Sundius-Smith beat Bill Bohner.

JOHN SOLOMON.

LONGMAN CUP

AREA 1

Ellesmere v. Bowden. Winner: Bowdon 4+1 on time.

SINGLES

Mrs. Wallwork (4½) beat Mrs. Tyldesley +10.

Mrs. Chaff (7½) beat Mrs. Cocker +13.

Nigel Martin (5) beat Mrs. Jackson +16.

DOUBLES

Mrs. Wallwork and Mrs. Chaff beat Mrs. Tyldesley and Mrs. Jackson +4.

Nigel Martin and Peter Gelling beat Mrs. Cocker and Mrs. N. Tyldesley +2.

Hunstanton v. Wrest Park. Wrest Park walk-over.

Parsons Green v. Woking. Woking +3 to 1 and 1 unfinished.

SINGLES

Mrs. Farlie (6) beat D. Temple Page (6½), unfinished.

Mrs. Speer (3½) beat Canon Pym (4) +6.

Mrs. Trull (7) lost to D. Moorcraft (7) -10.

SINGLES

Mrs. Speer and Mrs. Farlie lost to Mrs. Temple Page and Canon Pym -5.

Mrs. Trull and Mrs. Wills lost to D. Temple Page and D. Moorcraft -3.

Woking v. Roehampton. Woking won 4 to 1.

SINGLES

Canon Pym (4) beat Ian Banks (1½) +8.

D. Temple-Page beat A. d'Antal (4½) +11.

D. Moorcraft (7) beat J. Sanders (5½) +12.

S. S. T.

DOUBLES

D. Temple-Page and D. Moorcraft lost to A. d'Antal and J. Sanders -5.

Canon Pym and Mrs. Temple-Page beat Ian Banks and Mrs. Bressey +24.

Worton Hall v. Hurlingham. Hurlingham 3 to 2.

SINGLES

A. W. Skempton (3) lost to V. J. Sexton (6) -11.

Mrs. A. W. Skempton (4) beat G. J. Reeves (8) +9.

C. B. Sanford (7) beat R. M. Ward (10) +3.

DOUBLES

C. B. Sanford and Mrs. A. W. Skempton lost to V. J. Sexton and E. J. Reeves -17.

A. W. Skempton and B. H. Bliss beat R. M. Ward and A. Eldy +7 on time.

THE LONGMAN CUP MATCH

SOUTHWICK v. COMPTON

Played at Southwick on Thursday, June 13th, 1968. Southwick names first.

SINGLES

H. A. Sheppard (2) lost to D. A. Harris (2½) -24.

W. J. Baverstock (6½) beat Mrs. H. Hall (5½) +9.

L. E. Brookes (5) v. Mrs. E. M. Temple (3½), unfinished.

DOUBLES

H. A. Sheppard and W. J. Baverstock beat D. A. Harris and Mrs. H. Hall +10.

W. G. B. Scott and L. E. Brookes beat Mrs. E. M. Temple and Miss E. G. Clarke-Lens +5.

Southwick won -3-1 with one unfinished.

PRACTICE WITH A PURPOSE

Reprinted from "Croquet"

Practising is something which comes easily to some people, but others do not quite know how to put the time spent in it to good advantage, so I am going to suggest a few ideas which I hope will be helpful to the latter. It is wise to start with the shots you find most difficult, and to play them a number of times until an improvement is evident, but I do not advise going on until you are sick and tired of the whole thing.

If a fine take-off is what you need to master, an ideal test is to place two balls in a corner, and take-off on the inside of the lawn down the boundary, gradually increasing the distance until you can get as far as the next corner without sending the other ball off the boundary. You can then put a ball in corners one, two and three, take-off from each and return to the first corner again, which will give you practice in taking off from either side.

Another most important stroke is the approach to a hoop. You should be able to put the forward ball to the position that will be most helpful to you after the hoop is run, and to achieve this it is necessary to approach a hoop with every type of shot—stop shot for a forward rush afterwards, roll shot for a backward rush, and split shots to be able to send it either side of a hoop. Unless you can be fairly certain of doing this, you will find your break is difficult, and that balls have to be left behind. Place the forward ball so that after running the hoop you can rush that ball to a position where you have a straight shot to send it to the hoop after next, stopping at the centre ball yourself. This is easier to do accurately than it is with a split or roll shot with which you will find yourself faced unless you have thought of the position you need for the ball on the other side of the hoop when you are approaching it.

Rush strokes can make or mar a break and are difficult to play accurately, so it is as well to practise short ones before attempting long ones, and make certain that you see the place on the ground on which your ball has been resting, after the ball has left your mallet; this will make certain that you do not look up too soon. Never attempt to rush a ball to the hoop after next if you can place it there with a croquet shot. It is difficult to recover from the effects of a badly rushed ball, and it is far easier to be accurate with a croquet shot.

These shots are the foundation of breaks, and that is why it is important to master them. It may seem dull to practise single shots, but one should look upon it in the same way as practising scales on the piano. Unless your fingers are nimble and accurate in scales, you will not be able to play pieces, and unless your shots are accurate you will not be able to play breaks—so do your "scales" first, and then go on to the "pieces." Place the balls in a good position before you begin your break—i.e., a short rush to the first hoop, a centre ball on the left of the stick, and a ball about a foot from the second hoop, slightly short and on the right-hand side. Try and play so that you keep this positioning throughout—the forward ball always on the inside of the four outer hoops, and the centre ball you can rush from side to side of the stick. It is most important to be able to place the ball accurately at the hoop after next—"somewhere in the neighbourhood" is not good enough, and will eventually lead to a breakdown, as sooner or later a long approach to a hoop will fail.

A more advanced form of practice is the three ball break, and to achieve this successfully it is even more essential that you pay particular attention to the position of the ball with which you approach a hoop. You have no centre ball to help you on your way, and must therefore be certain the ball with which you make the hoop is placed in such a position that you can rush it to a point which will make your next stroke a simple one. Always try and send it to a place where in the next stroke it will have a further distance to go than your own ball. By this means you avoid the need for making difficult roll and split shots.

I have often heard people say how easy croquet looks, when someone is making a good break, but if you watch carefully, you will see the reason is that every ball is accurately placed, and therefore no difficult stroke has to be made. When watching a good break, anticipate what the player will do next, and if he does not do what you expected, try and understand why he has played differently—you will find you learn a lot from watching with your mind, as well as your eye.

HOPE ROTHERHAM.

Six

HOW TO MAKE A BREAK

Reprinted from "Croquet"

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 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 a 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 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 involves 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.

JOHN SOLOMON.

SOUTHWICK SPRING TOURNAMENT

May 20th to 25th

A very good entry for this Tournament which consisted of a Handicap Singles on the American system and a Handicap Doubles X.Y. Eleven courts in first class condition; vast improvements in the club rooms; really excellent catering arrangements (thanks are indeed due to Miss Pirie and Miss Towers and to their hardworking band of helpers) and with Mr. Roper at the helm (fortunate competitors) it is not surprising that the meeting proved to be a particularly happy one.

The hero of the week was Mr. N. W. T. Cox who played consistently well, and also used his bisques wisely. Mr. P. Newton was a worthy runner-up to Mr. Cox in the final of the singles event.

The finest play of the week seen by the writer came from the mallet of Colin Prichard in an excellent first-round doubles match. He was well supported by his mother; witness Mrs. Prichard's plucky and daring rover-hoop (after the briefest consultation) when all depended on it, against Mr. W. E. Moore and Mr. C. G. Mayo, a strong and well tried partnership, who went on to win the Y event.

Mrs. Newton is certainly a very obedient wife; she is also a good hoop-runner. Coming from behind, Mr. and Mrs. Newton won a very exciting final of the X Doubles played before a large and appreciative audience. The writer noticed, throughout the week, an agreeable absence of slow play.

Finally, Mrs. Roper, introduced by the Chairman, Mr. W. G. B. Scott, to whom many thanks are due, graciously presented the prizes.

HANDICAP DOUBLES

FIRST ROUND

Cmdr. G. Borrett and Mrs. J. Omond (7½) beat Mrs. H. F. Chittenden and Mrs. E. M. Temple (8½) by 2.
R. O. B. Whittington and Mrs. M. Wooster (8½) beat Prof. Ross and Mrs. A. S. C. Ross (9) by 2 on time.

SECOND ROUND

Mr. P. Newton and Mrs. P. Newton (15½) beat H. A. Green and D. Himmens (11½) by 9.
Mrs. Elvey and Mrs. W. A. Naylor (5½) beat Mrs. E. A. Roper and Mrs. E. A. Roper (6) by 4.
Maj. R. Driscoll and Mrs. Turner (9½) beat Mrs. V. A. Webb and Miss Horton (18) by 11.
Cmdr. G. Borrett and Mrs. J. S. Omond (7½) beat D. A. Harris and Mrs. E. M. Temple (6½) by 2 on time.
R. O. B. Whittington and Mrs. M. Wooster (8½) beat H. A. Sheppard and W. J. Baverstock (9½) by 10.
W. T. B. Scott and D. E. Buckland (10½) beat W. H. Austin and Miss Clarke-Lens (8½) by 8.
Mrs. D. M. C. Prichard and C. L. Prichard (5) beat W. E. Moore and C. Mayo (5) by 4.
N. W. T. Cox and Miss H. D. Parker (8½) beat Col. J. Wheeler and Miss M. K. Allardyce (7½) by 1 on time.

THIRD ROUND

Mr. and Mrs. P. Newton (15½) beat Mrs. Elvey and Mrs. W. A. Naylor (5½) by 14.
Maj. R. Driscoll and Mrs. Turner (9½) beat Cmdr. G. Borrett and Mrs. J. S. Omond (7½) by 5 on time.
W. T. B. Scott and D. E. Buckland (10½) beat R. O. B. Whittington and Mrs. M. Wooster (8½) by 1 on time.
Mrs. D. M. C. Prichard and C. L. Prichard beat N. W. T. Cox and Miss H. D. Parker (8½) by 8.

SEMI-FINAL

Mr. and Mrs. Newton (15½) beat Maj. R. Driscoll and Mrs. Turner (9½) by 10.
Mrs. D. M. C. Prichard and C. L. Prichard (5) beat W. T. B. Scott and D. E. Buckland (10½) by 4.

FINAL

Mr. and Mrs. P. Newton (15½) beat Mrs. D. M. C. Prichard and C. L. Prichard (5) by 1.

AMERICAN TOURNAMENT

BLOCK WINNERS

Block A (7) D. A. Harris (3) with 5 wins.
Block B (6) W. H. Austin (½) with 4 wins.

Block C (6) R. O. B. Whittington (1) with 4 wins (total 119).
N.B.—Miss W. K. Allardyce had 4 wins (1 on time) but her total was 117.

PLAY OFF ROUND

W. H. Austin (½) beat D. A. Harris (3) by 8.
R. O. B. Whittington (1) beat Mrs. D. M. C. Prichard (3) by 3.

SEMI-FINAL

N. W. T. Cox (6) beat W. H. Austin (½) by 25.
P. Newton (1½) beat R. O. B. Whittington (1) by 23.

FINAL

N. W. T. Cox (6) beat P. Newton (1½) by 23.

INTER-COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIPS

May 28th-31st, 1968

The "Counties" American competition took place at Hurlingham Club and proved to be a delightful reunion of old friends—many of the players were not at the peak of their form so early in the season. Newcomers to the event included Aspinall and Banks of Middlesex and Patterson and Price from Eastern Counties.

The weather was superb. Never can the players have had such lovely conditions, with the courts playing at their best.

Surrey's star team of 6 players had a combined handicap of -18, while Devon, also all minus players, totalled -15. Middlesex, with one plus handicap player, totalled -16. Against this galaxy of stars, Eastern Counties, the holders of the Cup, could only field two minus players, but those two, Lloyd Pratt and Bray, achieved the distinction of beating Solomon and Cotter in a thrilling finish when Bray was pegged out and a contact conceded—Lloyd Pratt then came up from 3-back to win an exciting game. Another interesting match was known as "The lift that never was." With Perry on the peg and Mrs. Rotherham playing from 4-back, Wiggins advised Neal to place his ball in the 1st corner—Surrey then watched Mrs. Rotherham play a careful and adventurous 2 ball break and peg out. None of the four players remembered that there was no lift after 4-back!

Sussex lost their matches but put up some good fights, their third couple, Moore and Driscoll, doing particularly well.

On the last day, Devon beat Surrey in the morning and then went to tackle Middlesex in the afternoon, both teams being unbeaten. Middlesex won by 2-1 and again proved themselves the Champion County, while Devon retained their usual place as "always the . . . bridesmaid."

Dublin Co. had to scratch after entering and they were sadly missed. The event was played under the old conditions—semi-advanced play and a 3½-hour time-limit. Many of the competitors felt these restrictions were unnecessary.

Miss Lintern added to the competition pleasure by acting as manager, and Mrs. Thom gave her support.

Played at Hurlingham from May 28th to May 31st, 1968.

Teams as under:

ANALYSIS:

MIDDLESEX won 4 matches v. Eastern Counties 2-1; Surrey 2-1; Devon 2-1; Sussex 2-1 on time.

DEVON won 3 matches v. Eastern Counties 2-1; Surrey 2-1; Sussex 3-0; lost to Middlesex 1-2.

SURREY won 2 matches v. Eastern Counties 2-1; Sussex 2-1; lost to Middlesex 1-2; Devon 1-2.

EASTERN COUNTIES won 1 match v. Sussex 3-0; lost to Middlesex 1-2; Surrey 1-2; Devon 1-2.

SUSSEX won no matches.

MIDDLESEX—Miss D. A. Lintern (Capt.), G. N. Aspinall, I. E. Banks, E. P. C. Cotter, R. A. Godby, Col. D. M. C. Prichard, J. S. Solomon, Mrs. B. L. Sundius-Smith.

DEVON—Mrs. E. Rotherham (Capt.), Col. W. D. Beamish, A. J. Cooper, B. G. Perry, Miss E. J. Warwick, J. G. Warwick.

SURREY—Prof. B. G. Neal (Capt.), A. V. Camroux, J. B. Gilbert, D. J. V. Hamilton-Miller, H. O. Hicks, R. O. Hicks, M. B. Reckitt, Mrs. G. W. Solomon, Dr. W. R. D. Wiggins.

Seven

EASTERN COUNTIES—E. P. Duffield (Capt.), I. C. Baillieu, Dr. R. W. Bray, A. D. Karmel, B. Lloyd-Pratt, K. H. Paterson, R. K. Price.

SUSSEX—E. A. Roper (Capt.), Mrs. H. F. Chittenden, Maj. R. Driscoll, Mrs. G. F. H. Elvey, Mrs. W. Longman, W. E. Moore.

HUNSTANTON (AMERICAN NON-OFFICIAL)

Once again Hunstanton was lucky with glorious sunny weather for the tournament held on June 1st-3rd. It was a pleasure to take part in this most enjoyable event on wonderful lawns and with such a friendly host club.

The Lord Fermoy Cup was won by Mrs. J. Neville-Rolfe (Hunstanton) and the runner-up being Mr. Arthur Reed (Roehampton and Hunstanton).

Though there was a small entry, the games were most enjoyable and rewarding, because the high bisquers had the experience of playing with low bisquers which gave great encouragement to the former.

In every way this was a memorable and happy week-end.

H'cap	A. A. Reed	Mrs. J. N. Rolfe	Miss S. Hampson	Mrs. A. Zinn	Miss E. Wood	Mrs. J. Ireland	Total
-1½ A. A. Reed	X	26	26	11	26	26	2nd
1½ Mrs. J. Neville Rolfe	20	X	26	26	26	26	Winner
4 Miss S. Hampson	12	20	X	26	26	26	3rd
11 Mrs. A. Zinn	26	11	12	X	26	26	4th
16 Miss E. Wood	12	14	5	20	X	20*	5th
16 Mrs. J. Ireland	3	12	9	10	16	X	6th

THE RYDE 50th ANNUAL OPEN CROQUET TOURNAMENT

This Club celebrated its 50th anniversary with a very successful and enjoyable Croquet Tournament from June 3rd to June 9th. In spite of an exceptionally cold and wet May and early June the Tournament had on the whole good weather only marred by rain on the first afternoon.

The club house and general surroundings were looking at their best with the pink chestnut trees in full bloom and the five courts, thanks to the hard work put in by the Club's groundsman, Mr. Ash, were in excellent condition.

The catering arrangements run by the ladies of the Club produced a very good lunch and tea daily. In honour of the Club's 50th anniversary a delightful cocktail party was given on Wednesday, June 5th, to all competitors and friends including the Mayor of Ryde and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Cleaver.

It is very nice to report that this Club is now on a good financial basis and is flourishing, having latterly gone through a few lean years.

The new President is Miss Joan Preston and the Secretary is Mrs. G. H. Wood. Miss K. Wade is doing excellent work running the secretarial part of the Annual Tournament, which she has done for many years.

Major J. H. Dibley, M.C., the well-known croquet player and manager, has managed this tournament for 22 years and he successfully steered all competitors through their matches up to prize-giving time at 5.30 p.m. on Saturday, June 8th.

Eight

The equally well-known Canon R. Creed-Meredith not only played in three events but also very ably acted as referee throughout the tournament, travelling quite a lot of miles over the lawns in order to settle knotty croquet problems arising from play. It is interesting to report that 30 years ago he was playing at Wanganui, N.Z., and was then rated as the next best player in the country to Mr. A. D. M. Ross, who at the age of 74 is still playing top croquet in N.Z. The Canon is also a life member of the N.Z. Croquet Council.

Miss Walker, a Club member and delightful character, raced across the courts while playing with accuracy a great many matches at the sprightly age of 92—a lesson to all who think of giving up this strenuous and complicated game at too early an age.

Mrs. G. H. Wood, the new Club Secretary, has only played for a few years and is showing great promise and in fact with her handicap of 8 she was too good for most players.

Mr. M. Woodnutt, M.P. for the Isle of Wight, kindly gave away the prizes, and special thanks must go to Mr. Birch, who produced beautiful replicas in honour of the 50th anniversary for each winner and to members of the hardworking committee.

All visitors, coming from as far away as New Zealand and from the Midlands and the South, thoroughly enjoyed this tournament.

ISLE OF WIGHT OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

DRAW

FIRST ROUND

Professor A. S. C. Ross beat R. A. Simpson by 3.
G. Birch beat Rev. Canon R. Creed Meredith by 6.
Mrs. R. A. Simpson beat Major J. H. Dibley by 19.
Colonel E. D. Tims walk-over.

SEMI-FINAL

G. Birch beat Professor A. S. C. Ross by 18.
Mrs. R. A. Simpson beat Colonel E. D. Tims by 8.

FINAL

G. Birch beat Mrs. R. A. Simpson by 11.

PROCESS

FIRST ROUND

Colonel E. D. Tims beat Canon R. Creed Meredith by 11.
Professor A. S. C. Ross walk-over.
G. Birch walk-over.
R. A. Simpson walk-over.

SEMI FINAL

Colonel E. D. Tims beat Professor A. S. C. Ross by 14.
R. A. Simpson beat G. Birch by 12.

FINAL

R. A. Simpson beat Colonel E. D. Tims by 7.
Play-off result—Simpson, opponent G. Birch retired.

CHAPMAN CUP

FIRST ROUND

Miss M. Bryan walk-over.
Miss J. Preston beat Mrs. A. S. C. Ross by 8.

SECOND ROUND

Mrs. E. D. Tims beat A. J. Bucknell by 16.
Miss M. Bryan beat Dr. W. Betenson by 9.
Miss J. Preston beat Miss E. Walker by 7.
Captain H. F. Nalder beat Miss M. M. Taylor retired.

SEMI-FINAL

Mrs. E. D. Tims beat Miss M. Bryan by 17.
Miss J. Preston walk-over.

FINAL

Mrs. E. D. Tims beat Miss J. Preston by 15.

THE HULTON CUP

FIRST ROUND

Miss W. Creed Meredith (8) beat Mrs. K. Lowein (13) by 8.
Mrs. C. Devitt (8) beat Mrs. A. J. Bucknell (13) by 15.

Mrs. G. H. Wood (8) beat Mrs. R. Creed Meredith (16) by 14.
Mrs. H. F. Nalder (9) beat Miss K. A. Wade (11) by 13.

SEMI-FINAL

Mrs. C. Devitt (8) beat Miss W. Creed Meredith (8) by 4.
Mrs. G. H. Wood (8) beat Mrs. H. F. Nalder (9) by 15.

FINAL

Mrs. G. H. Wood (8) beat Mrs. C. Devitt (8) by 11.

THE DIBLEY CUP

FIRST ROUND

Miss E. Walker (5½) beat A. J. Bucknell (3) by 15.
Miss M. M. Taylor (7) beat Mrs. R. A. Hill (6) retired.
Mrs. G. H. Wood (8) beat Colonel E. D. Tims (2½) by 8.
Mrs. C. Devitt (8) beat Mrs. A. S. C. Ross (6½) by 5.
Professor A. S. C. Ross (2½) beat Mrs. A. J. Bucknell (13) by 20.
R. A. Simpson (0) beat Mrs. K. Lowein (13) by 7.
Captain H. F. Nalder (3) beat Miss W. E. Creed Meredith (8) by 2 on time.

SECOND ROUND

Canon R. Creed Meredith (2) beat B. Lloyd-Pratt (2½) walk-over.
Mrs. E. D. Tims (3) beat Dr. W. F. W. Betenson (7) by 11.
Miss E. Walker (5½) beat Miss M. M. Taylor (7) by 2.
Mrs. G. H. Wood (8) beat Mrs. C. Devitt (8) by 4.
R. A. Simpson (0) beat Professor A. S. C. Ross (2½) by 10.
Mrs. R. A. Simpson (2) beat Captain H. F. Nalder (3) by 6.
Miss J. Preston (7) beat Mrs. R. Creed Meredith (16) by 9.
Mrs. H. F. Nalder (9) beat Miss M. Bryan (6) by 17.

THIRD ROUND

Mrs. E. D. Tims (3) beat Canon R. Creed Meredith (2) by 13.
Mrs. G. H. Wood (8) beat Miss E. Walker (5½) by 24.
Mrs. R. A. Simpson (2) beat R. A. Simpson (0) by 13.
Miss J. Preston (7) beat Mrs. H. F. Nalder (9) by 6.

SEMI-FINAL

Mrs. G. H. Wood (8) beat Mrs. E. D. Tims (3) by 21.
Mrs. R. A. Simpson (2) beat Miss J. Preston (7) by 1.

FINAL

Mrs. R. A. Simpson (2) beat Mrs. G. H. Wood (8) by 11.

THE BENEST CUP

FIRST ROUND

Dr. W. Betenson (7) beat Canon R. Creed Meredith (2) by 9.
A. J. Bucknell (3) walk-over.
Col. E. D. Tims (2½) beat Mrs. A. S. C. Ross (6½) by 4.
Mrs. K. Lowein (13) beat Mrs. A. J. Bucknell (13) by 9.
G. Birch (0) beat Miss Creed Meredith (8) by 3.

SECOND ROUND

Dr. W. Betenson (7) walk-over.
Col. E. T. Tims (2½) beat A. J. Bucknell (3) by 5.
G. Birch (0) beat Mrs. K. Lowein (13) by 9.
Mrs. Creed Meredith (13) beat Miss M. Bryan (6) by 1.

SEMI-FINAL

Col. E. D. Tims (2½) beat Dr. W. Betenson (7) by 9.
G. Birch (0) beat Mrs. Creed Meredith (13) by 9.

FINAL

G. Birch (0) beat Col. E. D. Tims (2½) by 3.

THE BIRCH CUP

FIRST ROUND

Mrs. R. A. Simpson and Miss J. L. Preston (9) beat G. Birch and A. J. Bucknell (3) by 15.
R. A. Simpson and Miss K. A. Wade (11) beat Canon R. Creed Meredith and Miss Creed Meredith (10) by 17.
Captain H. F. Nalder and Mrs. H. F. Nalder (13) beat Dr. W. Betenson and Miss M. M. Taylor (14) by 1 on time.

SECOND ROUND

Miss M. Bryan and Mrs. G. H. Wood (14) beat Mrs. C. Devitt and Mrs. Creed Meredith (24) by 1 on time.
Mrs. R. A. Simpson and Miss J. L. Preston (9) beat R. A. Simpson and Miss K. A. Wade (11) by 4.
Captain H. F. Nalder and Mrs. H. F. Nalder (13) beat Mrs. A. J. Bucknell and Mrs. K. Lowein (25) by 8.
Professor A. S. C. Ross and Mrs. A. S. C. Ross (9) beat Col. E. D. Tims and Mrs. E. D. Tims (5½) by 13.

SEMI-FINAL

Mrs. R. A. Simpson and Miss J. Preston beat Miss M. Bryan and Mrs. G. H. Wood by 1.
Prof. A. S. C. Ross and Mrs. A. S. C. Ross beat Captain H. F. Nalder and Mrs. H. F. Nalder by 12.

FINAL

Mrs. R. A. Simpson and Miss Preston beat Prof. A. S. C. Ross and Mrs. A. S. C. Ross by 6.

CHELTENHAM (AMERICAN NON-OFFICIAL)

BLOCK A.

P. W. Hands (3) won 3 games, beat Col. D. M. C. Prichard (-2½) +25; Miss K. M. O. Sessions (-1) +26; Mrs. L. Richardson (7) +8. Lost to C. W. I. Gillespie (3½) -2.

BLOCK B.

Mrs. D. M. C. Prichard (2½) won 4 games. Beat G. E. P. Jackson (-2½) +18; Col. G. T. Wheeler (-½) +7; Mrs. F. E. M. Puxon (6½) +13; R. A. Lewty (10) +13.

BLOCK C.

C. H. L. Prichard (2) won 4 games. Beat H. S. Clemons (-1) +26; D. M. Horne (5) +22; W. J. Sturdy (6½) +10; Miss W. K. Allardyce (8) +2.

BLOCK D.

Mrs. R. A. Lewty (4) won 4 games. Beat R. F. Rothwell (-1) +11; F. E. M. Puxon (7) +19. L. G. Ayliffe (8) +4; N. Williams (11) +7. Lost to Miss I. M. Roe (2½) -10.

PLAY-OFF

SEMI-FINALS

Mrs. Prichard beat P. W. Hands +7.
C. H. L. Prichard beat Mrs. Lewty +10.

FINAL

Mrs. Prichard beat C. H. L. Prichard +8.

CARRICKMINES TOURNAMENT

CHAMPIONSHIP OF IRELAND

FIRST ROUND

L. J. Webb beat Lady Fitzgerald +17+23.
Mrs. H. M. Read beat Miss F. Joly +13-13+1.
H. O. Hicks beat Mrs. M. A. Daniels +10+18.
D. O'Connor beat Mrs. M. Lightfoot +22+26.

SECOND ROUND

E. H. S. Shelton beat D. Figgis +26+24.
L. J. Webb beat Mrs. H. M. Read +3+14.
D. O'Connor beat H. O. Hicks +20+10.
Mrs. N. A. C. McMillan beat R. J. Leonard +2-13+17.

SEMI-FINAL

L. J. Webb beat E. H. S. Shelton +3+9.
D. O'Connor beat Mrs. N. A. C. McMillan +15+11.

FINAL

D. O'Connor beat L. J. Webb +21+21.

Nine

GREEN CUP

FIRST ROUND

Mrs. E. Puxon (6½) beat G. Scott Page (7) +12.
Myles McWeeney (8) beat F. E. M. Puxon (7) +19.

SEMI-FINAL

Mrs. E. Puxon (6½) beat Mrs. S. Moran (10) +12.
Myles McWeeney (8) beat P. J. Cross (6) +7.

FINAL

Myles McWeeney (8) beat Mrs. E. Puxon (6½) +15.

STEEL CUP

FIRST ROUND

Mrs. D. Figgis beat H. M. Read +13.

SEMI-FINAL

Miss G. Hopkins beat D. Campbell +14.
A. D. Craig beat Mrs. D. Figgis +6.

FINAL

Miss G. Hopkins beat A. D. Craig +15.

FOUNDER'S CUP (Open)

FIRST ROUND

Miss G. Hopkins (4) beat H. M. Read (3½) +2.
Mrs. M. Lightfoot (½) beat G. Scott Page (7) +16.
E. H. S. Shelton (Scr.) beat D. Campbell (4½) +1.
Miss F. Joly (1½) beat Mrs. S. Moran (10) +19.
D. Figgis (Scr.) beat W. O. F. Regan (3) scratched.
Mrs. M. C. Puxon (6½) beat L. J. Webb (Scr.) +11.
H. O. Hicks (-5) beat Mrs. D. Figgis (5½) +9.
P. J. Cross (6) beat Myles McWeeney (8) +2.

SECOND ROUND

R. J. Leonard (Scr.) beat A. D. Craig (5) +15.
D. O'Connor (-½) beat Mrs. M. A. Daniels (½) +26.
Mrs. M. Lightfoot (½) beat Miss G. Hopkins (4) +8.
E. H. S. Shelton (Scr.) beat Miss F. Joly (1½) +17.
D. Figgis (Scr.) beat Mrs. M. C. Puxon (6½) +10.
P. J. Cross (6) beat H. O. Hicks (-5).
Mrs. H. M. Read (2) beat F. E. M. Puxon (7) +10.
Mrs. M. A. C. McMillan (2) beat Lady Fitzgerald (1) +2.

THIRD ROUND

R. J. Leonard (Scr.) walk-over.
Mrs. M. Lightfoot (½) beat E. H. S. Shelton (Scr.) +21.
P. J. Cross (6) beat D. Figgis (Scr.) +18.
Mrs. M. A. C. McMillan (2) beat Mrs. H. M. Read (2) +1.

SEMI-FINAL

R. J. Leonard (Scr.) beat Mrs. M. Lightfoot (½) +7.
Mrs. M. A. C. McMillan (2) beat P. J. Cross (6) +10.

FINAL

R. J. Leonard (Scr.) beat Mrs. M. A. C. McMillan (2) +12.

STONEBROOK CUP

FIRST ROUND

D. O'Connor and R. L. Hannon (5½) beat Mrs. M. A. Daniels and Miss G. Hopkins (4½) +14.
H. M. Read and Mrs. H. M. Read (5½) beat P. J. Cross and Mrs. P. J. Cross (16) +20.
Mrs. M. A. C. McMillan and Lady Fitzgerald (3) beat E. H. S. Shelton and D. Campbell (4½) +9.
M. B. McWeeney and R. J. Leonard (7) beat G. Scott Page and Mrs. M. Lightfoot (7½) +1 on time.

SECOND ROUND

D. Figgis and Mrs. D. Figgis (5½) beat F. E. M. Puxon and Mrs. F. E. M. Puxon (13½) +4 on time.

D. O'Connor and R. L. Hannon (5½) beat H. M. Read and Mrs. H. M. Read (5½) +17.
M. B. McWeeney and R. J. Leonard (7) beat Mrs. M. A. C. McMillan and Lady Fitzgerald (3) +15.
A. D. Craig and Miss F. Joly (6½) beat L. J. Webb and G. M. Fitzpatrick (2) +8.

SEMI-FINAL

D. O'Connor and R. L. Hannon (5½) beat D. Figgis and Mrs. D. Figgis (5½) +8.
M. B. McWeeney and R. J. Leonard (7) beat A. D. Craig and Miss F. Joly (6½) +15.

FINAL

D. O'Connor and R. L. Hannon (5½) beat M. B. McWeeney and R. J. Leonard (7) +14.

CHALLENGE AND GILBEY

Roehampton, June 10th-15th, 1968

This event opened in perfect summer weather, with temperatures up in the 70's; it was most enjoyable, marred only by the deafening noise of excavators on the new building site, and clouds of dust which blew over Court 4, and also the sad news that this would be the last time that the event would be held at Roehampton—threatened by the loss of two croquet lawns to the tennis enthusiasts.

The entry was low and the presiding genius, Miss Lintern, together with the manager, Mr. Brian Gilbert, decided to change the conditions under which it was advertised. They divided the contestants into three blocks, instead of four or more, thus ensuring that those in "A" and "B" each had to play six matches to reach the play-off, and "C" block, with one less competitor, played five matches.

Battle commenced, and as this writer was not asked to write the report until the end of the week, little can be said of the various matches and their vicissitudes.

Brigadier Forbes and Mrs. Sundius-Smith were in the running, with equal games won, and the result depended on a single point at the end of the week, the lady triumphing, to win "A" Block. In "B" Block, Mr. Rees, a player from Wrest Park, just beat Mrs. Adler, who did extremely well all the week. In "C" Block another Wrest Park competitor, Mr. Green, held off the challenge of the other players fairly easily.

The Play-off was drawn separately, between the three winners and the three runners-up. Mr. Green narrowly beat Mr. Rees, who attempted to fell his adversary but couldn't quite bring it off. He then met Mrs. Sundius-Smith in the Final, and was only just defeated by her after a long battle of bisques and wits.

The winner of the Gilbey Cup was Brigadier Forbes, who beat Mrs. Adler in the first round of the Play-off, and then a much-improved long bisquer, Miss Anderson. Mr. Hamilton-Miller gave a forest of bisques to Mrs. Neal and won the Extra. Other players who caught the eye were Mr. Rickitt, General and Mrs. Davidson, Miss Hay, a new young player, always cheerful even in adversity, and the ever-youthful octogenarian, Miss Bartlett.

The management was efficient and kindly, Mr. Gilbert made some splendid breaks, without winning many games, and retired again to study his plan of campaign.

Miss Lintern deserves a special vote of thanks for the endless trouble she takes to keep the competitors happy and to supply them with creature comforts.

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

Last year Mrs. Sundius-Smith, alias Mrs. Peel, won the Peel's off a handicap of 5. She followed this up later in the year by winning the Reckitt Challenge Cup in the Challenge and Gilbeys off a handicap of 4, and at the end of the year received the award of the most improved lady player. This year she has brought off the Spring Double of the two C.A. Handicap Event at Roehampton. She won the Peel's off a handicap of 2, and now she has won the Challenge and Gilbey's off a handicap of 1½, and has been notified that she has been reduced to one. This reporter saw the final against H. C. Green, a most formidable player off his handicap of 6½ bisques. Green's reply to her standard opening was very interesting. He left his two balls on the West and North boundaries about 5 yards from the second corner. Evidently he preferred to let her open up the

game. One can only assume that his hope was that she would not get on but would enable him by the aid of a bisque to step in for a 4-ball break. Mrs. Peel did not oblige. On the 5th turn she separated him by the breath of the Court opposite the 2nd and 3rd hoops and left a perfect rush for herself from near the fourth corner on to the first hoop.

Then it was Green's turn, and he hit a splendid cross court shot and thus got the innings and saved his bisque. However, the bisque went when he stuck in the first hoop. Green had nearly all the play in the first half of the game. Once he lost the innings, but another long hit won it back for him. This was taking its toll from Mrs. Peel, who began a series of missing her hoops, and the game seem to slip away from her when she failed to hit one or two half court shots at which she is so reliable. The last of these was a miss that left her in the first corner whilst he was laid up at 2-back. Her great chance came when he missed this hoop through rather careless play, which was not typical. Mrs. Peel then hit the ball in front of the hoop, but her prospects were not auspicious. Her striker's ball was still for the second hoop. Her partner ball was in the second corner and the enemy ball was behind 2-back and would not rush either to the second corner or the second hoop. However, she dug it out somewhere halfway down the West Boundary. "She can't do anything on this," said a spectator in my hearing. In fact, she went round to 4-back and that put her right back into the match. We saw her fighting spirit at its best and this entitled her to win. It was a close match, and Green is also to be congratulated.

BLOCK A Winner.—Mrs. B. L. Sundius-Smith won an equal number of games with Brig. A. F. G. Forbes but had one more point.

BLOCK B Winner.—D. V. H. Rees from Wrest Park won the block and Mrs. S. M. Adler was second having the same number of games as Mrs. M. Speer but with 10 more points.

BLOCK C Winner.—H. C. Green, also from Wrest Park, won by a clear margin, with Miss M. G. Anderson second.

WINNERS PLAY-OFF FOR CHALLENGE CUP

H. C. Green beat D. V. H. Rees +8.
Mrs. B. L. Sundius-Smith beat H. C. Green +3.

RUNNERS-UP PLAY-OFF (Gilbey and Supplementary Cups)

Brig. A. F. G. Forbes beat Mrs. S. M. Adler +17.
Brig. Forbes beat Miss M. G. Anderson +2.

An extra event was played, and the finalists were D. J. V. Hamilton-Miller and Mrs. B. G. Neal, which was a good game, Mrs. Neal only losing by 4 points.

CHAMPIONSHIP AND DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP

will be held at the

HURLINGHAM CLUB, on JULY 22nd, and following days.

Committee: The Tournament Committee of the Croquet Association,

Manager: To be appointed.

Referee and Handicapper: To be appointed.

Secretary: The Secretary, C.A., The Hurlingham Club, S.W.6.

EVENTS

1. THE CROQUET CHAMPIONSHIP. Open to any Competitor (subject to Regulation 22). Entrance Fee 15/-. Matches best of three games. Prize: The Coronation Gold Challenge Cup. Runner-up, a Silver Challenge Cup. Holder: J. W. Solomon. Runner-up, H. A. Hicks.
2. THE DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP. Open to any Competitor (subject to Regulation 22) Entrance Fee 13/-. Matches of single games. Prizes: A Pair of Silver Challenge Cups. Holders, D. J. V. Hamilton Miller and P. D. Hallett.
3. THE ASSOCIATION PLATE. Open to Competitors who have entered for Event 1 and have not qualified for the third round or at the discretion of the Manager. Matches of single games throughout. Entrance Fee 10/- each entry as they qualify. Level play. Prize: A Challenge Cup. Holder, Dr. W. Ormerod.

ENTRIES.—The entries, accompanied by the Entrance Fees for Event 1, must be sent to the Secretary, C.A., so as to reach her not later than the first post on Wednesday, July 20th, and for Event 2 by noon on Tuesday, July 26th.

DRAW.—The Draw for Event 1 will take place at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, July 20th, and for Event 2 at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, July 26th, and for Event 3 as will be announced on the ground.

PLAY.—Play will begin at 10 a.m.

The semi-finals of the Championships will be so arranged that play in them will extend over the afternoons of Friday, July 26th, and Saturday, July 27th.

HURLINGHAM

THE ANNUAL CROQUET TOURNAMENT
including the "LADIES' FIELD" CANDLESTICKS
(under the direction of the C.A.)

will be held from

MONDAY, AUGUST 5th, to WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14th,
1968.

Committee: The Croquet Committee of the Club.

Manager and Handicapper: E. A. Roper.

Referee: J. G. Warwick.

Games Secretary: Cdr. D. E. Jenkins, M.B.E., R.N.

EVENTS

1. THE HURLINGHAM CUP. Holder: J. W. Simon. Level Singles. Conditions of Advanced Play. Entrance Fee 12/6. DRAW and PROCESS.
2. THE TURNER CUP. Holder: M. J. Bushnell. Level Singles. Conditions of Advanced Play. For players handicapped at Scratch or over not entered for Event 1. Challenge Cup, presented by the late Mrs. Ernest Turner. Singles games throughout. Entrance Fee 10/-.
3. THE HURLINGHAM DOUBLES. Holders: Dr. R. W. Bray and Mrs. R. B. Smartt. Conditions of Advanced Play. Mixed Pairs. Challenge Cup, presented by the late Mrs. Henry Franc. Singles games throughout. Entrance Fee 10/- per player.
4. THE YOUNGER CUP. Holder: W. de B. Prichard. Ordinary Level Singles. For players handicapped at 3 bisques and over not entered for Events 1 or 2. Challenge Cup, presented by the late Lt.-Col. J. A. C. Younger. Singles games throughout. Entrance Fee 10/-.
5. THE LONGWORTH CUP. Holder: P. L. Gifford-Nash. Handicap Singles. For players handicapped at 6 bisques and over, not entered for Events 1, 2 or 4. Challenge Cup, presented by Mrs. R. C. Longworth. Singles games throughout. Entrance Fee 10/-.
6. THE PINCKNEY SIMPSON CUP (HANDICAP SINGLES). Holder: P. L. Gifford-Nash. This event will be run on the X.Y. principle although the Y event may have to be played as shortened games. Entrance Fee 10/-.
7. THE "LADIES' FIELD" CANDLESTICKS. (Ladies' Handicap Doubles.) Holders: Miss D. A. Lintern and Mrs. L. Riggall. Open to lady members of the C.A. only. Entrance Fee 10/- each player. All games to start at the third hoop.
8. MEN'S HANDICAP DOUBLES. Holders: Dr. R. Bray and C. H. L. Prichard. Open to pairs with a Minimum combined handicap of Minus 2. All games start at the third hoop. Entrance Fee 10/- each player.

ENTRIES AND DRAW

All entries, with fees for Events 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6, with the addresses of the competitors (and telephone number), must reach the Games Secretary, Croquet Tournament, The Hurlingham Club, Fulham, S.W.6, by first post on Wednesday, July 31st (not C.A. Secretary).

Entries for Events 3, 7 and 8 will close at noon on Tuesday, August 6th. The Draw for Events 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 will take place at the Club on Wednesday, July 31st, at 2.30 p.m.—for other Events as announced on the ground.

Now that eight lawns are available, it is hoped that it will be unnecessary to play any games at Roehampton.

Prizes in accordance with the entries.

Tournament plant by John Jaques.

CHEQUES SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO THE HURLINGHAM CLUB.

GENERAL

Play will start at 10 a.m. daily and continue till 7.30 p.m. if necessary.

At least eight lawns will be provided.

Luncheons, teas and dinners can be obtained at the Club. There will also be a snack bar.

BRIGHTON

THE FIFTY-FIFTH SUMMER TOURNAMENT

OFFICIAL—MONDAY, AUGUST 26th, 1968, and five following days.

UNOFFICIAL—MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2nd, 1968, and five following days.

To be played at the Sussex County Croquet and Lawn Tennis Club, Victoria Road, Southwick, Sussex. Please see APRIL issue, pages 9 and 10, for details.

NOTTINGHAM

ANNUAL CROQUET TOURNAMENT, 1968

Monday, August 19th, to Saturday, August 26th.

Tournament Secretary: Dr. M. Murray, Flat 5, 55, Park Road, Loughborough, Leics.

EVENTS

1. HANDICAP SINGLES. "Robin Hood" Gold Cup Challenge Trophy. For Associates only. Trophy presented by the Croquet Association. Entry Fee 12/6.
2. OPEN SINGLES (Draw and Process). Entry Fee 13/-.
3. HANDICAP SINGLES 5 Bisques and over. Entry Fee 12/-.
4. HANDICAP SINGLES "X" and "Y". Entry Fee 12/6.
5. HANDICAP DOUBLES. Unrestricted. Entry Fee 10/6 per player.

Entries on official forms to reach the Tournament Secretary by first post on Wednesday, August 14th.

The Draw for Events 1 to 4 will be made at the Club on Sunday, August 18th.

Requests for leave should be notified on the forms. No leave will be granted later than noon on Monday, August 19th, unless the exigencies of the draw permit.

Luncheon and tea will be available on the ground.

HUNSTANTON

SEVENTIETH OPEN CROQUET TOURNAMENT

will be held in the Club Grounds on

Monday, September 2nd, to September 7th, 1968.

Committee: The Tournament Committee of the Club.
Managers: Miss E. J. Warwick and R. F. Rothwell.
Referee and Handicapper: J. G. Warwick.
Hon. Secretary: Mrs. A. Neville Rolfe, Weathercocks, Heacham, Norfolk.

Twelve

EVENTS

1. OPEN SINGLES. Draw and Process. Norfolk Challenge Cup. Holder: B. Lloyd-Pratt. Entrance fee 15/.
2. LEVEL SINGLES. Hunstanton Challenge Bowl. 2½-6 bisques. Holder: C. Prichard. Entrance fee 12/6.
3. HANDICAP SINGLES. 6½ bisques and over. Silver Rose Bowl. Holder: Miss M. Samuel. Entrance fee 12/6.
4. HANDICAP SINGLE. "X" "Y" Unrestricted. Ingleby Challenge Cup. Holder: H. Carlisle. Entrance fee 15/-.
5. HANDICAP DOUBLES. Combined handicaps to be not less than 2. Holders: H. O. Havery and C. Prichard. Entrance fee 10/6.

CONDITIONS

No player may enter for more than one of Events 1, 2 and 3.

A time-limit of three hours may be imposed at the Manager's discretion.

Entries for Events 1, 2, 3 and 4 must reach the Hon. Secretary by Wednesday, August 28th, and for Event 5 by Tuesday, September 3rd. Leave will not normally be granted after noon on Monday.

PARKSTONE (EAST DORSET) CROQUET TOURNAMENT

Monday, September 16th-21st.

Committee: Croquet Committee of the Parkstone Club.
Manager and Handicapper: Mrs. G. F. H. Elvey.
Referee: Rev. Canon R. Creed Meredith.
Hon. Secretary: Mrs. J. A. McMordie, Yaptan, Delhi Close, Parkstone, Poole, Dorset.

EVENTS

1. OPEN SINGLES. Draw and Process. Bournemouth Bowl and Ashton Trophy. Entrance Fee 12/6.
2. LEVEL SINGLES. Law 36 operates. For players 2-6½ bisques inclusive. Deshon Cup. Entrance Fee 10/6.
3. HANDICAP SINGLES:
(C) For players 7-10 bisques inclusive. Halse Salver. Entrance Fee 10/6.
(D) For players 11 bisques and over. Starting at 3rd hoop. Entrance Fee 10/6.

The Manager reserves the right to combine classes C and D if not sufficient entries.

No player can enter for more than one event of Nos. 1, 2 and 3.

4. HANDICAP SINGLES ("X" "Y") Unrestricted. Gold Cup. Entrance Fee 10/6.
5. HANDICAP DOUBLES. Handicaps not less than 2 bisques. Starting at 3rd hoop. Entrance Fee 10/6 each player.

CONDITIONS

Entries for Events 1, 2, 3 and 4 must reach the Hon. Secretary by mid-day Thursday, September 12th.

Entries for Event 5 will close on Monday, September 16th. This Event will start on Tuesday, September 17th.

The Draw will take place on Thursday, September 12th, at 3 p.m., at the Club House.

Five or six courts will be provided.

Lunch and Tea are provided at the Club at moderate prices.

DEVONSHIRE PARK, EASTBOURNE

61st SOUTH OF ENGLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

September 30th-October 12th, 1968

Committee: The Park's Committee of the County Borough of Eastbourne and the Tournament Committee of the Council of the C.A.

Secretary: The Secretary, C.A., The Hurlingham Club, S.W.6.

1st WEEK—Manager and Handicapper: Major J. H. Dibley, M.C.
—Referee: J. G. Warwick.

EVENTS (1st Week)

1. IONIDES CHALLENGE TROPHY. Open Singles Championship of the South of England. Draw and Process. Holder: H. O. Hicks. Entrance Fee 15/-.
2. DEVONSHIRE PARK SALVER. Level Singles. Open to Competitors handicapped at ½ to 3 bisques inclusive. Holder: Col. G. T. Wheeler. Entrance Fee 12/6.
3. LUARD CUP. Level Singles. Open to Competitors handicapped at 3½ to 6½ bisques inclusive. Holder: E. C. Tyrwhitt-Drake. Entrance Fee 12/6.
4. TREVOR WILLIAMS CUP. Handicap Singles. Open to Competitors handicapped at 7 bisques and over. Holder: Mrs. J. Walker. Entrance Fee 12/6.
5. SUSSEX CHALLENGE CUP. Handicap Singles "X Y". Holder: Comdr. G. Borrett. To be drawn in one block. Entrance Fee 15/-.
6. HANDICAP DOUBLES. Open to pairs with a combined handicap of not less than 2 bisques. Entrance Fee 11/6.

1st WEEK ENTRIES, accompanied by entrance fees for all events (except 6), must reach the Secretary, The Croquet Association, The Hurlingham Club, S.W.6, by Thursday, September 19th. Draw for all events except 6 will take place at the C.A. Offices, Hurlingham Club, S.W.6, at 4.45 p.m. on September 20th. Draw for Event 6 will take place at Devonshire Park on Monday, September 30th, and Doubles start on Tuesday, October 1st. (See Note 12.)

2nd WEEK—Manager and Handicapper: Lt. Col. G. E. Cave.
Referee: Lt. Col. D. M. C. Prichard.

- 1 (A). THE O'CALLAGHAN GOLD CUP. Men's Singles Championship of the South of England. Draw and Process. Holder: A. J. Cooper. Entrance Fee 15/-.
 - 2 (A). THE FRANC CHALLENGE TROPHY. Women's Singles Championship of the South of England. Draw and Process. Holder: Miss E. J. Warwick. Entrance Fee 15/-.
 - 4 (A). THE SUSSEX UNION CHALLENGE CUP. Handicap Singles. Holder: Col. G. T. Wheeler. Entrance Fee 12/6.
 - 3 (A). THE FELIX CUP. Restricted Handicap "X Y Z". Restricted to Competitors who have not entered Events 1 (A) and 2 (A). Holder: The Rev. W. E. Gladstone. Entrance Fee 15/-.
 - 5 (A). THE VICTOR VASES. Open Doubles Championship of the South of England. Holders: Dr. W. R. D. Wiggins and E. P. C. Cotter. Entrance Fee 13/-.
 - 6 (A). HANDICAP DOUBLES. Open to Pairs with a combined handicap of not less than 4 bisques. Entrance Fee 11/6.
- 2nd WEEK ENTRIES, accompanied by entrance fees for all events, must reach the Secretary, The Croquet Association, The Hurlingham Club, S.W.6, by Thursday, September 19th. The Draw will take place on September 20th at the same time as the Draw for the 1st Week with the exception of Events 5 (A) and 6 (A). These events will be drawn at Devonshire Park on Monday, October 7th, at 12 noon.

CONDITIONS AND INFORMATION

1. Competitors may enter for only one of Events 1-4.
2. Event 1 is under the Laws of Advanced play.
3. Event 2 is under the Law of Semi-advanced play.
4. Competitors may enter for only one of Events 1 (A), 2 (A) and 3 (A).

5. Competitors may not enter for 6 (A) as well as either 1 (A) or 2 (A) or 5 (A).
 6. Competitors may not enter for Event 5 (A) as well as either 3 (A) or 6 (A).
 7. Events 1 (A), 2 (A) and 5 (A) are under the Laws of Advanced play.
 8. All Handicap Doubles will start at 3rd hoop. Time limit 3½ hours. No extra half hour.
 9. Leave must depend on the needs of the Tournament. It is hoped to complete the first 2 rounds of Event 4 (A) on Monday, October 7th, and competitors unable to be present that day should not enter this Event. It will be possible to grant leave until mid-day to a number, and until 3 p.m. to a few.
 10. All competitors will be notified of the day and approximate time when they will be required to play their first match.
 11. Entries will be limited, if it is found necessary.
 12. If there are still vacancies, entries for the Doubles will be accepted up to noon on Monday, September 30th, 1968, and the Draw will follow, but preference will be given to competitors entering in pairs in the normal way.
 13. Play will normally begin at 10 a.m. daily, but the Managers may vary this if it seems desirable. It is particularly asked that competitors who are timed for the first game each morning will be punctual and that they will be on the court and begin play at the time stated.
 14. The Compton Club are kindly lending lawns and these will be used as and when necessary.
 15. Practice and Friendly games. Throughout the Tournament courts will be available for practice and friendly games at the Compton Club unless they are required for Tournament matches. Special Green fee 2/6 for morning or afternoon.
- EXHIBITION MATCHES will be played on Sunday, October 6th, at 2.30 p.m.

STOP PRESS

ANNOUNCEMENT

TEST TOUR

A "Package Deal" for Followers

Associates who attended the A.G.M. may recall that it was stated on this occasion that the projected "package deal" for members of the Test Team could be extended to cover a limited number of Associates who may wish to follow the fortunes of the Team in person during its journey from (approximately) January 24th at Heathrow to its departure from Brisbane on March 10th. The "deal" (if enough persons can be included in it) will reduce the cost of the whole trip, including hotel accommodation in the five capital cities of Australia and aeroplane travel to, within and back from Australia, to the remarkably modest sum of £610.

If any Associates wish to take advantage of this it is essential that they should inform the C.A. Office of the fact at the earliest opportunity, and at the very latest by August 22nd. They must undertake to pay the sum of £610 by December 1st.

In addition, two further conditions must be fulfilled:

1. They must provide themselves with a medical certificate from their Doctor that they are fit to make the journey and arrange for vaccinations against smallpox and cholera.
2. They must meet the cost of insurance against the consequences of being prevented from continuing the journey by injury or ill-health. This is necessary owing to such possibilities incurring expense for others travelling under the conditions of the "package deal." The C.A. Test Tour Committee will be ready to obtain quotations from a leading Insurance Company for this purpose.

MAURICE B. RECKITT,

Chairman: Test Tour Committee.

Thirteen