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CROQUET

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CROQUET ASSOCIATION

Number 105

April, 1969



NEW ZEALAND TEST TEAM
Back row (left to right): J. McNab, H. Ford (Manager), J. Prince (Captain), G. Rowling, K. Woollett. Front row (left to right): Mrs. E. Hight, Mrs. J. Jarden, Mrs. H. Woollett.

JQUES EQUIPMENT, WHEREVER CROQUET IS PLAYED

Calendar Fixtures 1969

| | | |
|-------|------------|-------------------------------------------|
| April | 5 - 7 | Cheltenham—Week-end |
| " | 11 - 14 | Hunstanton—Week-end |
| " | 17 - 21 | Compton—Week-end (non-official) |
| May | 5 - 10 | Budleigh Salterton (non-official) |
| " | 12 - 17 | Peel Memorials—Cheltenham |
| " | 16 - 18 | Cheltenham—Week-end |
| " | 19 - 24 | Southwick (non-official) |
| " | 24 - 26 | Hunstanton—Week-end |
| " | 27 - 30 | Inter-Counties Championship—Hurlingham |
| June | 2 - 7 | Ryde |
| " | 7 - 14 | Carrickmines |
| " | 13 - 16 | Woking |
| " | 13 - 15 | Nottingham—Week-end |
| " | 16 - 21 | Compton |
| " | 23 - 28 | Parkstone |
| " | 30 - | |
| July | 5 | Challenge and Gilbey—Budleigh Salterton |
| " | 7 - 12 | Budleigh Salterton |
| " | 14 - 19 | Men's and Women's Championships—Southwick |
| " | 21 - 26 | Open Championships—Hurlingham |
| " | 28 - | Cheltenham |
| Aug. | 2 | Colchester |
| " | 5 - 14 | Hurlingham |
| " | 9 - 16 | Carrickmines |
| " | 15 - 17 | Cheltenham |
| " | 18 - 23 | Nottingham |
| " | 18 - 22 | Ladies' Field Cup—Compton |
| " | 25 - 30 | Southwick |
| " | 25 - 30 | Edinburgh |
| " | 29-Sept. 1 | Colchester—Week-end |
| Sept. | 1 - 6 | Southwick (non-official) |
| " | 1 - 6 | Hunstanton |
| " | 8 - 13 | President's Cup—Hurlingham |
| " | 8 - 13 | Chairman's Salver—Colchester |
| " | 8 - 13 | Surrey Cup—Cheltenham |
| " | 13 - 14 | All England Finals |
| " | 14 - 15 | Championship of Champions |
| " | 15 - 20 | Parkstone |
| " | 19 - 21 | Cheltenham—Week-end |
| " | 29 - | |
| Oct. | 11 | Devonshire Park |
| " | 17 - 19 | Cheltenham—Week-end |

HANDICAPS RECOMMENDATIONS

| | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Bowdon Club | Mrs. N. E. Wallwork 4½ to 4. |
| | R. A. W. Chaff 7½ to 7. |
| Nottingham Club | D. W. Archer ½ to 0. |
| | F. B. Stephens 6½ to 6. |

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Woking Club

Mrs. Temple Page 12 to 10.
Miss J. Hill (new member) 12

Bristol Club

Mrs. Hilda Harris 15 to 13.

Colchester Club

Mrs. A. S. Digby 12 to 10.
Mrs. F. E. M. Puxor 6½ to 6.
C. S. Ratcliffe 3½ to 3.

W. Haynes 7 to 6½.

Dr. H. M. Browning 9 to 8.
C. T. Greenwood 10 to 8.

New Associates

P. L. Collinson 6 to 5½.
A. W. Lewis 12 to 11.
Miss M. Lovett 12 to 9.
C. Chamberlain 16 to 12.
Mrs. A. J. Bucknell 13 to 12.
Miss D. Taylor 14 to 13.
Mrs. C. T. Greenwood 14 to 13.

C.A. Notes

First of all I would like to explain why you did not receive your Tournament Advertisement booklet by return when you sent your subscription. The answer is that I only got the booklet on 11th March, 1969, when I was supposed to receive it early January. The Office had nothing to do with compiling the booklet, nor getting it duplicated. We got many letters of enquiry (some of them, understandably, very irate, which we didn't answer for two reasons—(1) We expected the booklet daily; (2) Council had ruled that the booklet and membership cards should be sent in one envelope to save postage—which is a big item these days. In this connection I would like to thank those Associates who have written wanting a reply and enclosed a stamped addressed envelope.

To progress to happier matters—it must have given great satisfaction to members reading their daily papers, particularly those so generous with their donations, to see how well our Test Team did overseas, and that England, for the second time in succession, returns with the MacRobertson Shield! There was one young New Zealander, though, whom only Aspinall managed to beat in Singles—John Prince, aged 21, of whom we have heard so much. From letters and reports received, the kindness and hospitality extended to our people by Australia were beyond description—but you will doubtless get fuller details in the Magazine.

Scotland has formed The Scottish Croquet Committee to deal with all matters in Scotland; elsewhere you will see their Constitution. Their enthusiasm and determination really to get Clubs and Tournaments and croquet going well North of the Border is most encouraging. I do hope anyone from England going to Scotland who is near one of the Clubs will make a point of paying them a visit—particularly don't forget the Edinburgh Open Tournament on August 25th-30th, which was mentioned in the last number of the Magazine.

I trust Associates will realise the need for the financial increases you will read about. They have been most seriously examined and kept to the lowest possible minimum; costs, as everyone knows, are continually rising—whereas our income does not!

Associates are particularly asked to be careful to send their entries for Tournaments to the correct Clubs and Secretaries—The Peels, Challenge and Gilbey, Men's and Women's Championships and the Ladies' Field Cup are all being held at different venues, and for Devonshire Park all entries are to go direct to H. C. S. Perry at Compton.

Ipswich, most enterprisingly, is having an office window in the "East Anglia Daily Times" building on March 23rd advertising croquet. Any other Clubs wishing to do the same thing may get free leaflets if they write to me. Also, any Club holding an Official tournament can write for free posters, size 15in. x 10in.

Will all members who have not paid their subscriptions please do so **without delay**. From the office point of view, it is very important to have them in before the season starts.

The Editorial Panel would emphasize that unless publication is to be seriously delayed, reports of Tournaments, clearly written or printed on one side of the paper only, must reach the office within 7 days of the Tournament.

Secretaries of Tournaments should scrutinize entry forms with a view to ascertaining any significant discrepancy between C.A. and Club handicaps and should draw these to the attention of the Manager and Tournament Handicapper, who should take action as necessary under Regulations 23 and 24 (c).

V. C. GASSON, Secretary.

NEW ASSOCIATES

Roger Wood—Radcliffe Observatory, P.O. Box 373, Pretoria, S. Africa.
A. Longhurst Murphy—404, Rusdon Park College Road, Ronsbosch, Cape, S. Africa.
R. Hemsted—35, Mount Pleasant, Norwich, Norfolk.
C. T. Greenwood—59, Aspley Park Drive, Nottingham.
Mrs. D. M. Craib—P.O. Box 153, Somerset East, C.P., S. Africa.
Mrs. D. Mettam—774, Anzac Parade, Maroubra 2035, N.S.W., Australia.
Mrs. J. N. T. Cox—4, Marchant's Road, Hurstpierpoint, Sussex.
Mrs. I. Moorcraft—11a, Guildown Road, Guildford.
Miss L. M. Cooke—3, Heathfields, Sandrock Road, Tunbridge Wells.
D. G. Cunningham—13, Wolminster Road, Rosebank, Cape Town, S. Africa.
A. W. R. M. Greenham—60, Digby Road, Ipswich, Suffolk.

AGENDA, A.G.M.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TO BE HELD AT
THE HURLINGHAM CLUB

ON MONDAY, MAY 26th, 1969, at
2.30 p.m.

- Minutes of Meeting held 27th May, 1968.
- Report and Balance Sheet.
- Election of Vice-President.
- Election of Hon. Treasurer.
Mr. A. J. Oldham retires and offers himself for re-election.
- Election of Members of Council
There are 9 vacancies for the Council. The following retire by rotation and offer themselves for re-election: Major J. H. Dibley, Professor B. G. Neal, A. A. Reed, Mrs. E. Rotherham, J. W. Solomon, S. S. Townsend.
Mr. Rivington and Mr. Stokes-Roberts do not wish to stand for re-election.
Dr. A. L. Yoxall has to resign the Council as he is going abroad.
- Resolution to appoint Auditors and to agree their remuneration.
- Increased subscriptions.
Motion by the Hon. Treasurer on behalf of Council:
That at and from 1st January, 1970 :
(a) The annual subscription payable by an Associate shall be £4.
(b) An Associate under the age of 24 years on 1st January in any year shall pay a subscription of £1 10s. 0d.
(c) An Associate residing out of the United Kingdom from 1st January to 31st December in any year shall pay a subscription of £1 10s. 0d. for that year.
(d) The annual subscription for Associates who play in the limited range of tournaments set out in Rule XXIV (d) shall remain at £1 10s. 0d.
That the lump sum which an Associate may pay for Life Associateship (subject to Rule XX) shall be £60 for Associates of age 50 and upwards, and in the case of Associates under age 50 at a rate to be individually determined and approved by Council, and that these new rates shall come into force forthwith.
And that Rule XXIV shall be amended accordingly.
- Revised C.A. Rules.
- Any other business.
- Vote of thanks to the Chairman.

RETURN OF ATTENDANCE AT COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS, 1968/69

| | Laws | Tournament | Finance and General Purposes | Publicity | Council | Total Attendances | Total Possible Attendances |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------|------------|------------------------------|-----------|---------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Lt.-Col. D. M. C. Prichard, Chairman (ex-officio, all meetings) | | | 3 | | 3 | 6 | 9 |
| S. S. Townsend, Vice-Chairman (ex-officio, all meetings) | | | 3 | | 2 | 5 | 9 |
| A. J. Oldham, Hon. Treasurer (ex-officio, all meetings) | | | 3 | | 3 | 6 | 9 |
| I. C. Baillieu | 1 | | | | 3 | 4 | 4 |
| G. Birch | | | | | | 0 | 4 |
| Dr. R. W. Bray | | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 7 |
| D. C. Caporn | 1 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| Major J. H. Dibley | 1 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| G. Victor Evans | | 3 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 7 |
| His Honour Judge A. D. Karmel | | | | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| Miss D. A. Lintern | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 8 |
| B. Lloyd-Pratt | | | 1 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Captain H. F. Nalder | 1 | | 1 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Professor B. G. Neal | 1 | | 1 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| A. A. Reed | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 4 |
| J. M. Rivington | 1 | 2 | | 1 | 4 | 7 | 7 |
| E. A. Roper | 1 | 1 | | 2 | 4 | 5 | 5 |
| Mrs. E. Rotherham | | 1 | | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| R. F. Rothwell | 1 | 1 | | 3 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| J. W. Solomon | 1 | | | 2 | 3 | 5 | 5 |
| L. E. W. Stokes-Roberts | | | 1 | | 1 | 7 | 7 |
| Mrs. B. L. Sundius-Smith | | | 2 | | 3 | 5 | 6 |
| Dr. W. R. D. Wiggins | 1 | | | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Dr. A. L. Yoxall | 1 | | 1 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 5 |

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND TRIBUTE, 1969

- A. Subscriptions.
- Standard rate: £2 10s. 0d.
 - Reduced rates : (a) Junior Members £1 10s. 0d.
(b) Golf Croquet Only, and Non-Tournament Members £1 10s. 0d.
(c) Overseas Members £1 1s. 0d.
 - Life Membership £60.
- B. Tribute.
- Tribute is payable by non-Associates who enter any Tournaments in the list of Calendar Fixtures published in "Croquet" except the All England Handicap, the Longman Cup and the Inter-Counties Championship, at the following rates:
- 25/- per Tournament, or 12/6 for one event only per Tournament.
 - 10/- per Evening, Week-end, or other Short Tournament, or 5/- for one event only per Tournament in this category.

NOTE.

- Evening Tournaments are those which start at 4 p.m. or later and which do not last longer than one week.
- Week-end and other Short Tournaments are those which do not exceed four days' duration.
- Regarding category (b) above, the words "one event only" apply both to the player and to the Tournament itself, that is to say, a non-Associate entering one event only in a multi-event Tournament is liable for Tribute at 5/-; and if a Tournament consists of one event only the liability of each non-Associate entrant is 5/-.
- Players are reminded of the once-for-all benefit by which no Tribute is payable by a non-Associate entering a Calendar Fixture for the first time.
- Levy is payable by all competitors in Official Tournaments and forms part of the entry fee charged. The rate is 6/- per event. Provided an Official Tournament is held, every club is entitled to include in the List of Calendar Fixtures one Unofficial Tournament free of any levy. In the respect of a second and all subsequent Unofficial Tournaments, half levy is payable, i.e. 3/-.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The 1968 season saw the publication of the second edition of the Laws Book, as a result of a desire expressed by Associates at the A.G.M. in 1967. This edition incorporates all the many amendments which had become necessary since the first edition was published in 1961. Such was the demand, particularly from overseas, that a second reprint was necessary.

The crowning event of the past season was the departure of the Test Team to Australia to defend the MacRobertson Shield against Australia and New Zealand. We should all be grateful to Mr. Gerald Williams for his hard work and perseverance in raising over £1,200 for the Test Tour fund, to Professor Neal for his persuasiveness in extracting a Government grant, and to Dr. Wiggins for arranging favourable rates of travel and accommodation. Thanks to these efforts and to the generosity of Associates, we were able to send a fully representative team. Just as this goes to press, we have learnt that our confidence in them has been amply justified and that they have retained the MacRobertson Shield. Congratulations to John Solomon and his team.

A sad feature of the 1969 season will be the absence of any Calendar Fixtures at Roehampton. It is to be hoped that this is only temporary, and that when the rebuilding programme is completed there will be a change of heart. It would indeed be tragic if Roehampton, with its courts second to none and once the headquarters of Croquet, were to vanish for ever from the Calendar. In the meantime other Clubs have generously come to the rescue. Cheltenham take the Peels, Budleigh Salterton the Challenge and Gilbeys, and Southwick the Men's and Women's Championships.

In the belief that women's croquet is on the up-grade and no longer dominated by two or three stars, the Council has decided, as an experiment for 1969, to revive the Ladies' Field Cup, and to restore the true Championship test of the best of three for the Women's Championship. It is now up to the women to prove that the Council's confidence was not misplaced.

North of the Border in Scotland there has been a great upsurge in the popularity of croquet, and it is good news that the Edinburgh Club is to inaugurate an official tournament from August 25th-30th during the Edinburgh Festival. It is hoped that as many Associates as possible will take advantage of the double attraction.

The Council has decided to set up a special Appeals Committee to investigate any complaints that may from time to time arise from Associates (excluding handicap appeals which will still be dealt with by the Handicap Appeals Committee). It is sincerely to be hoped that this new Committee will have little or nothing to do, but it has been formed as a safety valve.

(Continued on P. 5)

NOTES by ROVER

The Test Tour

There appears elsewhere in this issue an article written by the Manager of the New Zealand team, Mr. Ford, and another article written by Mrs. Millar, the Honorary Secretary of the Australian Croquet Association. Both these articles are full of praise for the English team. Rover wishes to thank these contributors for their kind remarks which will be read by our own Associates with satisfaction. He also extends his congratulations to all members of the team. The itinerary of the Tour was contracted to the minimum, assuming, of course, that each team was to play three Test Matches against the others. The organisers are to be congratulated on this result. The English team had to acclimatize themselves and find their form because, to them, it was between seasons. Every day, therefore, was important. It would have given them an extra two days if they were not engaged in the first Test. Another matter reveals itself from the Reports. In spite of the fact that England were leading both New Zealand and Australia 2-0, they had not necessarily retained the Shield. Clearly the conditions of play need revising and one hopes that in their discussion which followed the Tests this will have been done. Further, the Inter-State matches following the Tests must have come as rather an anti-climax. One would have liked to have seen the Australian Championship put at stake, or a fresh title created of World Champion. Whatever form the competition was to take, it seems wrong to omit from the itinerary an Individual Championship whilst the cream of the world players were gathered together. This could have been done after the Tests in place of the State matches. It might have been necessary to limit the entries, but this is a problem with which every sport is faced.

The Ladies' Field Cup

The Ladies' Field Cup has been restored to the Calendar Fixtures for 1969; a most welcome return of an event, first held in 1911, which was suspended by Council in 1966. For many years those who competed produced a high standard of performance; on the trophy appear all the greatest names on the feminine side of croquet. Originally there were ten competitors who played each other once only. In 1914, the ladies playing in their "champion cup" were granted the right, for which they had pleaded, of playing each other twice. Miss D. D. Steel was the winner with 14 games; after the war she won the event with 16 games and a year later scored 17 games, which up to date has never been equalled. The participants numbered eight from 1925-1933 and in 1934 no fewer than 19 players were invited to compete; the selections were set out in the form of a ranking list and it was shown that of the first 10 so invited only 5 accepted to play.

The following year the great rivals of the post-war decade appeared together in the Ladies' Field Cup for the first time; Miss Lintern played in the event on nineteen occasions from 1935-1960 and she won the cup eight times. Mrs. Rotherham competed for the trophy ten times before she was successful in winning it in 1955, although she tied with Miss Lintern in 1953, 8 games all, but lost the play-off, appearing twenty times in all and winning six of these competitions. Miss Warwick entered the lists in 1957 and won on four occasions. The so-called "Ladies' Hate" became the "Heavenly Seven" in 1959; this year there are to be 8 competitors once more.

The Ladies' Invitation Event resulted from a petition to Council presented in 1967; while not a permanent fixture it proved useful in encouraging the aspirations of budding players in the two years of its existence. It kept alive the idea of a contest for women, some of whom had proved "more equal" than others and dominated the feminine scene in the years preceding the suspension. Players chosen for the "Eights" will also be able to compete in the rejuvenated Ladies' Field Cup which will be played at Compton this year.

Let us hope that the players will emulate the performance of a very young lady, Miss E. Helme, who in the report of an early game, using 4in. hoops, was said to have made both her balls rovers in 12 minutes. She rivalled Nigel Aspinall in picking up a break with a splendid shot through a hoop at 8 yards, then took her first ball round before the four balls were in the game, and did the same with her second ball in the ensuing turn.

Law 37

This is the Law governing the conditions of Semi-Advanced play which appears to have fallen into disfavour. One has only to look at the conditions of events at official tournaments to note that level events are either played under the conditions of advanced play with no lifts or under the condition of ordinary level play with no lifts. Time and again one hears the remark, "The Laws of Croquet are complicated enough. There is no justification for Law 37." One can hardly agree with this specific criticism of Law 37, but the fact is that lifts are popular, and it is easy to understand why this is so. It gives the outplayer a further opportunity of gaining the innings

Four

and any rule calculated to make the innings change hands is bound to be popular. In friendly games one never sees players playing under Law 37. It is not unusual, however, for players to agree to play lifts in handicap games. In spite of this tendency, the Inter-Counties Championship is invariably played under the conditions of semi-advanced play, and invariably one hears grumbles from the players. There is one occasion during the course of the year that players are invited to air their views before the Council and that is at the A.G.M. This is a perfectly proper matter to raise and those who feel strongly on the subject can have an opportunity to express their views at the meeting in the expectation that some action may be taken if they can satisfy the Council that the general wish of the teams which compete is that the tournament should be played under the conditions of advanced play.

Letter from Cheltenham

The letter from the Secretary of the Cheltenham Club, published hereunder, makes a revolutionary suggestion as to the composition of the Council. This does not mean that it does not require very deep consideration, especially as the Rules of the Constitution of the Croquet Association are being freshly reviewed by the Council. We acquired our original Constitution when the Association had its own Club House and grounds and the Club, as such, ran Croquet and was controlled by its own members. This has long since ceased to be the fact. If the Croquet Association did not exist and was about to be formed for the first time, one would expect this to be done by a get-together between the clubs and a Constitution drawn up under which the clubs, rather than individuals, were the members of the Governing Body. What is suggested in the letter from Cheltenham is somewhat in the nature of a halfway house and is none the worse for that. It is, however, a suggestion which would have to be thought out in great detail to make sure that the Council did not become too cumbersome so that its management involved more paper work and expense. At the moment the Council's Headquarters are at Hurlingham. It seems almost inevitable that the Headquarters should be situated in London and the Council is lucky to be accommodated at Hurlingham, more especially as rooms are made available for the meetings of the Council, for the A.G.M. and for the meetings of the club delegates. Moreover, three of the most important C.A. Events are staged at Hurlingham, namely, the Inter-Counties Championships, the Open Championship and the President's Cup. In addition the Daker Stoker Cup presented to the Champion of Champions is also decided there unless, as happened in 1968, there is no play because the holder, John Solomon, also won both the Open Championship and the President's Cup.

Whilst the Headquarters of the Croquet Association are in London it is essential to the smooth running of the Council that a number of the members should be resident in or near London. Unless and until such time as anything is done in the matter, it is suggested that any club, who figures in the list of clubs holding an official tournament, who lacks a representative on the Council and who desires to have a representative on the Council should make this fact known to all Associates. This can be done by writing a letter to the Editor of the Gazette as has been done by the Secretary of the Cheltenham Club. The most appropriate number in which to publish such a letter is the December/January issue. This could not have been done in the case of Dr. Yoxall because at that date he did not know that his career would involve him in leaving the U.K. for the immediate future. He will be a sad loss to the Council and this Rover wishes him well. He also hopes that, if there is to be a ballot this year, the Associates will respect the wishes of the Cheltenham Club as to his successor.

To the Editor:

During the past year we in Cheltenham have found great value in the link that has been established with the C.A. through having our Chairman, Dr. A. L. Yoxall, on the Council. Now that he is leaving us for a tour of duty overseas we are nominating his successor, Rev. W. E. Gladstone, for the vacancy.

We would like to see an arrangement whereby we could maintain this link without our candidate having to go through the existing processes of nomination and election; for example, by the C.A. allowing each Club holding Calendar fixtures to elect one member of the Council, instead of only having the right to nominate an existing member as its representative, as at present.

We hope that consideration will be given to this, and meanwhile that Mr. Gladstone's candidacy and the idea behind it will find general support among Associates.

Yours sincerely,

(Miss) W. K. ALLARDYCE,
Hon. Secretary,
Cheltenham Croquet Club.

(Continued from P. 3)

Finally, I come to the unpalatable subject of finance. There can be no Associate who is not aware that the cost of living is constantly rising, and the C.A. is not immune from this phenomenon. Amongst other items, the cost of extra help in the office, rent, postage and the production of the Croquet Gazette have all risen. The present rates of subscriptions, levy and tribute were fixed in 1961, but time has overtaken us. The C.A. is now running at a loss, and the gap will widen. All possible economies have been made, but if the C.A. is to continue to function these alone are not enough.

It is, therefore, with great regret that the Council will propose at the A.G.M. in May that the rates of subscriptions shall be raised. In the belief that he who calls the tune should pay the piper, the Council considers that the brunt should be borne by those who actually play in tournaments. It is therefore proposed that the 30/- rate for non-tournament Associates should remain unchanged, but that tournament players should have their subscriptions raised from £2 10s. 0d. to £4 as from 1970. The rates of levy have already been raised for 1969 and increased rates of tribute will follow in 1970. Full details of the proposed changes can be found elsewhere in this issue in the Agenda for the A.G.M. It is realised that these increases will not be popular, but the Council considers that there is no alternative.

On this sombre note may I wish all Associates the best of luck for 1969?
D. M. C. PRICHARD.

EXTRACTS FROM MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING, OCTOBER 26th, 1968

1. F. & G.P. Committee Report.

Mr. Townsend explained that the expenses of the C.A. had risen and were bound to continue to rise in the future and additional revenue was essential.

(a) Subscriptions

The following recommendations were adopted for the approval of the A.G.M. in May, 1969, for introduction in 1970:

- Full annual subscription to be raised from £2 10s. 0d. to £4.
- 30/- rate under Rule XXIV (i) (d) to remain unchanged.
- Age limit under Rule XXIV (i) (b) for special reduced rate of 30/- to be reduced from 27 to 24.
- £1 1s. 0d. subscription for overseas members to be raised to 30/-.
- Registered Club to pay 30/- annually to include a free copy of "Croquet."

(b) Tribute and Levy

Proposed increases were referred back to F. & G.P. Committee for further consideration.

2. Report of the Test Tour Committee.

- Mr. Reckitt thanked Mr. Gerald Williams for his work in raising donations for the Test Fund, Prof. Neal for obtaining a Government Grant, and Dr. Wiggins for arranging travel arrangements on favourable terms.
- Mr. Reckitt, Mr. Solomon and Mr. Hamilton-Miller were appointed plenipotentiaries to negotiate conditions for future MacRobertson Trophy contests, including if possible a firm commitment to hold the contest in England in 1975.
- Mr. Solomon, Prof. Neal and Mr. Hamilton-Miller were authorised to discuss points of Law with Australia and New Zealand.
- Mr. Reckitt, Mr. Hamilton-Miller and Miss Lintern were appointed to write reports of the tour for "Croquet."

3. Mallets.

A resolution was passed that "The C.A. Council has no objection in the forthcoming Test Tour to the use of mallets faced with the material submitted by Australia, provided that both faces are identical."

4. Club Delegates Conference.

It was resolved that no Club Delegates Conference should be held in 1968/69.

5. C.A. Rules.

An Ad Hoc Committee consisting of Mr. Caporn, Judge Karmel, Mr. Townsend and Dr. Wiggins was appointed to revise as necessary the Rules of the C.A.

6. Scottish Croquet Committee.

It was agreed that the formation of a Committee of Scottish Croquet Clubs should be encouraged, but that the name of the All-England Handicap should remain unchanged.

EXTRACTS FROM MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING, NOVEMBER 23rd, 1968

1. Report of Tournament Committee.

The main points were as follows:

(a) Calendar Fixtures

Broadly the same as last year, with the addition of the Ladies' Field Cup (Aug. 18th-22nd) and Edinburgh (Aug. 25th-30th).

(b) Challenge and Gibbeys

Budleigh Salterton to be given a free hand to arrange the programme in order to fit a 10-day tournament into 6 days.

(c) Peels

Cheltenham to take the Peels and to be responsible for running them.

(d) Men's and Women's Championships

- Southwick has agreed to take these events and to be responsible for the secretarial work. Mr. Roper to be Manager and Referee.
- Women's Championship to be best of three.

(e) Devonshire Park

- Mr. Perry has kindly consented to be responsible for the secretarial work for both weeks.
- Managers: First week, Major Dibley
Second week, Lt.-Col. Cave.
- "B" events to be advanced play.
- Handicap Doubles (First week). No two minus players to play together.
- "Z" event (Second week). Not to be drawn on Bagnall Wild system, but players to be entered as they become available.
- The Compton Club to be fully utilized where possible, as if only one or two couples are sent there they feel rather out of the tournament.

(f) Invitation Events.

- Ladies Field Cup to be revived as an experiment for 1969. To be played at Compton (Aug. 18th-22nd). Eight players to play each other twice.
- President's Cup—Hurlingham—September 8th-12th.
Chairman's Cup—Colchester " "
Surrey Cup—Cheltenham " "

2. Report of F. & G.P. Committee.

- The Treasurer estimated a loss for the year.

(b) Report by Mr. Townsend

- Levy increased for 1969 to 6/-. First non-official tournament free, second and all subsequent Calendar fixtures half rates (3/-).
- Tribute to be increased (but not to take effect till 1970) as follows: 50/- per tournament or 17/- for one event only or 10/- for a tournament in which there is only one event.
- Entry Fees for all C.A. events to be standardized as follows:
Best of three, Draw and Process, XY, and XYZ 20/-
All other events (except All-England Handicap) 15/-
All-England Handicap (2/- to be retained by Club) 5/-
- The Ad Hoc Committee revising the C.A. Rules to examine the precise meaning and significance of non-official tournaments.
The above report was adopted.

3. Motions.

- Dr. Wiggins' motion to form a Complaints Committee was passed and the Ad Hoc Committee on the C.A. Rules was asked to work out the composition and procedure.
- As a result of Mr. Roper's motion, it was agreed that the following should be published in "Croquet":
"Secretaries of tournaments should scrutinize entry forms with a view to ascertaining any significant discrepancy between C.A. and Club handicaps, and should draw these to the attention of the Manager and Tournament Handicapper, who should take action as necessary under Regulations 23 and 24 (c)."
- As a result of Mr. Caporn's motion, it was agreed that the Ad Hoc Committee should also redraft the Standing Orders of Council.

5. The sum of £30 having been allotted to buy a trophy for presentation to Australia, Mr. Lloyd Pratt said that he had bought a Victorian silver cup for £50 and generously offered to make up the difference. Judge Karmel proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Lloyd Pratt which was carried unanimously.

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT ON REFEREES

The following is a list of Examining Referees:

I. C. BAILLIEU, H. C. PERRY, LT.-COL. D. M. C. PRICHARD, J. M. RIVINGTON, J. SOLOMON, G. WARWICK and L. YOXALL.

HOW TO BECOME A REFEREE

In the final instance apply to any of the above Referees, or to the Secretary of the Croquet Association, for an appointment to undergo the Examination.

INSTRUCTIONS TO REFEREES

All Referees should at all reasonable times do their best to coach non-referees in the Laws.

Five

HOW TO TRAIN ONESELF TO BE A REFEREE

The first practical step is always to carry the Laws Book when you are on a court. When any question arises consult the Laws Book, even if you know the answer, to be sure that you can also find the answer in the book.

Reading through the book from beginning to end is quite the hardest way of learning the Laws. That is quite a sensible procedure if you already know the Laws, but are unfamiliar with the book. Even so, it is better to use the Index.

Presumably if you propose to become a Referee you should have a working knowledge of the Laws. You should improve that by inviting Referees to ask you questions. Conversation with persons who know the Laws is the easiest and traditional way of learning the Laws, but such conversations should always be conducted with a book. These conversations should be in the nature of trial examinations, and will prepare you for the final examination.

To the Editor:

Dear Sir,

Having had a preview of your notes on Referees may I make a few points?

When the Laws were recast in 1961 some players mourned the disappearance of the time-honoured phrases and were suspicious rather than receptive of the new format. Many potential referees held back, which resulted in a shortage—and a myth. The shortage has been self-perpetuating in that others have seen how often a referee is called from his chair—or even his game. The myth was that the referees examination is excessively difficult.

Most first class players obviously know the Laws, but some have never mastered the Law Book, while a few enjoy the inverted snobbery of "not bothering with the Laws" at all. I am told that in New Zealand and Australia all first class players are expected to become referees, whereas here even some players of President's and Chairman's Cup standing are not. These top players are regarded as oracles by their clubs, as indeed they should be, but they are skrimshanking. It is not easy for the humdrum player who is a referee to walk on to a lawn in preference to one of the great unqualified.

Croquet is a complex game and the Laws are a part of the game. A player penalizes himself if he does not know them, and we can all recall games lost because of ignorance. The Laws cannot be mastered by play alone, but one's play can be improved by a more thorough knowledge. Throughout one summer two candidates thought up abstruse problems to test each other. When examined their Law was unshakable and their play had improved so much that one was awarded the Apps Bowl.

The new Law Book has now passed its seven years' apprenticeship and the sales of the second edition are high. Dare one hope for a flood of applicants this summer? It is one debt almost all of us could honour for the pleasure we get from croquet. Examining referees—be prepared.

Yours sincerely,

ELIZABETH PRICHARD.

P.S. I am offering a bonus of £5 to the club which produces the highest number of new referees in ratio to their playing membership in 1969.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

This is intended to enable potential referees to know how the examination will be conducted.

The first question is a compulsory question.

Q. The Laws are divided into five parts. Part 5 relates to modified courts and games. You are not expected to know this in advance. What are the other four parts?

A. PART 1 deals with the court and setting equipment and accessories.

PART 2 is virtually all the Laws without frills—that is, the Laws of ordinary levels singles play.

PART 3—the frills, namely, Advanced and Semi-advanced Play. Handicap play and all forms of doubles play.

PART 4 comprises the customs of the game.

Students of the Laws should realise that it is not only necessary to know the Laws but to know the book, because a referee is expected to be able to turn up chapter and verse. How can this be done if the student does not know the parts into which the Laws are divided?

The examination also has a compulsory continuation. The most common of all irregularities is playing when any ball is misplaced, and the second compulsory question has continuation questions as follows:

Q. What is the general rule when the striker plays when any ball is misplaced? (If you parry the question by enquiring what the examiner means by the expression "general rule" you will expose your ignorance about the most fundamental law concerning irregularities in play. Candidates are sometimes surprised by this question, and say that the stroke must be played again. The answer is usually given in the confusion of the moment because the candidate is not familiar with the expression "general rule." Nevertheless, this phrase appears in the heading of Law 28.)

A. The striker carries on as if the balls had been properly placed. Any ball which has not been moved in the stroke, which is still improperly placed, is then properly placed.

Q. 1st continuation question. Does this law place any obligation on the adversary?

A. Yes. It states that the adversary shall forestall play if he anticipates this is about to happen.

Q. 2nd continuation question. What is meant by "forestall"?

A. Merely interrupting the striker to prevent an irregularity or to correct an irregularity.

This is done by word or gesture, and if there is a breakdown in communications the striker must still replace the balls as if he had been consciously forestalled.

Q. 3rd continuation question. What is the nature of the irregularity when the striker takes croquet from the wrong ball?

A. Playing when any ball is misplaced. The striker's ball is misplaced.

Q. 4th continuation question. In such event, does the striker carry on? If not, why not?

A. The general rule does not apply. This is the first of four exceptions to the general rule, and there is a special provision for this.

After this the examination may take various turns. Apart from court work the most important part of the examination concerns Part 2D which deals with irregularities and may be called the criminal code. This is, of course, confined to level singles play, so you would not find in this part any reference to what happens in handicap play when the striker, for instance, attempts to take a bisque before he has completed his turn. The pattern or Part 2D is designed to help referees on appeal. The first difficulty which faces a referee is to ascertain what in fact has actually happened. Generally the players are confused and their accounts are confused. Accordingly Part 2D starts with Law 27 "playing when not entitled to do so." The referee should first satisfy himself that when something went wrong the right player was on the court. If not, he will find the answer in Law 27. Assuming the right player was on the court it may be that when the stroke was played a ball was misplaced. Therefore the next law is the general rule already referred to, but there are exceptions to the general rule, and these immediately follow in Law 29. Now if the right player was on the court and the balls were properly placed, what else might have gone wrong? The answer is that the striker may have played the wrong ball. This therefore is Law 30. If one can eliminate all the above irregularities, what else might have happened? The answer is that there may have been a fault in the striking, and this is Law 32, which should be read in conjunction with Law 31, because one may have to ascertain the limits of the striking period to know whether the balls were dead, as they are between strokes. There is also the fact, as stated in Law 31 taken in conjunction with Law 32, that no fault can be made after the striker has quitted his stance. If now one can again eliminate all the preceding irregularities, what else might have gone wrong? The answer is that there might have been some interference. This is dealt with in Laws 33 and 34.

Has anything else been omitted? The answer is "Yes." There might have been a mistake in the score, and this is Law 35. The student is advised to concentrate on this part of the Laws, and to familiarize himself with this sequence following it in particular from the Index. The examiner might ask the examinee to outline this sequence. A successful examinee can gain bonus points, but should not be adversely marked merely because he cannot give the sequence. If, however, the student concentrates on this he should find it easier to master the intricacies.

In the last issue there appeared a ruling that a ball in hand shall not be used as a trial ball. This ruling is under consideration in Australia, at the time this is being written, so no full explanation as to the scope of the ruling is set out hereunder. In the meantime referees should interpret this ruling as covering any experiment to test the pace or imperfections of the court or the width of the hoops.

NOTICE ABOUT PROPOSED CROQUET PUBLICATIONS

S.R. Publishers Limited are considering reprinting some of the more worthwhile books on Croquet provided there is sufficient interest shown. The first four titles under consideration are as follows:

CROQUET by John Jacques, published in 1865.

CROQUET by Captain Mayne-Reid, published in 1863.

MODERN CROQUET TACTICS by C. D. Locock, first published in 1913.

HOW TO PLAY CROQUET by W. H. Peel, first published in 1898.

Price of the books will depend to a certain extent on the volume of orders. The Publishers would therefore like to hear from all readers who might be interested in purchasing any of these titles, at the same time giving the titles of any other books which they feel might be worth considering for reprinting. Letters should be addressed to the Publishers at 17, Denbigh Street, S.W.1.

REPORTS OF TEST TOUR

ENGLAND v. NEW ZEALAND

1st Test Match

Adelaide
February 4th and 5th

When our team arrived at the airport on February 1st its members were conscious of three factors which might militate against its success. The first was the great heat—in this they were fortunate in that, while Adelaide had been sweltering in a temperature of 103° the previous day, when we arrived there it was pleasantly cool, though in the early days of the matches a few of our players were, in fact, overcome by the heat and by certain digestive troubles which threatened to, and partly did, limit their effectiveness. The second was unfamiliarity with the courts, which proved to be rather different from those to which our men had become habituated at Perth. The third was the fact that while the Antipodean players were, of course, in the middle of their season, ours had scarcely touched a mallet for nearly four months. We were also without our chosen Manager and reserve player, and many exacting tasks fell on the shoulders of Professor Neal in consequence.

The series was officially opened by the Lady Mayoress, a most gracious lady, who, with her husband, had welcomed us to a Civic Reception in the beautiful Adelaide Room at the Town Hall the evening before. The sun shone with almost embarrassing brightness and a company of at least 250 was present, prepared to be dazzled not only by this but by the brilliance of the play from New Zealand and British mallets.

In this, it must be said, they cannot but have been somewhat disappointed. Nobody was playing his (or her) best, and the excitement came only in the evening with splendid recoveries by two of the English players. The first was initiated by Nigel Aspinall, who had soon won all hearts by a brilliant break in the morning and did so again with a peg-out in the evening of an opponent's ball from more than a dozen yards when British hopes looked very low indeed. At this point his partner's (Neal's) clip was on the third hoop and the opponent left in (Gordon Rowling), had his on 4-back. Bernard, who had not previously been playing very well, only allowed Gordon one shot, and went out in two beautiful turns. Meanwhile things had been looking, if anything, blacker still in the game between Solomon and Bray and the other pair, John (Prince) and Mr. McNab. An effort at a long peg-out by McNab just failed, and he pegged out his own ball, leaving Prince at the peg. Bray was for the 6th hoop, and to rescue the game Solomon had to hit a crucial 11-yard shot. This he—characteristically—did, and after a few hesitant strokes Roger began to play with so much confident efficiency that Prince had only a few full-length shots at the peg, two of which were tantalisingly close. This must have been very disappointing for New Zealand's young captain who, on the day's play, had looked perhaps the most consistent performer on the field.

The third Double arrived at the stage of game-all as the shades of night were falling fast. England had recovered herself from a very discouraging position in the nick of time.

February 5th

The following day was tough going all the way. At tea time it was far from clear that, even with their two games in hand, England were going to win enough Singles to give them victory in the match. Our captain was, in fact, very far from well and could not put up the fight against his N.Z. namesake which would normally have been expected of him. Aspinall, now very much the hero of the occasion, had won his two games against Rowling very easily, and Bray had been equally successful against Mrs. Woollett. But where was the third win, essential to our victory, to come from? Neal was in prolonged and inconclusive combat with Mr. Woollett, and Strachan was known to be in difficulties with McNab at a neighbouring Club. Worst of all, Ormerod, who had played very well in the morning, had been unable to prevent Mrs. Jarden from gaining the initiative after lunch. The lady needed only eight more points for victory when William suddenly began to play with that sort of serene achievement which is so characteristic of him in a tight place. His final break was masterly—and the deed was done. Neal brought back a further scalp by dinner time, and Strachan was only robbed of another one by having a "last shot" hit against him in semi-darkness by his very useful opponent, McNab.

M. R. B.

RESULTS

Doubles: J. W. Solomon and R. W. Bray beat J. Prince and J. McNab -4+14+1.

G. N. Aspinall and B. G. Neal beat G. Rowling and Mrs. J. Jarden +11-11+4.

W. P. Ormerod and D. F. Strachan v. Mr. and Mrs. G. Woollett +17-9 (unfinished).

Singles: J. Prince beat J. W. Solomon +15+12.

G. N. Aspinall beat G. Rowling +18+4.
W. P. Ormerod beat Mrs. J. Jarden +14-8+8.
B. G. Neal beat G. Woollett -3+18+11.
R. W. Bray beat Mrs. G. Woollett +15+21.
J. McNab beat D. F. Strachan +3-5+3.
ENGLAND won the match 7-2.

ENGLAND v. AUSTRALIA

Adelaide

February 6th and 7th

Cooler weather and even a few fleeting clouds appeared on the first morning of this match, and these climatic conditions seemed to encourage the English players, for on Doubles Day against Australia they never lost a game or looked the least likely to do so. The Australian form was too bad to be true and we are sure that it cannot be. There was some good shooting by the Australian veteran Tom Howat, nine times winner of his country's championship, and a neat break (which did not end happily, however), from his West Australian partner, Mrs. McDonald; their Captain, Mrs. Chapman, also showed herself to be a very good shot. A third pair, C. B. Rogers and the youthful John Magor, made some headway in their first game against John Solomon and Roger Bray, but everyone on the English side was in well nigh irresistible form. Aspinall was by now saluted as the great master we know this Happy Warrior to be, and by now Douglas Strachan had got into his very best form and delighted spectators with a brilliant finish to the match between Ormerod and himself versus Mrs. Chapman and Hedley Gunton (who seemed to be quite out of form). It looks as if our Captain had produced three particularly effective pairs, and he was playing far more like himself than we had so far seen him do.

February 7th.

With such a lead, as the Singles began, our English victory seemed to be "in the bag," but it was not until late in the afternoon that this expectation actually materialized. The match of the day was that between Aspinall and Mrs. Macdonald, whom we had already discovered at Perth to be a very accurate and persevering player. She was well on the way to victory in the first game when a missed roquet gave Nigel his first real chance and he should have pegged out the lady's forward ball when a careless stroke put a ball off the court and gave the game to the Perth player. Aspinall then ran straight into his best form and a "triple" won him the second game. The third was a dour struggle, with the lady always in front and several mishaps to the English player, who caught up, however, to win by three points in a match of many thrills.

Meanwhile, Bernard Neal, playing with great accuracy, defeated the Australian Captain, Mrs. Chapman, to win the first of the two matches necessary for England's victory. By tea time Douglas Strachan had won the second of the four others. England eventually won all but one. Two very long games between Solomon and Australia's No. 1, Tom Howat, left them level at 5.15, but John won the third with conclusive ease an hour later. Bray won a long struggle against the very promising Australian junior, John Magor, and Ormerod was the only English player to lose, in a third game, to C. B. Rogers.

The Parkside headquarters of the South Australia Croquet Association is most beautifully situated, but the courts had been ill-treated by the weather and were somewhat rough in places, with the hoops fixed firmly in the hard ground proving very "repellent" to any but the most accurate strokes, whether forcible or persuasive in character—Ormerod and Aspinall being most addicted to the former method and Solomon and Bray to the latter. M. B. R.

Result of Match—ENGLAND beat AUSTRALIA 8-1.

Doubles: Aspinall and Neal beat Howat and Mrs. Macdonald +15+25.

Solomon and Bray beat Rogers and Magor +16+22.

Ormerod and Strachan beat Gunton and Mrs. Chapman +19+18.

Singles: Solomon beat Howat +8-6+24.

Aspinall beat Mrs. Macdonald -14+25+3.

Ormerod lost to Rogers +12-4-17.

Neal beat Mrs. Chapman +16+23.

Bray beat Magor -9+4+17.

Strachan beat Gunton +24+8.

ENGLAND v. NEW ZEALAND

2nd Test Match

Adelaide

February 11th and 12th

On the evening following our victory over Australia torrential rain set in, amounting to three inches in 24 hours, and the two Antipodean teams played their match in more or less continuous wet weather. Glad as our players were to escape these conditions,

this meant that the Kiwis, who had won a conclusive victory, had become accustomed to the altered state of the courts, as our had had no chance of being. There was a general impression that this match might have a decisive significance for the winning of the series. If the New Zealanders were to win it this series, coming on the top of the considerable victory they had just achieved over Australia, might give an immense boost to their confidence; on the other hand, if England were to win they would enjoy an encouraging foundation for continued prosperity, and perhaps final retention of the trophy.

The early hours of Doubles Day saw New Zealand off to an extremely promising start; about 11 a.m. all our pairs seemed to be in the doldrums. The new pairing of Aspinall and Bray appeared to be helpless against the steady play of Prince and McNab, and, in fact, they did not make a single point in the first game of the match. Mrs. Jarden, partnering Rowling, was playing faultlessly and the game seemed not far from over when Ormerod, playing with a rather hesitant Solomon, hit two splendid shots to rescue the situation. Even so, it was only when Rowling, at the very end of his break, missed a short roquet that the game began to turn our way. Neal and Strachan gave a better account of themselves as their game progressed and came into lunch victorious.

Meanwhile a sensational game was developing in the Prince-McNab, Aspinall-Bray encounter. Nigel went rapidly round to the rover hoop, giving "contact," of which Prince and his partner took full advantage until McNab broke down at the 3rd hoop. Roger was then only for the 3rd hoop, Nigel having been pegged out, which he ran with a brilliant shot from a difficult position, hit McNab's balls at the 5th and proceeded to finish the game with a hazardous but always successful "three baller"—to be greeted with wild enthusiasm by his companions in the lunch room, where most of them had been busily engaged to witness this spectacular recovery.

Things thus looked much better when the afternoon games began, but victory did not come easily. A fine shot and a dazzling break from Aspinall were required before matters were clinched in England's favour; Neal and Strachan lost their second game as a result of some rather unorthodox but highly successful break making by Mrs. Woollett, and again Rowling and Mrs. Jarden looked like beating the Solomon-Ormerod combination. The tension continued to the very end as John had to negotiate a very hampered roquet after 4-back, failure in which would almost certainly have handed the game to the enemy. This left the game between the Woolletts and Neal and Strachan to entertain the company after tea. In this Douglas showed himself at his very best and after a few misfortunes Bernard followed his example. Thus, after a day of agonizing moments, we went forward to the Singles three up.

February 12th.

The two "Johns" met each other again in the top match, with a result similar to the previous occasion. Our champion has never quite run into his best form this tour yet, and anyone who is going to beat John Prince will need to be that. Here is a player armed at all points with a very mature understanding of the game, who combines all the enterprise required of a first class performer with the closest attention to the matter in hand. Once John started off the second game with a fine three ball break before the fourth ball was in play, but a failure at 1-back put an end to what might have provided him with a winning lead, and he never quite regained the initiative after this. In the second match Aspinall, with his immense élan and adventurous temperament, provided an interesting contrast to the persevering Rowling, who may not pick up so many opportunities as Nigel does but seldom puts down any that are offered to him by failure or ill-fortune. It was this capacity which won him the second game that looked a certainty for our team's bright particular star, who has shone so radiantly here. The English player showed himself at once resolved to have no more of this, immediately went round to the peg in the final game and, nothing having eventuated from the "contact", thus promptly went out on a break with the other ball, the whole process taking only about 40 minutes.

This came at the end of a day of less sensational encounters; Strachan, playing with immense verve, gained his revenge over John McNab with an easy win on a difficult court in the first game and a rather closer one against the New Zealander's excellent shooting in the second. Bray was actually the first of our team to win a point for England against Mrs. Hight who made quite a good showing in her first Test encounter. Ormerod, beating Woollett, again proved to be the player actually to clinch the trio. Mrs. Jarden, still perhaps the best lady player in the world, gained a point for her country by beating Neal. But a victory by 7-2 put our team in good heart.

M. B. R.

Doubles: Solomon and Ormerod beat Rowling and Mrs. Jarden +4+6.
Aspinall and Bray beat Prince and McNab -26+10+5.
Neal and Strachan beat Mr. and Mrs. Woollett +15-12+23.

Singles: Prince beat Solomon +14+16.
Aspinall beat Rowling +16-4+26.
Ormerod beat Woollett +17+17.
Mrs. Jarden beat Neal +26+12.
Bray beat Mrs. Hight +13+15.
Strachan beat McNab +24+17.
ENGLAND won by 7 matches to 2.

ENGLAND v. AUSTRALIA

2nd Test Match

Melbourne

February 17th and 18th

After Sunday afternoon's practice during which Nigel Aspinall, playing alone, made a 2-ball break of 38 points (no one seems to know whether this is a record), the morning of February 17th dawned bright. However, the prospects of the English team were not at first equally so. Our first pair, Solomon and Aspinall, were up against a menacing combination of experience and promise in Tom Howat and John Magor, and there were errors at hoops by the senior players on both sides. Our second pair, Ormerod and Bray, began a marathon contest with so little achieved on either side that only a single hoop was made in the first hour of play! Neal and Strachan were soon in difficulties from the steady play of Mrs. Chapman and Mrs. Rudder (the only members of their 1963 team still representing Australia) and in the event they lost the first game.

Things soon looked up for our first pair. Nigel made a good break, and with John recovering his true form they went into lunch game up.

At the same time, with Neal playing particularly well, our third pair won a love game to square the match. Meanwhile an unproductive struggle in the marathon continued with Ormerod making some headway, but Bray very little. In fact, the game (omitting feeding time) took six hours. In the second game it was Bray who went ahead, but Ormerod made a number of almost unaccountable errors, and they lost by 16 points. John and Nigel established parity with a convincing win the second game. Meanwhile a terrific struggle was going on between the third pairs, the English players finding the contrast between the varying paces of different portions of the court very deceptive. Victory for Australia seemed likely when Douglas just hit the edge of a ball with what might have been the last shot, and proceeded to overcome Mrs. Rudder. Mrs. Chapman obtained the innings but missed a fairly easy chance to go out from 4-back, and the Englishmen just scraped through to rescue a game which they never had looked likely to win. Thus our team faces tomorrow's play with a 2-1 lead.

February 18th.

Tuesday was very hot, about 92°, though the heat was somewhat tempered by a light breeze. We thought the Australians might be better suited to these conditions, but it was only Aspinall and Ormerod who ever looked in danger of losing a game, and it was only Ormerod who actually did so.

There was a magnificent struggle between Aspinall and Howat, the latter playing well up to the form which had made him the Champion of his own country for so many years. Both players had their balls on the first hoop, when the Australian decided to give contact and went to the peg. Then a break from the Englishman allowed him to peg out Howat's ball and a keen duel followed, distinguished by really magnificent shooting by the Australian. Though Aspinall took all reasonable precautions his opponent got as far as the penultimate before a failure allowed Aspinall an opportunity to win the game. It was a splendid exhibition between two absolutely top class players. The second game went to the Englishman more easily, but not before Howat had given further evidence of his undoubted class.

Class was also exhibited by England's Captain in his contest with perhaps the best of the Australian ladies, Sheila Macdonald. John, although not quite able to complete a triple in either game, gave plenty of proof of his ingenuity in peeling in both games. Nevertheless the lady made a spirited challenge in the second game.

Ormerod showed what a fine player he is in a tight place by rescuing himself from what looked like a defeat in the second game of his match with Cliff Rogers and taking complete command to win the third. By this time, with remarkably steady play by Neal against the youthful Magor and conclusive victories by Bray and still more by Strachan, England had swept the board in the Singles and gained an impressive overall victory of 8 matches to 1. One felt that Australia deserved a better statistical result than this from a lot of good play that their team had exhibited during the competition, but the English players had shown a superior capacity for fighting their way out of dangerous situations, and their victory was due not only to skill but to a high degree of morale in times of crisis.

Doubles: J. W. Solomon and N. G. Aspinall beat T. Howat and J. Magor +8+9.
W. P. Ormerod and R. W. Bray lost to C. Rogers and Mrs. S. Macdonald -11-16.
B. G. Neal and D. F. Strachan beat Mrs. J. D. Chapman and Mrs. E. Rudder -17+20+4.
Singles: G. N. Aspinall beat T. Howat +3+17.
J. W. Solomon beat Mrs. S. Macdonald +21+8.
W. P. Ormerod beat C. Rogers -12+12+26.
B. G. Neal beat J. Magor +13+24.
R. W. Bray beat Mrs. J. D. Chapman +11+9.
D. F. Strachan beat Mrs. E. Rudder +22+20.
ENGLAND won 8-1.

Singles played in temperature of 94°.

ENGLAND v. NEW ZEALAND

3rd Test Match

Melbourne

February 19th and 20th

This was a critical match indeed, for if our opponents lost it England would retain their hold on the Trophy. The Kiwis, however, had shown themselves to be clearly the better of the Antipodean teams. Moreover, their players were fresh, whilst ours had toiled through two very torrid days immediately before their contest. Actually this day was even hotter, about 97°, with a due north wind bringing air from the warmest areas of the Continent. All the Doubles were closely contested, but perhaps the most exciting was that between Aspinall and Bray and Prince and McNab. The first break went to Prince from an excellent long shot. His partner failed to start, and Aspinall then made a break which included a spectacular 3-back, but a moment later, what looked like a rather careless take-off, left him a longer shot than he should have had. This he missed and let in McNab. McNab then played a good break, but failed at 4-back while making an unjustifiable attempt to peel his partner. Prince then took over, and ere long Aspinall's ball was pegged out. After some other misses by Bray, he hit a very long shot which gave him a break and his side a victory by 3 points. In the second game Aspinall went round, but when Prince obtained the innings he also went round and triple peeled and pegged Aspinall. McNab was then on the first hoop, with Bray on the second. Bray then hit a very long shot and started a remarkable break which began with a brilliant long roll approach to the 2nd hoop from several yards east of the 5th hoop. 3-ball breaks in desperate circumstances are one of the Essex player's specialities, and he never looked like failing with this one, to give England the first victory of the day by 14 points.

The game between Solomon and Ormerod against Rowling and Mrs. Jarden was also full of thrills, but cannot be dealt with at length herein. The main feature was John's attempt at a quadruple peel which looked certain of success until our Captain unexpectedly missed the rover hoop. This gave Rowling, who was for the 5th hoop, an advantage, which made things look threatening for a time. However, in attempting to join his partner ball he carelessly ran on to a wire, and this allowed John and William to record a victory by 7 points.

The second game between these pairs was not a very good one, and it seemed as if the heat was by this time taking its toll on the players. Ormerod and Rowling both made a number of errors, which they would not have done in normal circumstances. England were perhaps a little lucky to nose out by 5 points.

Meanwhile Neal and Strachan were battling against the Woolletts on the court which they had found very tricky in the match against Australia. The first game was long, but when the English pair had won it by 5 points one felt they would also contrive to win the second, and this they duly did by 12 points. So after many perilous moments England, as has been their wont in this series, had got out of all the tight places which either they themselves or their opponents had got them into and went forward into the Singles without the loss of a game, still less a match.

February 20th.

On this day England retained her hold on the MacRobertson Trophy, and in no uncertain manner with six victories to follow on the three already achieved in the Doubles.

It was a great day for English croquet, firstly for its splendid team which batted right down the card, and secondly for those who argued for the acceptance of Australia's challenge, and who, by their energies, made the tour possible. Many contributed to its success, but it would be ungrateful not to recognise the particular services of our Vice-President Gerald Williams, our Chairman Dr. Wiggins, our Captain John Solomon, and Professor Neal, who succeeded in gaining both prestige and cash from the Government's Sports Council, and who so cheerfully and effectively shouldered the burden of management at the shortest possible moment.

The day threatened and turned out to be even hotter than those our players had had to endure for three days consecutively. Nigel Aspinall soon showed that he did not intend to be kept on the

court in such conditions a moment longer than was necessary, and was soon victorious over the formidable John Prince in the first game by 25 points. Prince hit in at the very last moment, but missed a long return roquet after a difficult first hoop—that was the end. Aspinall then proceeded to mete out even more summary treatment. In the second game he went round to 4-back with the third ball. Prince did nothing with the 4th ball, and Aspinall went out with a triple peel on the 5th turn of the match. The match which had begun shortly after 9.30 a.m. was over before 11.15 a.m. This would have been good going in any circumstances, but coming when it did was a splendid inspiration to our team. Australia will not forget G. N. Aspinall for many years; they have taken to their hearts the "swingiest" player in the game today.

Meanwhile, Roger Bray was also winning a game by 26 points with a triple from "Herbie" Ford, who came into the New Zealand side for the first time. The second game was longer, but Roger duly won it, and it was actually this win that assured England of victory in the series. The match between John Solomon and Gordon Rowling was rather a desultory one, both men appeared to be more affected by the heat than the rest. John won the first game by 12 points in the morning. In the afternoon the errors from both players seem to multiply. Suddenly, with John on 2-back and the rover hoop, Gordon pulled himself together and played two quite excellent breaks, the second showing the New Zealander overcoming a crisis at 3-back. When John narrowly missed the lift shot, Rowling seemed certain of success. However, he roqueted his partner ball behind the 4-back and decided the hoop was too risky to attempt, and laid up behind the hoop leaving John a free shot from beyond the second hoop. The shot was hit, and after running an amazingly difficult hoop at 2-back he went out with a peel to win an exciting game by 5 points.

Two of the remaining matches between Ormerod and Keith Woollett and Neal and Mrs. Jarden were played at a neighbouring Club, and your reporter had no opportunity to witness this, but he knows there never seemed any great danger of their being lost. Bernard literally did himself a good turn by doing two hoops of a straight triple in the first game.

The remaining match was between Mrs. Woollett and Douglas Strachan. Mrs. Woollett made something of a struggle in the first game, but Douglas nevertheless won by the comfortable margin of 19, and, playing with extreme steadiness at the hottest part of the afternoon, won the second game by 24. Thus all was safely gathered in, and the English party co-operated with the New Zealanders to entertain their so eminently hospitable hosts to dinner in the evening.

Doubles: J. W. Solomon and W. P. Ormerod beat G. Rowling and Mrs. J. Jarden +7+5.
G. N. Aspinall and R. W. Bray beat J. Prince and J. McNab +3+4.
B. G. Neal and D. F. Strachan beat Mr. and Mrs. Woollett +5+12.

Singles: G. N. Aspinall beat J. Prince +25+26.
J. W. Solomon beat G. Rowling +12+5.
B. G. Neal beat Mrs. J. Jarden +26+6.
W. P. Ormerod beat K. Woollett +8+25.
D. F. Strachan beat Mrs. K. Woollett +19+24.
R. W. Bray beat H. Ford +26+10.

ENGLAND won 9-0 retaining the MacRobertson Trophy.
Singles played in temperature of 100°.

ENGLAND v. AUSTRALIA

3rd Test Match

Melbourne

February 24th and 25th

If it was with a slight anti-climax that England entered upon the final Test, since our players had already so triumphantly achieved their objective, it was with no lack of tension that the matches were fought out. In one match of the contest on Doubles day the thrills were perhaps as forthcoming as ever they had been. It was a notable occasion. For some time in the morning the Governor of Victoria was present and was introduced to the teams. Some time later the teams were torn from their lunches to be repeatedly photographed seriatim and in toto, and in the "Evening Herald" there appeared a full page devoted to proclaiming the praises of the game. This was publicity on the grand scale for a game, which in this "Lucky Country" with its immense membership, with clubs galore and a climate which often allows croquet to be played all the year round, might hardly seem to need it. But there are forward minds out here who feel that Australia's lack of success in this series is an indication that a shake-up is needed, that a knowledge of the game must be introduced into circles it has not yet reached, and that in particular converts must be made among the male sex and from the young. The fortunes of Nigel in this series have had a special inspiration, and *Hard Times* are not dimming its devotees but giving birth to *Great Expectations*.

The match of the day was that between Solomon and Strachan against Howat and Mrs. Gibson, and what a match it was, running from 9.30 a.m. to close on sunset at 7 o'clock. The first game was not particularly exciting. England, though not playing exceptionally well, always seem to have the situation in hand. In the second game, however, the position was drastically reversed. Australia took the bit between their teeth and clearly galloped to victory. This was due less to any failure on the part of our players than to the determination of Tom Howat. Directly our side got in, he would get the innings back by a long shot. His partner backed him up with very steady play and it looked as if the Australians would win by 26 points, which in fact they very nearly did. A miss by John Solomon gave him a chance to pick up a break, but he almost immediately put it down again by missing a short roquet by the third hoop. The final result was a win by 23.

John started the third game with an excellent break to 4-back, but his partner found progress more difficult, largely owing to interference with his best laid schemes by the Australian champion. It is estimated that out of 10 very long shots Tom hit seven of them. At length (an appropriate phrase) all the clips were on 4-back. Then Mrs. Gibson went to the peg and the game seemed bound to go to the Australians, but by this time Howat's power had infected Strachan who began to match him shot for shot. The Australians missed one opportunity to go out when John was on the peg, and at this stage Douglas hit what was almost undoubtedly the last shot and successfully put an end to a great struggle.

In fact, England finished the day with the now familiar figure of 3-0.

Neal and Bray were never in danger against the Australian Captain Mrs. Chapman and her partner Mrs. Edwards. Mrs. Edwards is surely a player with potentialities who should soon be still better than she already is if she can become more consistent and more enterprising. In this match she made an excellent break.

The third match in this contest went on rather longer than it would have done had not a peg out by the English players been missed. William Ormerod, playing with Aspinall, had been out of health during the week, and was a little slow to get going, but when he did, brought off a brilliant double peel which involved a series of planned collisions and placings consequent thereon which brought gasps of admiration from the spectators. In the next game his partner produced another of the faultless triples which had been a recurrent feature of this series. How formidable their opponents, Rogers and Mrs. Macdonald, might have been if they had been given any more rope was to be revealed on the following day.

February 25th.

Singles Day was for the most part cloudy, gusty and by no means warm, but the "gallery" seemed as large as ever and was estimated (possibly optimistically) at 400. Once again our players showed their capacity to fight their way out of tight corners, and in only one exception were they not successful. Two of the matches were played at an adjoining Club at Brighton, and in these matches there was no sort of crisis. Both Neal and Ormerod returned to headquarters victorious in time for lunch. Neal went round in the first game on the 4th turn, and would have gone out with a triple peel on the next turn had he not rushed his rover on to the peg. In the second game he started even better by going round with the third ball on the court and though victory was delayed a little longer it never for a moment seemed in doubt. Ormerod had an even more conclusive score, and in both games got his partner ball through two hoops on the way to the peg.

Aspinall was almost equally dominant against Howat who, as usual, delayed matters by his splendid shooting, but could not hold on to his breaks. But the other three matches were prolonged. Strachan, playing on a court to which he had already developed a strong dislike, was kept on it for a long time by the Australian Captain Mrs. Chapman, but the persistence which is a feature of his game, won him two victories in the end. The remaining two matches developed tremendous thrills. Mrs. Macdonald who, as has already been mentioned in these reports, is a player with a beautiful style and plenty of cool courage, but a little lacking in tactics, after having quite a good share of the first game against Bray, would be accounted extremely unlikely to have lost the second. When she was preparing for a rather long peg out her opponent's clips were on the first and third hoops, the peg out was missed, and the lady (quite correctly) put her other ball out, but the ball which had missed a peg was left rather far from it. Roger then decided to "join" his ball in the fourth corner from his position on the boundary behind the second hoop. "Join" in the circumstances would seem to be the appropriate word, but in fact he hit his partner ball in what was almost maximum distance that exists, and then proceeded to manifest his skill as the most precise maker of three-ball breaks, a quality which he has continued to demonstrate during this Tour. Bray does not scratch his way round with a series of brilliant recovery shots; his split shots are such a marvel of accuracy that he almost never seems to give himself a difficult

stroke. At the end of his first break he was assisted by a grave technical error on the part of his opponent, who took perhaps a tempting shot at Bray's ball on the northern boundary, which enabled him to pick up a second break from the third hoop. It seemed that the English player would go out, if not on this break, then in the next turn. Bray failed to go out, but wired himself carefully behind the rover hoop. This gave Mrs. Macdonald a further shot at the peg which went uncomfortably close.

Meanwhile on the next court a terrific struggle was going on which looked almost certain to result in another Englishman—John Solomon, no less—extricating himself from another dangerous situation. The match between him and Cliff Rogers had been a close one after the first game, in which at one time it had looked as if John might bring off a sextuple peel. He in fact achieved three peels whilst still for the 6th hoop with his mallet ball. At this point he missed a roquet. He was soon in again, however, and on his way to a delayed triple. He achieved a triple by partly jumping his partner ball at the rover hoop. He failed on the return roquet. However, victory came soon by a handsome margin.

His opponent was by no means dismayed by this, and settled down to play very well. It could be argued that for consistency Rogers was really Australia's No. 1 player, and several of our players had found him a formidable opponent. Your reporter did not contrive to see very much of the second game in this match, but though it was close the Australian always seemed to getting on top of the English Captain, a situation which was more evident in the third. In the third game Rogers had both his clips on the peg when both of Solomons clips were on the first hoop. At this stage John really got down to things and played brilliantly, but when both his balls were for the peg things went wrong. He missed a long peg out with the front ball and his mallet ball was so close to it that the peg out with that ball was hampered and failed. His opponent's balls were far off at this point of time, but the Australian hit in from the fourth corner and all was soon over.

Doubles: J. W. Solomon and D. F. Strachan beat T. Howat and Mrs. Gibson +23-25+5.
W. P. Ormerod and G. N. Aspinall beat C. Rogers and Mrs. Macdonald +11+14.
B. G. Neal and R. W. Bray beat Mrs. Chapman and Mrs. Edwards +20+9.
Singles: G. N. Aspinall beat T. Howat +19+13.
J. W. Solomon lost to C. Rogers +22 -6 -2.
R. W. Bray beat Mrs. Macdonald +15+1.
D. F. Strachan beat Mrs. Chapman +7+13.
B. G. Neal beat Mrs. Edwards +24+18.
W. P. Ormerod beat Mrs. Gibson +26+24.
ENGLAND won match 8-1.

AUSTRALIA v. NEW ZEALAND

1st Test Match

Adelaide

February 8th and 10th

On the first day of this Test (Saturday) rain fell throughout. The rain cleared during Sunday and play began on Monday in fine weather with the courts easy and rather slow. The New Zealand team was the same as that which played in the First Test, but four changes were made in the Australian team. The two players retained—T. Howat and J. Magor—were paired and achieved the only Australian victory in the Doubles. Magor was first to reach 4-back and Howat finished the game with a superb triple peel, the first completed triple of the contest. The New Zealanders had the second game in their grasp until Howat made a break from the third hoop and pegged out Rowling and himself. This left Magor on the rover and Mrs. Jarden on 4-back. Mrs. Jarden made two hoops before Magor won the game by two. New Zealand led two Doubles to one.

In the Singles Howat commenced confidently against John Prince, taking his first ball to the peg. From the ensuing contact Prince attempted a long thick take-off to a boundary ball but went out. Howat, however, did not at once make progress with the second ball and Prince made a spectacular nine before conceding defeat by 16. One error by Howat in each of the succeeding games was all that Prince needed to allow him to go out with triple peels, winning both games by 25.

J. Magor was in good touch and outplayed Mrs. Jarden whose excellent long shooting, on this occasion, deserted her. Although Mrs. Rudder captured the first game against Gordon Rowling, the issue in the next two was never in doubt. The match ended in a New Zealand victory by seven matches to two.

JEAN B. ARMSTRONG.

Doubles: Rowling and Mrs. Jarden lost to Howat and Magor +21+2 (Australian win).
Prince and McNab beat Mrs. Rudder and Mrs. Gibson +26+26.
Mr. and Mrs. Woollett beat Clemons and Mrs. Edwards +14+3.

Singles: Prince beat Howat -16+25+25.
Rowling beat Mrs. Rudder -15+15+24.
Mrs. Jarden lost to Magor -21-21 (Australian win).
Mrs. Woollett beat Mrs. Edwards +4+7.
Woollett beat Mrs. Gibson +8+3.
McNab beat Clemons +24+11.
NEW ZEALAND beat AUSTRALIA by 7 matches to 2.

2nd Test Match

Melbourne

February 21st and 22nd

The reports of these two Test Matches have miscarried. It is known, however, that John Prince was taken ill during the 3rd Test. Partnered by Mrs. Jarden, they won the first game against the top Australian pair. The side then retired and Prince did not play in the Singles. His place was taken by the New Zealand reserve Mrs. Hight, who won in straight games.

Doubles: Prince, Jarden 26-26 v. Howat, Gunton 11-13.
Rowling, K. Woollett 24-13 v. Rogers, Macdonald 26-26.
Ford, McNab 26-26 v. Chapman, Rudder 0-14.

Singles: Prince 26-26 v. Howat 21-3.
Jarden 26-26 v. Rogers 11-23.
Rowling 26-26 v. Macdonald 10-11.
K. Woollett 26-13-26 v. Chapman 18-26-0.
McNab 26-26 v. Rudder 10-4.
Ford 26-26 v. Gunton 11-8.

NEW ZEALAND won 8 matches to 1.

3rd Test Match

Melbourne

February 26th and 27th

Doubles: Prince, Jarden 26-retired v. Macdonald, Chapman 9-26-26.
Rowling, K. Woollett 26-26 v. Rudder, Edwards 9-1.
Ford, McNab 26-26 v. Gibson, Clemons 15-22.

Singles: Rowling 26-3-26 v. Macdonald 1-26-7.
Jarden 26-26 v. Chapman 23-7.
K. Woollett 16-26-26 v. Rudder 26-3-0.
Mrs. Woollett 7-26-26 v. Gibson 26-8-21.
McNab 10-26-26 v. Edwards 26-16-20.
Hight 26-26 v. Clemons 21-5.

NEW ZEALAND won 8 matches to 1.

ON REFLECTION—AN ENGLISH VIEWPOINT

There is no space or time available to your reporter to append any considered reflections on the events which it has been his responsibility to record. Nor perhaps is it necessary. England's triumph was complete. All our chosen players had more than justified their selection. We had sent out a team of young players, and there were only two players of comparable age in against us. The first was John Prince of New Zealand who, one could confidently assert, would certainly appear in the best Eight in any season in which he might appear in our events. The second was John Magor of Australia, who should surely improve very quickly and very much if he can find sufficient opportunities to play. Tom Howat is the most consistent long shot this writer has ever seen, but he is by no means a fit man, and his break making is far from reliable. Cliff Rogers has already been mentioned. Mrs. Jarden is still, in the writer's opinion, the best lady player in the world, and Mrs. Macdonald, though she has still something to learn about tactics, could run her close. Decisive English victories will, one believes, give a valuable shake up to Antipodean croquet. We may find their players more formidable in 1975. But the final word must appear in praise of Nigel Aspinall. It is impossible to exaggerate the impression this Happy Warrior made upon the crowds that everywhere gathered to watch him. There is no chink in his armour, unless it is a disposition to miss slow roquets, and no heights to which he may not attain.

M. B. R.

ON REFLECTION—AN AUSTRALIAN VIEWPOINT

They came—they played—and how they played.

The week spent in Perth before the Tests gave the members of the England team time for the practice they desired, leaving England as they did in the middle of the "off season."

The play in the first Test in Adelaide was an indication of the treat in store after the settling down period. The youth of the all-male personnel of the team greatly impressed the Australian players. The speed and dexterity of young Nigel Aspinall captured the imagination and hearts of all onlookers and earned the respect of his opponents. John Solomon lived up to expectations and showed he was still Champion of the game. The apparent ease with which the countless numbers of "triple peels" were successfully completed enthralled the spectators—a method of play regrettably the exception rather than the rule by the majority of Australian players. Details of many of the games are printed elsewhere—the perfect breaks by Neal—Roger Bray's accurate skill in retrieving games—the steady play and accuracy of Ormerod and Strachan—truly a formidable team. Games were lost but not one Match—their victory was well deserved.

The New Zealand team proved to be a force to be reckoned with—John Prince's easy style and skill won the admiration of all—

McNab's long shooting made them an ideal partnership. Mrs. Jarden's stylish stroke play and K. Woollett's skill earned them second place in the final results.

The Australian players admit to being outclassed—Howat, Rogers and Sheila Macdonald had some success—Rogers winning two rubbers, and some close finishes in other games, created keen interest—the Tests have proved the need for Australian players to lift their game from the present standard if they hope for any success in future contests.

The courtesy, sportsmanship and good fellowship which existed between the teams was apparent at all times, and from an Australian point of view the 1969 Test series has been an outstanding event in our Croquet world further cementing the bond between the three nations.

V. MILLAR,

Hon. Secretary, Australian Croquet Council.

ON REFLECTION—A NEW ZEALAND VIEWPOINT

Mr. John Solomon has asked me to write a few lines on the touring English croquet team. This is not easy, as such an article should include criticism as well as praise. It would be presumptuous of me to offer criticism while as a matter of fact I have nothing but praise for every member of this grand team. I shall leave criticism to the "experts" on the side line and to our dear old friend Mr. Maurice Reckitt. I should here state that Maurice is loud, literally, in his praise when they play well, but any poor shots are condemned in no uncertain terms to all and sundry, as he did in Adelaide when he said to Nigel Aspinall and the entire gallery: "Yes, John made an abominable mess of 2-back, really terrible, and I'll speak to him about it later."

Poor John, there was no need to speak to him—a loud-speaker could not have done a better job.

John, of course, is still the delight of the galleries and, although he may not have found his Hurlingham touch as yet in this town, he is still an expert with his perfect timing and masterly split shots. He is always on the attack and seems to work on the principle that no matter what the state of the game is, he is only two turns from home.

The most exciting player in the team is undoubtedly Nigel Aspinall. He may not have the finesse of John and his breaks may be a little untidy, but he cracks the balls well and truly in the middle. No ball on the lawn is safe from him when he has his eye in. He makes difficult hoops look so easy. He certainly pleases the gallery.

William Ormerod has played good croquet throughout the tour. He makes his hoops as though he is trying to send the ball 300 yards down the paddock, but nine times out of ten he makes them and the back stops and fences see to it that they do not get lost and he invariably picks up the return shot.

Roger Bray is a real thief when it comes to stealing matches. Time and again he has "come back" from almost hopeless positions to retrieve games. Who will ever forget his fantastic 3-ball break in the First Test in Adelaide? New Zealand were for the stick with both balls but missed the peg out. They put one ball on, but Roger picked up the next shot and made a break to the stick to win the match. It was certainly a ragged break with a series of long and angly hoops, but this added to the excitement. Nobody wanted him to break down; even the New Zealanders cheered his fantastic hoops. However, in subsequent matches he saved three games in a like manner, but in these his 3-ball breaks were neat and tidy; in fact, good croquet.

Douglas Strachan would be an asset to any team and, while he may not have found the form overseas that I have seen him exhibit on the Dublin lawns where he knows every blade of grass and shamrock leaf, he has played a lot of really good croquet in his pleasing style.

Bernard Neal has played consistently well. Like every member of this 1969 team he, at times, rises to greatness. One has nothing but admiration for this team and they all showed the stuff that champions are made of as, whenever the pressure was on, they lifted their game to meet it. I offer my congratulations to them on their success in again retaining the MacRobertson Shield. They were never really extended.

And, finally, a word about the supporters. Liz Neal was a real help to both England and New Zealand for the work that she did in organizing the Complimentary Dinner to our hosts the Australians. She spent hours of time writing invitations, place cards and all the many things that have to be done. What she actually did not do herself she organized. Liz did a great job.

Also it was nice to meet Daisy Lintern again. I am sure she enjoyed every match. She beamed with delight whenever her English boys succeeded and on the odd occasion when one of them was not doing so well she would say—"Poor boy, he is not really well today." The English certainly stick together and good luck to them and cheers for Daisy.

H. C. FORD,

Manager of New Zealand Croquet Team.

GREAT BRITAIN v. NEW SOUTH WALES

Sydney, 3rd March

After the excitement and tension of the test series it was natural that the New Zealand and British players would adopt a more relaxed attitude to their games in Sydney and Brisbane. The time had therefore arrived when we could expect either mediocre or brilliant croquet—at least, it was unlikely that we should see the good hard fighting that characterized much of the test play. But it was by no means clear that it would be the New Zealanders who produced the brilliance and the British who lost their sparkle, which, as a broad generalization, was surprisingly the case.

Thus when both international teams travelled to Sydney and the British met the New South Wales State Team on the first day, the inevitable victory by the visitors was not achieved in very dashing style. Indeed, the only truly newsworthy events were the breaking of two hoops by William Ormerod and Roger Bray. No doubt these two players were trying to help the Australians in their publicity drive to change the image from a frail old ladies' game: they certainly captured the interest of players on an adjacent bowling green.

A morning of doubles was followed by singles matches played as the best of three games. Edna Gibson played with much more confidence than she had shown in Adelaide and Melbourne and led her determined team by taking the first game off John Solomon. In John's defence it should be reported that he had a slight attack of "croquet wrist", but it was Edna's powerful strokes which earned her a deserved win. Moreover, it took John the remainder of a very hot day to achieve an eventual victory.

Apart from Bernard Neal's first game against Mrs. Harris, in which Bernard gave his opponent very little opportunity to display her prowess, all the State players played well and didn't lose a single game without a hard fight. It was notable too that some of the team made intelligent use of all four balls when occasion arose: a feature which was frequently lacking on the Australians' part in the tests. Col. Saalfeld played with the cunning which earned him a place in the Surrey Cup on his visit to England in 1965 and frequently stopped Nigel Aspinall from shooting: no mean achievement. Also to the Colonel's credit was the final feature of the day: a television news item in which a sequence of shots from the day's play was accompanied by a highly intelligent and intelligible commentary from the Colonel.

But all this was a shadow of the following day. Rumour flew fast to the British team that in their State match New Zealand had soundly defeated New South Wales with John Prince completing three triples, ably followed by some competent peeling from Keith Woollett. Were the New Zealanders at last to outshine the British when they played an exhibition match on the third day?

Results: Great Britain beat New South Wales 9—0.

Doubles: Solomon and Neal beat Mrs. E. Gibson and Mrs. D. Harris +22.

Aspinall and Strachan beat Col. A. Saalfeld and Miss D. Morgan +18

Ormerod and Bray beat Mrs. W. Hasking and Mrs. E. de la Rue +17.

Singles: Solomon beat Mrs. E. Gibson -9, +15, +10.

Neal beat Mrs. D. Harris +21, +10.

Aspinall beat Col. A. Saalfeld +13, +12.

Strachan beat Miss D. Morgan +12, +8.

Ormerod beat Mrs. W. Hasking +9, +14.

Bray beat Mrs. E. de la Rue +12, +12.

GREAT BRITAIN v. NEW ZEALAND

Sydney, 5th March

An 8 mile car ride, crossing the Harbour Bridge, took the teams to the Chatsworth Club for their exhibition match. Set beside the railway, the club was very colourful with 60 yards of herbaceous border and flowering shrubs. The lawns were green and spongy.

In the morning three doubles were played. Our first pair, John Solomon and Nigel Aspinall, went down to some truly scintillating croquet. Nigel and Jean Jarden had a ball on 4-back, both playing very well. Nigel brought off a brilliant leave, having peeled John through hoop 1: the opponents were in the jaws of hoop 2 and 3 yards west of the hoop. The lift was missed and when John approached short of the ball near hoop 2 the drama began. Keith Woollett had his brilliant moments during the tour. Playing in crisp white shorts and with his Mexican style hat trimmed at a rakish angle, this was one of them. He brought off a thrilling delayed triple, including many croquet strokes demanding real expertise. When he finally jumped his partner, which had been peeled through rover, hit a return 7 yard roquet, cannoned clear and rushed his partner ball to the peg to win, it was a real triumph and the applause was loud and long.

Both the other doubles were won by Britain—the game involving Douglas Strachan and Roger Bray being a closer match than might have been after Douglas had failed to send his ball far enough across a particularly soft area of ground to make a yard roquet in the middle of a sextuple. There remained six singles to be played on three lawns before nightfall.

Twelve

John soon had the measure of Jean, but only after some early errors on both sides. William Ormerod met Keith Woollett for the third time: Keith broke down on a delayed triple and finished the turn on rover and peg; William then crept round from behind giving six long shots to his opponent, all of which were narrowly missed, before pegging out.

Meanwhile Nigel was fascinating the gallery with an attempted straight quadruple—three peels were dramatically completed but not, alas, the fourth. Douglas Strachan played perfect croquet to win his match: he was hitting the ball better than ever and consequently hit the long shots regularly.

Roger Bray had a very close game against Jack McNab. Early on Roger went to the peg giving contact and soon after hit a long shot and started off with his backward ball. But a badly made 3-back let Jack in, and within two turns Roger was facing up to a last shot, his opponent being on penultimate and peg. By this stage of the tour one had come to expect this shot to be hit—and it was—so that once again victory had been snatched at the last moment.

Bernard Neal found Edna Hight playing faultlessly. Accurate long rolls clinched her breaks and Bernard never took croquet.

After the match was an excellent farewell dinner at the Wentworth Hotel. All the visitors felt sad that their stay in Sydney was so short; but the flight to Brisbane was coloured with the memory of the glorious harbour and of one of the world's most spectacular views—the outlook from Australia Square Tower including 150 miles of coastline.

Result: Great Britain beat New Zealand 7—2.

Double: Solomon and Aspinall lost to Mrs. J. Jarden and K. Woollett -16.

Neal and Ormerod beat H. Ford and J. McNab +13.

Bray and Strachan beat Mrs. H. Woollett and Mrs. E. Hight +15.

Singles: Solomon beat Mrs. J. Jarden +25.

Ormerod beat K. Woollett +3.

Bray beat J. McNab +4.

Aspinall beat Mrs. H. Woollett +24.

Strachan beat H. Ford +16.

Neal lost to Mrs. E. Hight -26.

GREAT BRITAIN v. QUEENSLAND

Brisbane, 7th March

After an impressive ceremony which included a surprising number of speeches of welcome from visiting dignitaries, play began at the Merthyr and Windsor clubs. From the start it was obvious to those playing at Merthyr that a great deal of hard work had been done in preparation for the occasion: it transpired that the lawns so delightfully surrounded by frangipani and jacaranda trees (the latter sadly not in their flowering season so that we did not see the famous profusion of purple) had been watered every day for several weeks beginning at 5 a.m. by no less a person than Mrs. Cornelius, the Queensland President. As a result of her care the lawns were beautifully green—one could hardly believe that Brisbane was suffering from one of the worst droughts known in recent years—and they proved to be both fast and true, apart from some really hair-raising boundaries which were put to good use by those with local knowledge!

In the singles, Hedley Gunton, playing on his native heath, went straight to 4-back against Nigel Aspinall and could have got his second ball round too. But the gods did not allow this and Nigel eventually went out on an immaculate triple. John Solomon drew many oohs and aahs from the large and attentive gallery with one of his spectacular rover half-jump peels. Douglas Strachan, more prosaically, took his first ball round and pegged it out—a tactic he used to great effect more than once in the tour—and followed with the second soon after.

At the Windsor club the players had much trickier lawns to contend with and consequently the standard of play was not high. Bernard Neal found a very steady player in his opponent, Mrs. Hurrell, and had to play well to beat her; Roger Bray had a close but successful battle with Mrs. Limpus; and William Ormerod, playing for some unaccountable reason at number six, had a smooth victory over Mrs. Thomas in the course of which he ran what he believes to be the most difficult hoop of his career with a monumental jump played from two yards and more than 45° to the side!

The doubles, all played at Merthyr, turned out to be uneventful. The Queensland pairs had their opportunities, but it was startling to witness, on a number of occasions, the dispersal of the balls to the boundaries within a few strokes of some of the State players finding the four balls clustered together in the middle of lawns—apparently for fear of breaking down on an opponent's ball. Those same opponents' balls got round rather quickly, however, and three not too difficult victories ended a delightful first day's play in the warm sunshine of Brisbane.

Results: Great Britain beat Queensland 9—0.

Doubles: Neal and Bray beat H. Gunton and Mrs. J. Hough +16.

Solomon and Strachan beat Mrs. E. Rudder and Mrs. L. Thomas +20.

Aspinall and Ormerod beat Mrs. J. Hurrell and Mrs. W. Limpus +20.

Singles: Aspinall beat H. Gunton +16.

Solomon beat Mrs. E. Rudder +24.

Strachan beat Mrs. J. Hough +23.

Neal beat Mrs. J. Hurrell +14.

Bray beat Mrs. W. Limpus +6.

Ormerod beat Mrs. L. Thomas +23.

GREAT BRITAIN v. NEW ZEALAND

Brisbane, 9th March

And at the end came defeat.

Throughout the tour there was an ever-present danger that the visiting teams would drown in the sea of scones and cakes, salads and fruit which made the croquet courts seem like islands. But the Queenslanders had a far more deadly peril prepared for us: they took the British team to Surfers' Paradise. And on the following day, in an oppressive heat, there was little enough left for croquet. Even though some had enough physical energy to wade through morning tea on to the court for the singles, their thoughts were still 70 miles away enjoying the beauties of the Gold Coast.

The New Zealand team had meanwhile received a refresher course from Hedley Gunton. In their match against Queensland, New Zealand had won, but their champion, John Prince, had been beaten by Hedley: John attempted to triple peel and peg out his opponent, but a hampered shot after penultimate, when all the hard work had been completed, presented Hedley with a relatively simple break to finish the game.

So, when New Zealand met Great Britain in an exhibition match on the final day, the former played like the champions and thrashed the benumbed British by six games to three.

In the game between the Johns, John Prince took his first ball to 3-back and thereafter it was a race as to who would complete the quadruple first. It soon became clear that John Solomon was not playing well enough to do it—although he hit the long shots, his hoop stroke was failing him—and eventually John Prince, in a brilliant turn, completed three of the peels and finished the game in the following turn.

The most amusing of the games for the spectators proved to be that between Nigel Aspinall and Gordon Rowling. Nigel decided to peg his opponent out when Gordon's other ball was for 4-back, and Nigel's for the third. But in pegging out on a roll stroke Nigel succeeded in eliminating both the balls from the game. Those of us who remembered Nigel's game against Douglas Strachan in last year's President's Cup and who also saw Nigel's two-ball practice break of nearly forty hoops at Melbourne, did not despair: and, indeed, when Nigel hit Gordon's ball lying in front of 4-back, made the third and rushed to the fourth, all seemed to be going to plan. But, alas, the fourth hoop was not made and after a few more turns Gordon hit the peg and had taken his second game of the tour off Nigel.

Another long, tactical battle characterized William Ormerod's game against Jean Jarden. Despite the distraction of the previous day, William played as steadily as ever and had a comfortable win over Jean even though she was hitting well. The distinction in Roger Bray's win over Hazel Woollett lay not in the play itself but rather in that he achieved two records by his victory: of winning every one of his singles matches and of remaining hatless throughout the whole tour.

It would have been a rash person who tried to predict the result of the match between Bernard Neal and Keith Woollett. The beginning was most impressive: Bernard started to go round on the third turn after placing his first ball between hoops 1 and 2 and hitting the opponent's ball in the fourth corner; but he failed the fourth hoop after establishing the break. Surprisingly Keith missed the relatively short shot from A-baulk and soon Bernard's clips were on penultimate and peg, the last turn having been terminated by a treacherous boundary near the second corner. Once again Keith then showed his skill in a tight situation and was soon embarking on another triple. Two-back proved elusive for him, and Bernard appeared to have the game in the bag, but a momentary loss of concentration caused him to fail the penultimate hoop and Keith finished the game instead.

Douglas Strachan seemed also to have his game well in hand when Edna Hight pegged him out—Douglas' other ball being for penultimate and Edna's for 1-back. But a tricky lawn and, as with Bernard, a failed penultimate hoop were too much for him.

In the afternoon two of the doubles, those involving Bernard and Nigel and John and Roger, were over very quickly. The British were given chances but there was little fight left in them. Indeed, one wondered if Bernard had any energy left at all when his mallet failed to connect with his ball in an attempted jump shot. The only distinguished croquet shown by the holders of the MacRobertson Shield was from William, who finished the day with an excellent leave—his partner's (Douglas') ball being placed in the centre of its hoop, penultimate, and his own in the fourth corner, with the opponents' in the jaws of rover and two yards to

the east of rover—later with a cracking long shot followed by the peg out as dusk was falling.

Result: New Zealand beat Great Britain 6—3.

Doubles: Prince and K. Woollett beat Neal and Aspinall +21.
Mrs. Jarden and Rowling beat Solomon and Bray +23.
McNab and Mrs. Hight lost to Ormerod and Strachan -16.

Singles: Prince beat Solomon +20.

Rowling beat Aspinall +9.

Mrs. Jarden lost to Ormerod -13.

K. Woollett beat Neal +4.

Mrs. H. Woollett lost to Bray -6.

Mrs. Hight beat Strachan +2.

SCOTTISH CROQUET COMMITTEE

Constitution

After consultation with the Croquet Association the above Committee was formed officially on January 20th, 1969. It consists of a representative of each registered Scottish croquet club. The following persons were present at the formation of the Committee and constitute its members:

Dr. R. M. Milne, 28, Roseneath Place, Edinburgh 9.

Edinburgh Croquet Club.

Dr. J. O'D. Alexander, 79, Ayr Road, Glasgow.

Glasgow Croquet Club.

Dr. A. M. Brown, Briar Mount, Doune Road, Dunblane.

Glen Ochil Croquet Club.

Mr. F. Norton, 364, Albert Drive, Pollokshields, Glasgow, S.1.

Phillipshill Croquet Club.

Dr. A. D. Brown, 9, Blackwood Road, Milngavie.

Langside Croquet Club.

A Chairman is to be elected at each meeting.

Dr. R. M. Milne was elected the Secretary and Treasurer.

Dr. A. M. Brown was elected the Publicity Agent.

Finance

Annual registration fee of 10/- per club. To be increased when necessary.

Meetings

The Committee will meet early in the first quarter of each year and thereafter as often as necessary during each year. Seven days' notice must be given to each member before a general meeting.

Objectives

To facilitate the development of croquet in Scotland and to further a close liaison with the Croquet Association and all other clubs.

Powers of the Committee

1. To make arrangements and agreements on matters which specifically affect all the Scottish clubs.
2. To plan the annual Scottish Croquet Championships.
3. To communicate with the Croquet Association on general matters concerning Scottish Croquet.
4. To advise on croquet matters in Scotland.
5. To produce an annual Scottish Croquet Calendar.

OBITUARIES

MRS. S. PHILLIPS

Associates will be sorry to learn of the death of Mrs. S. Phillips on January 4th at Delves House, Queens Gate Terrace, London, where she had been living for some years.

Philippa, as she was affectionately known to her many friends, had been a keen member of the Roehampton Club since before the war, but of late years had not enjoyed good health and last year became a non-playing member. Before she was ill she was able to give anyone in the B Class a good game, she was an excellent shot and very hard to beat, a great fighter to the end of a game. She won the Ladies' Field Candlesticks in 1948 with Mrs. Pavia.

Mrs. Phillips was a keen Bridge player and was able to join a private party for Christmas dinner and Bridge. D. A. L.

MISS D. SCHOFIELD

The Southport and Birkdale Croquet Club are sad to report the death of their President, Miss Dorothy Schofield, after a long illness patiently borne. Miss Schofield was one of the oldest members of the club and had previously served as Secretary, and then as President of the club until the present year, and had filled these offices with great charm and efficiency.

Her death is a great loss to the club and her delightful personality will be greatly missed. H. L. WEIR, Hon. Sec.

Thirteen

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1968

| | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|---------|-------------|--|
| As at 31.12.67 | | | | |
| £ | FIXED ASSETS | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | |
| 117 | Office Furniture, at written down value | | 105 0 0 | |
| 2,000 | Trophies—estimated to realise | | 2,000 0 0 | |
| 3,968 | Investments, as per schedule attached | | 4,208 14 10 | |
| 6,085 | | | 6,313 14 10 | |
| | CURRENT ASSETS | | | |
| 150 | Sundry Debtors and Prepayments | 89 19 0 | | |
| 896 | Cash at Bank and In Hand | 823 0 1 | | |
| 1,046 | | | 912 19 1 | |
| 7,131 | | | 7,226 13 11 | |
| | LESS: CURRENT LIABILITIES | | | |
| 24 | Subscriptions received in advance | 12 4 0 | | |
| 310 | Accrued Expenses | 262 9 4 | | |
| 11 | Taxation | 13 3 6 | | |
| 345 | | | 287 16 10 | |
| £6,786 | Net Assets | | £6,938 17 1 | |
| | REPRESENTED BY:— | | £ s. d. | |
| 5,667 | Accumulated General Fund as at 1st January, 1968 | | 5,945 14 10 | |
| 171 | Add: Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year | | 2 15 4 | |
| 108 | Proceeds of Insurance Claim for lost Trophies | | — — — | |
| 5,946 | | | 5,948 10 2 | |
| 712 | Life Membership Fund | | 712 0 0 | |
| 116 | Apps Memorial Fund | | 115 10 0 | |
| 12 | Dominion Tour Fund | | 162 16 11 | |
| £6,786 | | | £6,938 17 1 | |

We have examined the books, vouchers and other records maintained by The Croquet Association for the year ended 31st December, 1968, and obtained such further information as considered necessary. To the best of our knowledge and belief the above Statement of Accounts and the annexed Income and Expenditure Account give a true and fair view of the state of affairs as at 31st December, 1968, and of the Surplus at that date.

Loves Cottage,
New Pound, Wisborough Green, Sussex. 19th February, 1969.

NICHOLASS, REID, CORNEY & CO.
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS.

REPORT FROM SOUTH AFRICA
SINGLES OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Semi-Finals

Mrs. F. Arbuthnot beat D. Cunningham by 2.
C. Hambley beat I. Gillespie by 4.

Final

C. Hambley (Silver) beat Mrs. F. Arbuthnot (Bronze) by 17, 12.

DOUBLES OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Semi-Finals

Mr. and Mrs. F. Hough beat Miss M. I. Simkins and Miss O. McDougall by 6.

C. Hambley and D. Cunningham beat R. Wood and Mrs. F. Arbuthnot by 12.

Final

Mr. and Mrs. F. Hough beat C. Hambley and D. Cunningham by 6.

CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor:

Dear Sir,

What has happened to Croquet in Hampshire, if, indeed, it ever prevailed? From the list of Clubs published in "Croquet" No. 102, it appears that our neighbours Sussex, Surrey, Berkshire and Dorset possess some 20 clubs between them. And Hampshire? One, at Ringwood, almost on the Dorset border. From a travelling point of view, one can hardly regard the Ryde, Isle of Wight, club as Hampshire. Thus, we have no club between Ringwood and Littlehampton, some 60 miles. Our neighbours are certainly to be envied, and even congratulated.

It would be interesting to know how many members of the Association live in Hampshire, and as far east as Chichester, and how, in these days of smaller gardens, they manage to get a game.

I feel sure, Sir, you will agree that the situation here is to be deplored, and I venture to suggest that urgent steps be taken to put Hampshire on the Croquet map.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN WARD,
Emsworth.

Fourteen

THE 1969 SEASON

By Hope Rotherham

I am writing this in front of a blazing fire with 6ins. of snow outside—no newspapers—or milk, and I cannot get out of my drive, so it seems a suitable moment to do some work, though the time for playing croquet seems a far distant dream.

However, our Test Team is in happier circumstances, and how well they are doing! Only two more Tests to go and so far they have most convincingly won all they have played, and by the time you read this they will be home again, bringing the MacRobertson Trophy with them, I feel convinced. They have certainly upheld the confidence we had in them.

This year, for the first time, Roehampton have said they will hold no more C.A. Tournament fixtures, so all these events have had to be farmed out to the provinces. The Peels are to be held on the usual date, but at Cheltenham, the Challenge and Gilbeys go to Budleigh Salterton but on a different date—i.e. Monday, June 30th, instead of the usual Budleigh N.-O. Tournament. The Golf Croquet Championships, which we were unable to stage last year, will also be held during this week.

The Men's and Women's Championships are the same date as last year, but will be played at Southwick. I am glad to say that the women's event is being restored to a best of three event, as a championship should be, and I do sincerely hope that women will support this and so prove we are not the second class players we are in danger of being classed. Also the Ladies' Invitation Event is being discontinued, and we are going back to the Ladies' Field Cup, which is played under the same conditions as all other eights, but on a different date—i.e. August 18th-22nd, at Compton. This was asked for by the ladies who played in the Invitation event last year.

There are various other minor alterations of dates, so please study the Calendar Fixture List. Edinburgh are holding their first Open Tournament from August 25th-30th to coincide with the Edinburgh Festival. It is really splendid the way croquet is growing in Scotland. Last year I expressed the hope that we should have good weather in 1968—and we didn't!—so perhaps this year I had better say nothing about the weather, but just wish you all a very happy season.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1968

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|---|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|------------|---------|
| Year to 31.12.67 | £ | INCOME | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | £ s. d. |
| 1,227 | | Subscriptions | | 1,098 5 6 | |
| 92 | | Affiliation Fees and Overseas Members | | 72 9 0 | |
| 58 | | Donations | | — — — | |
| 322 | | Levy and Tribute | | 332 13 6 | |
| 209 | | Sale of Books, Laws, etc. | | 261 14 0 | |
| 121 | | Dividends from Investments (Net) | | 130 5 11 | |
| 2,029 | | | | 1,895 7 11 | |
| | | LESS: EXPENDITURE | | | |
| 358 | | Tournaments Expenses | 391 14 10 | | |
| 242 | | Deduct: Entry Fees, excluding Levy and Tribute included above | 288 17 6 | | |
| 116 | | | 102 17 4 | | |
| 823 | | Printing of Magazine | 722 18 9 | | |
| 187 | | Deduct: Income from Advertisements | 144 12 6 | | |
| 636 | | | 608 6 3 | | |
| 752 | | | | 711 3 7 | |
| 1,277 | | | | 1,184 4 4 | |
| | | GENERAL OVERHEADS | | | |
| 206 | | Office Rent, Lighting, Heating and Cleaning | 221 4 4 | | |
| 253 | | Staff Salaries | 268 6 8 | | |
| 105 | | Postages and Telephone | 139 8 10 | | |
| 96 | | Printing, Stationery and Publicity | 373 14 1 | | |
| 32 | | Insurance | 33 9 7 | | |
| 142 | | Sundry Expenses | 138 8 6 | | |
| 167 | | Net Cost of Centenary Celebrations | — — — | | |
| 63 | | Audit and Accountancy Charges | 63 0 0 | | |
| 29 | | Maintenance of Office Furniture and Equipment | — — — | | |
| 13 | | Depreciation | 12 0 0 | | |
| 1,106 | | | | 1,249 12 0 | |
| 171 | | | | 65 7 8 | |
| — | | Surplus on sale of investments | | 68 3 0 | |
| £171 | | Excess of Income over Expenditure | | £2 15 4 | |

INVESTMENTS HELD AT 31st DECEMBER, 1968

| Nominal Value | Quoted Investments | Cost | Market Value |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| £ s. d. | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | £ |
| 250 0 0 | Bay Hall Trust Ltd., 10/- Ordinary Shares | 399 3 6 | 1,275 |
| 75 0 0 | Midland Bank Ltd., £1 Ordinary Shares | 204 0 4 | 300 |
| 163 0 0 | Omnium Investment Co. Ltd., 5/- Deferred Shares | 186 18 10 | 954 |
| 566 15 10 | 3% Savings Bonds 1965/75—Held for General Funds | 449 13 1 | |
| 872 5 5 | Held for Life Membership Fund | 698 0 0 | |
| | | 1,147 13 1 | 1,079 |
| 218 3 0 | 3½% War Stock—Held for Apps Memorial Fund | 115 10 0 | 96 |
| 1,250 0 0 | Greater London 7½% Loan Stock 1977 | 1,216 14 1 | 1,187 |
| 400 0 0 | The New Throgmorton Trust Ltd., Income Shares of 5/- each | 478 15 0 | 540 |
| | | £3,748 14 10 | £5,431 |
| | UNQUOTED INVESTMENTS | | |
| 10 0 0 | Roehampton Country Club £1 Shares | 10 0 0 | |
| 450 0 0 | Bank Deposit—Midland Bank Ltd. | 450 0 0 | |
| | | £4,208 14 10 | |

HANDICAP ALTERATIONS

The attention of Associates is drawn to Regulation 11, which states that the responsibility for playing at their correct handicap finally rests with competitors themselves.

Associates should note that when they are notified of any alteration in their handicap by an official handicapper, whether this is in the course of a particular tournament or on the instructions of their Club Handicapping Committee, **their new handicap is to be regarded as official forthwith.** Further, it is their duty to inform the Manager of their next tournaments that their handicap has been altered.

The Handicap Co-ordination Committee meets regularly throughout the season to confirm these alterations. In cases where they do

not regard the alteration as justified, the player concerned (and his Club) will be informed accordingly, and his handicap reversed to its previous level.

FURTHER CROQUET NOTICES

FOR SALE, Croquet Set, unused, complete in box. Offers invited. Robinson, Lullington, North Burton-on-Trent.

The following have also very kindly made contributions to the Test Tour Fund: Mrs. E. E. Bressey, Mrs. H. M. Read.

It is regretted that the name of Mrs. Adler was omitted from the list of winners in the last issue. She won the Supplementary Gilbey Cup at Roehampton.