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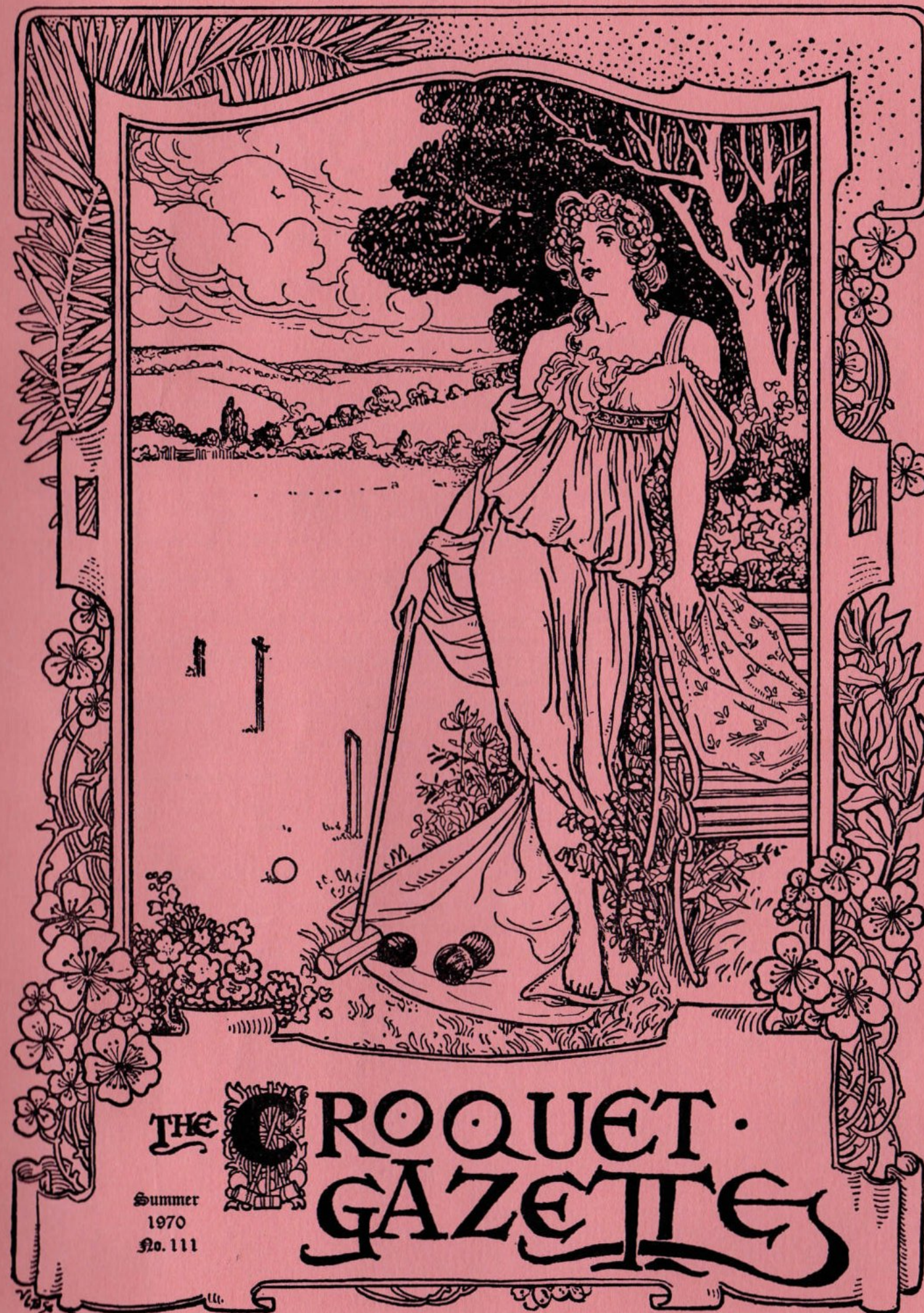
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# Calendar 1970

## C.A. & Official Tournaments

May 11th-16th	Peel Memorials ( <i>Ladies' &amp; Gentlemen's handicap singles</i> ) and <i>Lady Murray Memorials (handicap doubles)</i> , with the <i>Ascot &amp; Delves Broughton golf croquet cups</i> - at <i>Cheltenham</i> .
May 26th-29th	Inter-County Championships.
June 1st-6th	"Caskets": <i>Ladies' and Gentlemen's Championships, Mixed Doubles Championship, and the du Pré Cup</i> - at <i>Southwick</i> .
June 6th-13th	<i>Irish Open Championships, and Founders' Cup. Carrickmines.</i>
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	<i>Challenge and Gilbey Cups</i> - at <i>Budleigh Salterton</i> .
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 <i>C.A. Trophies for Ladies', and Gentlemen's, Handicap Doubles.</i>
August 17th-21st	<i>The Ladies' Field Cup</i> - at <i>Cheltenham</i> .
August 17th-22nd	Nottingham: Nottinghamshire Championship, and the "Robin Hood" Gold Cup.
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	<i>Invitation Eights: The President's Cup; The Chairman's Salver</i> - at <i>Colchester; and the Surrey Cup</i> - at <i>Nottingham</i> .
September 12th-13th	<i>Championship of Champions (Stoker Bowl).</i>
September 12th-19th	Carrickmines: Championship of County Dublin, and the Coronation Cups.
September 14th-19th	Rochampton: Ranelagh Gold Cup, and Creyke Cups.
September 26th-27th	<i>All England Handicap Finals</i> - at <i>Roehampton</i> .
September 28th-October 10th	<i>South of England Open, Ladies', Gentlemen's, and Doubles Championships.</i> <i>Devonshire Park.</i>

### Non-official fixtures

May 4th-9th	Budleigh Salterton (Godfrey Turner Cup)
May 18th-23rd	Southwick I (Jellicorse Cup)
July 20th-25th	Glasgow (Handicap 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 (Peake Tankard)
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

## For the South African Croquet Association

The entirely non-political tradition of the *Gazette* has always been rigidly, though tacitly observed, and we have no intention of departing in the smallest detail from this admirable precedent. It is saddening, though, that we have to state explicitly what has up to now been taken for granted, when we address our sister Association in South Africa.

England seems, temporarily let it be fervently hoped,

to have gone mad. A small, clamorous minority, using the threat of disorder and violence, has caused the enforcement of a political ban on the forthcoming Cricket Test Matches.

We wish to assure fellow croquet-playing South Africans that the Croquet Association is as eager now to welcome them here as it always has been.

## Rover Notes

### Haec olim meminisse iuvabit

#### Our Contributors

For the symposium on Edwardian Croquet we are particularly indebted to the four ladies who have contributed their recollections.

Mrs. Stewart Capper, as Miss Nora Beausire, won her Silver Medal in 1900 and the Ladies' Championship in 1909. She now lives in Somerset, and is our only living link with the distant pre-Revival days of the 1890's. Mrs. Capper, who goes about but little now, has not played Croquet for over sixty years. She hopes, though, to be able to attend the Budleigh Salterton Tournament next month as a spectator.

Lady Julian Parr also won her Silver Medal in 1900, as Miss Jocelyn, and the Ladies' Championship, under her married name, in 1913. She, alas! went out of Croquet the following year. At the important Lewes Tournament in 1911, which she won, her play was described in the *Gazette* as "magnificent for its pluck and its dash". One notable match in which Lady Julian was involved, this time at the Saffrons ground (the Compton Club), was the one in which she went round with the third ball—hitting "mother" near the IVth corner, bringing off the heavy split roll to hoop 2 and the enemy tice, and making hoop 1 off that tice ball, thus setting up a three-ball break—and out with the fifth. Few, if any, women players have equalled this performance. Like Miss Beausire, Lady Julian was one of the most graceful stylists in a stylish age, as can be seen from her photograph in her friend's, Lord Tollemache's, *magnum opus*.

Lady Marcia Miles, her sister, won her Silver Medal, as Miss Marcia Jocelyn, in 1908, and played twice, in 1912 and 1913, as Lady Marcia Jocelyn (their father having succeeded to the Earldom of Roden in 1910), in the Ladies' Champion Cup, the ladies invitation event, now known as the Ladies' Field Cup. She is recalled amusingly in Robert Hitchens's autobiography "Yesterday", published by Messrs. Cassell in 1947, at the end of Chapter XVIII:

"During our first summer at Wittersham we had several visitors, and also had people who came to play lawn-tennis and croquet. On one occasion the friend of ours whom we always called 'Bobbie Black', [Lady Marcia's first husband] "and whom we had met in North Africa, came to spend the day with his wife, Lady Marcia.

Some of us played lawn-tennis.

Lady Marcia sat looking on till Mrs. Knittel said tentatively, 'Perhaps you like croquet?' 'Yes; I play croquet sometimes.' 'Then let us have a game.'

A four was arranged and the game started, 'all against all'. After only three or four strokes Lady Marcia took a couple of hoops, hit an opponent's ball, and then, playing in a masterly manner never seen by any of us before, took entire charge of the match, passed through every hoop, making cruel use of the ball first struck, hit first one stick and then the other, and with inexorable composure made an end of the game.

It turned out on inquiry that she was the Champion Lady croquet-player of Ireland, and had been Champion for three years running."

This short extract illustrates the gulf that existed then, as now, between those who were part of the Croquet World and the less dedicated players who were not.

Miss Weightman, the last of our quartette, also played in the Ladies' Champion Cup in 1913, tying for seventh place with Miss D. D. Steel, who was making her first appearance in this event. Ten ladies were invited in those days to compete, but it was not until the following year that they played each other twice in it, when Miss Steel was to run out a comfortable winner. Miss Weightman, who is a member of Hurlingham, has some vivid memories of Continental Croquet in Edwardian days at Hyères and Costebelle, and at Menton ("Mentone" as the English residents and visitors used to call it) where the Championships of the Riviera were held.



### The Game They Played

Until just before the Great War it was the Sequence Game (blue-red-black-yellow) that was predominant. Some old-fashioned players in the 1890's could still be heard referring to the red ball as the "pink ball" from a popular, but obviously rather disreputable, eight-ball variant that used to be in vogue years before: blue-pink-black-yellow-brown-orange-green-red. Pegging out an opponent could be so catastrophic for the victim (*pace* Lady Marcia's searing handicap doubles with Duff Matthews), that players could, and often did, mutually agree before the start of a match *not* to peg each other out; but in 1899 these pacts were made illegal.

The notorious and controversial practice of having one end of the mallet head faced with India rubber to facilitate the execution of roll shots, which was employed by, *inter alios*, Miss Gower, was forbidden in 1901. Six years later the start from a baulk-line became general: up to then it had been three feet in front of the first hoop. The writer of this Note can recall starting serious, but not, of course, Association games, in this way less than twenty years ago. It explains why the earliest recorded maximum wins are by 26 as nowadays, although the old 28-point game, with its "Ladies' Mile" and the turning-peg after the sixth hoop, was being played. Hoops 5 and 6 used to be known as "two-to-peg" and "one-to-peg" respectively, and the Penultimate and Rover hoops were sometimes called "two-to-peg-out" and "one-to-peg-out". The choice of lead was so important then that when the half-bisque was first introduced its possession conferred that privilege.

Four-inch hoops which had been universal during the Revival at the end of the last century began to be supplanted by 3½-inch ones for Championship play in 1907 (Champion Cup—i.e. the Beddow Cup, the precursor of our President's Cup) and 1908 (the Open Championships); and, at this time too, the uprights acquired their regulation ¼-inches of cast iron, replacing the thinner and more yielding wires that now survive only in expressions like

As It Was

### Mrs. Capper

July 17th, 1901. The croquet pages of "Lawn Tennis & Croquet" recorded the fact that Miss Gower won the Ladies' Open event at Hooton Park. In the second round Miss H. Beausire had beaten Miss N. Beausire by 3. A third sister, Miss F. E. Beausire, was playing in the "B" class event, and won the Doubles, "foursomes" as they were often called then, with Mr. Reid.

MRS. C. Yes, it's all so long ago now. I can remember the Hooton Park Club, though. Polo and Croquet. It was a lovely Club. There was Captain Fenwick from Wrexham—such a fine man, and a good player.

B.L.L.-P. How did you come to take up Croquet?

MRS. C. We were all keen on it at home. My sisters and I were fond of billiards, too, which wasn't so usual for girls in those days. Our brothers kept a book for breaks of 30 or more. Sometimes I got my name into it, but not very often! The angles in billiards can be a great help in Croquet.

B.L.L.-P. Did you start playing when you were very young?

MRS. C. Oh yes. When I was quite a girl—about thirteen or so, I should say.

"wired ball" and "on the wire". Surprisingly, the "open shot" principle was not introduced until 1910; and even then the opponent had the right to dictate from which baulk-line the lifted ball was to be played, though three years later this right was abolished. Originally, then, apart from the few seasons when the in-player was obliged to leave a ball so that it could at least jump over the hoop, the "live" ball could be wedged in a hopeless position (in the earliest days, in the "cage"! ) allowing no possibility of what Mr. Baillieu calls "counter-play". Croquet's reputation for spitefulness must have stemmed from this type of situation. The Dead Boundary law, though, was one of the Conference Laws of 1870 that were mentioned in Professor and Mrs. Ross's interesting "Hong Kong in Croquet" in the last issue of the *Gazette*. In fact, all the rudiments of our modern game were embodied in those important Laws, whose centenary we celebrate, or *should* celebrate this year.

Talking of "cages" brings to mind the interesting fact that in 1898 the Committee of the United All England Croquet Association (two years later to become the "C.A." *tout court*) was deploring the practice of manufacturers who were still distributing "cages, bells and tunnels" with other outmoded accoutrements from the experimental days of the game's infancy. One was reminded of the Delegates at our recent Club Conference sorrowfully remonstrating with Mr. Christopher Jaques about his firm's describing their present wire hoops, ash mallets, and wooden balls as "tournament equipment". *Nihil sub sole novi*. The more one learns of Edwardian Croquet the more startling are the similarities between Then and Now. Apart from the differences noted above, the game—especially its *ethos*—remains, in all essentials, very much As It Was seventy years ago.

For the preceding miscellany the Editor is greatly indebted to Mr. Reckitt's MSS. on the History of Croquet, which have been, together with Mr. Noel Hicks's enthusiasm and encouragement, an inspiration to him for the interviews that follow.

B.L.L.-P. That means you must have been playing before 1890.

MRS. C. I suppose so. It didn't seem particularly remarkable at the time.

It seemed remarkable to me, because we have no players now who go back to those days before the Revival. In fact, it seemed incredible to be talking to a player who had been learning serious Croquet in the North of England years before the first (1896) Gold Medals meeting.

MRS. C. Blue-red-black-yellow—that's the sequence of the balls. I have played the "either ball" game, though. People didn't like it—it made the game too sporting!

B.L.L.-P. They brought it in just before the War.

MRS. C. Did they? I was engaged the year [1909] I won the Ladies' Championship, and was married soon afterwards. My husband was an Army man, and we went to live in India.

B.L.L.-P. Was there any Croquet there?

MRS. C. I don't remember any. I never played again.

B.L.L.-P. Can you recall any prominent players in the Croquet World before you married?

MRS. C. There was Miss Gower. [*Lady Champion 1899-1901*]. She was by far the finest lady player. I can remember her being chaperoned, as we all were, at Tournaments. I lost to her in the final at Wimbledon one year [1902].

When she won the Open Championship [*this was in 1905*] and beat all the men, it took some of the glory away from our Ladies' Championship. Then there was Miss Olive Henry [*Lady Champion and Gold Medal, 1898*]. I beat her once, and all her young men admirers crowded round to condole with her. She was a pretty creature.

B.L.L.-P. There are two photographs of her in Mr. Leonard Williams's book.

MRS. C. Mr. Leonard Williams? Oh, yes! I knew him. And there was Mr. Trevor Williams, too. And Mr. Looock. He taught me a great deal about expert Croquet—how to make a break and play scientifically. Then there was Colonel Brooke who used to manage the Championships.

B.L.L.-P. Miss Henry was a golf-style player. Did you play like her, or facing the line of aim?

MRS. C. I played with a very tall-shafted mallet; and I never, by the way, used India rubber. I couldn't get on with "side-play" at all, but most of the players did use that style in those days.

B.L.L.-P. Did the Irish players?

MRS. C. Oh, no! They were very strong players. Corbally and O'Callaghan; and a young man—from New Zealand, I think.

B.L.L.-P. Izard?

MRS. C. Yes! that's his name. My father used to think they were too young for Croquet! He said they ought to be playing more *vigorous* games.

There were big Tournaments at Manchester, on the Old Trafford. Do they still hold them there?

B.L.L.-P. No, alas! Not for many, many years now.

The report of your Ladies' Championship in 1909, which you won, said: "The entry was high both in quantity and quality." Have you any special memories of that event?

MRS. C. I had a very close match, in the semi-final I think it was. Mrs. Blood—a most *difficult* person to beat—thought she was for the peg with both balls, and then discovered, too late! that one still had not made the last hoop; so I won instead of her. The final, against Miss Willis, was not so tough; but I do remember that I had put on my very *best* frock for that match, and my friends all said that its train was far too long and would get in the way; so they pinned me up with safety pins! But I still won.

### The Lady Julian Parr

B.L.L.-P. You may think it rather strange, Lady Julian, that I want to ask you about Edwardian Croquet, but, to our present-day Associates, the time when you were playing does seem like a vanished Golden Age. For example, in 1902 there were 508 entries at Devonshire Park—last year there was barely one-tenth of that number competing. In 1914 there were 2,282 Associates on the List—now we have less than a third of that total.

LADY J. Yes, I can see that the twentieth century has not been kind to Croquet. It is *such* a good game; but it takes time, as well as space.

B.L.L.-P. How did you become interested in the competitive game?

LADY J. When I was quite a child at home, in Ireland—we lived at Tollymore Park: it's now the headquarters of the Irish Forestation Commission—my mother used to have marvellous croquet parties.

B.L.L.-P. The game, we are told, originated in Ireland in the 1840's.

LADY J. Yes, I believe that is so. My mother must have been carrying on with the sort of croquet she had learnt as a girl. Naturally, this would not have occurred to me at that time. I do remember having to play Lord Delamere. He seemed enormous, and rather forbidding. I had quite a nightmare about it!

"Do I have to play the 'grinning child'?" he enquired. I suppose I must have had a very "sunny disposition" to be spoken of as a "grinning child"—extrovert they call it now, I believe. I can't remember who won, though. I expect he did.

B.L.L.-P. Private croquet must have been quite different from open tournaments.

LADY J. It certainly was. It was all very sociable; and perhaps, looking back to those days, rather charming. But after playing competitively I couldn't help finding the "home-grown, garden variety" a bit insipid—rather a *silly* game. I think the first Tournament I played in was some time around the turn of the century at the Old Trafford at Manchester.

B.L.L.-P. Miss Nora Beausire, she's Mrs. Capper now, played there.

LADY J. Really. Yes, she was older than I was. Is she still alive?

There was a Mr. Dewhurst and his friend Mr. Payne who persuaded me to "take the plunge". We were living in Cheshire then, and I seem to remember it was all done "on the spur of the moment". I had a wonderful tournament and got quite taken up with the competitive game. Garden party croquet could be amusing, but I don't recall anyone making breaks or playing at all adventurously—it could be so spiteful, too! The tournament game was so much more worth-while. You felt you could take it seriously.

I married shortly afterwards, though, and didn't come back into Croquet for some years.

It did not seem *possible* that the alert and, for want of a better adjective, youthful woman with whom I was talking had been playing Croquet and had actually gained her Silver Medal when Queen Victoria was on the Throne, and our Empire was, more or less, intact.

B.L.L.-P. I wonder if your Mr. Payne was the P. G. S. Payne who started agitating for the "either ball" game in 1902.

LADY J. Probably it was. He was a very dedicated player, and taught me a great deal. The "either ball" game didn't really come in until just before the War, and then only as an Alternative for Championship play. Most of us found it terribly muddling. It completely altered the Tactics, you see. Though some of the matches before it was brought in had been dreadfully one-sided, especially in the "A" class.

B.L.L.-P. Can you tell me anything more about the Croquet World after you came back into the game?

LADY J. There was Mr. Trevor Williams. We all knew him as the "Father of Modern Croquet", he did such a lot for it. He used to take a house in Eastbourne for the Lewes Tournament, and gave the most marvellous House Parties. Mrs. Park-Yates was another very hospitable entertainer, for Hooton Park. That Club produced some very good players.

Roehampton was our Headquarters after Wimbledon [1903, the year that the first "*Gazette*" was published]—lovely courts. Hurlingham, too, had excellent Croquet. Their courts were faster and more exciting than Roehampton's.

The best lady player was, of course, Miss Gower, later Mrs. Beaton. And then there were those wonderful Irish players, Corbally, O'Callaghan, and Duff Matthews. Their play was so *dashing*. When I met Duff Matthews, though, in the Champion Cup—I only played in it [1913] once—he started off so badly in our first-series match, that I said to him: "Come on! If you go on playing like this I can't help beating you. It doesn't matter to me, but you might win the event!" Then he *did* pull himself together.

B.L.L.-P. Did you have any special *bête noire*?

LADY J. (*sharply, as though stung*) Yes. Mrs. Blood! Like most of the other women players, I found her awfully difficult to get past. Yet my sister, Marcia, used to find her far less troublesome than I did. Funny, isn't it?



B.L.L.-P. It's certainly not uncommon. Leonard Williams, in his book on Croquet, said: "A player can find his combative faculties rebuked and crippled by some antagonists more than others, in the same way that Marc Antony felt weak and incompetent in Caesar's presence."

Lady Julian laughed. It was a warm, rich laugh. The years fell away; and I could see the "grinning child" who had played Lord Delamere at an Irish Country House all that long, long time ago.

### The Lady Marcia Miles

You are asking rather a lot of my memory! I gave up playing tournament Croquet when I married in 1914. My handicap was  $\frac{1}{2}$  then.

The qualifications needed to be a good player in those far-off days were: a good shot, perfect touch, accurate placing of the balls, great concentration, and the determination to win when one had an "off" day which was bound to happen during a week's Tournament. I am sure that these qualities must be necessary for your modern croquet players.

My sister and I played "front style"—that is, facing the line of aim; but most players, the older ones particularly, used "side play" which was easier for hitting the ball, but harder for aiming. Slazenger's made a lot of our mallets "to specification". I once ordered a copy of my favourite mallet, but when I got it it wasn't anything like the original.

Doubles ("foursomes" as they were sometimes called) could be tremendously exciting. Usually we played as mixed pairs. Sometimes two men might play together, but it was unusual for two women to do so. Now, in handicap doubles this made the pairing rather awkward if you were a woman minus player, as no man fancied being "bossed" by a lady captain; so I generally found myself playing with a minus partner and conceding a huge handicap to the other pair. It was, by the way, most important, if your side was an unevenly matched one, to win the toss at the start of the game so that you could put your "star" player in immediately after the opposing "rabbit". This meant that when the unfortunate "rabbit" had to deal with the "live" ball, she would be thinking all the time about what the minus player of that ball would be up to in the next turn.

The weaker players used to take such ages over their games. Some of them would take as long as three hours!

There was a large gap between the "A" class and the rest. The select band of minus players was very hard to join. At a Tournament no "rabbit" would dream of addressing one of those august creatures without being spoken to first. But if one, by one's play, and by showing that one took the game seriously, did enter the charmed circle, one found that it was, in fact, peopled by the most kindly and sportsman-like players. Of course, there was some squabbling and back-biting, and some of the good players did present a formidable exterior; but all this was on the surface. Some of the nicest people I have ever known were the "A" class players of those days.

My best win? I think, perhaps, the Devonshire Park Ladies' Championship in 1911 which I managed to win, defeating the mighty Mrs. Beaton and the redoubtable Mrs. Blood. This latter player was a great "thorn in the flesh" of my sister's—she may have told you! I played twice in the Ladies' Champion Cup, doing badly the first time and well the second. But a game I shall never forget is a handicap doubles I played with Duff Matthews. We had to give a vast number of bisques to a Mr. Hughes and his partner. He had nursed her round to the peg, and was for 4-back himself when I hit in. This was the first time in the match that we had had the balls.

"What shall I do now?" I asked my partner.

"Oh! You triple-peel Hughes out, so that I can go out before his partner has her turn," he replied.

This, clearly, was our only possible chance, as several bisques were still standing. Anyhow, I managed to achieve what my partner had told me to do, and, the "live" ball having been pegged-out, Mr. Matthews duly finished the game on a three-ball break in the next turn. I loved handicap play, and enjoyed trying to give a large number of bisques.

Croquet is a splendid game, and I have such very happy memories of it. I should like to hope that the players of today who may read these notes find as much enjoyment in it as I did sixty years ago.

### Miss Weightman

B.L.L.-P. I have seen Mrs. Capper and Lady Julian Parr, and Lady Marcia Miles has sent me some notes for this symposium.

MISS W. Now, that really is most interesting. I knew them all before the War—the first World War, that is. You must be tired of interviewing old ladies!

B.L.L.-P. As a matter of fact, everything they told me seemed as though it had all happened only the day-before-yesterday. They were so vivid. I am sure that all Associates who read the *Gazette* will be fascinated by these first-hand accounts of our halcyon days before socialism and punitive taxation.

MISS W. Of course, when you get old, things that happened sixty or more years ago often do seem more immediate and real than comparatively recent events. I suppose that, being young at the time, one felt them more strongly! I know that I myself can recall Croquet on the Riviera when King Edward VII was on the Throne much more clearly than many things that happened between the Wars.

B.L.L.-P. Is it true that the King used to cheat?  
MISS W. People said so. He was genuinely fond of the game, though. They started a Tournament at Homburg, you know; and the hope was expressed in certain quarters that His Majesty might enter for it. Naturally, he never did. This, I am sure, was just as well. It would have been shocking *lèse-majesté* to have beaten the King, and I cannot imagine any true croquet player wanting to lose on purpose!

B.L.L.-P. Neither can I. He never presented the Prizes, or anything?

MISS W. No, the Princess of Reuss did. I believe the whole fixture "fizzled out" after a few years, anyway. It's strange that Croquet, with its French name, never "caught on" with any of the Continental nations—the competitive game, I mean. Croquet Tournaments seem to be very much a British institution.

I did play in England as well as in the South of France; but, as you probably know, I never won an Association Championship. In 1913, though, I was invited to compete in the Ladies' Champion Cup. The great Mrs. Blood won it after a play-off against Miss Simeon, and Lady Marcia Jocelyn tied for the third place with Miss Standing. Miss Gilchrist came bottom, but she won it just after the War, and later, as Mrs. de la Mothe, she won the Champion Cup in the first year of her marriage.

B.L.L.-P. Did you know Miss Spartali? She first appears in 1902 with a handicap of 4, but became very prominent later as Mrs. Ionides.

MISS W. Oh yes! She was a most charming person as well as a wonderful player. She used to go quite a lot to Mentone.

B.L.L.-P. Before you "take off" for the Riviera, have you any more special recollections of Croquet in England?

MISS W. Well now, I started to play when I was only about thirteen years old.

B.L.L.-P. So did Miss Beausire.

MISS W. Really. Yes, she was a good deal older than me.

B.L.L.-P. She can remember playing Miss Henry at Wimbledon in the 1890's.

MISS W. Good heavens! That's almost pre-history, isn't it?

I, too, learnt at the Hooton Park Club. Mr. Cox taught me a great deal; and I won the big handicap event off something like 16.

Roehampton was where all the Championship events were contested. Colonel Brooke was a marvellous manager—absolutely fair, and so soothing. If things were going badly in your match he used to give you humbugs. He was famous for them! I remember Mrs. Herepath as being a somewhat forceful and dominating character. Oh! and Mr. Locock. He was our Handicapper, and every so often he used to put all the Associates' handicaps up. He was quite ruthless. It was specially hard on the players around the -1 mark ("owes 1" it used to be known as)—they would find themselves back among the "pluses" again, and they didn't like it in the least.

I can just remember playing with wooden (boxwood) balls. They were lighter and made a sharper clicking noise. The earliest composition ones could behave in a most peculiar way: some used to swell up, others split, and one make, after being in the sun, acquired a sort of nimbus—highly disconcerting! When they were perfected, though, it was the absence of the old, sharp click of the balls that was most noticeable.

B.L.L.-P. After the English Season was over in October, did many Associates make for the South of France?

MISS W. The Championships of the Riviera were at Mentone, in March usually; but the Club, St. Michael's Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, had competitions for the monthly medals from November to April. There was also Croquet at Hyères and Costebelle. I can remember a Mrs. Hooper\*—we called her "Oops" as she "hadn't an aitch to her name"! She was reputed to be immensely rich, but, unlike most *nouveaux riches*, she used to dress very drably—distinctly shabbily, in fact. I was sorry for her at the Hotel as no-one really felt they could "take her up". She was at the "outside edge" as we used to say! She said to me once: "I likes it 'ere. It's nicer 'ere than Hyères."

B.L.L.-P. (laughing) I wish I could convey on paper the way you imitated her; but most of the jokes in *Punch* were like that then, weren't they? Were there many Associates like "Oops"?

MISS W. Certainly not! Most of our players were very "comme il faut". The Longworths, now. She was so elegant—*très soignée*—and he was such a good-looking man. Once, in a match at Mentone, he scored five points in two strokes: 5, 6, and turning-peg; and rover and winning-peg. This must be a record.

B.L.L.-P. It couldn't be rivalled now, as the new setting has only one peg—in the centre.

MISS W. So it has! Mr. Longworth was in the Champion Cup the same year as I played in the Ladies' Champion Cup. He was thirty-five then, and the oldest player in it.

At Costebelle there were three main Hotels: the "Rowdy", the "Dowdy", and the "Respectable". The "Respectable" always seemed to be full of Bishops, and the croquet people, most of us, stayed at the "Dowdy".

B.L.L.-P. But I suppose the Longworths used to go to the "Rowdy".

MISS W. No, they didn't. I think she preferred to shine more brightly in our less brilliant setting.

Anyhow, the War came and put a stop to all that sort of life.

Just before the War, by the way, I did win the Ranelagh

\* Not her real name.

Cup. I met Mr. Trevor Williams in the final, and, after I had won the second game and we were one-all, he scratched to me as he had to go off; so I didn't have to fight for it. It was a lovely cup.

B.L.L.-P. It's still competed for, at the Roehampton Tournament now.

MISS W. I am glad. It was at Ranelagh that I played in the Ladies' exhibition croquet match with Mrs. Blood, Miss Gilchrist, and Miss Steel, in 1915, in aid of the Red Cross Joint War Committee. Lord Doneraile was the referee, I remember; and the Grand Duke Michael of Russia presented each of us with a very fine Bronze Medal.

Miss Weightman handed me some worn leather medal cases. Some of the medals were the charming Menton ones—*art nouveau* "rococo" design, with St. Michael the Archangel surmounting a tennis racket and a croquet mallet. And then the massive bronze medal: "July 7th, 1915. Presented by H.I.H. the Grand Duke Michael . . ." It was heavy and solid; and as I held it I experienced a piercing sadness. The old Russian Imperial Anthem; the ladies sweeping up to receive their medals and curtsying to the Grand Duke, the Czar's handsome younger brother—"Darling Misha", the Grand Duke who had scandalized Europe by marrying Mme. Wulfert, a bold and beautiful commoner, twice divorced.

Three years later "darling Misha" was dead, savagely murdered by the Bolsheviks; and less than a week afterwards the Czar, Nicholas II, and his Imperial Family were slaughtered in a cellar at Ekaterinburg. Life could never be the same again.

But it would be wrong to part from our ladies on a tragic, mournful note. Wrong and misleading. Because if one quality shines out of everything they have said, it is their astounding and vigorous zest. They belong to an Age which seems to us to have been mercifully free from the doubts and evasions that are our less enviable inheritance. The failure of nerve of the Educated Classes in England can be held responsible for many of the perplexities that bedevil our Croquet World today. After bidding "farewell" to the ladies who have taken us, so courteously, on this brief journey into the Past, we could do worse than try to recapture something of the uncomplicated enjoyment, something of the sheer fun of Croquet As It Was.

### Next Issue:

## THE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS, 1970

### Croquet Sitters

—a Reflection on "Caskets" week

She played.  
They watched and played her game.  
I heard and watched them watch  
and play her game,  
And her.  
I'm glad I'm not she,  
I hope they don't watch me.

Aunt Ember



# Notes from the Clubs

**Cheltenham** - Founded 1869

*President:* MRS. A. M. DANIELS

*Club Champion:* MISS K. M. O. SESSIONS

Walter Jones Whitmore played at this historic Club in the year it was founded, and was probably a member. W. H. Peel certainly was; and it is most fitting that the venerable Tournament that commemorates him has now found a home here.

For our first week-end tournament at the end of March the Manager, W.Cdr. E. M. Smith, ingeniously devised a single large Block of thirty players in such a pattern that any five players played the same other five players. A well-known Manager was greatly impressed with this system. The second week-end tournament at the end of last month was divided into three blocks of eight, and a block of six for those who wanted to attend the A.G.M. of the Croquet Association.

Last June, in our Centenary year, we organized a demonstration of the game in Montpellier Gardens on a Saturday afternoon, and with a public address system we gave two doubles games on a moderate piece of grass which had been prepared for us. Edgar Jackson, Kitty Sessions, Paul Hands and Doris Yoxall played, with Leslie Yoxall doing the commentating. Quite a number of people watched. The object was publicity and membership. The membership objective—NIL. In the advertisement and subsequent account, mention was made of the fact that a hundred years ago the Cheltenham Croquet Club was started on the same ground.

Dr. Yoxall, the ex-Chairman, has been posted to Washington, and the Rev'd W. E. Gladstone has been appointed in his place.

*Hon. Secretary:* W. J. STURDY, ESQ.

**Compton** - Founded 1898

*President:* MRS. H. F. CHITTENDEN

*Club Champion:* D. A. HARRIS, ESQ.

When Dr. Holst founded this Club they had two courts for an annual rental of 14 guineas which included mowing, and before the turn of the century there were sixty-seven members paying a half-guinea subscription. By 1904 they had four courts, and the members were paying a guinea a year.

The fine Horsborough Cup, which is still competed for here, was a replacement of the original Challenge Trophy that had been won outright by the Rev'd C. W. Horsborough when he won it for his third consecutive year in 1905.

Our April week-end American tournament was greatly enjoyed by twenty competitors in spite of the two-and-a-half-hour time limit and the 3rd hoop start. The next week-end tournament here is: Thursday-Sunday, September 10th-13th.

*Hon. Secretary:* D. A. HARRIS, ESQ.

**Colchester** - Founded 1929

*Chairman:* E. P. DUFFIELD, ESQ.

*Club Champion:* DR. R. W. BRAY

Membership now stands at sixty-nine. Our previous year's match record was surpassed—the Club winning eight out of the ten fixtures played. Three members, Dr. Bray, the late Brigadier Forbes, and Mr. Peter Hallett all did well respectively in the three C.A. Invita-

tion Eights; and our Club Competitions were better supported than they ever have been.

To help our beginners, a special experimental Novices' Tournament, for members handicapped at 12 and over, was organized by Mr. Hallett at the beginning of last month. There were twenty entrants, and members who were but rarely seen on the courts gained confidence and enjoyment playing, and often winning games, both singles and doubles, all played on a half-game basis, all players using half their total full-game bisesques. It was found in the singles that two 16 bisquers, playing the half game, having 8 bisesques each, managed to complete the games in just about two hours, and this time limit was imposed. It is true that several games were incomplete when time was called, but the majority of games were finished. The Manager thinks he might well have secured several additional croquet addicts, and the Club will repeat the experiment and hold another Novices' Tournament on June 6th and 7th.

It was found that players usually play much better if they are not stood over and talked to incessantly about strokes they are as yet incapable of executing. All the players knew roughly what to do, and observers only intervened if they saw a breach of the rules or if a player asked for help. One player had to be stopped from going through hoop 6 the wrong way round, and one player using blue tried to put his ball out when his black was on hoop 3. In the course of games the lift ("open shot") problem arose once or twice, and there were possibly one or two crushes which observers had to point out when the noise was a little too great! But in the majority of cases the players played happily undisturbed. The taking of bisesques in the right place is the hardest lesson to learn. Hoop running was much improved, and heads that popped up too soon were on the decrease. Hoop sticking was not too frequent, but some short roquets were missed by members who hold their mallets too loosely. In rushing balls some players seemed to get too near the ball.

Croquet could well die if clubs do not make a great effort to train their beginners, who need the utmost encouragement. It is easy for a Club to forget the over-ten bisquers, and perhaps, too, there ought to be small tournaments for the 6-12 group. When a player gets his handicap down he often forgets the early struggles of beginners. Every low bisquer knows the advantage of having a low handicap when he beholds the high bisquer wobbling with fright as he faces the minus player in a handicap event.

The late Mrs. Elsie Clark, who was a member for over twenty years and was a hard worker on our Committee, is greatly missed here. She was always a delightful partner or opponent and a gracious hostess who will be long remembered by our visitors.

The Officers of the Club were all re-elected, and Mr. Jeremy Cockayne was chosen to fill the vacancy on the Committee caused by Mrs. Clark's death.

Considerable progress has been made towards the long-term development of the Club. The sale of the Chelmsford ground has been satisfactorily concluded, and a strip of land along Elianore Road purchased. The development sub-committee has appointed an architect to prepare draft proposals for additional courts, and a car park and pavilion.

*Hon. Secretary:* E. WHITEHEAD, ESQ.

**The Scottish Croquet Committee** - Formed 1967

*Champion:* M. E. W. HEAP, ESQ.

Eighteen fixtures have been arranged for this year, the largest of which is our Open Tournament at Glasgow in July. Unfortunately, owing to the non-availability of the Ground in August, we have not been able to arrange the Tournament on the dates that Council suggested. It is, therefore, being held on July 20th-25th, and NOT August 24th-29th as published in the Calendar and our advertisement in the previous *Gazette*. As we are obliged to clash with the Open Championships at Hurlingham, the Title, "Open Champion of Scotland", is being suspended for just this year. It is hoped that next season we shall be able to go back to our old date at Edinburgh.

*Hon. Secretary:* F. V. X. NORTON, ESQ.

## THE SCOTTISH OPEN TOURNAMENT (non-official)

will be held at the

JORDANHILL TEACHERS' TRAINING COLLEGE, GLASGOW

Monday, July 20th-Saturday, July 25th

*Committee:* THE SCOTTISH CROQUET COMMITTEE

*Secretary:* DR. J. O'D. ALEXANDER, 79, Ayt Road, Newton Mearns, Glasgow, N.B.

### EVENTS

- I. Open Singles ("Two-life" system).  
Entry fee: 17s. 6d.
- II. Restricted Handicap Singles—3½-8 bisesques ("X-Y").  
Holder: W. Spalding (4). Entry fee: 17s. 6d.
- III. Restricted Handicap Singles—9 bisesques 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, 14th July, 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, 15th July.

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.

## Cambridge University

The Club drew against Wrest Park and Roehampton at the beginning of last month in the matches for which we wish to thank, most cordially, our kind hosts.

Later, at Colchester, we won a victory, 5-1, against the Heley Club, that was notable in that Keith Wylie accomplished the FIRST SEXTUPLE PEEL (and a delayed one, at that!) to have been brought off under match conditions. Warmest congratulations to Keith for his break-through—even his "victim", Arthur Reed, could "scarce forbear to cheer." Also, our most grateful thanks to the Colchester Club for their lavish hospitality as well as for the loan of their billiard table-

like courts, without which the first sextuple peel could not have been achieved.

The prospects for the Varsity Match this year seem rather bleak: no response to our overtures for the fixture has been forthcoming from the "other place".

*Hon. Secretary:* GORDON SLATER, ESQ.

## Hunstanton

Since our rather pessimistic Note in the last *Gazette* we have received much help and advice from Professor Neal and his Publicity Committee, and are determined not to let our Club go if it can possibly be avoided.

The death of Mr. Noël Winsland has deprived the Hunstanton Club of a most loyal and valued member. Noël was a keen bridge player; but Associates who have visited our tournaments will remember him as an active helper until, recently, he was obliged by failing health to take a less vigorous part in the Club's activities. He is greatly missed here; and we wish to accord especial sympathy to Mrs. Winsland and the family and to his sister, Mrs. Florence Wilsher.

Our week-end tournament in April was most successful; and the entries for this year's Official Tournament have been coming in extremely well. Associates who are hoping to compete in it, but who have not yet sent in firm entries, are urged to do so straight-away, or they may find that they have to be refused.

★



"We must thank our lucky stars, Ethel, that the Boers never took up croquet!"

This "Pocket Cartoon" by Osbert Lancaster was published in the *Daily Express* on May 22nd, 1970. It is here reproduced by kind permission of Mr. Lancaster and Messrs. Beaverbrook Newspapers Ltd.



# CROQUET ASSOCIATION TOURNAMENTS

## The Peel Memorials

May 11th - 16th - at Cheltenham

Manager: Miss D. A. Lintern

The lawns were not as perfect as the Lawns Manager, Colonel Wheeler, would have wished, owing to the late spring, but, nevertheless, they were remarkably good and called forth high praise from the visitors. The spring-like surroundings were lovely.

The entry was the best for two or three years. Thirteen Men, sixteen Women, fourteen Doubles pairs and twenty-eight in the big handicap added to make the tournament more attractive. Additionally, there was the Golf Croquet. Much in this Report will be heard of a fellow named Vulliamy.

Monday was a dull, damp day, and started the Open Handicap Singles. The first game, finished in just under the hour, was that between H. S. Clemons and Miss E. H. Arkell, a promising Cheltonian, who, as a result of winning by 26 with 5 of her 14 bisques still standing, was promptly reduced from 12 to 9 for the Women's Draw.

Col. Vulliamy, receiving one bisque from W. J. Sturdy, defeated his opponent fairly rapidly by 23, in the Open Handicap, so when in the Draw he despatched G. E. P. Jackson by 23, he was promptly reduced from 6 to 5 for the Process.

Spectators enjoyed an exciting game between the Rev'd W. E. Gladstone and Lieut.-Col. D. M. C. Prichard. Gladstone using 2 of his 4 bisques set up a four ball break, and looked to be heading for the peg when he broke down at a simple shot for 2-back. Prichard then took his blue ball to rover, and with a further bisque Gladstone took his second ball, yellow, to four back. After an exchange or two Prichard got going with black and seemed certain to make the single peg and peg out, but, having peeled blue, failed to make the rover with black. He had carefully left Gladstone's red and yellow beyond rover to ensure the peg-out, which was a gift to his opponent, and was eagerly seized. Red was taken from 2-back to the peg, and pegged out blue, and with the use of his last bisque Gladstone advanced his yellow ball from 4-back, and finally won by 2. Nobody would have thought it could have happened at one stage!

Tuesday was mostly Doubles day, and a fine warm one, and saw some good, and reasonably quick games, and no marathons. J. A. Wheeler and Miss E. C. Brumpton had perhaps what was a surprisingly big win from J. N. Robinson and Mrs. Meachem, and then, looking full of confidence, went on to beat the holders, G. E. P. Jackson and Brigadier L. E. Bourke. Col. G. T. and Mrs. Wheeler were rather unlucky when Wheeler peeled and pegged out Guy Warwick, and unluckily rolled on to the peg himself, which left Mrs. Wheeler too much to catch up on Mrs. Blenkin, so that was another usually successful couple out.

Miss Sessions and Miss Arkell were another fancied pair, and they indeed defeated Mrs. Prichard and Miss Allardyce—also a strong pair—but they succumbed in the afternoon to Colonels Prichard and Vulliamy, who at that stage became the favourites.

There were one or two singles played, outstanding among which was that between J. N. Robinson and Col. E. L. L. Vulliamy. On the fourth turn Vulliamy, using 2 of his 5½ bisques, went to the peg. On the fifth turn Robinson went to the peg and pegged out Vulliamy. On the sixth turn Vulliamy, using only 2½ of his remaining 3½ bisques, with the three ball break which was all that was possible, went round and pegged out. So that brought him down another one to handicap 4 for the Process, which he had not begun. So, when this is being written (it is being written day by day), he is playing off 6 in the Open Handicap, 6 in the Men's Draw, 5 in the Doubles, and 4 in the Men's Process. Did anyone ever hear the like? And five weeks previously he had won the American Tournament at Cheltenham off handicap 11, when he was reduced to 6.

There was an unfortunate but interesting incident in a Doubles match, which was nobody's fault, but could be noted for future avoidance. One ball of one side had been pegged

out, and the other side later claimed a wired position. The referee's ruling was "You haven't one", meaning "You haven't a shot". The claimants thought the referee meant "You haven't a lift", played accordingly, and lost what might well have been a win.

On Wednesday, the third day of the Tournament, Mrs. Prichard had to play Miss Arkell twice, once in the Women's Draw with Miss Arkell playing off 9, and again in the Open Handicap with Miss Arkell playing off 12. Mrs. Prichard was too good for her opponent in the Draw, although Miss Arkell used her bisques well, to lose by only 4. In the Handicap, with the 3 extra bisques, Miss Arkell fully justified her previous day's reduction, by winning +26 in 35 minutes! If only more long bisquers would learn to use bisques correctly what a difference it would make to their croquet. And what an argument for the Full-Bisque game?

A very distinguished player insists that this comment must be put into the report, that Cheltenham players are to be congratulated on the quickness of their play.

Mrs. Sheil is another quiet, dark horse, if she will forgive the writer so describing her. With her handicap of 9 it will be seen from the results that she has had victories of +21, +20, +8, +7, one over Miss K. M. O. Sessions, and came through to the Final of the Women's Draw.

In the afternoon of Wednesday the weather changed, and a terrific thunderstorm occurred just at tea-time, and although there was not much delay, two games were transferred to other courts, which dried out more quickly. One was Vulliamy's game against Gladstone in the Open Handicap. Gladstone might have hoped to have had Vulliamy rattled before making a hoop he had used 3 bisques to no purpose! But the storm must have cleared the Colonel's head, for with his remaining 2 bisques he went on to win by 23.

The day also saw two good victories for Miss W. K. Allardyce, against former Women's Champions, Mrs. G. F. H. Elvey and Miss E. J. Warwick, in the Draw.

On Thursday the weather remained favourable throughout the day, and good progress was made. John Wheeler began to emerge as a likely Finalist, having beaten Gladstone, Jackson and Clemons in the Men's Process, and Col. Prichard, Tyrwhitt-Drake, and Col. Wheeler in the Open Handicap, as well as still being in the Doubles.

Mrs. Prichard had an outstanding victory against Miss Warwick, who with both clips on the peg looked a certain winner. Mrs. Prichard had her half-bisque and was for one and two, and playing with the utmost skill and concentration went on to win by 2.

Apart from this, Thursday must be accounted Vulliamy's day. He had four wins, in two of which the writer saw him, with the first ball, go to the peg on a three ball break without the use of a bisque, and ignoring the ball in the fourth corner!

Friday saw Vulliamy's colours lowered for the first time, and for a second time, and the writer believes she knows the reason why! In a Doubles game, Vulliamy had taken the first ball of the side from hoop 1 to 4-back. The pivot of the four ball break was between 1-back and 2-back, and the pilot ball for 4-back about 2 yards north-east of the hoop. Vulliamy would have done the pass-roll to penultimate and his own ball, getting a rush on the pilot ball, a shot he had executed many times in the week. His partner, however, made him take off to 4-back. Vulliamy made the hoop, but subsequently failing to get a rush, had to take off to try and get position for penultimate, failed, and had to return to partner ball left safely enough near 3-back. This failure temporarily shook Vulliamy's confidence, and when he went on to play J. A. Wheeler in the semi-final of the Open Handicap, with 4 bisques, he seemed a different player from what we had seen so far. I think we were all rather glad to find that he was mortal after all! John Wheeler played on the top of his form and won +8.

In the other semi-final Mrs. E. E. Bressey had played well to reach that stage, but found J. N. Robinson in very good form and went down to him by 22.

This was followed by the Process Final, in which the two players Wheeler and Vulliamy met again, Vulliamy this time playing off 4. It did not produce the best of games, but it was exciting enough, and Wheeler ran out the winner again +3.

The Women's Process Final proved a splendid game. Mrs. J. B. Meachem, although winning, had not hitherto produced her best form, but she certainly struck it against the holder, Mrs. D. M. C. Prichard, whom she beat by 25.

This was semi-finals day for the Doubles, and Colonels Prichard and Vulliamy were successful in the one, and J. A. Wheeler and Miss E. C. Brumpton in the other.

Saturday: A night's sleep had worked wonders for Col. Vulliamy, and the game Meredith v. Vulliamy in the Draw Final is worth recording. Meredith won the toss and put in Vulliamy, who put his first ball in the IVth corner. Meredith laid a B-baulk tice. Vulliamy went for it and missed, and so joined his first ball. Meredith then joined wide on the East boundary, which looked a difficult enough position for a 6-handicap player to work out. Vulliamy drove one ball to hoop 2, and called on the more northerly of his opponent's balls on the boundary. Stop-shot to the centre, and a good rush on the other ball for the first hoop was achieved. The hoop approach left a 3 ft. shot, quite straight, and having used no bisques to set up this break Vulliamy wisely took one, and gave himself a 6 inch shot for the hoop, made it, and went to the peg in immaculate style.

Meredith might have seen the red light, and had a shot at something; in fact he again joined wide, and that was his last shot of the game. Vulliamy used only 3 of his 5 remaining bisques, and those only to keep the break perfect, and won by 26 in 65 minutes. So he became due to do battle again with John Wheeler in the Play-Off.

Whilst this was going on Wheeler had met Robinson in the Final of the Open Handicap and won an ordinary sort of game +19.

Then came the Play-Off for the Men's Bowl, which was a little disappointing, as neither player showed his best form. Wheeler with the security of the Open Handicap win under his belt relaxed a bit, Vulliamy perhaps was too anxious; however, playing off 6 and receiving 4 bisques from his opponent, he ran out the winner by 14.

In the meantime Mrs. Prichard was having a great struggle with Mrs. F. A. Sheil in the Women's Draw Final. With her 10½ bisques Mrs. Sheil was a formidable proposition, but the holder, playing with skill and guile, extracted those bisques and won +9. So that meant Mrs. Prichard v. Mrs. Meachem again in the Play-Off.

On Saturday afternoon the spectators mostly gathered round the Doubles Final, which proved a rather dour 3-hour struggle. After Vulliamy had made a good start by getting to 2 back, he and Prichard went on to win by 16.

A far better game to watch was the Women's Play-Off on the next court. Mrs. Meachem, with her battery of 6 bisques, played very well, and used 5 of them to get to rover with one ball and penultimate with the other, before the holder had started. Mrs. Prichard hit in, and with an aura of concentration took her first ball to 2-back and, alas! missed a short roquet. Mrs. Meachem was in position with her ball for rover, a 2 yard shot, which she went for, but missed the hoop altogether and went to the boundary. This let Mrs. Prichard in again with her other ball, but of course, as we all knew, she was playing under the utmost pressure, though extremely well, until she again broke down, and enabled her opponent with her last bisque to go on and win a most exciting game by 12.

Since Thursday the Handicap "Y" had made progress, and W. J. Sturdy and Mrs. J. Povey were fighting out the Final when the Prize-Giving had to be put on, so as to enable long-distance visitors to depart. Sturdy won a close game +8.

Thus ended what everyone seemed to think was a very happy Tournament. It was good to see Mrs. A. M. Daniels, the Club President, back to give away the prizes.

J. A. Wheeler had won 9 Singles and lost 2, won 3 Doubles and lost 1, and had one taken off his handicap.

Mrs. Meachem lost a bisque from her handicap.

Col. Vulliamy had played 13 Singles and won 11, and as partner had won 4 Doubles, so his handicap came down another one after play. At the Easter Tournament in Cheltenham he was +11, after the Peels +3. His friends in other circles call him "Bunny" Vulliamy, all we can say is "Some rabbit!". Well done, indeed.

## EVENT I (13 entries)

### Gentlemen's Handicap Singles

#### DRAW

##### 1st Round

Brigadier L. E. Bourke (10) bt. J. G. Warwick (-2) +3.  
Colonel E. L. L. Vulliamy (6) bt. G. E. P. Jackson (-3) +3.  
J. N. Robinson (-½) bt. Colonel G. T. Wheeler (½) +4.  
The Rev'd W. E. Gladstone (1) bt. Lieut.-Col. D. M. C. Prichard (-3) +2.

H. S. Clemons (-2) bt. W. J. Sturdy (5) +2.

##### 2nd Round

E. C. Tyrwhitt-Drake (-1½) bt. Brig. Bourke (10) +4.  
Col. Vulliamy (6) bt. J. N. Robinson (-½) +14.  
Rev. W. E. Gladstone (1) bt. H. S. Clemons (-2) +17.  
F. W. Meredith (0) bt. J. A. Wheeler (2) +7.

##### Semi-Final

Col. Vulliamy (6) bt. E. C. Tyrwhitt-Drake (-1½) +26.  
F. W. Meredith (0) bt. Rev. W. E. Gladstone (1) +23.

##### Final

Col. Vulliamy (6) bt. F. W. Meredith (0) +26.

#### PROCESS

##### 1st Round

J. N. Robinson (-½) bt. F. W. Meredith (0) +2.  
W. J. Sturdy (5) bt. Brig. Bourke (10) +2.  
E. C. Tyrwhitt-Drake (-1½) bt. Col. Prichard (-3) +17.  
J. A. Wheeler (2) bt. Rev. W. E. Gladstone (1) +10.  
H. S. Clemons (-2) bt. J. G. Warwick (-2) +23.

##### 2nd Round

W. J. Sturdy (5) bt. J. N. Robinson (-½) +11.  
Col. Vulliamy (4) bt. E. C. Tyrwhitt-Drake (-1½) +15.  
J. A. Wheeler (2) bt. G. E. P. Jackson (-3) +19.  
H. S. Clemons (-2) bt. Col. Wheeler (½) +2.

##### Semi-Final

Col. Vulliamy (4) bt. W. J. Sturdy (5) +20.  
J. A. Wheeler (2) bt. H. S. Clemons (-2) +6.

##### Final

J. A. Wheeler (2) bt. Col. Vulliamy (4) +3.

#### PLAY-OFF

Col. Vulliamy (6) bt. J. A. Wheeler (2) +14.

## EVENT II (16 entries)

### Ladies' Handicap Singles

#### DRAW

##### 1st Round

Miss E. M. Brumpton (4½) bt. Miss D. A. Lintern (1) +7.  
Mrs. F. A. Sheil (9) bt. Miss E. C. Brumpton (3½) +8.  
Mrs. E. E. Bressey (6½) bt. Miss J. K. Samuel (7) +17.  
Mrs. J. Povey (4½) bt. Miss H. D. Parker (2½) +7.  
Miss E. H. Arkell (9) bt. Mrs. B. G. Neal (6) +18.  
Mrs. D. M. C. Prichard (-1½) bt. Miss K. M. O. Sessions (-2) +15.

Miss W. K. Allardyce (6½) bt. Mrs. G. F. H. Elvey (-½) +6.  
Miss E. J. Warwick (-2) bt. Mrs. J. B. Meachem (4½) +4.

##### 2nd Round

Mrs. Sheil (9) bt. Miss Maud Brumpton (4½) +7.  
Mrs. Bressey (6½) bt. Mrs. Povey (4½) +9.  
Mrs. Prichard (-1½) bt. Miss Arkell (9) +4.  
Miss Allardyce (6½) bt. Miss Warwick (-2) +16.

##### Semi-Final

Mrs. Sheil (9) bt. Mrs. Bressey (6½) (Opp. ret.).  
Mrs. Prichard (-1½) bt. Miss Allardyce (6½) +15.

##### Final

Mrs. Prichard (-1½) bt. Mrs. Sheil (9) +9.

#### PROCESS

##### 1st Round

Mrs. Elvey (-½) bt. Mrs. Povey (4½) +7.  
Mrs. Sheil (9) bt. Miss Sessions (-2) +21.  
Mrs. Meachem (4½) bt. Mrs. Bressey (6½) +13.  
Miss Arkell (9) w.o. Miss Lintern (1) (Opp. scr.).  
Mrs. Prichard (-1½) bt. Miss Parker (2½) +17.  
Miss Warwick (-2) bt. Miss Brumpton (3½) +2.  
Miss Samuel (7) bt. Miss Allardyce (6½) +9.  
Miss Maud Brumpton (4½) bt. Mrs. Neal (6) +4.

##### 2nd Round

Mrs. Sheil (9) bt. Mrs. Elvey (-½) +20.  
Mrs. Meachem (4½) bt. Miss Arkell (9) +6.  
Mrs. Prichard (-1½) bt. Miss Warwick (-2) +2.  
Miss Maud Brumpton (4½) bt. Miss Samuel (7) +16.



Semi-Final  
Mrs. Meachem (4½) bt. Mrs. Sheil (9) +3.  
Mrs. Prichard (-1½) bt. Miss Maud Brumpton (4½) +6.  
Final  
Mrs. Meachem (4½) bt. Mrs. Prichard (-1½) +25.  
PLAY-OFF  
Mrs. Meachem (4½) bt. Mrs. Prichard (-1½) +12.

**EVENT III (14 pairs)**  
**Lady Murray Memorials**  
(HANDICAP DOUBLES)

1st Round  
J. A. Wheeler & Miss Brumpton (5½) bt. J. N. Robinson & Mrs. Meachem (4) +22.  
H. S. Clemons & W. J. Sturdy (3) bt. Mrs. Elvey & Miss Samuel (6½) +24.  
J. G. Warwick & Mrs. S. Blenkin (9) bt. Col. Wheeler & Mrs. Wheeler (12½) +7.  
Miss Sessions & Miss Arkell (6) bt. Mrs. Prichard & Mrs. Allardyce (5) +4.  
Col. Prichard & Col. Vulliamy (2) bt. Miss Warwick & Mrs. Shiel (5) +10.  
E. C. Tyrwhitt-Drake & Mrs. Povey (3) bt. Rev. W. E. Gladstone & Mrs. Neal (7) +13.  
2nd Round  
J. A. Wheeler & Miss Brumpton (5½) bt. G. E. P. Jackson & Brig. Bourke (7) +8.  
J. G. Warwick & Mrs. Blenkin (9) bt. H. S. Clemons & W. J. Sturdy (3) +2.  
Col. Prichard & Col. Vulliamy (2) bt. Miss Sessions & Miss Arkell (6) +4.  
Miss Parker & Mrs. Bressey (9) bt. E. C. Tyrwhitt-Drake & Mrs. Povey (3) +2.  
Semi-Final  
J. A. Wheeler & Miss Brumpton (5½) bt. J. G. Warwick & Mrs. Blenkin (9) +20.  
Col. Prichard & Col. Vulliamy (2) bt. Miss Parker & Mrs. Bressey (9) +2.  
Final  
Col. Prichard & Col. Vulliamy (2) bt. J. A. Wheeler & Miss Brumpton (5½) +16.

**GOLF CROQUET**

**EVENT I (16 entries)**

**Ascot Cup**

**BLOCK "A"**

1st Round

Miss Sessions bt. Miss Warwick by 4 & 3.  
E. C. Tyrwhitt-Drake bt. J. N. Robinson by 3 & 2.  
J. G. Warwick w.o. Mrs. Prichard (opp. scr.).  
G. E. P. Jackson bt. Col. Prichard by 7 & 6.  
Semi-Final  
E. C. Tyrwhitt-Drake bt. Miss Sessions by 2 & 1.  
G. E. P. Jackson bt. J. G. Warwick by 5 & 4.  
Final

E. C. Tyrwhitt-Drake bt. G. E. P. Jackson by 1 up.  
**BLOCK "B"**

1st Round

Mrs. Meachem bt. Mrs. Neal by 3 & 2.  
Miss Samuel bt. J. A. Wheeler by 1 up.  
Mrs. Povey w.o. Miss Parker (opp. scr.).  
Col. Vulliamy bt. Miss Arkell by 1 up.

Semi-Final

Miss Samuel bt. Mrs. Meachem by 1 up.  
Mrs. Povey w.o. Col. Vulliamy (opp. scr.).

Final

Miss Samuel bt. Mrs. Povey by 1 up.

**PLAY-OFF**

E. C. Tyrwhitt-Drake bt. Miss Samuel by 1 up.

**EVENT II (7 pairs)**

**Delbes Broughton Cup**

1st Round

J. G. Warwick & Miss Samuel bt. Miss Warwick & Mrs. Sheil by 1 up.  
J. N. Robinson & Mrs. Meachem bt. Miss Brumpton and Miss Parker by 5 & 4.  
E. C. Tyrwhitt-Drake & Mrs. Neal bt. Miss Sessions & Miss Arkell by 3 & 2.

Semi-Final  
J. G. Warwick & Miss Samuel bt. J. N. Robinson & Mrs. Meachem by 2 & 1.  
E. C. Tyrwhitt-Drake & Mrs. Neal bt. W. J. Sturdy and Mrs. Povey by 4 & 3.  
Final  
E. C. Tyrwhitt-Drake & Mrs. Neal bt. J. G. Warwick & Miss Samuel by 2 up.

**OPEN HANDICAP SINGLES (28 entries)**

Winner: J. A. Wheeler (2)

Runner-up: J. N. Robinson (-1½)

The Consolation Event ("Y") won by: W. J. Sturdy (5)

**Inter Counties Championships**

May 26th-28th

Manager: Miss D. A. Lintern

Winners: Surrey & Middlesex (tied)

Third: Eastern Counties

Fourth: Devon

Fifth: Sussex

The poor entry of only five counties, bemoaned in the second Rover Note of the last *Gazette*, was certainly disappointing; but the competition did have its moments. Perhaps the best of them was Eastern Counties' 3-0 defeat of the holders, Middlesex +1, +5, and +2 (on time). In this last encounter the Bench and the Bar—Alex Karmel and Ian Baillieu\*—prevailed, in a positively searing end-game, over Jim Townsend, our new Chairman, and Richard Rothwell. Peter Hallett, in a two-ball ending against Jocelyn Sundius-Smith in the No. 1 game, was for 3-back when his remaining opponent was for Penultimate; and, by some inspired "dribbles" into position ("into po." as Lady Fitzgerald crudely, but memorably, describes that *manoeuvre*) and miraculous hits-in, Peter pulled the match out of the fire.

Congratulations to the improved Sussex team for breaking its "Duck"—against Eastern Counties, for this encounter Hallett-less and more vulnerable. Commiserations to the tenacious Devonians, deprived of Joan Warwick who was seeking Spiritual Refreshment at Oberammergau, and of John Cooper. And, next Season PLEASE, let us double the number of entries and have a really good competition.

\*[NOT "Silk"—the last *Gazette* erroneously attributed a Q.C. to Mr. Baillieu.]

**"Caskets"**

June 1st-6th—at Southwick

Manager: E. A. Roper, Esq.

What a week! Superb weather with the sun shining all the time; courts which stood up to the conditions remarkably well; and the emergence of two new champions, one well known to us, the other a stranger to all but our Test team, whose lovely, effortless style was worth coming a long way to see. How lucky were all of us at Southwick.

The brilliant weather had its disadvantages, of course: the dry courts inhibited the experts from demonstrating their skill at triple or more complicated peels and made most of the games rather longer than would be expected. Thus the manager was faced with an impossible task\* in trying to play the Mixed Doubles as draw and process. In the event, on Thursday he had to abandon the Process for too many of the cases were in the same hands. Even to have eleven courts at one's disposal avails a manager nothing when the same players are needed for quarter- or semi-finals in three events at once. Would not a happier solution be to play the du Pré as draw and process? This would spread the field wider over the last three days and everyone would benefit.

Patrick Cotter had the tougher passage to the final, disposing *en route* of both Bernard Neal and Bill Perry. The former was an all-too-early casualty: perhaps it was a pity he remembered to bring his mallet—last year he beat Roger Bray in the first round with a borrowed one! But when the holder came up against William Ormerod the latter's mechanical efficiency was too much for him.

\*[We believe that the "task" of playing the Doubles on the "Two-Life" system was by no means an "impossible" one. In fact, if the Singles had been brought up to a reasonable state on the Tuesday, the Fixture could have completed its advertised programme quite easily. Granting leave of absence for the whole of the first day in a best-of-three event is not reasonable, and, in this case, wrecked the competition.—Editor.]

Jean Jarden had to beat Kitty Sessions before meeting the winner of the match between the two traditional finalists, Joan Warwick and Hope Rotherham. Joan it was who prevailed this time after three hard-fought games, but she could not get a game off the New Zealand champion in the final. She had her compensation, however, when in the evening she helped Bill Perry to win the Mixed Doubles Championship from Bernard Neal and Mrs. Biddy Dodd, another welcome visitor from the other side of the world. This was Bill's first championship, and a most popular one. This final also gave us the pleasure of watching Biddy Dodd in and of admiring her cheerfulness in adversity! How many of us could laugh heartily when our partner's most vital shots met with entirely unmerited and most cruel fate? [Very few, we hope.—Editor.]

In the du Pré local boy very nearly made good, but in the final Bill Moore just couldn't bring it off against that wily old campaigner Dudley Hamilton-Miller.

One of the most remarkable things about the tournament was the almost universal loss of form on Wednesday, the first day of the doubles. No stranger looking in could have believed that all the players were taking part in the Mixed Doubles Championship. One pair even took from 9.45 a.m. to 8.45 p.m. with only half an hour off for lunch to get through two first round games!

These troubles we shall doubtless forget, but I feel we shall long carry with us the memory of Jean Jarden's graceful and elegant play.

**EVENT I (23 entries)**

**Gentlemen's Championship**

1st Round

R. O. B. Whittington bt. P. L. Gifford-Nash +17 +16.  
Cdr. G. Borrett bt. J. G. Warwick +11 -10 +5.  
W. E. Moore bt. E. C. Tyrwhitt-Drake +9 +21.  
B. G. Perry bt. the Rev'd W. E. Gladstone +25 +4.  
J. B. Gilbert bt. D. Himmens +14 +25.  
Dr. W. P. Ormerod bt. W. B. C. Paynter +25 +24.  
P. Newton bt. H. S. Clemons +23 +17.

2nd Round

E. P. C. Cotter bt. D. J. V. Hamilton-Miller +22 +12.  
Professor B. G. Neal bt. W. H. Austin +24 +19.  
R. O. B. Whittington bt. Cdr. Borrett -5 +11 +21.  
B. G. Perry bt. W. E. Moore +20 +16.  
Dr. Ormerod bt. J. B. Gilbert +25 +22.  
P. Newton bt. N. W. T. Cox +15 +3.  
G. W. Williams bt. C. H. L. Prichard +16 -16 +7.  
B. Lloyd-Pratt bt. R. O. Hicks +24 +3.

Quarter-Final

E. P. C. Cotter bt. Professor Neal +5 +5.  
B. G. Perry bt. R. O. B. Whittington +17 +9.  
Dr. Ormerod bt. P. Newton +3 +18.  
B. Lloyd-Pratt bt. G. W. Williams +11 +23.

Semi-Final

E. P. C. Cotter bt. B. G. Perry +8 +17.  
Dr. Ormerod bt. B. Lloyd-Pratt +11 +23.

Final

Dr. Ormerod bt. E. P. C. Cotter +16 +26.

**EVENT II (16 entries)**

**Ladies' Championship**

1st Round

Mrs. H. F. Chittenden bt. Mrs. G. F. H. Elvey -6 +13 +12.  
Miss E. J. Warwick bt. Mrs. J. B. Meachem +15 +25.  
Miss D. A. Lintern bt. Mrs. E. M. Speer +15 +5.  
Mrs. E. Rotherham bt. Mrs. B. L. Sundius-Smith +3 +14.  
Mrs. A. Fotiadi bt. Mrs. A. Neville Rolfe +18 +6.  
Mrs. J. Jarden bt. Mrs. N. A. C. McMillan +20 +11.  
Miss K. M. O. Sessions bt. Mrs. N. R. Dodd +15 +15.  
Mrs. D. M. C. Prichard bt. Mrs. G. W. Solomon +11 +10.

2nd Round

Miss Warwick bt. Mrs. Chittenden +17 +21.  
Mrs. Rotherham bt. Miss Lintern +13 opp. scr.  
Mrs. Jarden bt. Mrs. Fotiadi +9 +21.  
Miss Sessions bt. Mrs. Prichard +26 -10 +18.

Semi-Final

Miss Warwick bt. Mrs. Rotherham -6 +21 +9.  
Mrs. Jarden bt. Miss Sessions +18 +13.

Final

Mrs. Jarden bt. Miss Warwick +18 +12.

**EVENT III (17 pairs)**

**Mixed Doubles Championship**

1st Round

C. H. L. Prichard and Mrs. Prichard bt. P. Newton and Mrs. Speer +4.

2nd Round

Prof. Neal and Mrs. Dodd bt. H. S. Clemons and Mrs. Chittenden +9.  
Cdr. Borrett and Mrs. Elvey bt. W. B. C. Paynter and Mrs. Solomon +10.  
E. P. C. Cotter and Mrs. Sundius-Smith bt. Rev. W. E. Gladstone and Mrs. Meachem +18.  
C. H. L. Prichard and Mrs. Prichard bt. D. Himmens and Miss H. D. Parker +14.  
J. G. Warwick and Miss Sessions bt. J. B. Gilbert and Mrs. Fotiadi +15.  
B. Lloyd-Pratt and Mrs. McMillan bt. D. J. V. Hamilton-Miller and Mrs. Rotherham +10.  
B. G. Perry and Miss Warwick bt. W. E. Moore and Miss Lintern +12.  
Dr. Ormerod and Mrs. Jarden bt. R. O. B. Whittington and Mrs. Neville Rolfe +16.

Quarter-Final

Prof. Neal and Mrs. Dodd bt. Cdr. Borrett and Mrs. Elvey +22.  
E. P. C. Cotter and Mrs. Sundius-Smith bt. C. H. L. Prichard and Mrs. Prichard +14.  
B. Lloyd-Pratt and Mrs. McMillan bt. J. G. Warwick and Miss Sessions +14.  
B. G. Perry and Miss Warwick bt. Dr. Ormerod and Mrs. Jarden +5.

Semi-Final

Prof. Neal and Mrs. Dodd bt. E. P. C. Cotter and Mrs. Sundius-Smith +2.  
B. G. Perry and Miss Warwick bt. B. Lloyd-Pratt and Mrs. McMillan +15.

Final

B. G. Perry and Miss Warwick bt. Prof. Neal and Mrs. Dodd +14.

**CONSOLATION EVENT (26 entries)**

**The du Pré Cup**

Winner: D. J. V. Hamilton-Miller.  
Runner-up: W. E. Moore.

**NON-OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT RESULTS**

**Budleigh-Salterton. May 4th-9th (41 entries)**

Manager: Lieut.-Col. G. E. Cave

**Godfrey Turner Cup**

Winner: Mrs. D. M. C. Prichard (-1).  
Runner-up: Mrs. E. M. Lightfoot (½).

**J. K. Brown Memorial Cup**

Winner: M. Granger-Brown (5).  
Runner-up: Sir Leonard Daldry (2).

**L. G. Walters Trophy**

Winner: H. Hodgson (9).  
Runner-up: Miss E. G. Clarke-Lens (8).

**Block "G"**

Winner: Mrs. D. J. Bird (8)

**Handicap Doubles (20 pairs)**

Winners: Lieut.-Col. G. E. Cave and M. Granger-Brown (5).  
Runners-up: Lieut.-Col. D. M. C. Prichard and Mrs. G. E. Cave (3).

**Southwick I. May 18th-23rd (48 entries)**

Manager: Lieut.-Col. G. E. Cave

**Jellicorse Cup**

Winner: F. Reynold (2½).  
Runner-up: N. W. T. Cox (½).  
Third: Cdr. G. Borrett (-2), H. A. Sheppard (1).

**Handicap Doubles (22 pairs)**

Winners: N. W. T. Cox and Mrs. Naylor (6).  
Runners-up: Professor and Mrs. A. S. C. Ross (7).  
Consolation Doubles ("Y") won by: Lieut.-Col. G. E. Cave and Miss C. Cox (7½).



## SOUTHWICK, 1970

On the sheltered lawns of Southwick in the sunny month of May, There were eight and forty entries and the courts were filled all day. The nine Blocks to be completed might some Managers alarm, But not even "X-Y" Doubles could dispel the Spelean calm. Though the visitors were welcomed in the warmest Southwick way, It was strictly Members Only when block winners came to play. Many lower bisquers conquered, and it was because they knew How to win when playing badly, which is worth a bisque or two. But watch Tunmer, Manns and Weitzes —to this tournament all new— They'll be winning, winning, winning when they've mastered what to do. There were two block-winning females: one was 6, one minus 2; But they lost their first-round play-offs and just failed to go on through. Also Baverstock and Himmens, Shepherd, Borrett and Prof. Ross, In their turn were unsuccessful and experienced a loss. So the runner-up was Norman, the Apps Bowl awardsman Cox, And the winner, Freddie Reynold, was the Cock of all the blocks. The big Doubles too were Cox's, but it might have been a failure, If he'd not had the *running form* of his partner Mrs. Naylor. For their wins were very narrow, though they did put it across The connubial combination of the Prof. and Mrs. Ross. When a substitute was needed to provide a "Y" highlight, Cave just *could* not have done better if he'd chosen with "foresight", For his charming, cheerful partner (a winner in the blocks) Was another of that surname, (no relation) Constance Cox.

[The Editor, in order to keep Tournament Results down to a tolerable proportion, intends to publish only the winners and runners-up of non-official and week-end tournaments. However, the novelty value of Mrs. Prichard's ingenious doggerel has caused him to relent—for just this once!]

## WEEK-ENDS

## Cheltenham I. March 28th-30th (30 entries)

Winner: Colonel E. L. L. Vulliamy (11).  
Runner-up: C. H. L. Prichard (½).

## Compton. April 16th-19th (20 entries)

Winner: G. Stoker (4).  
Runner-up: E. C. Tyrwhitt-Drake (-1½).

## Hunstanton. April 24th-27th (15 entries)

## Butlin Cup

Winner: H. Green (3).  
Runner-up: Miss K. M. O. Sessions (-2).

## Cheltenham II. May 23rd-25th (30 entries)

Block winners: G. E. P. Jackson (-3), R. D. C. Prichard (1½), Brigadier L. E. Bourke (10) and P. W. Hands (-2).

## Nottingham. June 5th-7th (20 entries)

## Peake Tankard

Winner: D. H. Moorcraft (2).  
Runner-up: Miss E. C. Brumpton (3½).

## Cautionary Tale

## A SITTING VICTIM

The Greatest Fault of Desmond Squire  
Was his Fanatical Desire  
To win the Handicap Event  
At an Important Tournament.  
This was, he knew, a Hopeless Aim,  
Unless he could improve his Game:  
So Desmond Practised hard, until  
He found he had Sufficient Skill  
To carry out a Double Peel;  
But he was careful to conceal  
His Progress and to take no Risks  
Which might reduce his Seven Bisques  
To Five or Four . . . or even Three.  
For if the Experts chanced to see  
That Desmond's Form approached the Top,  
His Handicap was sure to drop.  
So, when engaged in Friendly Play,  
He chose to throw each game away;  
For not a Bisque would he give up,  
Till he had won the Challenge Cup.  
How well he kept his Secret . . . and  
He entered for the "X," as planned,  
And found that he was drawn to meet  
An Unknown Player, Leonard Peat,  
Who was a Seven Bisquer too;  
So Desmond's Self-Assurance grew.  
Alas, it was a Mislplaced Feeling;  
For Leonard did the Double Peeling!

## Moral

Never forget that Other Chaps  
May sit upon their Handicaps.

N.P.

## Tribute to Mrs. Showan

from the Chairman of Council, S. S. Townsend, Esq.

Associations such as ours are sometimes remiss in their lack of recognition of the work put in by their members. It behoves me, therefore, as Chairman of Council, to ensure that thanks and appreciation are placed on record to Mrs. Showan who, over the past six years, has given so much of her time in assisting with the Secretarial duties at the C.A. Office. She has indeed most ably held the fort on the occasions when Mrs. Gasson was away. Her quiet, courteous and efficient manner have commended her to all.

Mr. Showan is retiring shortly, and, if all goes well with their housing plans, they hope to reside in the Eastbourne area, and will, therefore, still be close to an active croquet centre.

The best wishes of all Associates go with them: and warmest thanks, again, Mrs. Showan, for all you have done for our game.

S. S. TOWNSEND

## Annual General Meeting

Held at Hurlingham on Monday, May 25th.

PRESENT: Sixty-three Associates, including all twenty-seven Members of the Council.

THE PRESIDENT, M. B. Reckitt, Esq., in the Chair.

APOLOGIES for absence were received from: Mrs. S. M. Adler, Major E. J. Bromley-Fox, Mrs. M. H. Carrington, J. L. Saunders, Esq., and Mrs. G. W. Solomon.

The President, after paying tribute to Associates who had died since the last A.G.M., bade farewell to Mrs. Gasson and thanked her for her invaluable services to Croquet. He then, on behalf of all the Associates who had contributed to her Testimonial Fund, presented Mrs. Gasson with a cheque ("To Mrs. V. C. Gasson, in gratitude for her work for the Croquet Association, 1959-1970") for £208 2s. 6d., and a silver paper-knife, engraved with the *Legend*: "A token of the Affection and Regard in which Mrs. V. C. Gasson was held by all her friends in the Croquet Association". Mrs. Gasson replied:

"Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen.  
"Not having the President's gift of speech-making I find difficulty in choosing words with which to thank you all, and all those who have contributed to the wonderful gift you have so kindly given me in recognition of my ten and a half years of service as Secretary. Also to all those people who have written to me sending good wishes from Britain, New Zealand, Australia, Africa and the U.S.A. I do thank you each and everyone of you very, very much.

"I always recall the day I took over the Office which had a few books, but no equipment in the way of filing cabinets, etc., and prayed heaven I should be able to do the job!

"My great wish was to establish *friendly* relations with everyone I had to deal with, and in this I think I have been successful.

"I have to thank all my Chairmen—not forgetting Brigadier Stokes-Roberts who is no longer with us—for their help and co-operation, particularly at first when I had everything to learn. I found the work very interesting—the trouble being it grew so rapidly I could not cope; and then Mrs. Showan came along to help—at first voluntarily—and became an invaluable Assistant, and we worked together happily until her husband's illness.

"With many thanks to everyone for their kindness I leave you with many happy memories."

The President then welcomed Mr. Vandeleur Robinson, the new Secretary; and the new Editor of the *Gazette*, Mr. B. Lloyd-Pratt. He concluded by welcoming Mrs. Jarden from New Zealand and Mrs. Dodd from Australia.

I & II The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on May 26th, 1969, and those of the Special General Meeting held on November 22nd, 1969, having been published in the *Gazette*, were taken as read.

III The Chairman's Report had been printed in the *Gazette*, and evoked no comment.

The Hon. Treasurer presented the accounts and balance sheet of the Association for 1969.

Major J. M. Rivington, ex-Chairman, asked why the Association, unlike most organisations which have Life Membership, kept the subscriptions paid for this purpose in a separate fund, instead of allocating them to income in a specified number of years. Mr. G. W. Williams, Vice-President, enquired about the presentation of the proceeds of sales of investments in the Profit and Loss Account, and asked whether they ought not to appear on both sides of the account. The Treasurer replied.

IV Major R. F. Rothwell proposed and Lieut.-Col. G. E. Cave seconded that Mr. A. J. Oldham be re-elected as Honorary Treasurer of the Association. This was carried by acclamation.

V The ballot for the election of nine members to the Council had been examined, and the votes counted by Mrs. A. W. Skempton and Miss B. Duthie. Mrs. Skempton read out the results: The eight retiring members of the Council, together with Mr. G. N. Aspinall, had been elected.

VI On the proposal of Major J. M. Rivington, Messrs. Nicholas, Reid, Corney and Co. were re-elected as Auditors.

## VII Any other Business:

## 1 Simplification of the language of the Laws.

Mrs. W. Longman, Mr. E. Whitehead, Cdr. G. Borrett and Mr. E. A. Roper thought that the laws could be expressed in less convoluted terminology. Mr. J. G. Warwick, Mr. J. B. Meachem, and the Rev'd W. E. Gladstone wanted them to be left alone.

Replying, Mr. I. C. Baillieu, the retiring Chairman of the Laws Committee, said he hoped that the Laws Re-draft Committee's report, which was going to be presented to the Council at its meeting that followed the A.G.M., would meet the points that had been raised.

## 2 The Gazette.

Mr. J. W. Solomon deplored the restoration, without Council's authority, of the historic nomenclature of the *Gazette* itself and of the "Caskets" events. He could not see what Lady Julian Parr, who had not played Croquet for over fifty-five years, had to say that was relevant to the needs of the forward-looking players of Today.

Professor Neal regretted that the tone of the Editorial seemed to conflict with the progressive aims and ideals of his Publicity Committee. His Honour Judge Karmel applauded the *Gazette's* artistic format and general readability. The meeting voiced its approval of the Judge's remarks.

The Editor, in his reply, observed that he, himself, had been profoundly depressed by the old-fashioned, nerveless and "tatty" pseudo-modernity of recent issues. He had, though, up to then, felt inhibited from saying so, as the Editorship entailed a sacrificial amount of voluntary work. He wished to thank the numerous Associates who had expressed their gratitude for his first issue: their encouragement meant a great deal to him. This *Gazette* did appear, at least, to have been *read*. He hoped that it would continue to be so, with pleasure.

## 3 Raising of handicaps.

Many Associates, most notably Mr. G. Birch and Mrs. N. A. C. McMillan, strongly opposed this measure.

VIII Major J. M. Rivington proposed a vote of thanks to the President for taking the Chair with his customary grace and skill. This was passed with acclamation.



## Letter to the Editor

## DEFENCE OF THE IMPERIAL SYSTEM

from Dr. A. M. Brown.

Sir,

I was astonished to see that there was such an organisation as an Edgbaston Metrication Committee and even more astonished to learn of their desire to interfere with our wonderful game. I wonder if they really know what they are doing? The effect of metrication reaches much further than trivial changes in dimensions; it hits at the very root of our education. The Imperial System with its superb variety of unit interconversion factors provides us with magnificent initial brain training and I sincerely believe that the loss of this training, merely to satisfy the whims of dull politicians, would be a disaster both for Croquet and Country. Let the C.A. take the initiative in the matter and maintain the definitions of croquet in the Imperial System.

Yours truly,

ALAN MACKENZIE BROWN

Dunblane.



## Extract from Minutes of Council Meeting:

May 25th, 1970

**I Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman.**

Mr. S. S. Townsend and Professor B. G. Neal were elected Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively.

**II Standing Orders of Council.**

The revised Orders, as circulated, were agreed.

**III Alteration of Law 23 (c).**

This was ratified, pursuant to Rule XIV (a) (i), having been published in the Spring Number of the *Gazette*. [The text is printed in the Official Notices in this issue.]

**IV Temporary Variation of Law 51.**

This was authorized, in accordance with Rule XIV (b). [The text, with an explanation, can be found in the Official Notices in this issue of the *Gazette*.]

**V Motion to raise Handicaps at the end of this Season.**

Mr. J. W. Solomon's motion was heavily defeated.

**VI Coaching Scheme.**

It was agreed that the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Hon. Treasurer and the Chairman of the Publicity Committee should negotiate the terms of a coaching scheme with the appropriate Authorities.

**VII Report of the Laws Re-draft Committee.**

Council accepted this Report: "The Laws Re-draft Committee

has decided against recommending a new publication of the Laws with Notes, and are further against any alterations other than minor amendments. They are, however, in favour of a simplified version of the Laws being prepared, and recommend that the responsibility should be referred to the Laws Committee. They agree that the Laws Re-draft Committee should be dissolved, and that all matters be referred to the Laws Committee who should be authorized to appoint a Sub-committee which should have the power of co-option".

**VIII Part-term vacancy caused by Mr. A. A. Reed's resignation.**

Council held a ballot to decide, in accordance with Rule VI (b) (ii), which one of the newly-elected members should serve for the unexpired two-year term for which Mr. Reed had originally been elected. Mr. G. N. Aspinall was chosen to do so.

**IX University Match, and Trophies.**

Concern was expressed about the Oxford-Cambridge Match this Season. The Secretary was asked to look into the question of the Reeve Trophy for this fixture, and the Universities' "Cuppers" cups that had been given by the C.A. Also, Professor Neal, the Vice-Chairman, undertook to investigate more thoroughly the matter of the ultimate ownership of the Ranelagh Gold Cup and the Creyke Cups.

# The Croquet Association

## NOTES AND OFFICIAL NOTICES

**ENTRY FORMS FOR TOURNAMENTS**

Associates are reminded that all tournament entries must be submitted on these forms. Pads of 25 can be obtained from the C.A. Office—price 2/6d. each, including postage.

Other publications which can be obtained from this Office are:

- Laws of Croquet—2/6d. (non-associates, 3/6d.).
- Mr. Roper's simplified version of the Laws—1/6d.
- Dr. Ormerod's "Know the Game"—4/-.
- "Instructions to Beginners"—1/6d.
- "Hints to Beginners"—1/-.

The abridged **Handbook 1970-72**, containing Associates' handicaps and addresses together with the Official Lists of Managers, Referees and Handicappers, is now available—6/-.

**ERRATA:**

The **Obituary Notice** of the late Canon R. Creed Meredith stated that he became an Associate in 1919. Mr. Noel Hicks has pointed out that Canon Creed Meredith did, in fact, first become an Associate twelve years earlier, at the age of twenty, in 1907. He resigned three years later, and *re-joined* the Association after the Great War.

**Silver Medal.** With many apologies for omission in the Handbook: 1914—H. O. Hodgson.

**Tribute.** The Blue Fixtures Booklet stated that 17/- is payable by non-Associates for a tournament in which there is only one event. The sum should be 10/-, as was published in the Official Notices on p. 15 of the *Gazette*.

**Glasgow Tournament.** The dates for this fixture are **July 20th-25th** and not August 24th-29th as previously advertised.

**ALTERATION IN THE LAWS**

[Pursuant to Rule XIV (a) (i)]

At their meeting on May 25th, 1970, the following alteration proposed by the Council at their meeting on February 7th, 1970, and published in the Spring 1970 issue of the *Gazette*, was duly ratified and becomes Law forthwith:

**LAW 23(c)**

Add at the 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."

**TEMPORARY VARIATION IN THE LAWS**

[In accordance with Rule XIV (b)]

At their meeting on May 25th, 1970, Council authorized the following temporary variation in Law 51 which becomes Law forthwith for the remainder of this Season:

Law 51 (in Tournaments players must not warn an opponent he is about to play the wrong ball) shall be temporarily varied by adding, after "players must not so warn" in line 6, the following sentence: "This overrides Law 45(b) (duty to announce an irregularity) and Law 28 ('Ball misplaced')".

[This was introduced because most cases of Playing the Wrong Ball (Law 30) involve ball(s) being misplaced *before* the foul occurs. The opponent should not forestall; and the temporary variation of Law 51 is designed simply to regularize current practice.—Editor.]

**NEW ASSOCIATES**

- COLONEL E. L. L. VULLIAMY, O.B.E., Meyricks, Blandford Road, Reigate, Surrey.  
 G. HENSHAW, ESQ., Noah's Ark, Bretby, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire.  
 R. B. BERRY, ESQ., 56, Green Acres Road, Kings Norton, Birmingham, 30, Warwickshire.  
 MISS ELSIE HILL, 57, Cottesmore Court, London, W.8.  
 J. PEARCE JONES, ESQ., The Moorings, Chapel Lane, Halton Barns, Altrincham, Cheshire.  
 DR. WILLIAM DEAN, 38, High Street, Wivenhoe, Colchester, Essex.  
 W. J. MILLIE, ESQ., 4, Medway Road, Ipswich, Suffolk.  
 J. P. WINCKWORTH, ESQ., 5, Redbury Street, London, S.W.3.  
 J. C. CRANE, ESQ., 32, Cliveden Place, London, S.W.1.  
 MRS. J. POWER, 36, Glenfield Road, Betchworth, Surrey.  
 CAPTAIN H. LEIGHTON DAVIES, Cobwebs, Penmaen, near Swansea, Glamorganshire.  
 MISS STANTON, Newlands, Old Church Road, Nailsea, near Bristol, Gloucestershire.  
 MRS. K. S. SCHOFIELD, 11, St. Leonard's Avenue, Kenton, near Harrow, Middlesex.

**OVERSEAS**

- D. J. SHELTON, ESQ., 13, School Avenue, Gwelo, Rhodesia.

**NEW REFEREES**

- MRS. J. B. MEACHEM, K. ROSS, ESQ., B. BERRY, ESQ., J. N. ROBINSON, ESQ., and M. GRANGER-BROWN, ESQ.

## \* Death \*

MRS. M. M. EVERARD; on Saturday, February 14th, 1970, at Westminster.

**NEW ADDRESSES**

- M. E. W. HEAP, ESQ., The Hall, Havering-atte-Bower, Essex.  
 C. H. O'D. ALEXANDER, ESQ., C.B.E., 28, King's Road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.  
 R. O. HAVERY, ESQ., Gray's Inn Chambers, London, W.C.1.  
 F. HENSHAW, ESQ., The Old House, Milston, near Durrington, Salisbury, Wiltshire.  
 K. A. ROSS, ESQ., 68, Watford Road, Birmingham, 30, Warwickshire.  
 MR. AND MRS. R. A. SIMPSON, 9, King's Road, Wilmslow, Cheshire.  
 W. B. C. PAYNTER, ESQ., 17, Roman Road, Southwick, Sussex (Tel. Southwick 3279).  
 MRS. A. G. HURRY, 7, Elvington Lodge, Reigate Hill, Reigate, Surrey.  
 MRS. H. M. B. DENNY, 38, Pine Wood, Sunbury-on-Thames, Middlesex.  
 J. A. WHEELER, ESQ., 4, Newbury Close, Silsoe, Bedfordshire. (NOT 6, Newbury Close, as in the abridged Handbook.)

**NEW CLUB SECRETARIES**

- Harrow Oak. Hon. Secretary: G. G. STRUTT, ESQ.  
 Glenochil. Hon. Secretary: DR. A. M. BROWN.  
 Reigate Priory. Hon. Secretary: COL. E. L. L. VULLIAMY, O.B.E.  
 Brooke Bonds. Hon. Secretary: E. W. RENDELL, ESQ.  
 Unilever. Hon. Secretary: I. TUHILL, ESQ.  
 Radbroke Hall. Hon. Secretary: B. SLATER, ESQ.  
 Deletion: South London Bowls Club—not now Registered with the Croquet Association.

**Committees of Council for 1970****LAWS**

Chairman: Lieut.-Col. D. M. C. Prichard  
 G. N. Aspinall, Esq.  
 I. C. Baillieu, Esq.  
 B. J. Lloyd-Pratt, Esq.  
 B. G. Perry, Esq.  
 Major R. F. Rothwell  
 J. W. Solomon, Esq.  
 Dr. W. R. D. Wiggins

**TOURNAMENT**

Chairman: Major R. F. Rothwell  
 I. C. Baillieu, Esq.  
 Dr. R. W. Bray  
 Cdr. G. Borrett  
 D. C. Caporn, Esq.  
 Major J. H. Dibley, M.C.  
 The Rev'd W. E. Gladstone  
 B. Lloyd-Pratt, Esq.  
 Miss D. A. Lintern  
 Mrs. E. Rotherham

**FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES**

Chairman: Mrs. B. L. Sundius-Smith  
 Major J. H. Dibley, M.C.  
 Mrs. G. F. H. Elvey  
 Miss D. A. Lintern  
 Mrs. N. A. C. McMillan  
 B. G. Perry, Esq.  
 Lieut.-Col. D. M. C. Prichard  
 J. W. Solomon, Esq.

**PUBLICITY**

Chairman: Dr. R. W. Bray  
 G. N. Aspinall, Esq.  
 G. Birch, Esq.  
 Cdr. G. Borrett  
 D. C. Caporn, Esq.  
 Mrs. G. F. H. Elvey  
 Miss D. A. Lintern  
 Mrs. N. A. C. McMillan

**EDITORIAL PANEL**

Dr. R. W. Bray  
 Mrs. B. L. Sundius-Smith

**HANDICAP CO-ORDINATION**

Chairman: Miss D. A. Lintern  
 Major J. H. Dibley, M.C.  
 Mrs. G. F. H. Elvey  
 E. A. Roper, Esq.  
 Mrs. B. L. Sundius-Smith

**HANDICAP APPEAL**

Chairman: Dr. W. R. D. Wiggins  
 Mrs. E. Rotherham  
 Major R. F. Rothwell

**SPECIAL APPEALS**

Chairman: His Hon. Judge Karmel, Q.C.  
 Mrs. E. Rotherham  
 Dr. W. R. D. Wiggins

**SELECTION COMMITTEE**

Mrs. G. F. H. Elvey  
 His Hon. Judge Karmel, Q.C.  
 Miss D. A. Lintern  
 M. B. Reckitt, Esq. (President)  
 J. W. Solomon, Esq.

The Chairman (S. S. Townsend, Esq.), the Vice-Chairman (Professor B. G. Neal), and the Hon. Treasurer (A. J. Oldham, Esq.), are *ex Officio*, members of all the above Committees, except the Selection, Handicap Co-ordinating, Handicap Appeal and Special Appeals Committees.



## HANDICAP ALTERATIONS AGREED BY THE HANDICAP CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

**Cheltenham**, Week-end, March 28th-30th  
Colonel E. L. L. Vulliamy 11 to 6; Miss E. H. Arkell 14 (D.12); F. W. Meredith  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 0, at own request.  
April 18th. Miss E. H. Arkell 14 (D.12) to 12 (D.10).

**Hunstanton**, Week-end, April 24th-27th  
[Non-Associate: R. Forth 9\* to 9 (D.7)].

**Budleigh Salterton**, non-official, May 4th-9th  
M. Pease 9\* to 11 (D.9); Mrs. D. M. C. Prichard -1 to -1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ;  
M. Granger-Brown 5 to 4; Miss E. G. Clarke-Lens 8 to 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ .  
[Non-Associates: Sir Desmond Cable Anderson 12; D. Stevenson 9\* to 10 (D.8); H. Hodgson 9 to 8].

**Peel Memorials**, May 11th-16th, at Cheltenham  
Colonel E. L. L. Vulliamy 6 to 4 (During Play); Miss E. H. Arkell 12 (D.10) to 9 (D.8) (During Play); J. A. Wheeler 2 to 1; Mrs. J. B. Meachem 4 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ ; Mrs. E. Bressey 6 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 6; Mrs. F. A. Sheil 9 to 8 (D.7); Colonel E. L. L. Vulliamy 4 to 3 (After Play).

**Southwick**, non-official, May 18th-24th  
D. Himmens 0 to  $\frac{1}{2}$ ; Mrs. P. Mann 9\* to 9.

## CLUB RECOMMENDATIONS:

**Woking**  
Canon J. Pym 4 to 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ ; T. G. Bennett 5 to 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ ; Mrs. H. Nalder 6 to 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ ; Miss Hill 11 to 10 (D.9); Mrs. P. Omond 9 to 10; Mrs. Whitham 8 to 9.  
[Non-Associate: A. Wiggins 13 (D.12) to 12 (D.11)].

**Bowdon**  
J. Pearce-Jones 12.

**Radbroke Hall**  
[Non-Associates: C. J. Bealey 10; M. Billington 10; R. Fitzgerald 11; G. Richardson 10; J. Rose 13].

Associates who wish to request an increase of handicap may write to the Handicap Co-ordinating Committee.

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

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## LAWS POLICY

from the Chairman of the Laws Committee

At the A.G.M. the two following opinions were expressed by associates:

- (a) That the Laws were too complicated for the beginner or ordinary player to understand.
- (b) That associates did not want any basic alteration in the contents or lay-out of the present Laws.

These two statements appear to be contradictory, but this is understandable. Curiously enough the Laws Committee and the Council had been thinking on much the same lines.

Unfortunately croquet (or at any rate tournament croquet) is a complicated game and the most complex situations, which give rise to much heat and argument, can and do arise. The Laws must do their best to cater for all contingencies that have arisen in the past and may occur in the future, whatever their rarity. Without this, chaos would reign and referees' tasks would become impossible. Thus a fully comprehensive code of Laws is essential, which is very difficult to simplify, whilst still catering for all eventualities. Such a publication is, of course, useless to the beginner.

On the other hand, beginners, non-tournament players and many ordinary players could get on very well with a simplified code, which would not only teach the basic, rudimentary Laws, but explain how the game is played. Such a code would not bother about rare occurrences, which can be settled when they do occur by commonsense and goodwill on both sides.

The Council has therefore decided on the following policy:

- (a) That the present code of Laws shall remain basically unaltered for the next few years except for minor essential alterations, which may become necessary from time to time. When the present stocks of the Laws book become exhausted, a reprint will become necessary, and the opportunity will then be taken to introduce a few other non-controversial alterations in the Laws and Regulations. For instance, both the present Schedule of Bisesques on page 32 and the series of numbers for making the Draw and Process are incorrect, and the necessary corrections have already been worked out.
- (b) That there is a need for a simplified code of Laws, as a separate publication, in addition to but not in place of

the full Laws. It is to be hoped that this will be of assistance to beginners not only to teach them the basic Laws but to explain how the game is played. The Laws Committee will meet in the autumn to discuss the compilation of this publication.

## RULING BY C.A. COUNCIL ON LAWS 28, 45(b) AND 51

Associates may or may not have noticed a ruling issued to all Clubs on an apparent discrepancy between the above Laws, concerning the question of whether the adversary should warn the striker when a ball is misplaced, but when he is obviously about to play with the wrong ball.

The following is a typical case. The striker roquets a ball on or near the boundary and both balls go off the court several yards apart. The striker muddles the two balls up in his mind. He first picks up the striker's ball and puts it on the yard line. He then collects the roqueted ball and, in violation of Law 28, brings it over to the striker's ball, and proceeds to arrange it for the croquet stroke.

Here the Laws conflict. Law 28 says that the adversary should immediately call attention to a ball misplaced. Law 45(b) says that the adversary shall announce any irregularity he observes, notwithstanding it may be to his disadvantage. On the other hand Law 51 says specifically that a player must not warn his adversary that he is about to play with the wrong ball.

There is no doubt that the common practice in these circumstances is not to warn, despite Laws 28 and 45(b). Moreover Law 45(a) says that there is no obligation on the adversary to watch the game.

Pending further consideration of the problem by the Laws Committee, the Council have issued the following ruling, maintaining the *status quo* to the effect that:—

Law 51 shall be temporarily varied by adding the following sentence after "players must not so warn" in line 6:  
"This over-rides Law 45(b) and Law 28 (Ball misplaced)."

In short, the Council ruling means that players should carry on as they have always been accustomed to, and are not to warn when their opponents are about to play with the wrong ball, even though a ball is misplaced.

D. M. C. PRICHARD