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THE **C**ROQUET
GAZETTE

Spring
1970
No. 110

Calendar 1970

C.A. & Official Tournaments

May 11th-29th	Peel Memorials (<i>Ladies' & Gentlemen's handicap singles</i>) and Lady Murray Memorials (<i>handicap doubles</i>), with the Ascot & Delves Broughton golf croquet cups - at Cheltenham.
May 26th-29th	Inter-County Championships.
June 1st-6th	"Caskets": Ladies' and Gentlemen's Championships, Mixed Doubles Championship, and the du Pré Cup - at Southwick.
June 6th-13th	Irish Open Championships, and Founders' Cup, Carrickmines.
June 8th-13th	Compton: Championship of Eastbourne.
June 15th-20th	Ryde: Championship of the Isle of Wight.
June 22nd-27th	Parkstone: Dorsetshire Salver, and Gold Cup.
June 29th-July 4th	Challenge and Gilbey Cups - at Budleigh Salterton.
July 6th-11th	Budleigh Salterton: Championship of Devon (Colman Cup).
July 13th-18th	Cheltenham: Cheltenham Championship Cup, Money Salver, and Barwell Salvors.
July 20th-25th	Open Championship, Doubles Championship, and the Association Plate.
July 27th-August 1st	Colchester: Championship of Essex, and Franklin Cup.
August 10th-15th	Hurlingham: Hurlingham Cup, and Hurlingham Doubles; with the C.A. Trophies for Ladies', and Gentlemen's, Handicap Doubles.
August 17th-21st	The Ladies' Field Cup - at Cheltenham.
August 17th-22nd	Nottingham: Nottinghamshire Championship, and the "Robin Hood" Gold Cup.
August 24th-29th	Scottish Open Championships, Glasgow.
August 24th-29th	Brighton: Sussex Gold Cup, and Reckitt Bowl.
August 31st-September 5th	Hunstanton: Norfolk Challenge Cup, and Hunstanton Rose Bowl.
September 7th-11th	Invitation Eights: The President's Cup; The Chairman's Salver - at Colchester; and the Surrey Cup - at Nottingham.
September 12th-19th	Carrickmines: Championship of County Dublin, and the Coronation Cups.
September 14th-19th	Roehampton: Ranelagh Gold Cup, and Creyke Cups.
September 26th-27th	All England Handicap Finals - at Roehampton.
September 28th-October 10th	South of England Open, Ladies', Gentlemen's, and Doubles Championships. Devonshire Park.

Non-official fixtures:

May 4th-9th	Budleigh Salterton (Godfrey Turner Cup)
May 18th-23rd	Southwick I (Jellicorse Cup)
August 4th-7th	Hurlingham (Silver Jubilee Cup)
August 31st-September 5th	Southwick II (Abbey Cup)
September 14th-19th	Parkstone (Bournemouth Bowl)

Week-ends:

March 28th-30th	Cheltenham I
April 16th-19th	Compton
April 24th-27th	Hunstanton (Butlin Cup)
May 23rd-25th	Cheltenham II
June 5th-7th	Nottingham
June 18th-21st	Woking (Woking Challenge Cup)
August 14th-16th	Cheltenham III
August 28th-31st	Colchester (Rose Bowl)
September 18th-20th	Cheltenham IV
October 16th-18th	Cheltenham V

The Gazette

The Official Organ of the Croquet Association

Patron:

Her Majesty The Queen

Survival, Expansion or Decline ?

Croquet has been "dying" ever since the Great War shattered Western civilization. The "Jazz and Aspirin Age" that ensued was thoroughly inimical to a sport which was subtle, leisurely, and, most damning of all, old-fashioned - "fuddy-duddy" to use the *argot* of the day.

We believe that the problems that confront competitive croquet now are vastly different from those of the inter-war years. The first is lack of space. In an over-crowded, and increasingly nasty modern world, the idea, even, of a beautifully kept, level piece of choice turf being occupied for over four hours by only two people (bourgeois reactionaries, at that) for one game, seems, to those who have a hypersensitive social conscience, to be a crime against the modern democratic way of life. Certainly the pressure on the more popular Official Tournaments in the high summer does bear out the contention that, at any rate at some times in the year, more courts would be very acceptable, even to the few Associates at present on the List. Also, the sad fate that recently befell the Roehampton Club must serve as a dire warning to the C.A. of what can occur when more powerful rival interests threaten the future of our beloved sport.

However, these dangers are very obvious. The dangers against which we should like to utter a warning are more insidious, and very much harder to define. Croquet, and this fact must be squarely faced and not evaded, is a *demanding* game. Its delights cannot be savoured until after a period of often lengthy and unrewarding application has been undergone. Certainly it is a good game. Indeed, just as chess is better than bingo, or bridge is

better than whist; so is croquet better than, say, bowls. This is not to say that that jejune and proletarian pastime is not more suitable for the majority of people - it is. But this is where the modern social conscience rears its misshapen head again. People have been so brain-washed by sociologists, technocrats, and bureaucrats (gloriously horrid words for an unpleasant phenomenon) into believing that the greatest-good-for-the-greatest-number is all-important, that many people have come to feel, almost subconsciously, that quality and excellence are somehow to be deplored and reprehended. Croquet is particularly vulnerable to such qualms. Born by Privilege out of Luxury, it possesses still an atmosphere of disdain and exclusiveness. The click of croquet balls (less authoritative since composition replaced boxwood) is the sweet accompaniment to a long-vanished *douceur de vivre*. This is nothing to be ashamed of. It may not be *true*. Indeed, we believe that it is, alas! now a very false picture of the modern game. Nevertheless, nothing can be gained, and a great deal could be lost, by playing down this aspect of Croquet.

Our contention is that to preserve the game as we know it, it could be fatal to try to broaden the basis of Croquet. The only way in which new Associates who have something to give to the game can be induced to take it up is by friendly persuasion and interest from someone whom they know, or get to know, and like. Schemes for coaching, television and press coverage, and similar ventures never produce any worth-while results, and often cheapen the sport.

If Croquet is to survive it must be true to itself.

Rover Notes

Ave atque Vale

The Secretary

It is with real sadness that we say *au revoir* to Vera Gasson ("V.C." as she is universally and affectionately known in the Croquet World). Not, happily "farewell", because we are sure that the ensnarement of her and her ever-faithful Ting Hai by the bowls players at Hurlingham will not exclude us from her future relaxations, now that she has more leisure in which she can renew her interest as a participant in our fascinating sport.

V.C. played on four occasions, between 1952 and 1961, in the Ladies' Field Cup; and twice running, in 1962 and 1963, in partnership with Miss Duthie, won the much-coveted Ladies' Field Candlesticks - one of the C.A.'s most attractive Trophies.

She had been an enthusiastic supporter of the Parkstone Club before she moved to London to take up her duties as our Secretary which she has performed so conscientiously and so efficiently.

Taking over from such a remarkable woman as the late Mrs. L. C. Apps was no easy task; and our move from Southampton Row and Roehampton to Hurlingham certainly did not make this task any easier.

Thank you, V.C. for all you have done for us. We'll be seeing you – on the courts!

All Associates will want to give Mr. Vandeleur Robinson, Mrs. Gasson's successor, a cordial welcome.

A Cheltenham and Cambridge man, Mr. Robinson comes to us via The League of Nations, the Intelligence Corps, and, more recently, the Ministry of Civil Aviation. He wrote *Albania's Road to Freedom*, published by Messrs. Allen and Unwin in 1941, and during the War was seconded to the British Military Mission in Albania.

His experience as a delegate to various Conferences will be of the greatest value to the C.A., especially as the Council is now envisaging a much closer cooperation with the Central Council of Physical Recreation. Just before taking up his duties at the C.A. office his mother, Mrs. Ianthe Robinson, died at a very advanced age. We wish to offer him most sincere condolences in his bereavement.

He has been a croquet playing member of the Heathfield Club since 1954; and we hope that Mr. Robinson's tenure of office will be a long and happy one.

The Editor

Associates owe an immense debt of gratitude also to Mr. Baillieu and Mrs. Sundius-Smith, the retiring Editor and Assistant Editor. They have had to struggle against difficulties that would have caused lesser mortals to throw in their hands long ago. Ever since the Association left the superlative Holmesdale Press who had published the *Gazette* since near the beginning of this century, nothing was easy or straightforward for those who were self-sacrificing enough to undertake the responsibility for it.

In spite of often outrageous disasters and frustrations, the Editor and his Assistant succeeded in producing a publication that was informative, frequently witty, and, taking into consideration the adverse circumstances, miraculously accurate.

Our most grateful thanks, then, to Ian and Jocelyn. We can expect massive reductions to their handicaps now that they are free to devote themselves to the game, unworried about whether the *Gazette* is going to bear some slight resemblance to the material they submitted to be printed, or, indeed, whether it is going to appear at all.

Their successor is most fortunate in his colleagues who have so kindly agreed to help him in his first venture into journalism. Mrs. Lightfoot and Mrs. Kirk-Greene have said they will help on the administrative side; and he has the good fortune to be assisted by a panel of literary advisers composed of Mrs. Perry, Mr. Noel Hicks and Mr. Jesson-Dibley.

Messrs. Strange the Printer & Sussex Printers Ltd. of Eastbourne who are undertaking the printing of the *Gazette* have two connections with the Croquet World. They printed the late Lord Tollemache's *Modern Croquet, Hints and Tips for Practice*; and they also were the printers for our late Vice-President's, the Rev'd G. F. H. Elvey's, Parish Magazine when he was Vicar of Willingdon. Mrs. Elvey who edited that publication has particularly happy memories of her dealings with this firm.

All Associates hope that a satisfactory and cordial relationship will continue between our new printers and the Croquet World for many years to come.

The Calendar

Over ten years ago Mr. Humphrey Hicks suggested that the Open and Caskets Doubles Championships might be played as Draw and Process; and now, more than a decade later ("Croquet players, on the whole, tend to be conservative." – *Gazette*, 1912!) his suggestion has borne fruit. Whether any true Championship should, properly, be contested on a "Two-Life" system, whereby players who have, at some stage of the event, been defeated, can, indeed often do, emerge as the eventual winners, is another matter. But, certainly, the Caskets and Opens weeks were becoming rather "thin" in their later stages. There is a danger that the experiment might result in blocking problems for a few star performers at the end of the week; but if it does, then they will have to play later – serve them right, anyway, for being so much better than the rest!

The First Division (Roehampton Cup) of the Challenge & Gilbey Tournament has also gone over to Draw & Process; but an even more violent departure from tradition has overtaken the Counties matches. The much-loved/greatly-detested "Semi-advanced" play has been removed from the conditions of this event; and, this year, all four lifts will be played. Considering the size and vehemence of the Progressive Lobby it is astounding, indeed inconceivable, how the tiny reactionary caucus has succeeded in averting this change for so long. At the Council voting only three voices were raised in favour of the Status Quo. It will be instructive, perhaps entertaining, to observe next month whether the inclusion of the 4-back lift causes a significantly larger number of games to be decided on time or not.

The Counties have been, traditionally, the great social event of the beginning of the season. One reads, in the *Gazette* of June 20th, 1911, how, with fourteen counties competing and "only fifteen courts at Hurlingham", play had to be continued until late in the evening. One can imagine the long, hot, Edwardian early summer evenings; the elegant *va et vient*; the mixed doubles pairs – mixed doubles were *de rigueur* in those days – all contrasting with our present wretchedly feeble entry of only FIVE counties. Surely the Midlands can produce a team, with Bowden, Edgbaston and Nottingham to draw on. Gloucestershire too, with Cheltenham and Bristol. Hampshire and Dorsetshire could well enter the Lists again. And what has happened to the gallant Irish players who transformed the competition three years ago? Also, Scotland, now, is capable of fielding a good team. Let us, at any rate next year, try to restore something of the vanished glory to what was once the most gracious and amiable of the Calendar Fixtures.

Law XIII [(a) (ii)]

The object of the revision (see "Alterations in the Laws" in the Official Notices) was to disallow, in future, the tolerance of hitting the ball with the edge of the mallet's face, as far as the *forward* swing is concerned, when judging if the striker has an open shot. So far so good – eminently reasonable, in fact. Unfortunately, however, the present rewording could result in a golf-style player, or any player who strikes his ball with a non-vertical action of the shaft, being denied an open shot, where the ball is close to a hoop or the peg – the shaft would, in the instance proposed, be impeded on the follow-through.

It is true that golf-style Associates are a diminishing

band – in the earliest days of competitive croquet, by the way, all *other* styles were held to be unfair! – ; but no one would want to deny our Vice-President, Mr. Victor Evans, Canon Pym, Mr. Stigant, Mrs. Chittenden, or Miss Ault* a lift to which their 'usual style of play' (Law XIII) entitles them. And yet this is precisely what the reworded law could do.

This matter is, admittedly, not of the widest importance. But what has promoted it to these columns is the distressing fact that all the foregoing points were raised with the Laws Committee when the proposed alterations first came before the Council. Their reply was to the effect: (1) there aren't many golf-style players in the Association now; (2) the style in question is such a poor

one that it's not worth bothering about the players who use it; (3) the law would be awkward to word if they were to be considered; and (4) it would not occur very often, if at all.

However, the writer of this Note takes a different view. He believes that it is the duty of the Laws Committee to safeguard, as a matter of inviolable principle, the *spirit* of the Laws for *all* Associates; and that this principle is of infinitely greater importance than the Laws Committee's *amour propre*.

* It can be pointed out that the ladies mentioned above have a less pronouncedly non-vertical shaft when they strike the ball than the gentlemen do. Only thorough tests on the court by experienced referees can solve this problem satisfactorily; and these, of course, should have been carried out *before* the Law was tampered with.

Hong Kong in Croquet

The expression *Hong Kong* occurs in V. Nabokov, *Pnin* (1957), Chapter V. The author, though a Russian, wrote the book in English – see the fly-leaf. The relevant quotation (pp. 130–1) is:

After dinner, a game of croquet was suggested. . . . Complaints and protests, however, would mingle with the applause when Pnin, with brutal indifference, croqueted, or rather rocketed, an adversary's ball. Placing in contact with it his own ball, and firmly putting his curiously small foot upon the latter, he would bang at his ball so as to drive the other up the country by the shock of the stroke. When appealed to, Susan said it was completely against the rules, but Madam Shpolyanski insisted it was perfectly acceptable, and said that when she was a child her English governess used to call it a Hong Kong.

Madam Shpolyanski was evidently elderly. When introduced to Pnin she says "We had some mutual friends forty years ago" (p. 121); and "In 1916 or 1917" she said [to Pnin], "you may have had occasion to hear my maiden name" (p. 131). *Hong Kong* in this sense is not recorded in *O.E.D.*, but it, as well as *up the country* (also not recorded in this sense in *O.E.D.*), is elucidated by a quotation from *Croquet* (1863) by Captain Mayne Reid (the boys' author): 'A ball croque'd beyond the boundaries is sent to "Hong Kong", or "up the country"' (p. 10). To send the ball to Hong Kong thus meant to drive it far away, Hong Kong evidently typifying somewhere very distant. It would be interesting to know why Hong Kong was chosen for this purpose. With regard to the stroke concerned, cf. Mayne Reid's remark:

THE CROQUET. – A ball, having made roquet on another, is taken up, and placed in contact with the ball on which it has roqueted. The player sets foot

upon the former; presses firmly, so as to hold it in place; and, with a blow of the mallet, drives the roqueted ball in whatever direction may be desired.

This stroke, with the foot on the ball, is still known in Garden Croquet, but in Association Croquet it has long been obsolete. Cf. *The Game of Croquet, its Laws and Regulations: with the New Laws of Croquet, as agreed to by The Conference of Croquet Players, at the Charing Cross Hotel, January 18, 1870* [n.d.], p. 6:

[New Law] 8. – A player who hits a ball must take Croquet; that is, must strike his own ball while in contact with the other, so as perceptibly to stir both. In doing this he is not allowed to place his foot on his ball.

Birmingham.
E. S. OLSZEWSKA,
ALAN S. C. ROSS.
Reprinted, by kind permission, from 'Notes and Queries',
August, 1968.

A Maddening Madrigal

(Adapted from the well-known anonymous Madrigal, "My Love in her attire doth show her wit").

My Partner's many sticks do show her bisques,
And yet we seldom win—
The reason? A minimum of risks
She'll take throughout each season.
No roquet doth she miss,
With bisques to draw upon;
But not so hot she is,
When all her bisques are gone.

EMBER

Next issue: "As It Was"—the Editor talks to Lady Julian Parr (Silver Medallist 1900, Lady Champion 1913) about Croquet's halcyon days before the Great War.

Notes from the Clubs

Budleigh Salterton – Founded 1885
(Croquet re-established by 1899)

Chairman: SIR LEONARD DALDRY, K.B.E.

Club Champion: A. J. COOPER, ESQ.

At a friendly match v. Sidmouth we won 5-1. The Novices' Salver has proved an excellent competition for beginners. Each Novice has an experienced coach who can, as in true Doubles, do anything to help, except actually play a stroke; and the game is a 14-point one (1-back to the Peg).

Mrs. Rotherham has been made an Honorary Member of the Committee as a tribute to her status as a Member of the Council of the C.A.

This season has started with a panic. By early February, applications to play in the July Official Tournament already exceeded the allotment that the lawns could take. A county-wide search for more lawns has taken place and it is hoped to organise the tournament successfully; but those competitors who do get in will have to be patient, co-operative and long suffering – and play quickly!

Hon. Secretary: LIEUT.-COL. G. E. CAVE.

Hunstanton – Founded 1912

President: B. LLOYD-PRATT, ESQ.

We are not holding a Whitsun non-official tournament this year. The September tournament continues to attract a maximum entry, and, last year, was one of the friendliest and most delightful that has been held. We are still supported by a phalanx of non-resident members, who have joined the Club out of sheer good-will, and whose support is most necessary, as well as highly gratifying, to us. But we do *urgently* need more resident players. Ours is the oldest-established Club in East Anglia, and it would be extremely sad for Croquet if, through lack of local support, we had to close down.

Hon. Secretary: MRS. A. NEVILLE ROLFE.

Nottingham – Founded 1928

President: H. O. HODGSON, ESQ.

Club Champion: M. J. BUSHNELL, ESQ.

This year we shall be hosts for the Surrey Cup, the C.A. 3rd Invitation Eight whose winner for the past two years has been our member Dr. Martin Murray.

The June non-official week-end tournament attracted a maximum entry, but the August Official one did not have as many visitors as usual. We very much hope that this year more competitors from away will support this tournament which has such an attractive and varied programme.

We are most grateful to the Colchester and Ellesmere Clubs for their donations for the Longman Cup semi-final that was held here. Court 4 has been drained during the winter.

The courts will be open from April 25th to October 3rd.

Hon. Secretary: MISS E. C. BRUMPTON.

Hurlingham – Founded 1869
(Croquet established by 1900)

Chairman of Croquet Committee: I. C. BAILLIEU, ESQ., Q.C.

Club Champion: B. LLOYD-PRATT, ESQ.

This year, as an experiment, we are holding a short non-official tournament, the first week in August, of exclusively handicap play for the Silver Jubilee Cup, with various consolation events to provide the maximum amount of play for the less successful entrants. The Official Tournament the following week will cater for all the other events that are traditionally competed for at this fixture.

The Club suffered a very sad loss with the death of Lieut.-Col. Rex Hayward, v.c., at the end of last year. He had been a courteous and superbly efficient Games Manager; and, for all Associates who have visited Hurlingham, the Club will not be the same now that he is gone. Like all truly courageous people his most outstanding quality was his gentleness. He was not a croquet player, yet he took a very real interest in all the events that were contested in our beautiful setting. In short, he was a true Gentleman; and there are not so many of his kind nowadays that he can be replaced. Our sympathy goes out to Mrs. Hayward.

Another loss has been sustained by the croquet section with the death of Mrs. Kerensky last year. She was a kindly and happy person who is much missed. Mrs. Kerensky did not compete in Open Tournaments, but played in many Club competitions, and took a genuine interest in the game. Our sympathy goes out to Mr. Kerensky and their son Oleg in their sad bereavement.

The Honble. Mrs. M. F. Buller is another member who, after a long illness patiently borne, has been recently taken from us. She was the elder daughter of the late Lord Cable, and married, *en secondes nocces*, Captain Michael Buller in 1926.

Although not a croquet player, Mrs. Buller greatly enjoyed being part of the Croquet World, and many Associates remember her with affection.

We extend our sympathy to Captain Buller and his family.

Cdr. Jenkins is seriously ill in hospital, and we all wish him a speedy and complete recovery. During his absence, the acting Games Manager is Lieut.-Col. Stewart Ramsay, to whom all our members are very grateful for stepping into the breach.

Members who happen to have read the January issue of *Harper's Bazaar* are still chuckling over an article about

Obituaries

Major J. R. Abbey

G. W. writes:

The Croquet World, the Hurlingham Club and his many friends will mourn the loss of Jack Abbey. Although he was better known as a collector and an authority on rare books and bookbindings and later on manuscripts, he was well known as a croquet player, especially for his regular appearances at Devonshire Park.

He served his country in the First World War in the Rifle Brigade and rejoined his Regiment in 1939.

Although he never reached the top class, it was a joy to watch him, for his enthusiasm and his exceptionally quick play. He was usually preparing for his next shot before the ball had stopped moving. He was always a kind and gentle man to partners and opponents alike.

He was a wonderful friend of the Sussex County Croquet Club. His father, W. H. Abbey, founded the Club in 1901 and by his son's generosity in many ways, the Club was able to improve its amenities and flourish to what it is today. Two cups bearing his name are competed for annually and Jack himself was a regular competitor at the Summer Tournaments.

His generosity in entertaining his croquet friends was well known. His keenness was such that he built for himself a lawn on ground that sloped something like forty degrees; but the highlight of his croquet career was when he brought his wife, Lady Ursula, into the game, who not only became as good as himself but also a great friend to many of us.

We will miss Jack and I am sure all his croquet friends will join in expressing their deepest sympathy to his widow.

The Rev'd

Canon R. Creed Meredith

The Rev'd Canon Ralph Creed Meredith, the younger son of the late Sir James Creed Meredith, was born in Dublin in 1887. An M.A. of Trinity, Dublin, he was President of the University Philosophical Society and Auditor and Oratory Medallist of the College Theological Society.

In 1915 he married Miss Sylvia Aynsley; and from 1924-1931 they were in New Zealand where he was Archdeacon of Waitotara and a member of the General Synod. For the last three years of his time out there he was President of the New Zealand Croquet Association, and also found time to edit *Sermons for Lay Readers in New Zealand*.

Hurlingham, written by a Mr. Murari. It attempted to be vindictive and scurrilous in tone ("Kissing the Empire Good-bye", etc., etc.); but, assisted by some rather charming photographs, mainly of members of the Devon team taken during last year's Counties Matches, it managed to make the Club seem much grander and more exclusive than it really is.

Finally, we wish to extend our very warmest congratulations to our dear and valued playing member, who has been mentioned earlier in this column in sad circumstances, Mr. Kerensky, on his being made a Fellow of the Royal Society, for outstanding work in Civil Engineering.

He is our second player to have achieved this distinction; Professor Skempton having been similarly honoured nine years ago for his eminence in the same field.

Southwick – Founded 1901

Chairman: W. G. B. SCOTT, ESQ.

Club Champion: CDR. G. BORRETT

Captain Drummond (at that time the Chief Constable of West Sussex), General Kenyon-Stow, Colonel Burton, Major Jellicorse, and W. H. Abbey, Esq., enrolled over a hundred playing members in the first year of their founding this Club. Mr. Abbey's son, Major Jack Abbey, who died recently, will be much missed here, and our sympathy goes out to Lady Ursula and the family in their sad bereavement.

Once again this season we welcome the C.A. Ladies' and Gentlemen's Championships, more popularly and colloquially known as the "Caskets" meeting, to our courts. With Draw and Process Doubles, and possibly a "two-life" du Pré Cup, the programme will be a much fuller one.

Hon. Secretary: W. J. BAVERSTOCK, ESQ.

Ryde – Founded 1906

President: MISS J. L. PRESTON

Friends of the Club will be sad to hear that our Secretary, Miss Wade, is in hospital again for another operation. We all wish her a speedy recovery.

Miss Walker is to be much congratulated on winning three of the seven Club trophies last season.

This year should see the final repayment of the last instalment of the loan from the L.T.A. and Playing Fields Association with which, together with donations, the ground was purchased for the Club ten years ago.

A faithful and much loved visitor to our tournament who will be greatly missed here is the late Canon Creed Meredith, who, with his dear wife, has supported our Club most loyally. Last year he was so hoping to be well enough to visit us as usual; but it was not to be.

An Open Day is planned for May 10th, with an exhibition match and commentary to try and interest new members in the game.

Hon. Secretary: MISS ANITA WADE.

Back in England, he was Rural Dean of Ware up to the War, and after it Rural Dean of Maidenhead. He was an Honorary Canon of Oxford and twice a Proctor in Convocation. As Vicar of Windsor from 1940-1958 he became, in 1946, Chaplain to His late Majesty King George VI, and to Her Majesty the Queen from her accession to the throne.

In Croquet Canon Creed Meredith became an Associate in 1919, and made his mark soon after the Great War, though he had to wait until six years after his return from New Zealand before he gained his Silver Medal in 1937. He has been a keen, and often forthright, member of the Council, an enthusiastic referee, a loyal and effective player in the Hampshire and Dorsetshire Counties' Team, and, with his beloved wife, a stalwart member of the East Dorsetshire Club at Parkstone, where he is so sorely missed.

Belonging, as he did, to the generation whose leading player was the redoubtable Miss D. D. Steel, the Canon imparted to his games something of that lady's formidable concentration and single-mindedness. Not for him any "bumble-puppy" footling at Croquet - the game is too good for such vacuity. There was never any doubt that he took all his matches *au grand sérieux* - and all credit to him for it. The writer of this short appreciation well remembers a Counties match in which Canon Creed Meredith and his weaker partner were having a poor time of it at the hands of a rather strong pair. At the conclusion, one of the winning players said that he was sorry the contest had been so one-sided. Canon Creed Meredith replied: "In croquet you can't afford to feel sorry for your opponent until *after* you've won. When you are playing for a team you simply *must* not do so. Thank you for the game." Perhaps it was in Handicap Doubles, that supreme test of "croquet soul", that the Canon was outstanding. Patient and sagacious, he really understood what the game was about.

There are not many of his kind left now: and he can ill be spared.

P. N. writes:

In the death, after a long illness, of Canon Creed Meredith, the Croquet World, and the Parkstone Club in particular, have lost a well-known and much respected member. Starting his croquet career in the first decade of this century at Dublin, he became a regular supporter of tournaments throughout the country and in New Zealand, where he was elected President of the New Zealand Croquet Association, before he came home in 1931.

Becoming a very competent player himself, he was always ready to help those less efficient than himself, and there are many players today, even up to President's Cup standard, who are grateful to him for his encouragement and advice in their early croquet days.

We, at Parkstone, have lost a loyal and hard working President and Chairman, and wish to put on record our appreciation of all that he did for the club. To Mrs. Creed Meredith and her family, all their friends wherever they may be, will, we know, wish to join us in offering our deepest sympathy in their great loss.

Mrs. B. T. O'Reilly

E. M. L. writes:

Many Croquet Associates on both sides of the Irish Sea will be saddened to hear of the sudden death of Mrs. Bertram O'Reilly at her home at Carrickmines.

In the 1950s Bertie and Mary O'Reilly were not strangers to Hurlingham and Roehampton, but, since her husband's death, Mary had virtually given up playing croquet; her last appearance at Hurlingham being as non-playing captain of the Irish Team which made such a good showing at the Inter-Counties Championships in 1967.

Mary O'Reilly's sporting interests were not confined to croquet. She had represented her Country at hockey, and was a more than useful tennis player, besides being a keen and knowledgeable racegoer.

With more spare time to devote to the administrative side of the Carrickmines Club, she was President there for three years, and Tournament Manager up to the time of her death. Those who have been lucky enough to play there will remember how her unfailing patience and good humour added to their enjoyment, and all will feel, in the words of one of her greatest friends that "Carrickmines will never be the same again".

D. J. Bird, Esq.

G. E. C. writes:

The Budleigh Salterton Club suffered a great loss early in the 1969 season in the death of Douglas Bird.

He began to play croquet in the July Tournament of 1963. Elected to the Committee in 1964, he was a most successful and able Chairman from 1965 to 1967. He and his wife won several Doubles Tournaments at Parkstone and Devonshire Park and both worked their handicaps down to the region of 9. His wise counsel is much missed.

A. B. Ward, Esq.

A. W. writes:

The Ryde Croquet Club has suffered a sad loss in the death of Mr. Ward who had been a member since 1923.

He was Chairman for several years, and President for eight years, and did valuable service to the Club.

He is much missed.

**Brigadier the Rev'd
A. F. G. Forbes, M.C.**

E.P.D. writes:

It is with profound regret that we report the sudden passing of Frank Forbes which occurred at Longsprings, Woodbridge, where he had, in recent times, made his home with his brother-in-law and sister, Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. Rupert Mortimer. He had been in reasonable health and had intimated his willingness to play for Eastern Counties in May.

Brigadier Forbes made his *début* in Association Croquet at the 1965 Colchester Tournament, to which he was introduced by his close friend, the late Mr. Walter Franklin. He then played at a handicap of nine, but his progress in the game was both rapid and continuous, and he soon became a familiar and successful figure at many of the leading Tournaments. His crowning achievement came in last year's Chairman's Salver event when, having been selected as "local reserve", he was called upon to play, with one hour's notice, and seized the opportunity to such purpose that he finished in third position.

Whether as soldier, cleric or sportsman, Brigadier Forbes was of vintage quality and it

was natural that he quickly acquired a host of friends in the realms of Croquet. He will be sadly missed at the Colchester Club where he entered every event for which he was eligible.

A determined, but unfailingly courteous opponent; a considerate and reliable partner—Frank exemplified all that is best in English sportsmanship. His passing leaves our Croquet World the poorer.

Mrs. D. W. Clark

E.P.D. writes:

The Colchester Club has lost a stalwart supporter in the recent passing of Mrs. Elsie Clark after several months of failing health borne with the utmost fortitude and courage. Mrs. Clark has contributed considerably by her ever-willingness to play a major *rôle* in the club during its years of expansion, both as a keen player and in catering and similar activities so essential in a small club with limited accommodation.

Sympathy is accorded particularly to members of the family, including Mrs. Mabel Cork (sister), Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Hallett (daughter and son-in-law), Mr. Peter Hallett (grandson), and Miss Diana Hallett (granddaughter).

**What were
your chances?—
1969**

Since my article last year attracted comments and criticisms from a number of players, I thought it worthwhile to continue the idea. This year, however, I shall merely present the figures and leave judgment to the many mathematical experts among our leading players.

There are just three comments that I would like to make. First, there are no figures for handicaps of -5, -4½, -4, -3½, 15 or 16, owing to a lack of players or games, or both, at these handicaps. Secondly, the total number of handicap games decreased last season, falling sharply from 1,371 in 1968 to only 1,002 last year. It is to be hoped that this decline will not continue. Finally, it seems that our courts are not entirely free of outside agencies in the realm of the supernatural, as, for the second year running, handicap 13 has failed to win a tournament game. It might be some consolation to those afflicted with this unfortunate handicap to reflect that it may not all be their fault!

GORDON SLATER

This year	Handicap	(Last Year)	Won	Lost	% Won
1st	-2½	(7th)	23	10	70%
2nd	-2	(10th)	28	14	67%
3rd	-1½	(2nd)	29	15	66%
4th	{ 1½	{ (5th)	57	35	62%
		(19th)			
6th	-3	(9th)	29	19	60%
7th	3	(20th)	62	42	59%
8th	0	(8th)	56	40	58%
9th	5	(1st)	46	37	55%
10th	3½	(3rd)	47	40	54%
11th	-1	(16th)	37	33	53%
12th	8	(25th)	77	70	52%
13th	2	(11th)	46	43	51.8%
14th	1	(18th)	48	46	51.0%
15th	6½	(26th)	37	38	49%
16th	7	(14th)	42	44	48%
17th	4	(22nd)	33	36	47%
18th	-½	(4th)	44	53	45%
19th	9	(15th)	24	33	42%
20th	2½	(12th)	27	37	42%
21st	6	(23rd)	36	50	41.8%
22nd	7½	(21st)	10	14	41.7%
23rd	5½	(17th)	24	34	41.3%
24th	4½	(13th)	23	35	40%
25th	11	(6th)	13	28	32%
26th	{ 12	{ (24th)	6	15	28%
	{ 14	{ —			
28th	10	(27th)	17	49	26%
29th	13	—	0	19	0%

Letters to the Editor

THE ANTECEDENTS OF CROQUET

from E. H. S. Shelton, Esq.

Sir,

In a recently published book, written by Dr. J. L. Carr and dealing with "Life in France at the Time of Louis XIV", it is said that the King was fond of playing an open-air game which is the ancestor of modern Croquet.

I wrote to Dr. Carr and asked for some information about this game. His reply is most interesting and, as the subject matter concerns, mainly, the origins of Croquet, I thought it would be of interest to your readers.

from Dr. J. L. Carr.

Dear Mr. Shelton,

Thank you very much for your kind and interesting letter. I am glad that you have enjoyed the little book.

The game I had in mind was *le jeu de mail*, played with a *mallet* (hence the word) through successive hoops on the ground, whereas the associated British game of *ball-mall* appears to have been played through hoops suspended in the air down an alley. Several French towns preserve the memory of the ancient game by still referring to an open space as *Le Mail* (e.g. in Angers, M-et-L).

Unfortunately for us, the origins of the French game seem to be very hazy and vague, no reference books being willing to commit themselves as to the century in which it began to be played. However, since books on golf show drawings of Roman soldiers playing a rudimentary form of the sport around the Roman walls in Scotland and Northumberland, I suppose that *le mail* may well go back at least as far as that! Undoubtedly, the idea of tapping or pushing balls through hoops by means of a form of hammer or club must be very old indeed.

I am sorry I cannot help much more; but, since tennis ("tenez!") came from France, I think it likely that *le mail* gave us *croquet*. I presume that we use the French word meaning a sort of hook or *crochet* (as in music) - a reference presumably to the shape of the first clubs used. Do you think that this answers your question, at least to some extent? I do hope so.

Yours sincerely,

Glasgow. J. L. CARR

For some time I have had an idea that Croquet originated in Spain. At the Spanish Court towards the end of the XVIIth century an open-air game was played on a lawn, for which mallets and balls were used. Unfortunately I have mislaid the source from which I obtained this information. I wonder if any of your readers can throw any light upon this possible source of the game.

Yours truly,

Budleigh Salterton. E. H. S. SHELTON

THE SIZE OF THINGS TO COME

from the Edgbaston Club.

Sir,

As we are now well into 1970, and croquet does not seem to have set the ball rolling from the metric line, we have done some calculations which we suggest might

form the basis for immediate experiment and use, so that in 1975 when our present measurements become obsolete, croquet clubs and members neither find themselves, on one hand, suddenly confronted with the further complication of instant mental arithmetic, nor, on the other, trying to negotiate a new obstacle in convincing others that this is not an old-fashioned game.

For convenience some dimensions must be rounded off, so that there will be very slight changes in the allowed size of equipment.

BALL SIZE

Present size: $3\frac{3}{8}$ " = 92.1 mm.
(Suggest: 92 mm.)

BALL WEIGHT

1 lb. = 454 grammes.

HOOP SIZE

Standard hoop: $3\frac{3}{8}$ " = 95 mm.
President's Cup hoop: $3\frac{11}{16}$ " = 93.7 mm.
(Suggest: 94 mm.)
Height 12" = 304.8 mm.
(Suggest 300 mm.—i.e. 3 decimeters—or 305 mm.)

PEG SIZE

18" is approximately equal to 450 mm.
 $1\frac{1}{2}$ " is approximately equal to 38 mm.

The above suggestions are chosen so that any change in size or weight is negligible and so that existing equipment can continue in use.

The matter of court measurement is more complicated. As the basic unit at present is 7 yds. which equals 6.3908 m. a possible new unit of 6.4 m. could be adopted giving a court 32 m. by 25.6 m.; that is an increase of less than 2" in length and $1\frac{1}{2}$ " in width. A yard equals 914 mm. and we think that, for reasons of euphony, the balls should go on to the 'Nine Line'; nine decimetres; $\frac{1}{2}$ " less than at present.

We hope that this will start the first croquet breakthrough to International Standard Units.

Yours truly,
Birmingham. EDGBASTON METRICATION COMMITTEE

[This letter has been referred to Messrs. Jaques for comment.]

Mr. Christopher Jaques said that the Edgbaston Committee's solutions to what might well eventually become a vexing problem seem eminently sensible; as, in the event of being ultimately compelled to adopt these tiresome and alien measurements, it is, for obvious reasons, extremely important that existing tournament plant can continue to be manufactured.

With regard to the court measurements, as the correspondents point out, the $1\frac{1}{2}$ "/2" increases are imperceptible; and surely all Associates, with, of course, the honourable exception of Mrs. Sundius-Smith, have at some time or another put their ball on half an inch short - on to the "Nine Line", in fact! - EDITOR.]

"THE QUEEN OF GAMES"

from M. B. Reckitt, Esq., President of the C.A.

Sir,

In the report of the Nottingham Tournament last autumn, the writer referred to the description of Croquet as the "Queen of Games".

Whether Mr. Solomon has ever used this description I cannot say, but it is not in origin a Solomon utterance, but one attributable to our ex-President, Sir Compton MacKenzie, who took it for a dialogue on Croquet in a B.B.C. programme. And very good publicity it was, for a number of listeners must have turned on their sets to discover to which game it was going to be applied.

No doubt the disclosure had very salutary, if perhaps unexpected, results.

Yours truly,

Roehampton M. B. RECKITT

NEWS FROM NEW ZEALAND

Our correspondent, Mr. John Prince, who was the leading member of the N.Z. Test Team, has sent us some information about the main events recently played there.

South Island Champion, and Men's Champion: Mr. Pat Rudolph, who also won the Doubles with Mr. Gordon Rowling.

A sixteen-year-old boy (unnamed) won both handicap Singles events, and a Level event, and was runner-up in the Doubles with Mr. McNab.

North Island Champion: Mr. Keith Woollett. Men's Champion: the veteran Mr. Arthur Ross.

Dominion Champion: Mr. Woollett. Doubles Champions: Mr. Woollett and Mr. Prince. Runners-up: Mr. Rowling and Mrs. Jarden. The latter winning the Ladies' Championship.

David Curtis, who is well remembered by many of us, has not been in good form, having been worried over his wife's health; but happily she has now recovered.

There is some expectation that Mr. Ashley Heenan may return to the game next season; and there is every chance that the team New Zealand hopes to send here in 1974 will be an extremely strong one.

English Silver Medal: Mrs. J. N. Ward.

English Bronze Medal: Mrs. D. Fielding.

M. B. R.

SOUTH AFRICAN CROQUET ASSOCIATION

South African Open Championships

November 8th-14th, 1969, at Pietermaritzburg

Open Championship (39 entries)
(BELCHER CUP)

Winner, and English Silver Medal: C. Hambley.
Runner-up, and English Bronze Medal: D. Cunningham

Open Doubles Championships (19 pairs)
(LADY STEEL SALVERS)

Winners: C. Hambley and D. Cunningham.
Runners-up: Mrs. F. Arbuthnot and R. Wood.

Open Handicap Singles (27 entries)
(RONDEBOSCH TROPHY)

Winner: Miss E. Rislely (3).
Runner-up: K. McIvor (5).
The number of entries was the highest for many years.

F. HOUGH (Hon. Secretary)

REFEREES

from Mrs. D. M. C. Prichard

Sir,

Last year I wrote offering £5 to the Club which produced the most new referees in ratio to their playing membership. Only two referees were passed during the playing season but there are several more in the pipeline and I have been requested to let the award run on to include this coming season. The closing date is therefore to be 19 October 1970.

It would help candidates if the Referee of a Tournament would designate on his List of Referees any examining referee present.

Yours truly,

Gobion Manor. ELIZABETH PRICHARD

AUSTRALIAN CROQUET COUNCIL

The results of the Dominion Championships appeared in the last issue, with the winners of the English Medals.

Associates will be interested to hear that the Victorian silver cup that the Association presented to Australia at the end of the last Test series is being awarded for their Ladies' Championship. The sterner sex is to compete for the Tray that was presented by New Zealand.

MRS. G. MILLAR (Hon. Secretary)

With apologies to Simple Simon . . .

Col. Wheeler met a peeler
Stuck in the penult.
Col. Wheeler peeled the peeler,
Peeled and pegged him out.
Then the peeler shot at Wheeler,
Hit his ball so slick,
He made his hoops, and pegged his ball
And beat him on the stick!

AUNT EMBER.*

* No relation to the famous author of the 'Maddening Madrigal' that appears elsewhere in this issue.—Editor.

THE SCOTTISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

will be held at the

JORDANHILL TEACHERS' TRAINING COLLEGE, GLASGOW

Monday, August 24th-Saturday, August 29th

Committee: THE SCOTTISH CROQUET COMMITTEE

Manager, Referee and Handicapper: B. LLOYD-PRATT, Esq.
Secretary: DR. J. O'D. ALEXANDER, 79, Ayr Road, Newton Mearns, Glasgow, N.B.

EVENTS

- I. The Scottish Open Championship ("Two-life" system).
Holder: B. Lloyd-Pratt. Entry fee: 17s. 6d.
- II. Restricted Handicap Singles—3½-8 bisques ("X-Y").
Holder: W. Spalding (4). Entry fee: 17s. 6d.
- III. Restricted Handicap Singles—9 bisques and over ("X-Y").
Holder: F. V. X. Norton (10). Entry fee: 17s. 6d.
- IV. Open Handicap Singles ("X-Y") Challenge Cup.
Holder: Dr. R. M. Milne (2½). Entry fee: 15s. 0d.
- V. Handicap Doubles (combined handicap to be not less than 5).
Holders: Dr. R. M. Milne and R. F. O. Kemp (5½). Entry fee: 10s. 0d.

Usual Tournament conditions will apply.

Entries for Events I-IV close on Tuesday, 18th August, and should be sent to the Secretary, Dr. Alexander, at his above address; cheques to be made payable to: "The Glasgow Croquet Club". No competitor may enter for more than one event of events I-III.
The Draw will take place at the Glasgow Croquet Club at 6.15 p.m. on Wednesday, 19th August.

Six, if necessary eight, courts will be provided. Morning coffee, luncheons and teas will be available.

A Vth event: Evening Handicap Singles (no games to start until after tea) is planned. Entry fee: 10s. 0d.

THE 1970 SEASON

by the Chairman of the Tournament Committee

Once again it is time to write about the coming season, and, for me, my last effort, as my four-year stint as Chairman of the Tournament Committee ends after the A.G.M. I shall hand over to my successor with a certain amount of relief.

There are some alterations in the Official Tournaments fixture list, the most important being that the Ladies' and Gentlemen's Championships ("Caskets") go back to their original place after the Inter-Counties Championships, but played again at Southwick (June 1st-6th) at the kind invitation of that Club. This relieves a most congested part of the Calendar, and enables Cheltenham to return to their old date instead of clashing with Colchester.

Compton and Ryde dates are also changed. We did not wish Ryde to clash with "Caskets"; and Compton has been upset by the fact that an important pre-Wimbledon tennis tournament is to be held at Devonshire Park the week they normally have their official tournament. This would probably have meant fewer entries, and no helpers. However, all was eventually sorted out, thanks largely to the co-operation and goodwill of the Ryde Club.

The Fixtures booklet, which this year must be called

Extracts from Minutes of Council Meetings:

February 7th, 1970

1. Matters arising

- (a) *Secretary C.A.* Mr. Townsend reported that he and Mr. Oldham had interviewed several candidates for the post of Secretary to the C.A., and that they recommended Mr. V. Robinson for the post. This was unanimously approved.
- (b) The Council passed a vote of thanks to Mr. Caporn for editing the Calendar Fixtures List for 1970.

2. Correspondence

A letter was received saying that the Edinburgh Club would be unable to hold a tournament in 1970 owing to the Empire Games, but the four Glasgow Clubs had suggested a joint tournament instead. The dates 24-29 August had been suggested to them.

3. Delegates' Conference

The Council took note of the Minutes of the Delegates' Conference.

4. Laws Report

- (a) The alterations to the Laws proposed by the Council at their last meeting and published in January 1970 were duly ratified as published elsewhere in this issue.
- (b) A further alteration to Law 23(c) was proposed by the Council as published elsewhere in this issue.

5. Report of Publicity Committee

Professor Neal presented the report, which was adopted. The main points were:

- (a) That an exhibition match should be held at Devonshire Park in July or August 1970, and that the possibility of a further exhibition at Hove should be explored.

In addition it was agreed that the possibility should be considered of staging the usual middle Sunday exhibition at the Devonshire Park tournament, making use, if necessary, of players already present at Devonshire Park.

- (b) Professor Neal was authorised to go ahead with preparing an application for a grant from the Department of Housing and Local Government.

6. Croquet Gazette

Mr. Lloyd-Pratt, the new Editor, said that he had hopes of approaches that he was making to new printers.

7. A.G.M.

The A.G.M. was fixed for 2.30 p.m. on Monday 25 May, at the Hurlingham Club.

the "Blue Book" and which is such a help, contains other minor alterations. I should like to point out that the advertisement for Devonshire Park is on pages 12, 13 and 14. Last year, several entrants did not turn over to page 14, which caused a good deal of confusion.

It is most gratifying to find the venerable Roehampton Tournament restored to the Calendar in September. The Scottish Open Championships, which for various reasons, missed inclusion in the Blue Book, will take place at Glasgow this year on account of the Empire Games at Edinburgh. The advertisement appears elsewhere in this issue, and I do hope that many Associates will support this excellent fixture.

I hear that two very prominent Antipodean Ladies will be over here this season: Mrs. Jean Jarden from New Zealand, and Mrs. Biddy Dodd from Australia. It is always a great pleasure to welcome overseas visitors, and we shall look forward to meeting them and seeing them play. An old friend, Mr. Clemons from Tasmania, will be here again, too, which is a pleasant thought.

With snow all over the country while I write these words, it is difficult to believe that we shall soon be on the lawns again - let us hope without the snow! If we could have a summer like the one we had last year, how happy we should be. But whatever the weather - play well and enjoy yourselves.

HOPE ROTHERHAM.

March 14th, 1970

1. Notice of Motion

Mr. Solomon gave notice of a motion that, at the end of the 1970 playing season, all handicaps should be raised.

2. Test Tour

A letter was received from New Zealand saying that they would be prepared to send a team to England for the MacRobertson Shield in 1974.

3. Hunstanton Club

Mr. Lloyd-Pratt said that the future of the Hunstanton Club was very bleak owing to the shortage of resident playing members. The Publicity Committee was directed to look into this as a matter of urgency.

4. Election of Associates

- (a) Eight new associates were elected.
- (b) On the proposal of Mr. Solomon, it was agreed that Mrs. Jarden (New Zealand) should be made an honorary member of the C.A. for the 1970 playing season.

5. Accounts

Mr. Oldham, the Treasurer, presented the Statement of Accounts and Balance Sheet for 1969, which was adopted. He reported an excess of income over expenditure of £83 for the year.

6. Croquet Gazette

Mr. Lloyd-Pratt reported that arrangements had been made for new printers of *Croquet* (Strange of Eastbourne).

7. Coaching Scheme

Professor Neal reported that the application for a Government grant was now about to be sent.

8. Re-draft of Laws

A Sub-Committee was appointed as follows to consider a redraft of the Laws with notes: Mr. Baillieu (Chairman), Dr. Bray, Mr. Lloyd-Pratt, Professor Neal, Lieut.-Col. Prichard, Mr. Solomon, and Mrs. Sundius-Smith.

9. Secretaryship

The Chairman introduced the new Secretary, Mr. V. Robinson, who will be taking over from Mrs. Gasson in May. A vote of thanks was unanimously passed to Mrs. Gasson, whose last Council meeting this was, and who had given invaluable service for the past eleven years.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

At the A.G.M. in May, 1969, the increased subscriptions for tournament playing associates, and higher rates of levy and tribute were approved. These take full effect in 1970, and it is to be hoped that the C.A. will now be in a sound financial position.

At a S.G.M. in November, revised Rules of the C.A. were approved and incorporated into the new handbook, which has been issued free to all Associates.

A Club Delegates' Conference was held after the S.G.M. The agenda submitted by clubs was somewhat disappointing, and it cannot be said that much emerged from the Conference, although the air was cleared on a few minor matters and some useful suggestions were put forward. Although Delegates were expected to represent their club views, it was not entirely clear how far they did so, rather than their own individual opinions. On the only item on which a formal vote was taken, one club with two delegates cast one vote for and one against!

There is one major change in the calendar fixture list for 1970, the Ladies' and Gentlemen's Championships ("Caskets") reverting to their old date early in June. For the past two years they have been held immediately prior to the Open Championships, thus making a fortnight of consecutive championship play, directly preceded by the Challenge and Gilbeys and Budleigh Salterton and closely followed by Hurlingham. This proved altogether too much of a good thing and entries suffered. This was not a new experiment, as it had been tried in the 1920's and found a failure then, as can be read in Mr. Reckitt's monumental *History of Croquet*, available to all associates in the C.A. office. But how many would-be reformers with bright ideas take the trouble to read this invaluable work and profit by the lessons of history? The main object of the former change of date had been to enable young men, fettered by scholastic and University terms, to take part, but in this it failed, as only one really young man entered this year. W. de B. Prichard, who, by winning the Mixed Doubles Championship at the age of 16, became the youngest player in the history of croquet to win a Championship title.

1969 saw the revival of the Ladies' Field Cup, which had been in abeyance for some years. This resulted in a tie. By a curious anomaly and hang-over from the past, the conditions for a play-off wrongly specified best-of-three instead of a single game, as is the case in the Chairman's and Surrey Cups. This anomaly has now been removed, but it enabled Miss Warwick to emerge the winner over Mrs. Sundius-Smith.

The appeal in *Croquet* of April 1969 for more referees has met with a poor response, only two new ones qualifying during the year. Such a state of affairs is lamentable. Of the nine players involved in the Chairman's Cup, there was only one referee amongst them. Surely it is not beyond the wit and ability of any experienced player to do his duty by taking the trouble to qualify as a referee, and so relieve the burden on those who have been unselfish enough to do so.

Congratulations to John Solomon on once more retaining the title of Champion of Champions from a spirited challenge by Nigel Aspinall; but, as the Duke of Wellington said, it was "a damned close run thing". Had Solomon not hit the peg by jumping over the rover hoop, the result might have been different.

All croquet players will have learned with extreme

regret of the death of Major J. R. Abbey, one of the most delightful, ebullient and quick players we have known, and a great benefactor to the game. Our sympathy goes out to Lady Ursula.

After several years of arduous service Mr. Baillieu and Mrs. Sundius-Smith have relinquished the tasks of Editor and Assistant Editor of *Croquet*, and we are most grateful to Mr. Lloyd-Pratt for taking on this thankless job.

Our gratitude is also due to Mr. Caporn for editing and producing the annual list of calendar fixtures. We wonder now how we ever managed without this publication.

Finally, in May, we say goodbye to Mrs. V. C. Gasson, who is giving up the post of Secretary of the C.A. after eleven years of devoted service. We welcome her successor Mr. V. Robinson.

On giving up the Chairmanship of the Council, I wish you all success for 1970.

D. M. C. PRICHARD.

Important

THE GAZETTE'S NEW WRAPPER

On many occasions in the past when the *Gazette* was delivered *folded*, the cover suffered damage during the removal of the wrapper.

To avoid the disfiguring crease caused by folding the magazine and to minimize the risk of tearing the cover, it has been decided to *roll* the magazine in a new type of wrapper, the top right-hand corner of which has been left unglued. If from this corner the wrapper is either torn across or slit with a knife your copy of the *Gazette* should emerge in perfect condition.

How It Should Be Done

by the Head Groundsman at Hurlingham.

Practical Lawn Craft and Management of Sports Turf by R. B. Dawson. Crosby & Lockwood, £1 15s. (pp. 320, with 57 black and white photographs). Sixth edition, revised 1968 (first published 1939).

I would class this work as one of the best practical books on turf culture today. It is full of the things that groundsman want to know, and should know, about turf culture.

Two points: the title-page promises a Foreword by Sir George Stapledon which does not appear in this edition. Also, it is a great pity that the croquet court diagram on page 303 perpetuates the old Hale setting's 28-point game with its turning-peg and "Ladies' Mile", when that setting was superseded by the present Willis one nearly fifty years ago. In the next revision, too, the publishers might insert the text's references to Croquet in the index.

I can thoroughly recommend the book, though, to anyone engaged in the job of growing good turf for any sport.

TOM GREY

Questions and Answers

Question:

Assume that you are a Referee called in on appeal and were not an eye witness to the matter in dispute. The first question is what are your powers when the dispute is as to whether the striker made a roquet in the preceding stroke?

Answer:

My powers are unfettered. I can decide that a roquet was made or even not made as the case may be. Further I can give a compromise decision. One way of giving a compromise decision is to decide that the stroke shall be played again, but I am not limited in my decision to compromise by way of replay if I do not think that best meets the justice of the case.

Continuation of Question:

That is correct. I did not ask you how you would exercise your powers. This would introduce a number of factors such as where the parties were standing and what eye witnesses there were who could help you in your decision. I merely asked you what were your powers. Now, assume in similar circumstances, the dispute is whether or not the striker moved or shook the croqueted ball in a fine take off, are your powers the same?

Answer:

No, my powers are specifically limited by Regulation 6 (e), for failing to move the croqueted ball is a fault under Law 32. I could only decide that a fault had been made if I could base my decision on the evidence of another Referee who had witnessed the stroke.

Further Continuation:

That is correct. Now assume in similar circumstances the dispute is whether the striker has made a fault in a hampered stroke. From the above answer it is clear that you cannot award a fault under Law 32 in the absence of the evidence of another Referee. Nevertheless might there be circumstances which would enable you to give some sort of redress to the aggrieved adversary?

Answer:

Yes, I might well be satisfied after hearing the facts that the striker was acting in breach of the customs of the game in failing to call a Referee to watch the stroke. Here is a simple example. The striker has run 4-Back with another ball behind the hoop. He experiments and finds that his stroke is hampered. He then moves aside to study the possibility of attempting to roquet a ball at the penultimate. Then, without warning, he suddenly attempts the hampered stroke. It would be a gross breach of the customs of the game for an experienced striker to act in such a manner, and I could take what course I thought was most appropriate under Regulation 4 (k).

HISTORY OF REGULATION 6

The above Questions and Answers do not attempt to state how you should exercise your powers, and the only generalisation that can be made is that a Referee must use his common-sense and do what he thinks best meets the justice of the case. This history of Regulation 6, however, might help one to remember what these powers are and why they have been specifically limited in the case of a fault under Law 32. Prior to the redraft in 1961, in nearly all cases when there was a dispute as to the facts, the striker's opinion prevailed as a matter of law. This was an absurd state of affairs, and the absurdity can easily be illustrated by reference to *Croquet* No. 50, April 1961, page 8, published immediately before the draft of the Laws.

Question:

A, with the Blue clip in his pockets runs the 4th hoop with Blue; B, his adversary, then claims that A's turn has ended because, he says, A has not run the 3rd hoop. A does not agree and insists that he has run the 3rd hoop. What would you decide as a Referee?

Answer:

A may continue his turn. In the absence of any clip placed on the hoop, the question becomes one of fact upon which the striker's opinion prevails under Law 29 (c).

This answer would still have been correct had there been twenty witnesses who said the contrary. The reforming element on the redraft committee were in favour of abolishing altogether the rule of law that the striker's opinion should prevail. The conservative element prophesied utter confusion unless the one of the other party was presumed to be in the right. In the result a compromise was reached between the two factions. It was agreed that a Referee on appeal should not award a fault under Law 32. The reformers realised that in the great majority of cases the adversary could protect his interests by having the stroke watched. In the draft which went to New Zealand Regulation 6 (e) imposed this limitation on the powers of a Referee on appeal. In then transpired that New Zealand felt equally hot on this subject and wanted Regulation 6 (e) removed from the draft. Neither side was at first willing to give in to the other. I pointed out that under the Introduction to the Regulations, the Regulations themselves were a domestic matter and each Council could go its own way. The U.K. wanted to retain Regulation 6 (e) as originally drafted, and invited New Zealand to pass a domestic Regulation cancelling it. New Zealand countered by stating that it was an anachronism and should be removed, and that the U.K. should pass a domestic regulation imposing the limitation. This was finally agreed, and when the Council approved the redraft they also approved a domestic regulation as originally drafted. I am not sure what happened immediately thereafter for I was not in England. Naturally there was no reference to Regulation 6 (e) in the book itself. However, at the bottom of page 5 in *Croquet* No. 57, April 1962, there appears the following excerpt:

"(f) Regulation 6. Powers of Referee on Appeal Ruling. 'A Referee on appeal has no power to award a fault under Law 32'."

One can hardly give a ruling to that effect if there is nothing in the Regulation to justify it. It should have stated that Regulation 6 had been amended by adding new sub-Regulation 6 (e) in the terms set out in the Ruling.

In these circumstances the tour to New Zealand took place, and the representatives of the respective Councils tried to bridge the gap upon this matter. This was done by creating new Regulation 6 (e) which appears in the latest reprint. The new Regulation first appears on page 7 of *Croquet* No. 67, July 1963. This only allowed the Referee on appeal to award a fault if he was satisfied by personal observation that it had been made. The Regulation reached its final form after a decision published on page 2 of *Croquet* No. 73, June 1964. There the matter rests.

I. C. BAILLIEU.

To Aspiring Referees

If you misconstrue a law
Your chance is poor
For Baillieu
Will Taillieu
Faillieu
And probably Impaillieu.

AUNT EMBER.

A Ballade of Valediction

A most colossal debt we surely owe
To one who laboured hard, and not in vain,
To keep the C.A. Office on the go,
And for a decade made it her domain.
That "April is the cruellest month"* is plain,
(Prophetic were the words of T.S.E.)
For with it came the closure of her reign—
Associates are grateful to V.C.

Her job was far from easy, and we know
Had it been ours we'd be no longer sane;
But somehow V.C. coped with all the flow
Of duties. How on earth did she sustain
Her burden, and successfully campaign
For Croquet's betterment? We hope that she
Will relish freedom after years of strain—
Associates are grateful to V.C.

* T. S. Eliot's *The Waste Land*.

A Pekinese she's always had in tow
On lightest lead, not heavy, metal chain:
First 'twas Chou An, to whom we said "Hello",
And now Ting Hai, who follows in her train,
(No "Thoughts of Mao Tse-Tung" in *this*
Peke's brain).
Combined with sad farewells are hopes that we
Our Secretary's friendship shall retain—
Associates are grateful to V.C.

Envoi

O Prince, our loss is bound to be her gain,
And you, we know, will heartily agree
With what this Ballade states in its refrain:
Associates are grateful to V.C.

Gasson Testimonial Fund

The following letter was sent in March to all Registered Clubs.

There are, however, a number of Associates who are not members of clubs, and there may also be some who have not been in touch with their clubs during the past few weeks and who may not be aware of the letter. This Note is therefore printed for the benefit of such Associates. As stated in the letter, contributions should be sent to A. J. Oldham, Esq., 18, Shottfield Avenue, East Sheen, London, S.W.14.

from Lieut.-Col. D. M. C. Prichard, Chairman of Council.

Dear Secretary,

You will have read a few months ago in the October 1969 number of the *Gazette* that Mrs. Gasson is resigning as Secretary of the Croquet Association at the end of April, after over ten years of office. Throughout this period she has given devoted service to Croquet, and the Council intends to mark the occasion of her retirement

with an appropriate presentation at the Annual General Meeting on the 25th May, 1970. It is thought that many Associates who know Mrs. Gasson personally, or through their dealings with the Croquet Association Office over the years, would welcome an opportunity to recognise what she has done for the game and be associated with this presentation.

It is the opinion of Council that the most suitable way of bringing this to the attention of all those who may feel inclined to contribute to the presentation is to ask club secretaries to inform their members of the Council's intentions at the next convenient opportunity. I should be grateful if you would agree to do this, and if you would also undertake the collection of contributions where your members wish to participate.

Contributions collected by you should be sent to A. J. Oldham, Esq., 18, Shottfield Avenue, East Sheen, London, S.W.14 to reach him by 11th May. Mr. Oldham will also be happy to receive any contributions which Associates and others may, if they prefer, send direct to him.

Yours sincerely,

DAVID PRICHARD

The Croquet Association

NOTES AND OFFICIAL NOTICES

It is with a certain sadness that I write this column for the last time. This does not mean that I am not very glad to give up the heavy task of being Secretary. When I took over there was no office organisation at all. I should like to say the membership has greatly increased - and it has - but so have the deaths and resignations - and the total increase is about 125 more members.

Will Junior Associates please note their reduced subscription expires on their 24th birthday (not 27th as before).

Once again, on behalf of the Editor, I would stress that unless publication is to be seriously delayed, reports of Tournaments, clearly written or printed on one side only, must reach this office within seven days of the end of the Tournament.

PRIZE LIST. Omitted in error:

M. Stride (-1): Brighton, OS.1., HS.3, and HD. 2 (-2).
D. J. V. Hamilton-Miller (-3½): Eastbourne, GOS. 1, and Hurlingham, GHD. 1. J. Parr (9): Hurlingham, GHD. 1. (8). M. B. Reckitt (2): Hurlingham, GHD. 2. B. Lloyd-Pratt (-3): Hurlingham, GHD. 2.
Correction: A. J. Cooper (-3½): Eastbourne, GOS. 2.

SILVER MEDAL. With many apologies for omission in Handbook: 1967 - G. E. P. Jackson.

The C.A. will endeavour to provide a team to play a match against any Club desiring such a fixture. Will the Club Secretary please write to D. C. Caporn, Esq., 1, Pinelands, 12, Beech Avenue, Weybridge, Surrey.

Please note:— C. Haworth, Esq.'s. address is LEICESTERSHIRE not Lancashire as published on page 25 of the 'Blue Tournament Book'.

A new Club has just been formed and registered with the Association: The STOURBRIDGE Croquet Club, Avondale, Vale Street, Ruiton, Sedgley, Worcestershire. Hon. Secretary: G. E. P. Young, Esq. It is quite a going concern, well organised and I thank Mr. Young for the Rules and Constitution he sent me. Anyone interested in croquet in the vicinity should make full enquiries. They play in St. Mary Steven's Park.

Down South, FRANT, near Tunbridge Wells, is another Club that is beginning to make headway. It has been rather a slow process as funds were low and there were very few members. Now it has several new members and more amenities, thanks to the generosity of members, and the founder, G. W. Williams, Esq., is very hopeful.

If Professor Neal succeeds in getting his C.C.P.R. Coaching scheme going I see many changes in the future expansion of croquet.

I should like to thank Club Secretaries for the generally happy relationship that there has been always between us, and to wish them and their Clubs all good fortune in the future. Finally my warmest thanks to Mrs. Showan, a most invaluable Assistant who has always been a tower of strength.

Annual General Meeting

TO BE HELD AT
THE HURLINGHAM CLUB
ON
MONDAY, 25TH MAY 1970 AT 2.30 P.M.

AGENDA

- Minutes of A.G.M. held on 26th May, 1969.
- Minute of Special Meeting held on 22nd November, 1969.
- Report and Balance Sheet.
- Election of Hon. Treasurer
Mr. A. J. Oldham retires and offers himself for re-election.
- Election of Members of Council.
The following retire by rotation and offer themselves for re-election:
I. C. Baillieu, Esq., Q.C.
G. Birch, Esq.
Dr. R. W. Bray.
B. Lloyd-Pratt, Esq.
A. J. Oldham, Esq.
Major R. F. Rothwell
Mrs. B. L. Sundius-Smith
Mrs. N. A. C. McMillan.
Victor Evans, Esq., having been elected Vice President, and A. A. Reed, Esq., having resigned, there are therefore 9 vacancies to be filled, including 8 retiring members seeking re-election.
- Resolution to appoint Auditors and to agree their remuneration.
- Any other business.
- Vote of thanks to the Chairman.

NEW ASSOCIATES

MRS. L. CORDY, 2, South Hill, Felixstowe, Suffolk.
H. F. L. JENKING, Esq., Ashcroft, Maudlin Park Way, Steyning, Sussex.
MRS. E. ASA THOMAS, J.P., Whitethorn House, Crawley, near Winchester, Hampshire.
DR. AND MRS. M. D. NOSWORTHY, Malling Abbey Gate House, West Malling, Kent.
J. W. KERR, Esq., 66, The Grove, Marton-in-Cleveland, Middlesbrough, Yorkshire.
E. J. TUCKER, Esq., 85, Pashley Road, Eastbourne, Sussex.
R. W. NEWNHAM, Esq., Ford Cottage, Brightstone, Newport, Isle of Wight.
G. H. BETTS, Esq., Newnham Manor, near Wallingford, Berkshire.
MRS. I. N. DUVEEN, 15, Ravenshall, Westcliff Road, Bournemouth, Hampshire.
JOHN PARR, Esq., 2, Fernshaw Road, London, S.W.10.
G. S. DIGBY, Esq., 220, Malden Road, Colchester, Essex.
J. R. G. SOLOMON, Esq., High Warren, Ashted, Surrey.
B. ASTINGTON, Esq., Willowgreen, West Wittering, near Chichester, Sussex.
MRS. A. G. BUCKNELL, 87, Danethorpe Vale, Sherwood, Nottingham.
J. HOWARD WRIGHT, Esq., 17 Greygoran, New Sauchie, Clackmannanshire, Scotland.
J. H. J. SOUTTER, Esq., 28, Swinerton House, Phyllis Court Drive, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire.
MR. AND MRS. A. BLENKIN, 26, Peregrine Road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.
L. S. BUTLER, Esq., 16, Haynes Avenue, Poole, Dorsetshire.
MRS. E. W. WARD, 52, Dunster Road, West Bridgford, Nottinghamshire.
I. S. ANDERSON, Esq., 16, Watford Road, Radlett, Hertfordshire.
G. E. P. YOUNG, Esq., Avondale, Vale Street, Ruiton, Sedgley, Worcestershire.

OVERSEAS

FRANK MACLEAR, Esq., 11, East 44th Street, New York, U.S.A.
M. L. BROWNE, Esq., Mount Moro Road, Villanova, Philadelphia 19085, U.S.A.
R. C. BROWN, Esq., 824, de Kalb Street, P.O. Box 467, Norristown, Philadelphia 19404, U.S.A.
J. PENFIELD SEIBERLING, Esq., 425, North Portage Path, Akron, Ohio 44303, U.S.A.
KAZEM Y. KASSANTINI, Esq., P.O. Box 3131, Beirut, Lebanon.
MRS. G. L. SCOTTER, 12, Thornton Street, Fairlight 2094, Australia.

Subscriptions, Tribute and Levy

I. Subscriptions

- Standard rate: £4.
- Reduced rates: (i) Junior members: £1 10s. 0d. (up to the age of 24).
(ii) Golf croquet only, and non-Tournament members [Rule XXIII (d)]: £1 10s. 0d.
(iii) Overseas Members: £1 10s. 0d.

II. Tribute

Payable by all non-Associates who enter any Tournament in the Calendar, except: the All England Handicap, the Longman Cup, and the Inter-Counties Championship; at the following rates:

- £2 10s. 0d. per Tournament.
- 17s. for one event only in a tournament
- 10s. for a tournament at which there is only one event.

These rates also apply to Associates who pay the reduced subscription under Rule XXIII (d). Non-Associates playing in a Calendar Fixture for the first time are excused tribute for that one occasion.

III. Levy

- Official Tournaments: 6s. per event.
- Non-official tournaments. Provided that an Official Tournament is held, every Club may hold one non-official tournament free of levy. At all subsequent non-official tournaments listed in the Calendar half levy (3s. per event) is payable.

May I ask all Associates who have not paid their subscriptions for this year, to do so without delay, please?

NEW ADDRESSES

DR. J. O'D. ALEXANDER, 79 Ayr Road, Newton Mearns, Glasgow, N.B.
E. H. S. SHELTON, Esq., 5, West Hill Court, Budleigh Salterton.
H. E. GOULD, Esq., 29, Newmarket Road, Norwich.
J. N. ROBINSON, Esq., 245, Sutton Road, Walsall, Staffordshire.
MISS D. A. LINTERN, 95, Kenilworth Court, London, S.W.15, (Tel. Putney 1062)
G. N. ASPINALL, Esq., 63, Gordon Road, London, W.5. (Tel. 997-5302)
M. BROUGHAM, Esq., Rose Cottage, Lunan Bay, Arbroath, Angus, N.B.
D. W. JESSON-DIBLEY, Esq., 72, Albany Mansions, Albert Bridge Road, London, S.W.11. (Tel. 228-7506)
R. O. HICKS, Esq., 5, St. George's Square, London, S.W.1.
MRS. L. KIRK-GREENE, The Mansion Hotel, Eastbourne.
G. G. STRUTT, Esq., 517, Victoria Road, Ruislip, Middlesex.
MR. AND MRS. P. GIFFORD NASH, 51, Glebe Road, London, S.W.13. (Tel. 876-4189)
W. CDR. D. L. ALLEN, 16, Lyndale Close, Milford-on-Sea, near Lymington, Hampshire.
MRS. G. F. H. ELVEY, 55, Hove Manor, Hove Street, Hove, Sussex. (Tel. Brighton 734212)
LADY FITZGERALD, Garden Reach, Main Road, Cabinteely, County Dublin, Ireland.
CAPTAIN AND MRS. H. F. NALDER's telephone number is Woking 63865.
MR. AND MRS. J. B. MEACHEM's Town address is: 88, Hurlingham Court, London, S.W.6. (Tel. RENOWN 8714)

I am asked to point out that their name should be spelt as above, and NOT as it appears in the Handbook and previous Gazettes.

NEW OFFICIALS

New Manager, Referee and Handicapper: DR. R. W. BRAY.
New Manager and Handicapper: MAJOR R. F. ROTHWELL.
New Managers: G. E. P. JACKSON, Esq., the Rev'd. W. E. GLADSTONE, S. S. TOWNSEND, Esq.
New Handicappers: G. BIRCH, Esq., D. C. CAPORN, Esq.
New Referees: MRS. B. L. SUNDIUS-SMITH, G. N. ASPINALL, Esq., R. O. B. WHITTINGTON, Esq., PROFESSOR B. G. NEAL, and DR. W. P. ORMEROD.
New Umpires: MISS K. M. O. SESSIONS, J. N. ROBINSON, Esq., and J. A. WHEELER, Esq.

Deletions: Miss Adye (at her own request), Mrs. Challon, Mrs. Green, Mrs. Rogers, Mr. Ward Petley, and Mr. Yarwood.
Through Death: Mr. Bell, Dr. Penny, Mrs. McMordie, Canon Creed Meredith.

The Official List of Examining Referees is as follows:
I. C. BAILLIEU, Esq., Q.C., B. G. PERRY, Esq., H. C. S. PERRY, Esq., LIEUT.-COL. D. M. C. PRICHARD, MRS. D. M. C. PRICHARD, PROFESSOR B. G. NEAL, MAJOR J. M. RIVINGTON, J. W. SOLOMON, Esq., J. G. WARWICK, Esq., DR. A. L. YOYALL.

ALTERATIONS IN THE LAWS

(Pursuant to Rule XIV)

At their meeting on February 7th, 1970, the following alterations proposed by the Council at their meeting on November 29th, 1969, and published in *Croquet* of January 1970, were duly ratified, and become Law forthwith:

LAW 2 (d)

Delete the words 'only' in lines 1 and 3 and add after the word 'wood' in line 3 the words: 'or any other material providing that the player thereby gains no advantage over wood'.

LAW 3 (b)

Add at the end of sub-law 3(b): 'In addition a peg or mark may define the east end of A baulk and the west end of B baulk.'

LAW 13 [(a) (ii)] (See Rover Note)

After 'swing of the mallet' in line 2 add: 'prior to impact between mallet and ball'.

Substitute semi-colon for full stop at end of first sentence and add: 'or if any part of the striker's ball is within the jaws of the hoop.'

LAW 23

Delete Law 23(b) and substitute: '(b) Notwithstanding the generality of sub-law (c) below, a hole in a corner spot shall always be regarded as special damage and the striker may take action accordingly.'

LAW 43

Add new sub-para as follows: '(c) When a side plays the first stroke of a turn with the wrong ball, a half bisque or a bisque may be played subsequently by either player.'

The Council also passed a resolution proposing the following alteration to Law 23(c): Add at end of Law 23(c) the following: 'Further when any ball is moved under this Law, any other ball likely to be affected by the stroke shall also be moved so as to maintain the relative position of such ball. Any ball so moved and not displaced by the stroke shall at once be replaced.'

HANDICAP ALTERATIONS AGREED BY THE HANDICAP CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

CLUB RECOMMENDATIONS:

Budleigh Salterton

B. G. Perry -3½ to -4; Col. D. W. Beamish -1½ to -1; Mrs. W. Nash 7 to 6; Mrs. R. C. Hawkins 6 to 4; Dr. C. W. Evans 14 (D.12) to 10(D.8); C. Edwards 8(D.7) to 7.

Bristol

Miss K. Ault 3 to 2½; Mrs. A. C. Jupe 11 to 10; Dr. G. L. Ormerod 3 to 4; Mrs. G. L. Ormerod 10 to 8; Mrs. Hilda Harris 13 to 12 (D.11); Miss B. E. Setter 11 to 10; W. Trevor Johnson 10 to 9; Mrs. W. Trevor Johnson 14 to 13; A. C. Jupe 5 to 4.

Parson's Green

John Parr 8(D.7) to 7.

Caversham

F. E. Pearson 4 to 3. (Non-Associates: Professor B. G. F. Weitz 5 to 4; Mrs. B. G. F. Weitz 9 to 8; P. H. Mann 10 to 9).

Nottingham

W. Haynes 6½ to 6; C. T. Greenwood 8 to 7; Dr. G. Quayle 5 to 4½; Mrs. E. W. Ward 7 to 6½. (Non-Associates: Mrs. D. Harris 8 to 7; G. Henshaw 7 to 6½; Mrs. M. Cherry 10 to 9; A. W. Lewis 9 to 7; C. Chamberlain 12 to 10; Miss D. Taylor 13 to 12; Mrs. C. T. Greenwood 13 to 12; Miss L. Winfield 16 to 14; Mrs. E. Lewis 16 to 14; Miss E. Rose 16 to 14; Mrs. J. Dobson 9 to 7; P. L. Collinson 5½ to 4½; A. Harris 16 to 15).

Secretaries of Tournaments should scrutinise entry forms with a view to ascertaining any significant discrepancy between Club and C.A. 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).

Handicap Alterations

The attention of Associates is drawn to Regulation 11, which states that the responsibility of 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 tournament 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.

RETURN OF ATTENDANCE AT COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS 1969/1970

	Laws	Tournament	Finance and General Purposes	Publicity	Council	Total Attendances	Total Possible Attendances
Lt.-Col. D. M. C. Pritchard, Chairman (<i>ex-officio</i> , all meetings)	1	1	-	-	5	7	10
S. S. Townsend, Esq., Vice-Chairman (<i>ex-officio</i> , all meetings)	-	1	2	1	5	9	10
A. J. Oldham, Esq., Hon. Treasurer (<i>ex-officio</i> , all meetings)	-	-	2	1	4	7	10
I. C. Baillieu, Esq., Q.C.	1		2		5	8	8
G. Birch, Esq.					3	3	5
Dr. R. W. Bray		-		-	5	5	7
Cdr. G. Borrett		1		1	3	5	7
D. C. Caporn, Esq.			2	1	5	8	8
Major J. H. Dibley		1	1		5	7	8
Mrs. G. F. H. Elvey				1	3	4	6
The Rev'd. W. E. Gladstone		1			5	6	6
His Honour Judge Karmel					4	4	5
Miss D. A. Lintern		1	2	1	5	9	9
B. Lloyd-Pratt, Esq.		1			5	6	6
Professor B. G. Neal	1			1	4	6	7
B. G. Perry, Esq.	-		-		5	5	8
E. A. Roper, Esq.	-	-			0	0	7
Major R. F. Rothwell	1				5	6	6
Mrs. E. Rotherham		1			4	5	6
J. W. Solomon, Esq.	1		2		5	8	8
Mrs. B. L. Sundius-Smith		1	2		5	8	8
Dr. W. R. D. Wiggins	1				5	6	6

The Croquet Association,
Hurlingham Club,
London, S.W.6.
Telephone: 01-736 3148

V. C. GASSON, Secretary

FINANCIAL AID TO CLUBS

by the Chairman of the C.A. Publicity Committee

Clubs may not be aware of the possibilities that exist for obtaining financial support from either local authorities or central government. A leaflet describing the position, entitled 'Provision for Sport and Physical Recreation in England and Wales', was published by the Central Council of Physical Recreation (C.C.P.R.) for the Sports Council in July 1968. A copy can be obtained from the C.C.P.R. at 26, Park Crescent, London, W.1.

There are two main sources of financial support. Local authorities can give a grant to a club to help it to continue in its existing form. Central government comes into the picture when a club wishes to expand, for example by providing new courts or a pavilion.

Any local authority has powers to contribute towards expenses incurred by a voluntary organisation in providing or maintaining sports facilities within the area of the contributing authority, or on a site where they would benefit any of the inhabitants in the area. These permissive powers may be used to help clubs in the purchase of equipment of all kinds. However, it must regrettably be said that, in the present economic situation, very few local authorities feel able to make grants.

When a club wishes to expand, application can be made for a grant from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. Grants may be made for new and additional facilities, including essential initial equipment, provided a club can show that: *it needs the money; it is open to the public in general; and it will have security of tenure*. This last condition is met if a club owns its premises or holds them on a long lease (minimum period 28 years).

THE CROQUET ASSOCIATION

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1969

	Year to 31.12.68		
	£	s.	d.
Income			
Subscriptions	1,175	13	0
Affiliation Fees and Overseas Members	146	19	0
Levy and Tribute	542	13	0
Sale of Books, Laws, etc.	200	9	7
Dividends from Investments (Net)	167	13	0
	2,233	7	7
Less: Expenditure			
Net Costs of Tournaments	54	15	3
Gazette, less Income from Advertisements and Donations (£51 10 0)	599	8	1
	654	3	4
	1,579	4	3
	1,502	4	2
Surplus on sale of Investment	77	0	1
	6	5	3
Excess of Income over Expenditure	£83	5	4
			£3

INVESTMENTS HELD AT 31st DECEMBER, 1969			
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	887
75 0 0	Midland Bank Ltd., £1 Ordinary Shares ..	204 0 4	244
163 0 0	Omnium Investment Co. Ltd., 5/- Deferred Shares	186 18 10	725
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	1,122
218 3 0	3½% War Stock—Held for Apps Memorial Fund ..	115 10 0	87
1,250 0 0	Greater London 7½% Loan Stock 1977 ..	1,216 14 1	1,100
400 0 0	The New Throgmorton Trust Ltd. Income Shares of 5/- each	478 15 0	400
		3,748 14 10	£4,565

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	

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If the grounds belong to a Local Authority the club is not eligible for this type of grant. The amount of grant is up to 50% of the cost of approved projects, subject to a normal maximum of £10,000.

The club may also apply to its local authority for a loan to meet up to 25% of the capital cost. The remaining 25% must be met from voluntary sources. The National Playing Fields Association (N.P.F.A.) is prepared to grant loans for this purpose, with a current maximum of about £800, secured by guarantors.

Clubs that wish to apply for a grant from central government should discuss their project with the C.C.P.R., who will advise them on the preparation of their application. Applications are submitted in the first instance to the appropriate Regional Sports' Council, which has the task of placing applications in order of priority before their submission to the Department of Education and Science.

Apart from the two major schemes outlined above, the N.P.F.A. can also be approached for loans under the following headings:

- Private sports clubs not eligible for aid from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government because of inadequate security of tenure or range of activities. Estimates may include cost of initial maintenance equipment.
- Schemes for adults by voluntary organisations costing less than £250. (This is because the Ministry will not consider schemes costing less than £250).

B. G. NEAL.

* When questioned about this second condition, Professor Neal said that he did not think it meant that a Club would be obliged to be open to all casual passers-by. If, however, a Club in receipt of a grant failed to elect to membership a ratepayer who wanted to join, an "interesting situation would arise".—EDITOR.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1969

	As at 31.12.68		
	£	s.	d.
FIXED ASSETS			
Office Furniture and Equipment at written down value	148	0	0
Trophies—estimated to realise	2,000	0	0
Investments as per schedule attached	4,208	14	10
	6,356	14	10
			£6,314
CURRENT ASSETS			
Sundry Debtors and Prepayments	59	15	1
Cash at Bank and In Hand	1,067	11	5
	1,127	6	6
	7,484	1	4
			£7,227
Less: CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Subscriptions Received in Advance	85	15	0
Accrued Expenses	280	4	5
Taxation	14	17	0
	380	16	5
			£288
Net Assets	£7,103	4	11
			£6,939

REPRESENTED BY:

ACCUMULATED GENERAL FUND as at 1st January, 1969			
	£	s.	d.
1969	5,948	10	2
Add: Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year ..	83	5	4
	6,031	15	6
			£5,949

LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND	807	0	0	712
APPS MEMORIAL FUND	115	10	0	115
DOMINION TOUR FUND	148	19	5	163
	£7,103	4	11	£6,939

We have examined the books, vouchers and other records maintained by the Croquet Association for the year ended 31st December, 1969, 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, 1969, and of the surplus of Income over Expenditure at that date.

Love's Cottage,
New Pound,
Wishborough Green,
Sussex.

NICHOLASS, REID, CORNEY & Co.,
Chartered Accountants.

6th February, 1970

Vibat Regina!