

when only the best will do
— the choice is again

Equipment

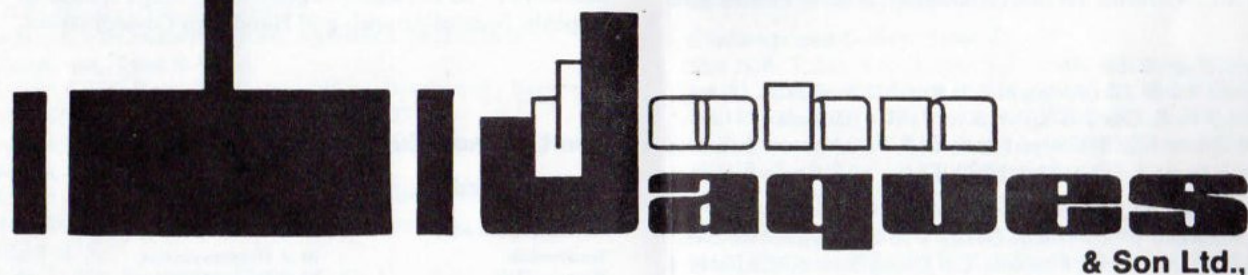
Known and used all over the world

Mallets

made to your own
specification
by Jaques craftsmen

The renowned Eclipse Championship Ball

Complete sets or single items,
accessories, from all good sports
shops and stores.



Jaques
& Son Ltd.,

361 Whitehorse Road,
Thornton Heath, Surrey, CR4 8XP. Tel: 01-684-4242

THE CROQUET GAZETTE

Number 137

October 1975

The Official Organ of the Croquet Association

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

Croquet in South Africa

Perhaps the first reference to croquet in South Africa appears in "Life At the Cape a Hundred Years Ago — By A Lady", the Lady being Mrs L.G. Ross, who wrote on 26th August 1861, "As yet croquet has not taken deep root among the Cape ladies. The want of lawns is probably the cause of it, but picnics, with music and dancing, are no unpleasant substitute". A later reference in November 1875 by Lady Barker, describes the park in Pietermaritzburg, Natal, and comments "even croquet is played there on the bare, levelled earth". Apart from these quotations the history of croquet in South Africa during the 19th century is unrecorded. It would appear however that it was in the Cape and Natal that it was most popular. The famous Western Province Cricket Club at Newlands had a croquet section and this led to the earliest known South African championship being held at the Club in 1911. This championship was won by Major Kenneth McIvor who sixty-one years later was a contestant in the 1972 South African championships and won the handicap event!

Despite these early beginnings in South Africa, croquet has surprisingly enough not attracted the support it enjoys in Australia and New Zealand. The reasons for this are not clear but one factor may have been the unattractiveness of the gravel courts which at one time were a feature of South African croquet. There were, however, by the 1930's, scores of clubs throughout South Africa, many of them playing on gravel. An annual inter-club competition was held in the Western Cape for the Faure Cup and in Natal a provincial croquet association was formed in 1933. After a lapse of many years South African championships were once again held in 1935 in Durban, and were won by Captain Reginald G.H. Belcher (a regular entrant in British and New Zealand croquet tournaments).

By 1937, mainly owing to the efforts of Mr A.C. Oakeshott, it proved possible to form a South African Croquet Association. Unfortunately, Mr Oakeshott died shortly after the formation of the Association and, with the war intervening, the Association ceased to function effectively and South African croquet accordingly received a severe setback. It was not until 9th May 1950 that the Association was revived with Captain Belcher as President. In 1953 the South African championships were once again held — the winner being Edward Ward-Petley, the well-known British Test player who had settled in South Africa. Tournaments have since been held regularly, the venues being Pietermaritzburg and Durban in Natal, Pretoria in the Transvaal and the Rondebosch Club at Cape Town. From 1958 onwards, the championships were dominated by George Neaves of Pietermaritzburg, the then Secretary of the S.A.C.A., who won the singles championship on six occasions and, partnered by Miss Myrle Simkins, also of Pietermaritzburg, the doubles on five occasions. Miss Simkins, who succeeded Captain Belcher as President of the S.A.C.A., also won the singles on two occasions. In the 1960's Clive Hambley of Rondebosch came to the fore and won the singles championship for five years in succession. The present Open Singles Champion is Tom Barlow of Somerset West, Cape, who won the 1973 and 1974 events.

There are seven clubs affiliated to the South African Croquet Association, namely —

Durban	(which has two non-regulation size courts).
Fish Hoek, Cape	(which has two full size courts nearing completion).
Pietermaritzburg	(three courts).
Pretoria	(two courts).
Rondebosch	(two full size and one non-regulation size courts).
Southbroom, Natal	(one non-regulation size court).
Somerset West, Cape	(which uses private non-regulation size courts).

Apart from these Clubs there are a number of small private clubs not affiliated, such as those at Graaff-Reinet and Kokstad.

In recent years the total number of players affiliated to the South African Croquet Association has risen from 75 to nearly 200. There has always been a close link between the UK Croquet Association and South African croquet, medals having been provided by the UK for play in the Natal Croquet Association tournaments and the South African championships for many years. More recently the standard of the game in South Africa has benefited from the visits of a number of overseas players, notably, in chronological order, Albert Saalfeld, Patrick Cotter, Roger Hicks, Jean Jarden, Bryan Lloyd-Pratt, and earlier this year John Solomon, to mention only those who stayed long enough to play in most of the Clubs. The distance between most of the centres where croquet is played has been another factor to contend with, but it is surely some measure of the keenness with which South Africans approach the game that they are willing to travel more than a thousand miles to take part in the annual championships. For this reason the tournament includes a handicap event to make certain that those who are unfortunate in the early rounds have an opportunity for competitive play against players from other Provinces. Play in the singles is for the Belcher Cup and in the open doubles for the Lady Steel Silver Salver. The tournament is normally held in November. The Natal Croquet Association hold their main tournament in May each year with a handicap event usually in October, whilst the Western Province Croquet Association hold their championships normally in March. At Clubs play is normally all-year round and refugees from the British winter, as well as Australians and New Zealanders travelling via South Africa to Europe, can always be sure of a welcome and the opportunity for a game at any of the Clubs.

C.W.I. Gillespie,
President, S.A.C.A.

Deadline

The deadline for the receipt of copy for the December gazette is Wednesday 22 October. Please note that this date is much earlier than usual.

Weekend Tournaments

Wrest Park: July 4-6

Swiss Tournament:	1st	E. Bell	7 wins out of 9 games
	2nd	A.C.W. Davies	6 wins out of 9 games
	3rd	A. Dumont	6 wins out of 9 games

Film was made during this competition by Anglia Television and shown on the following Monday.

Bowdon: August 22-25

BLOCK A. Winner: G. Richardson (6) who beat R. Faulkner (2) +12, E. Bell (3) +8, P. Stoker (4) +26, C. Hudson (8) +4, B.G. Bucknall (9) +2 and Mrs D. de Q. Lenfestey (11) +11.

BLOCK B. Winner: G. Binks (13) who beat Mrs A. Fotiadi (2) +20, B. Slater (4) +12, D. de Q. Lenfestey (6) +4, P. Bowler (8) +21, and lost to Major G. B. Horridge (5½) -1 and Mrs N. Tyldesley (6) -11.

PLAY-OFF

G. Richardson (6) bt. G. Binks (13) +13

Colchester II: August 22-25

BLOCK A. Winner: N. Kennedy (2½) who beat Mrs E.E. Bressey (4) +10, Mrs B.G. Neal (5½) +22, J. Wilson (8) +19, Mrs N. Paterson (15) +20 and Mrs P.H. Mann (9) +15.

BLOCK B. Winner: Professor B.G. Neal (-3½) who beat Mrs F.E.M. Puxon (4½) +1, K. Paterson (3½) +4, Mrs N. Kennedy (6½) +11, Mrs C. Sebestyen (9) +7 and Mrs G. Hallett (12) +12.

BLOCK C. Winner: Mrs H.A. Zinn (9) who beat G. Hallett (1) +12, C.H.J. Cousins (2) +7, F.E.M. Puxon (7½) +18, Miss E.L. Wood (12) +4, and lost to Mrs G.S. Digby (3) -1.

BLOCK D. Winner: R. Alford (6) who beat G.S. Digby (4) +13, E.C. Avery (12) +14, P. Bishop (4½) +7, and lost to M.E.W. Heap (-2½) -13.

BLOCK E. Winner: E.A. Locke (7) who beat J. Haigh (1) +2, N.J.C. Gooch (5½) +5, C.R. Palmer (11) +18 and P.H. Mann (6) +9.

PLAY-OFF

Semi-Final

E.A. Locke (7) bt. Mrs H.A. Zinn (9) +12
R. Alford (6) bt. Professor B.G. Neal (-3½) +26

Final

R. Alford (6) bt. E.A. Locke (7) + 1 (T)

HANDICAP DOUBLES (8 Pairs)

Semi-Final

Mrs F.E.M. Puxon & H. Cross (17½) bt. Mr & Mrs G. Hallett (13) +14

C.H.J. Cousins & A. Buck, M.P. (15) bt. N.J.C. Gooch & G.S. Digby (5½) +1 (T)

Final

Mrs Puxon & Cross bt. Cousins & Buck + 2

Cheltenham III: August 23-25

BLOCK A. Winner: Mrs W.J. Sturdy (14) who beat G.E.P. Jackson (-1½) +15, Miss E.H. Arkell (3) +19, L.G. Ayliffe (5) +1 (T), Miss M.J. Lodge (8) +21, Mrs D.H.C. Whiteman (14) +1 (T), and lost to H.G.T. Bolton (1) -6 (T).

BLOCK B. Winner: J. Coutts (7) who beat H. Williams (2) +14, Captain H.F. Nalder (3½) +17 (T), Miss I.M. Roc (5) +9, Mrs G.C. Day (12) +20, Mrs A. Warren (15) +7, and lost to Lt-Col D.M.C. Prichard (-1) -4 (T).

BLOCK C. Winner: M.J. Duck (7) who beat Mrs D.M.C. Prichard (-½) +14, F.E. Pearson (2) +25, Col. G.T. Wheeler (5) +12, E. Asa-Thomas (9) +6 (T), Mrs C.W. Marshall (13) +16 and Mrs M.L. Shackleton (16) +14.

BLOCK D. Winner: Mrs E. Asa-Thomas (6) who beat P.W. Elmes (0) +17, Mrs E.M. Lightfoot (1½) +20, Mrs C. Bagnall (5½) +16, Dr C.W. Marshall (11) +8, Mrs F.E. Pearson (12) +11 and Sir Leonard Stone (15) +10.

BLOCK E. Winner: J. McLaren (7) who beat D.H. Moorcraft (½) +4, W.J. Sturdy (3) +24, Mrs G.E. Cave (5) +10, Mrs H.F. Nalder (7) +15, W.F. Morton (12) +20 and Miss D.M. Warren (16) +23.

Obituaries

H.O. Hodgson

It is with deep regret that the Nottingham Club report the death of their President, Mr H.O. Hodgson, aged 88 years. Mr Hodgson was one of the original members of the Club, and was well known and liked by visiting members to the tournaments, and as a visitor to other clubs where he played in tournaments up to the age of 80. His passing is a great loss to the Nottingham Club. We offer our sincere sympathy to his two daughters.

E.C.B.

Agnes and Violet Mills

Budleigh Salterton much regrets to report the deaths of the two sisters, Agnes and Violet Mills, during the same week in July.

Agnes Mills had played croquet for more than 40 years. She was in the Ladies Eight in 1959-61, 62, 63 and 64, and won two major events, the Ladies Field Candlesticks (with Mrs E. Rotherham) in 1954, and the Open Mixed Doubles Championship (with J.A. Hollweg) in 1961. She played in many tournaments with varying success.

Violet Mills played only in more minor events, her most notable success being three victories (with Major G.F. Stone) in the Budleigh Salterton July Doubles.

With failing eyesight, Agnes - Referee, Manager and Handicapper - had retired from active croquet, but many will remember her many kindnesses and her skill and devotion to croquet.

G.E.C.

The Scottish Championships: July 5

Most of the clubs in the Scottish Croquet Association were represented by one or more contenders at Gleneagles Hotel on Saturday July 5th, when the final two rounds of the Scottish Open and Handicap Championships and the Final of the Secretary Trophy (under 25 handicap) were held. The sun shone from a cloudless blue sky from the start at 10 o'clock until the last game ended after half past eight - surely one of the best days of a notable summer . . . The prizes were presented by Mr Russell Galbraith, Head of News, Current Affairs and Sport for Scottish Television Ltd., and the Scottish Croquet Association are very grateful for the interest he has shown in our minority sport both in coming to present the prizes and in bringing interviewer Bob Currie and a full camera crew for most of the day.

Results

OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

Semi-Final

D.I. Nichols bt. R.N. Maclean + 2
W.M. Spalding bt. F.V.X. Norton + 5 (T)

Final

D.I. Nichols bt. W.M. Spalding + 8

HANDICAP CHAMPIONSHIP

Semi-Final

D.I. Nichols (1½) bt. N. McKinnon (5) +14
I.H. Wright (1) bt. J.G. White (6) +11

Final

D.I. Nichols (1½) bt. I.H. Wright (1) +12

SECRETARY TROPHY (under 25 Handicap)

Final

S.J.H. Wright (0) bt. N. McKinnon (5) +13

The Quality of Croquet Balls

Earlier this season Bowdon Croquet Club wrote to Jaques through their sports dealers about some croquet balls that had split after very little use. They expressed concern about the durability and reliability of these Composition Croquet Balls. Each of a set of 4 balls had cracked along one of the equators, presumably the boundary of the two halves of the mould. They wrote: "Recognising that once moisture gets through the case, swelling of the composition will bring about rapid and complete collapse, an attempt has been made to seal the cracks with cellulose paint, but obviously without success. We should have realised perhaps that any knock hard enough to distort the case, even slightly, would certainly break the thin paint film and open the crack again. Unfortunately we cannot claim replacement under the two-year guarantee because records have been mislaid and we are unable to state the age of these balls. But even if we are able to do so, we would still be in difficulty in proving the relationship between the ball and the invoice, when eight or more sets of varying ages are simultaneously in use. Can Jaques suggest any solution to this problem? Could identification of sets by combinations of dots and numbers, as with golf balls, be made use of in some way." They added that repairs with Borden's "Power Pack" Epoxy resin adhesive had also been unsuccessful, and noted that the thickness of the case of some of the balls appeared to be very thin.

The balls referred to above were replaced free of charge, and it was confirmed that Composition Croquet Balls cannot be repaired, and cannot be re-used if they crack.

To reassure other individuals and clubs who may have suffered similar problems, Mr C. Jaques writes as follows:

"The reason for the rather exceptionally large number of the Composition Balls, which have been proving faulty over the past twelve-eighteen months, has been that the moulds from which these Balls are made, have, we now realise, been deteriorating, owing to the extremely high pressure that is necessary for the final moulding of the composition cover on the core. Over the years, these high pressures have caused the moulds to distort, and when they distort, they tend to cause the thickness of the Composition outer-layer of the Balls to vary, and if a thin part comes in the same part as a join in the mould, then that Ball will be weak, and liable to splitting.

"We have, however, now pin-pointed the problem, and have had new moulds made, which naturally will eliminate this particular problem.

"With regard to the marking of Balls, I confirm that we can tell, to within six months, the age of a Croquet Ball, from its core material, and also from the mould marks on this core, and on the outer cover. Naturally, we can only determine this by cutting the Ball up, but as Balls are only returned under complaint, and are not therefore re-usable, this presents no problem.

"I would add that it has been this Company's policy to maintain its good reputation almost at any cost, and therefore we do not stick rigidly to our two year guarantee stipulation, but generally speaking, provided a Ball is not more than two or three years old, we will replace it at no charge to the Customer. If a Ball is older than this, we very often offer to assist the Customer by supplying a part cost replacement.

"I hope that these points will clarify the position with regard to the Composition Balls, and I hope that now we have taken the necessary steps, the incidence of complaints will diminish."

Croquet Association Conference of Clubs, to be held at The Hurlingham Club, 6 December 1975

PROGRAMME

11.00	The opening of the Conference
11.10	Mr Christopher Jaques on Croquet Equipment
12.30	Presentation of Awards: Apps Bowl, Steel Bowl, Apps-Heley Award.
12.35 - 2.00	Luncheon Interval
2.00	Discussion in small groups
3.30	Groups report
4.15	Roving thoughts of Chairman Rothwell
4.30	Pegged Out!

This should be a stimulating conference at which we hope we shall meet many of you. The cost of lunch will be about £1.50. A circular letter has gone to your club's secretary, so please tell him or her if you can attend, and your name will be included in the list which he will send to Mr Robinson.

The discussions will be in small groups covering a wide range of subjects such as The Gazette, Policy for expansion, ideas for small clubs, membership, the game etc. Anyone with any subject they would like discussed, or any queries or suggestions should contact the Organiser, Derek Caporn, 1 Pinelands, 12 Beechwood Avenue, Weybridge, Surrey.

If you are not a member of any club and would like to come, please contact the C.A. Secretary.

There will be a display of Indoor Croquet Equipment, and advice on how and what to play etc. will be available.

Referees Course

Because Development Scheme funds have been fully used this year, there will not be another Referees Course until April 1976. Would anyone who would like to go on the next course let me know as soon as they can? If I knew the approximate numbers by December it would help in budgeting for next year's expenditure, but such early notice is not essential.

Should a club have several members who wish to take the course, and it has the necessary facilities, the course could be held there. This would keep hotel and travelling expenses down. Would any club which would like to act as host to the April 1976 course please let me know?

The requirements for a referees course for about 10 or 12 people are: (A) One, or preferably two, lawns with hoops and peg. They need not be cut or fully marked out except for a corner on each. (B) A room which can seat about 14 people, and which can be used during the evening as well as day time. Light and heating would be needed, and means of making coffee and tea. (C) A nearby place where lunches and suppers can be obtained.

Liz Neal

Inter-Club Championship 1975

Results in Order

Second Round

Cheltenham	beat Roehampton	6-0
Phyllis Court	beat Compton	5-2
Hurlingham	beat Wrest Park	4-3
Harrow Oak	beat Southwick	4-3

Semi-Final

Cheltenham	beat Phyllis Court	5-2
Hurlingham	beat Harrow Oak	4-3

Colchester: July 7-12

One rather suspects that the courts at Colchester this year were not alone in suffering from the long dry summer. They were not helped by the unfortunate failure of the normally excellent irrigation system which appeared to have boiled dry. The concrete-like surface, very close grass and exceedingly firm hoops, whose tolerance never favoured the players, made members and visitors alike feel anything but at home.

However, the 12th Annual Open Tournament seemed to be enjoyed by all, and as the week progressed so the play improved. There were some dozen visitors from far and wide, including the Bulloch brothers from New Zealand who were technically "resting" from their respective professions, but as they were travelling the circuit by motor caravan seemed to do anything but rest; some evenings they were hard at improvement when everybody else had gone home exhausted. We were also pleased to welcome Mr and Mrs Devitt from Herstmonceux, E.C.Allberry from Lymington, Mrs Bressey from Hurlingham and Mr and Mrs Riggall from Portugal. Neil Robinson and the maestro H.O.Hicks were in attendance. Young Stephen Wright from Scotland found the court conditions very different from his previous visit and found it particularly difficult to adapt.

Of the home players Michael Heap, Kenneth Paterson and Norman Gooch gave good account of themselves. Michael played some beautiful croquet in the Process against Dennis Bulloch to win by 22, but in their encounter in the Draw both played rather scratchily, Dennis winning by 7. They eventually met again in the Play-Off, where Michael dominated the game and attempted a triple peel. However, his front ball stuck in Rover; he jumped neatly over it and made a clean return roquet only to give us all heart failure by playing with the wrong ball. Naturally Dennis capitalised on this grave error and made many hoops, giving Michael very little to shoot at and at a great distance, but Michael did hit and went on to win by 6. Formidable!

And now for Norman Gooch. It was really his tournament, for he not only sailed through the X by a wide margin, and the Handicap Doubles with Kenneth Paterson, a widely predicted conclusion, but also the B Levels. It might be thought that he clearly came into the tournament with too many bisques, but one must remember that for the last 12 months he has lived over 60 miles from the courts and so has had little chance of practice. To come on to tricky courts and do a grand slam is thus very commendable indeed. He has now moved to Gloucester after this notable finale, so our loss will be Cheltenham's gain. Half bisque reductions were awarded to Paterson, and to Bishop who managed to reach the final of the X, whilst Gooch was reduced by 2.

People who come to the Colchester Tournament and say that they really come because of the reputation of the excellent cuisine, the croquet being quite supplementary, should be forgiven for such heresy as we are truly fortunate in having lady members who not only wield a formidable mallet but are *cordon bleu* cooks into the bargain. Thank you, ladies. It was great credit to Edward Duffield's excellent and unobtrusive management that the last game of the tournament was over shortly after 6.30 on the Saturday.

Results

Event 1: Open Singles (10 Entries)

DRAW

First Round		
M.E.W.Heap	bt. W.R.Bulloch	+25
S.J.H.Wright	bt. Mrs G.S.Digby	+10
Second Round		
D.J.Bulloch	bt. J.N.Robinson	+23
M.E.W.Heap	w.o.	opp. scr.
S.J.H.Wright	bt. H.O.Hicks	+ 6
Dr R.W.Bray	bt. G.F.Hallett	+19

Semi-Final		
D.J.Bulloch	bt. M.E.W.Heap	+ 7
Dr R.W.Bray	bt. S.J.H.Wright	+ 8
Final		
D.J.Bulloch	bt. Dr R.W.Bray	+26

PROCESS

First Round		
D.J.Bulloch	bt. Dr R.W.Bray	+13
J.N.Robinson	bt. G.F.Hallett	+17
Second Round		
M.E.W.Heap	bt. D.J.Bulloch	+22
Mrs G.S.Digby	w.o.	opp. scr.
J.N.Robinson	bt. S.J.H.Wright	+12
W.R.Bulloch	bt. H.O.Hicks	+ 5

Semi-Final		
M.E.W.Heap	bt. Mrs G.S.Digby	+23
J.N.Robinson	bt. W.R.Bulloch	+ 4

Final		
M.E.W.Heap	bt. J.N.Robinson	+19

PLAY-OFF

M.E.W.Heap	bt. D.J.Bulloch	+ 6
------------	-----------------	-----

Event 2: 'B' Level Singles (13 Entries)

First Round		
H.J.Devitt	bt. F.E.M.Puxon	+ 7
K.H.Paterson	bt. G.S.Digby	+ 7
Mrs L. Riggall	bt. Mrs E.E.Bressey	+15
N.J.Gooch	bt. D.E.Reeves	+ 3
E.A.Locke	bt. L.Riggall	+ 1

Second Round		
Mrs F.E.M.Puxon	bt. H.J.Devitt	+ 4
K.H.Paterson	bt. Mrs L.Riggall	+16
N.J.Gooch	bt. E.A.Locke	+10
R.S.Alford	bt. Mrs H.J.Devitt	+ 9

Semi-Final		
Mrs F.E.M.Puxon	bt. K.H.Paterson	+ 7
N.J.Gooch	bt. R.S.Alford	+16

Final		
N.J.Gooch	bt. Mrs F.E.M.Puxon	+11

Event 3: 'C' Handicap Singles (5 Entries)

First Round		
Mrs E.A.Locke (15)	w.o. C.G.Le Bas	opp. scr.

Semi-Final		
Mrs K.H.Paterson (15)	bt. Mrs E.A.Locke (15)	+ 3
E.C.Allberry (10*)	bt. Mrs G.F.Hallett (12)	+ 3

Final		
E.C.Allberry (10*)	bt. Mrs K.H.Paterson (15)	+12

Event 4a: 'X' Handicap Singles (26 Entries)

First Round		
H.O.Hicks (-3)	bt. G.F.Hallett (1)	+ 7
D.J.Bulloch (-3)	bt. G.S.Digby (4)	+ 1
C.S.Ratcliffe (5*)	bt. F.E.M.Puxon (7½)	+ 4
Mrs L.Riggall (6)	bt. H.J.Devitt (6)	+ 4
D.E.Reeves (4)	bt. L.Riggall (4½)	+ 3
P.Bishop (5)	bt. Mrs G.F.Hallett (12)	+ 9
W.W.Sampson (9)	bt. Mrs E.E.Bressey (4)	+17
S.J.H.Wright (0)	bt. K.H.Paterson (4)	+ 7
Mrs F.E.M.Puxon (4½)	bt. E.A.Locke (7)	+ 4
W.R.Bulloch (-1)	w.o.	opp. scr.

Second Round		
R.S.Alford (6)	bt. E.C.Allberry (9*)	+17
D.J.Bulloch (-3)	bt. H.O.Hicks (-3)	+12
Mrs L.Riggall (6)	bt. C.S.Ratcliffe (5*)	+ 3
P.Bishop (5)	w.o. D.E.Reeves (4)	opp. scr.
W.W.Sampson (9)	bt. S.J.H.Wright (0)	+ 6
W.R.Bulloch (-1)	bt. Mrs F.E.M.Puxon (4½)	+ 7
N.J.Gooch (7½)	bt. Mrs G.S.Digby (3)	+10
J.N.Robinson (½)	bt. Mrs H.J.Devitt (7½)	+ 6

Third Round

D.J.Bulloch (-3)	bt. R.S.Alford (6)	+ 8
P.Bishop (5)	bt. Mrs L.Riggall (6)	+ 7
W.R.Bulloch (-1)	bt. W.W.Sampson (9)	+ 5
N.J.Gooch (7½)	bt. J.N.Robinson (½)	+22

Semi-Final

P.Bishop (5)	bt. D.J.Bulloch (-3)	+26
N.J.Gooch (7½)	bt. W.R.Bulloch (-1)	+26

Final

N.J.Gooch (7½)	bt. P.Bishop (5)	+20
----------------	------------------	-----

Event 4b 'Y' Handicap Singles (12 Entries)

Final		
K.H.Paterson (4)	bt. G.F.Hallett (1)	+12

The Open Championships: July 14-19

A sense of urgency marked the first day's play at the 1975 Championships. Matches came off quickly and several second round games billed for Tuesday were able to be put on. Such expedition was welcomed by the Manager who had an entry of 42 (only 40 played, just 5 down on 1974) and in addition the Golf Croquet Championships with which to contend. The regular lawns looked perfect and produced all the best croquet: Solomon completed the first four peels of a sextuple; Ormerod made no mistake against Wiggins (who went to 4-back in his only innings); Heap, once he got in, only needed 2 turns in each game to complete two triple peels. But on the rougher, more variably paced, cricket field wild dreams of peeling had to be abandoned — the running of a hoop was success enough. Here Hope and Hands had a fluctuating battle over three close games and, when Hope's accuracy paid off better than Hands' brilliant shooting, the winner was tipped to win this quarter of the draw — and the loser to win the Plate (neither materialised). Meanwhile H.O.Hicks and Haigh had an absorbing tussle: Hicks stalled for two games and then raced away with the third, leaving Haigh with the feeling that he had fallen for the three card trick.

In the 1921 Handbook, when the lowest handicap was -1½, H.O.Hicks is to be found already with a handicap of 2; and here he was, 54 years later, in the second round, making D.J.Bulloch, the 1974 New Zealand reserve, fight every inch of the way to survive (which Bulloch did by a mere 8 points in the third game). Afterwards Hicks played a fourth game — (made necessary by the fact that his opponents were Aspinall and Ormerod). No wonder his knowledge of the game is unrivalled and that his skill and stamina are so little impaired: he has given immense entertainment to three generations of spectators; he is entitled to be a 'prima donna'.

Tuesday's match of the day was between Heap and Wylie. Wylie made a few mistakes early on, but Heap took little advantage of them; Wylie then found a nice touch and soon after lunch appeared to have the match in his grasp. He was one game up when, in doing a delayed triple peel, he gave himself a hampered rush, with both balls for the Rover hoop, and jumped his partner ball. This gave Heap an easy break to 4-back. Wylie had one more chance when Heap stuck in the 3rd hoop with the classic triple peel laid out, but Wylie's split, which cannoned the unroqueted enemy ball to beyond the Rover, left his own ball short of his partner, and he missed the roquet. Heap played the unexpected ball, hit (his first hit of the match) and won that game and the next. Background music was provided by the quiet ebb and flow of an all day match between Rees and Hemsted — two touch players with

Event 5: Handicap Doubles (12 Pairs)

First Round		
Mr & Mrs H.J.Devitt (13½)	bt. Mr & Mrs G.F.Hallett (13)	+ 5
Mr & Mrs G.S.Digby (7)	bt. C.S.Ratcliffe & E.C.Allberry (15)+23	
H.O.Hicks & S.J.H.Wright (-3)	bt. D.E.Reeves & R.S.Alford (10)	+ 6
K.H.Paterson & N.J.Gooch (11½)	bt. Mr & Mrs E.A. Locke (21)	+ 3

Second Round

Mr & Mrs L.Riggall (10½)	bt. D.J.Bulloch & W.R. Bulloch (-4)	+17
Mr & Mrs Digby	bt. Mr & Mrs Devitt	+ 8
Paterson & Gooch	bt. Hicks & Wright	+20
J.N.Robinson & Mrs F.E.M.Puxon (5)	bt. F.E.M.Puxon & Mrs E.E.Bressey (11½)	+ 3

Semi-Final

Mr & Mrs Riggall	bt. Mr & Mrs Digby	+13
Paterson & Gooch	bt. Robinson & Mrs Puxon	+12

Final

Paterson & Gooch	bt. Mr & Mrs Riggall	+19
------------------	----------------------	-----

the ideal temperament for the game. Rees won, relegating the 1974 Chairman's Salver winner to the Plate which Hemsted proceeded to sail through with four double figure wins — no mean performance from the strong entry of 27.

Wednesday saw the closest match of all: twice Godby, who is playing better than ever in his first year of retirement, had the first game in his pocket but twice he made a mistake and Neal came from nowhere to win by 2. The second game was Godby's by 7, and both had more than one chance to go out in the third, but it was Neal who snatched it by only 4. Meanwhile Ormerod was not giving Dennis Bulloch any chances until at the last minute in the second game Bulloch gave an entertaining display of shooting and only failed by 1 point to pull off the three ball finish.

Thursday was devoted to the quarter- and semi-finals of the Singles. How lucky the C.A. are to have had Roger Bray to manage these two great years: he manipulated the players and courts with the greatest economy and skill. Aspinall, who had barely allowed his first two opponents a turn, now dropped his first game to that bubbling irreverent player Murray. Murray ended his triple peel with two cannons and was left with only his last shot in which to peg out both balls. Yellow was 2 feet south of the Peg; Red was about 3 feet south and a little east of Yellow. He told the Referee that he was going to cut Yellow on to the right of the Peg and to try to roll on himself — and he did just that. Aspinall took command of the next two games — but he envied that peg-out.

Aspinall then met Solomon, who had played with great authority to beat Ormerod in two games earlier. Aspinall took the first game with a faultless triple peel and was round to 4-back before ten minutes were up in the second. Solomon hit back at once and triple-peeled and pegged out Aspinall. Aspinall took his contact from the ball in the second corner; he split it to halfway between the 1st and 2nd hoop, and went to the third ball which was in a little from the east boundary about 13 yards from B baulk. A thick take-off sent this ball to the 3rd hoop, and Aspinall got a long position for the first hoop, which he just made, leaving himself an 8 yard roquet. He rolled the two balls to the 3rd hoop and got a rush to the 2nd — and he made the rest look easy. This was Aspinall's 5th game of the day and Solomon's 4th, and no one could hope to see a better game: the whole game was finished in two perfect turns, followed by this brilliant contact turn.

In the top half Neal had another three game match, and this time he turned the tables on Heap who had put him out in '74. That evening Neal played — and lost — the first game of the semi-final to Barlow. It was good to see Barlow back again from South Africa, but to begin with he did not seem to be playing as well as he did last year. He had great difficulty in

beating Col. Prichard in the first round, then dropped a game to Camroux. Against Hope he was lucky to pick up the first game when Hope played with the wrong ball in the middle of a triple peel. Hope won the second with another triple peel, but in the third Barlow began to play fluently for the first time. Barlow probably played his best croquet on the Friday evening, after some frustrating doubles, when he completed a triple peel to win his second game against Neal.

Of the final one can only say that Aspinall was in ravenous mood. He had not played an indifferent game all the week and now he produced his best. Barlow never took croquet; he did make things a little easier for Aspinall by two rather weak shots at a time but he was never given a chance until at the eleventh hour he might have taken a 7 yard lift shot but chose a safer 13 yard one and missed it. Aspinall's speed on the court was such that although he was in both finals it was always he who was waiting for an opponent.

Aspinall & Ormerod had disposed of such good opponents - Murray & Hope and the two Solomons - with such ease that they were hot favourites to regain the Doubles Championships, despite the fact that they seldom seemed to agree over tactics. Ross & Heap had summarily dismissed Wylie & Hands in the first round by lunchtime, but later they had not impressed, until in the semi-final they had each completed a triple peel. Had Heap been able to complete either of the triple peels on which he embarked from not unpromising situations in the final, the result might have been very different. In the event, Heap got himself pegged out in the first game and Ross could not hit in, or when he did he could not score. In the second game Ormerod was pegged out but Aspinall hit in at once and clinched the Championship - but not until they had been playing for over six hours.

There were over 20 triple peels completed, but not all may have been noted; it would help if they were recorded on the score sheets. Of Solomon's seven, three were on opponents; Aspinall kept most of his for the end of the week and did four in successive games; Hemsted did his first ever on Hopewell in a Double; Davren did his first in the Plate, a remarkable achievement for a +2 at his first Championships. In fact all the plus players who were newcomers distinguished themselves: Haigh & Southern beat Wiggins & Hamilton-Miller and then took a game off Heap & Ross. Southern beat Hands in the Plate; this should encourage tilters at windmills. Strutt, playing with Dennis Bulloch, got to the final of the Golf Croquet Doubles, beating Colin Prichard & Mrs Prichard by the odd game out of five, and putting Hands & Wylie out in three straight games. The Golf Croquet Doubles were won by Solomon *père et fils* (John junior is +1½), and John senior nearly won the Golf Croquet Singles also when he was 3 & 4 in the final game, but Wylie, with sheer will to win, wrested it from him.

In addition to Barlow there were three other old friends from South Africa, R.H.James and Mr & Mrs Riggall - the latter couple on holiday from Portugal. From New Zealand we were also glad to have the Bulloch brothers, Dennis and William, who have been making such an impact around the clubs this season, and Col. E.D.Tims, also home on holiday (he will remember holding Wylie to 7 in the Plate). Other things were noted. The four balls on the East boundary start has become less fashionable. Two mallets were tossed in the air in pique - and both fell to the earth and broke. Our Chairman came up several times and took over the management of the late games; our new President and his wife came up to preside on the last day, and our old President was a welcome figure who came most days. The cost of the Hurlingham lawns has been increased to £4 per lawn per day; the decision of the Club came too late for any money to be re-couped this year, but it seems inevitable that entry fees may have to be almost doubled next year. It must be hoped that such an increase will not discourage anyone from entering. Like cheap food, the era of cheap croquet is also passing, and how can one set a value on croquet such as we have enjoyed this week?

Results

Event 1: The Croquet Championship (42 Entries)

Table with columns for Round (First, Second, Third, Fourth, Semi-Final, Final), Player Names, and Scores. Includes names like A.V.Camroux, Mrs W.Longman, D.V.H.Rees, S.R.Hemsted, A.B.Hope, Lt.Col E.D.Tims, D.J.Bulloch, H.O.Hicks, N.J.Davren, Dr W.P.Ormerod, R.A.Godby, Prof. B.G.Neal, K.F.Wylie, M.E.W.Heap, T.Barlow, A.V.Camroux, D.V.H.Rees, A.B.Hope, D.J.Bulloch, Dr W.P.Ormerod, G.G.Strutt, J.W.Solomon, C.Southern, Dr M.Murray, S.J.H.Wright, G.N.Asprinall, Prof. B.G.Neal, M.E.W.Heap, T.Barlow, A.B.Hope, Dr W.P.Ormerod, J.W.Solomon, Dr M.Murray, G.N.Asprinall, Prof. B.G.Neal, T.Barlow, J.W.Solomon, G.N.Asprinall, G.N.Asprinall, T.Barlow, G.N.Asprinall.

Event 2: The Doubles Championship (19 Pairs)

Table with columns for Round (First, Second, Third), Player Names, and Scores. Includes names like C.Southern & J.Haigh, K.A.Ross & M.E.W.Heap, Dr M.Murray & A.B.Hope, R.A.Godby, R.H.James & T.Barlow, Dr J.N.Robinson & W.R.Bulloch, Ross & Heap, Prof. B.G.Neal & Dr R.W.Bray, Murray & Hope, Dr W.P.Ormerod & G.N.Asprinall, C.G.Hopewell & S.R.Hemsted, J.W.Solomon & J.R.G.Solomon, Robinson & W.R.Bulloch, Ross & Heap, Ormerod & Aspinall, Solomon & Solomon.

Table with columns for Round (Semi-Final, Final, First Round, Second Round, Third Round), Player Names, and Scores. Includes names like Ross & Heap, Ormerod & Aspinall, N.J.Davren, S.J.H.Wright, Dr J.N.Robinson, J.R.G.Solomon, R.H.James, K.A.Ross, R.A.Godby, S.R.Hemsted, N.J.Davren, Dr J.N.Robinson, K.A.Ross, S.R.Hemsted, N.J.Davren, Dr J.N.Robinson, K.A.Ross, S.R.Hemsted, N.J.Davren, Dr J.N.Robinson, K.A.Ross, S.R.Hemsted.

Cheltenham Open Tournament: July 21-26

Your correspondent, having been removed from the action by the Thursday, had leisure thereafter to observe the tournament from the security of a comfortable chair on the side-lines. This was a truly international gathering. The 56 players comprised 22 visitors from clubs around the British Isles, including a party of three from Scotland; in addition, there were two from Eire, two from New Zealand, two from Portugal and five from South Africa. The remaining 23 players were from the Cheltenham Club itself. Among those present were one of the finalists from the previous week's Open Championship at Hurlingham and the current holder of the Men's Championship. Perhaps the most notable absentee was the holder of the Cheltenham Opens Cup, Paul Hands, who, with Terence Read, had dominated the tournament for the last four years. Prior to the tournament, Paul was asked for his forecast for the week. On the evidence of his reply he would make a good tipster, for Andrew Hope and Terence Read, as Paul suggested they would, duly emerged as winner and runner-up respectively. It would not be unfair to Read to say that it was in fact Hope's week. He consistently hit the ball more truly and with sweeter timing than anyone else: nothing was rushed or forced; his whole game, technically and tactically, had the stamp of calm authority. Although there were close games, he was never really troubled and appeared to play well within himself to win both Draw and Process. Hope's game against Read in the final of the Process was naturally close-fought. Read made the first break but failed at 3-back. Hope then went to 4-back and Read missed the lift shot. Hope stuck in Hoop 2. Read having failed to make anything of it, Hope went on with his break, only to stick in 1-back. Read then went to 4-back with his second ball and Hope followed by going to the peg, finishing with a text-book leave. Read missed the difficult lift shot, and we thought the game was over. For the third time Hope broke down, this time at Penult. At this stage Hope was for peg and Penult, Read for Penult and 3-back. Read then cornered and once again the

Table with columns for Round (Semi-Final, Final, First Round, Second Round, Third Round), Player Names, and Scores. Includes names like Dr J.N.Robinson, S.R.Hemsted, S.R.Hemsted, K.F.Wylie, J.W.Solomon, K.F.Wylie, J.W.Solomon, J.W.Solomon & J.R.G.Solomon, D.J.Bulloch & G.G.Strutt, J.W.Solomon & J.R.G.Solomon, G.G.Strutt.

game looked over. Hope, however, proceeded to miss a 3-yard roquet. Read laid for Penult, Hope missed and Read failed Penult. Hope made Penult and Rover but had a poor rush to the peg. A split peg-out failed and he laid up. Read then hit what looked like a last shot, to applause. He made 3-back, 4-back and Penult but took off on to the wire of Penult and retired to the boundary. Hope hit the lift shot and went out +5. With his partner, Norman, Hope also demolished Jackson and Taylor to win the final of the Doubles, and he might also have won the Daniels Cup had he not scratched at the quarter-final stage. Hope apart, the over-all standard of play was very variable, but notable performances came from two newcomers to the tournament, Ian Wright and John Haigh. Wright was stopped by Hope in the Opens and by Haigh in the Handicap. Until then he had been on the winning end of a series of splendid games, some of them very close. One game that Wright did not win was against Moorcraft. The climax was a war of nerves, with Wright somehow managing to send Moorcraft's Blue, which was for the peg (Black having already been pegged out) to within a few feet of the peg. Moorcraft inexplicably missed. Wright then tried to peg out but missed with his backward ball, and Moorcraft finally hit in to win by 1. If ever a man looked determined to do well, it was John Haigh, who provided us with an object lesson in dedication. Wherever one looked, there he was, unmistakable in red hunting-hat, hitting long shots and crushing the opposition with perfect long splits from miles away. It was not in the least surprising that he won the Money Salver. That he failed to carry off the Daniels Cup too was largely due to exhaustion. The Final, his third game on a hot day, was the only bad game he played all week. Bernard Weitz, after a relatively easy passage to the final, showed no mercy in carrying out a very convincing and almost bloodless execution. In the Calthrop Strachan had looked a likely winner from the first day. At sixteen years old, he is a very good prospect, though he may have to learn to curb his youthful impetuosity.

<i>Semi-Final</i>			Mrs G.H.Wood (1½)	bt. Mrs F.H.N.Davidson (7)	+ 4
Aspinall & Meadows bt. Pountney & Martin	+ 3	J.Parr (7)	bt. Mrs L.Riggall (6½)	+14	
Cousins & Openshaw bt. Eades & Stevens	+ 3 (T)	P.H.Mann (7)	bt. Mrs E.E.Bressey (4)	+11	
<i>Final</i>			C.H.J.Cousins (3)	bt. Mrs C.Sebestyen (9)	+19
Cousins & Openshaw bt. Aspinall & Meadows	+26	R.O.Havery (2)	bt. Mrs D.M.Aubrey (4)	+ 3	
<i>Event 8: The Silver Jubilee Cup (50 Entries)</i>			G.B.Martin (2½)	bt. R.A.Carte (2½)	+12
<i>First Round</i>			R.S.Eades (4)	bt. M.J.Stevens (9)	+ 7
L.Riggall (4½)	bt. Mrs A.W.Skempton (4½)	+22	A.W.Solomon (3½)	opp. scr.	
Mrs H.B.H.Carlisle (5)	bt. Mrs B.Meachem (1½)	+ 3	C.B.Sanford (4½)	bt. R.N.Maclean (2)	+ 6
B.A.Meadows (6½)	bt. I.C.Baillieu (3)	+ 4	<i>Third Round</i>		
Mrs E.M.Lightfoot (1½)	bt. Mrs B.G.Weitz (4)	+16	R.A.Godby (-1)	bt. Miss B.Duthie (2)	+12
O.A.Kerensky (4)	bt. G.E.Doughty (8)	+ 7	D.Openshaw (3)	bt. L.Riggall (4½)	+21
R.O.Calder (5)	bt. C.G.Pountney (0)	+ 3	B.A.Meadows (6½)	bt. R.O.Calder (5)	+14
M.G.Pearson (6)	bt. Prof. B.G.Weitz (½)	+ 3	S.G.Kent (5)	bt. Mrs G.H.Wood (1½)	+25
S.G.Kent (5)	bt. T.F.Owen (3)	+11	P.H.Mann (7)	bt. J.Parr (7)	+ 9
Mrs F.H.N.Davidson (7)	bt. Mrs P.W.Hooper (7)	+ 5	C.H.J.Cousins (3)	bt. R.O.Havery (2)	+10
Mrs G.H.Wood (1½)	bt. S.S.Townsend (½)	+26	R.S.Eades (4)	bt. G.B.Martin (2½)	+21
J.Parr (7)	bt. Mrs S.R.Hemsted (8)	+ 1 (T)	A.W.Solomon (3½)	bt. C.B.Sanford (4½)	+17
Mrs L.Riggall (6½)	bt. Mrs B.G.Neal (5½)	+20	<i>Fourth Round</i>		
Mrs E.E.Bressey (4)	bt. W.R.Bullock (-1)	+10	D.Openshaw (3)	bt. R.A.Godby (-1)	+26
P.H.Mann (7)	bt. Miss S.G.Hampson (3)	+ 6	B.A.Meadows (6½)	bt. S.G.Kent (5)	+ 7
C.H.J.Cousins (3)	bt. E.B.T.Tanner (6)	+ 5	P.H.Mann (7)	bt. C.H.J.Cousins (3)	+16
Mrs C.Sebestyen (9)	w.o. J.H.T.Griffiths (8)	opp. scr.	R.S.Eades (4)	bt. A.W.Solomon (3½)	+ 8
Mrs D.M.Aubrey (4)	bt. Mrs W.Longman (1)	+16	<i>Semi-Final</i>		
R.O.Havery (2)	bt. Mrs G.W.Solomon (4)	+ 6	D.Openshaw (3)	bt. B.A.Meadows (6½)	+ 7
<i>Second Round</i>			R.S.Eades (4)	bt. P.H.Mann (7)	+ 5
R.A.Godby (-1)	bt. Mrs N.A.C.McMillan (2½)	+ 9	<i>Final</i>		
Miss B.Duthie (2)	bt. Lady Bazley (15)	+ 9	D.Openshaw (3)	bt. R.S.Eades (4)	+11
D.Openshaw (3)	w.o. N.O.Hicks (8)	opp. scr.	<i>Event 9: The Baillieu Plate (24 Entries)</i>		
L.Riggall (4½)	bt. Mrs H.B.H.Carlisle (5)	+13	<i>Final</i>		
B.A.Meadows (6½)	bt. Mrs E.M.Lightfoot (1½)	+26	G.E.Doughty (8)	bt. M.J.Stevens (9)	+ 7
R.O.Calder (5)	bt. O.A.Kerensky (4)	+15			
S.G.Kent (5)	bt. M.G.Pearson (6)	+ 9			

Nottingham: August 11-16

The Nottingham Croquet Club has acquired the knack of running what must be one of the friendliest tournaments in Britain. On arrival, a visitor finds that he has been allocated a peg in the changing room with a name card in place; morning coffee is served on the lawns during play; the squad of ladies who prepare more than two hundred lunches during the week are untiring in their efforts to please; a first time visitor to this tournament very soon feels that he is "one of the family". It is the advance organisation and the work of so many club members and office bearers behind the scenes which makes a tournament enjoyable off the courts as well as on.

With Edward Duffield, recently elected President of The Croquet Association, as Manager we knew that there would be no organisational hitches in the arrangements for play. The prize-giving on Saturday was timed for half past five and we still wonder how he contrived that the last two finals finished at 5.24 and 5.29. Perhaps it was due to assistance in time keeping and recording from Mrs Duffield who also presented the prizes.

At the beginning of the week the courts were not at their best owing to a combination of the heat wave and the breakdown of the watering system. Players soon became used to inspecting carefully the line of any croquet stroke to see whether the balls were going to travel over green or brown. The sun blazed down unabated for four days, and the variety of headgear was beyond description. During the hours of play there was nothing more than a shower or two on Friday, but heavy rain on Thursday and Friday nights brought the courts to a reasonable degree of uniformity for finals day.

One of the most interesting games from the spectators' point of view was the final of the "Robin Hood" between Geoffrey Taylor, formerly a member of the Nottingham Club but now from Cheltenham, and Bob Calder from Edinburgh. Calder used two of his bisques to get Red to the peg, but in using his last bisque in his next turn stuck at hoop 4. Taylor took the opportunity offered to him of hitting in with Blue

and going round to peg out his opponent, with Black still on the 1st hoop. The most tense moment of the 3-ball game came when both players were for hoop 4. Calder took up a threatening position in the 4th corner and allowed Taylor several turns to arrange the perfect wired rush on the West boundary. Eventually Taylor got things to his satisfaction, executed a perfect rush and ruade hoops 4 and 5 off his partner ball, but then failed to get the hoped-for wired position. Calder hit in, pick'd up the 3-ball break, but failed to run 3-back where an identical position to that which had occurred at hoop 4 was reached a few turns later. Taylor solved the problem in the same way as before and went on to win by 3.

Taylor also had a good run in the Process of the Open Event, where he beat the Bulloch brothers from New Zealand in successive rounds. In his game against Dennis Bulloch he went to the peg on his first break. Bulloch failed to make the 1st hoop from the resulting contact and Taylor played perfectly to give himself the satisfaction of "twenty-sixing" a player selected for the President's Cup.

The Open Event produced four different players in the finals of the Draw and Process, which ensured a grandstand finish in the play-off, which was between two local members, Keith Ross and Peter Elmes. The highlight of the game was an accidental peel by Ross of his adversary's ball through hoop 4 from the 3rd corner, but Ross later went on to show his real skill by winning the game with a double peel and peg-out.

Results

Event 1: "Robin Hood" Open Handicap Singles (27 Entries)

<i>First Round</i>		
D.J.Bullock (-3)	bt. R.Wheeler (12)	+12
P.Cozens (6)	bt. A.J.Bucknell (5½)	+ 2
Miss S.G.Hampson (3)	bt. K.A.Ross (-2)	+ 7
Dr G.K.Taylor (1)	bt. Mrs R.Wheeler (11)	+16
Mrs L.Riggall (6)	bt. R.Fletcher (8)	+13
D. de Q.Lenfestey (6)	bt. Mrs E.Chamberlain (8)	+11

P.W.Elmes (0)	bt. E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake (-1)	+15	<i>Second Round</i>		
W.R.Bullock (-1)	bt. C.Chamberlain (7)	+11	A.J.Bucknell	bt. C.Chamberlain	+22
Mrs H.Coombs (5)	bt. Mrs E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake (9)	+14	P.Cozens	bt. L.Riggall	+14
L.Riggall (4½)	bt. Miss E.C.Brampton (5)	+17	G.Noble	bt. R.O.Calder	+10
L.H.Wright (½)	bt. C.W.Haworth (6)	+19	C.W.Haworth	bt. Miss E.C.Brampton	+ 6
<i>Second Round</i>					
S.J.H.Wright (0)	bt. G.Noble (4)	+ 9	<i>Semi-Final</i>		
Dr G.K.Taylor (-3)	bt. P.Cozens (6)	+ 7	P.Cozens	bt. A.J.Bucknell	+22
Dr G.K.Taylor (1)	bt. Miss S.G.Hampson (3)	+23	G.Noble	bt. C.W.Haworth	+ 3
D. de Q.Lenfestey (6)	bt. Mrs L.Riggall (6)	+ 1 (T)	<i>Final</i>		
P.W.Elmes (0)	bt. W.R.Bullock (-1)	+15	P.Cozens	bt. G.Noble	+ 2
Mrs H.Coombs (5)	bt. L.Riggall (4½)	+19	<i>Event 4: 'C' Handicap Singles (6 Entries)</i>		
G.Henshaw (3½)	bt. I.H.Wright (½)	+ 3	<i>First Round</i>		
R.O.Calder (4)	bt. G.F.Hallett (1)	+21	Mrs D. de Q.Lenfestey (12)	bt. Mrs C.W.Haworth (14)	+ 6 (T)
<i>Third Round</i>					
D.J.Bullock (-3)	bt. S.J.H.Wright (0)	+ 8	L.Robinson (9)	bt. Mrs E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake (9)	+ 6 (T)
Dr G.K.Taylor (1)	bt. D. de Q.Lenfestey (6)	+19	<i>Semi-Final</i>		
P.W.Elmes (0)	bt. Mrs H.Coombs (5)	+ 5	Mrs D. de Q.Lenfestey (12)	bt. R.Wheeler (12)	+ 5 (T)
R.O.Calder (4)	bt. G.Henshaw (3½)	+22	Mrs R.Wheeler (11)	bt. L.Robinson (9)	+10 (T)
<i>Semi-Final</i>					
Dr G.K.Taylor (1)	bt. D.J.Bullock (-3)	+24	<i>Final</i>		
R.O.Calder (4)	bt. P.W.Elmes (0)	+25	Mrs R.Wheeler (11)	bt. Mrs D. de Q.Lenfestey (12)	+ 6
<i>Final</i>					
Dr G.K.Taylor (1)	bt. R.O.Calder (4)	+ 3	<i>Event 5a: 'X' Handicap Singles (30 Entries)</i>		
<i>Event 2: Open Singles (11 Entries)</i>					
DRAW					
<i>First Round</i>					
G.Henshaw	bt. G.F.Hallett	+ 3	<i>First Round</i>		
P.W.Elmes	bt. W.R.Bullock	+14	G.Noble (4)	bt. Miss S.G.Hampson (3)	+ 8
D.J.Bullock	bt. I.H.Wright	+15	C.W.Haworth (6)	bt. L.Riggall (4½)	+ 5 (T)
<i>Second Round</i>					
K.A.Ross	bt. E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake	+22	R.Wheeler (12)	bt. Mrs D. de Q.Lenfestey (12)	+10 (T)
P.W.Elmes	bt. G.Henshaw	+26	A.J.Bucknell (5½)	bt. Mrs E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake (9)	+10
D.J.Bullock	bt. Miss S.G.Hampson	+17	S.J.H.Wright (0)	bt. Mrs E.Chamberlain (8)	+ 8
Dr G.K.Taylor	bt. S.J.H.Wright	+ 3	E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake (-1)	bt. Miss E.C.Brampton (5)	+ 6
<i>Semi-Final</i>					
P.W.Elmes	bt. K.A.Ross	+ 9	R.O.Calder (4)	bt. C.Chamberlain (7)	+13
D.J.Bullock	bt. Dr G.K.Taylor	+10	Mrs L.Riggall (6)	bt. G.Henshaw (3½)	+ 8
<i>Final</i>					
P.W.Elmes	bt. D.J.Bullock	+ 4	D.J.Bullock (-3)	bt. Miss E.M.Brampton (6)	+10
<i>PROCESS</i>					
<i>First Round</i>					
E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake	bt. Miss S.G.Hampson	+10	P.Cozens (6)	bt. Mrs R.Wheeler (11)	+ 1
Dr G.K.Taylor	bt. G.Henshaw	+19	D. de Q.Lenfestey (6)	bt. R.Fletcher (8)	+ 9 (T)
K.A.Ross	bt. S.J.H.Wright	+ 9	P.W.Elmes (0)	bt. G.F.Hallett (1)	+19
<i>Second Round</i>					
W.R.Bullock	bt. E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake	+16	K.A.Ross (-2)	bt. W.R.Bullock (-1)	+ 5
Dr G.K.Taylor	bt. D.J.Bullock	+26	Dr G.K.Taylor (1)	bt. I.H.Wright (½)	+ 4
K.A.Ross	bt. P.W.Elmes	+16	<i>Second Round</i>		
L.H.Wright	bt. G.F.Hallett	+16	G.Noble (4)	bt. Mrs H.Coombs (5)	+15
<i>Semi-Final</i>					
Dr G.K.Taylor	bt. W.R.Bullock	+22	C.W.Haworth (6)	bt. R.Wheeler (12)	+ 3 (T)
K.A.Ross	bt. I.H.Wright	+ 9	S.J.H.Wright (0)	bt. A.J.Bucknell (5½)	+13
<i>Final</i>					
K.A.Ross	bt. Dr G.K.Taylor	+24	R.O.Calder (4)	bt. E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake (-1)	+25
<i>PLAY-OFF</i>					
K.A.Ross	bt. P.W.Elmes	+20	D.J.Bullock (-3)	bt. Mrs L.Riggall (6)	+17
<i>Event 3: 'B' Level Singles (13 Entries)</i>					
<i>First Round</i>					
A.J.Bucknell	bt. D. de Q.Lenfestey	+12	P.Cozens (6)	bt. D. de Q.Lenfestey (6)	+ 7
P.Cozens	bt. R.Fletcher	+ 6	K.A.Ross (-2)	bt. P.W.Elmes (0)	+25
L.Riggall	bt. Mrs E.Chamberlain	+17	Dr G.K.Taylor (1)	bt. Mrs C.W.Haworth (14)	+10
R.O.Calder	bt. Mrs H.Coombs	+16	<i>Third Round</i>		
G.Noble	bt. Mrs L.Riggall	+23	G.Noble (4)	bt. C.W.Haworth (6)	+ 3
<i>Event 4: 'Y' Handicap Singles (16 Entries)</i>					
<i>Final</i>					
Miss S.G.Hampson (3)	bt. I.H.Wright (½)	+ 9	R.O.Calder (4)	bt. S.J.H.Wright (0)	+ 2
<i>Event 6: Handicap Doubles (15 Pairs)</i>					
<i>First Round</i>					
Mr & Mrs L.Riggall (10½)	bt. K.A.Ross & Mrs E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake (7)	+ 8	D.J.Bullock (-3)	bt. P.Cozens (6)	+23
G.Noble & R.Wheeler (14)	bt. R.O.Calder & C.Chamberlain (11)	+12	K.A.Ross (-2)	bt. Dr G.K.Taylor (1)	+ 8
Dr G.K.Taylor & Mrs H.Coombs (6)	bt. G.Henshaw & A.J.Bucknell (9)	+ 9 (T)	<i>Semi-Final</i>		
C.W.Haworth & L.Robinson (15)	bt. Mr & Mrs D. de Q.Lenfestey (18)	+ 3 (T)	G.Noble (4)	bt. R.O.Calder (4)	+ 1
<i>Final</i>					
K.A.Ross (-2)	bt. G.Noble (4)	+14			

I.H.Wright & Miss S.G.Hampson (3½) bt. G.F.Hallett & Mrs C.W.Haworth (14)	+ 4
D.J.Bullock & Mrs R.Wheeler (6) bt. E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake & Miss E.M.Brampton (5)	+14
S.J.H.Wright & R.Fletcher (8) bt. W.R.Bullock & P.Cozens (5)	+13
<i>Second Round</i>	
Mr & Mrs Riggall bt. Noble & Wheeler	+ 2 (T)
Haworth & Robinson bt. Taylor & Mrs Coombs	+ 8
I.H.Wright & Miss Hampson bt. D.Bullock & Mrs Wheeler	+ 9
S.J.H.Wright & Fletcher bt. P.W.Elmes & Mrs E. Chamberlain (8)	+14
<i>Semi-Final</i>	
Mr & Mrs Riggall bt. Haworth & Robinson	+10
I.H.Wright & Miss Hampson bt. S.J.H.Wright & Fletcher	+ 8
<i>Final</i>	
I.H.Wright & Miss Hampson bt. Mr & Mrs Riggall	+ 3

Carrickmines (Championship of Ireland): August 11-16

Excellent weather and some very hard work by Bob Boyce, the groundsman, created a near perfect setting for the main tournament of the year at Carrickmines, Co. Dublin. An influx of new members helped to increase the number of contestants slightly, and the three South African visitors had a very enjoyable week. They promised to be back, and Mrs Hooper on her first visit, having won the Founder's Cup, stated she will definitely be back to defend it.

In the Championship event it was difficult to see who might give Terence Read a 'fight' for the title, and inevitably he won and won well. Playing faultless croquet, he disposed of all opponents effortlessly. At club level, however, it was a more even tussle to determine who would reach the final, and in the event and with not-a-little luck, especially in his quarter-final game against Reggie Leonard, Charles Gamble just made it.

The Handicap Singles was perhaps the most hard fought event. Mrs Hooper, who improved noticeably during the week, beat Miss F.Joly, Mrs H.M.Read and T.O.Read, all very experienced players, to reach an exciting final, which she won by 4. Myles McWeeney, who does not play regularly, played some very sound games, defeating C.Gamble, R.L.Hannon and Lady FitzGerald to reach the final.

Only 10 pairs contested the Doubles, which were won by T.O.Read and Justin Maguire. Justin, a schoolboy who only took up croquet this season, played extremely well under the guidance of Terence Read, and will no doubt be doing equally well in the Singles events in the not too distant future.

Lady FitzGerald, in her capacity as Tournament Manageress, Referee, Catering Organiser, Handicapper — and competitor — did the magnificent job that we are almost in danger of taking for granted, so unobtrusively does she perform her duties. Miss Grace Hopkins again acted as Tournament Treasurer, a job she will have to "emigrate" to escape from, so well does she do it. As usual Jimmy Murphy's beer (and food) were well up to standard and enjoyed by all. Not even the application of some of the more dedicated beer drinkers could cause a shortage, but if the rumour we hear about additional overseas visitors next year is true, who knows...

Results

Event 1: Championship of Ireland (12 Entries)

<i>First Round</i>		
C.A.Gamble	bt. Miss F.Joly	+ 8 +14
R.J.Leonard	bt. R.E.Steen	+17 +20
Mrs H.M.Read	bt. Mrs P.Hooper	+15 +15
R.A.Carte	bt. C.M.von Schmieder	+15 - 6 +17

<i>Second Round</i>		
A.D.Craig	bt. Mrs D.M.Aubrey	+ 2 + 4
C.A.Gamble	bt. R.J.Leonard	- 5 +13 +11
R.A.Carte	bt. Mrs H.M.Read	+12 +13
T.O.Read	bt. M.McWeeney	+16 +22
<i>Semi-Final</i>		
C.A.Gamble	bt. A.D.Craig	+18 +20
T.O.Read	bt. R.A.Carte	+25 +13
<i>Final</i>		
T.O.Read	bt. C.A.Gamble	+16 +10

Event 2: 'B' Handicap Singles (6 Entries)

<i>First Round</i>		
J.Campbell (16)	bt. Sir A.Beit (14)	+12
Revd W.Rooke (6)	bt. Madame O'Morchoe (10)	+ 6
<i>Semi-Final</i>		
J.Campbell (16)	bt. Miss G.Hopkins (6)	+ 9
Revd W.Rooke (6)	w.o. Miss I.Corbally (14)	opp. scr.
<i>Final</i>		
J.Campbell (16)	bt. Revd W.Rooke (6)	+ 1

Event 4: Open Handicap Singles (19 Entries)

<i>First Round</i>		
J.Campbell (16)	bt. Madame O'Morchoe (10)	+ 2
R.J.Leonard (1½)	bt. C.M.von Schmieder (3½)	+14
F.Regan (6)	w.o. R.E.Steen (6)	opp. scr.
<i>Second Round</i>		
Mrs P.Hooper (7)	bt. Miss F.Joly (½)	+16
Mrs H.M.Read (4½)	bt. Mrs F.Regan (6)	+23
T.O.Read (-1½)	bt. Miss G.Hopkins (6)	+ 6
J.Campbell (16)	bt. R.J.Leonard (1½)	+ 8
Lady FitzGerald (4)	bt. F.Regan (6)	+11
R.A.Carte (2½)	bt. A.D.Craig (3½)	+16
R.L.Hannon (6)	bt. Mrs D.M.Aubrey (4)	+ 9
M.McWeeney (4)	bt. C.A.Gamble (2)	+24
<i>Third Round</i>		
Mrs P.Hooper (7)	bt. Mrs H.M.Read (4½)	+ 7
T.O.Read (-1½)	bt. J.Campbell (16)	+22
Lady FitzGerald (4)	bt. R.A.Carte (2½)	+25
M.McWeeney (4)	bt. R.L.Hannon (6)	+11
<i>Semi-Final</i>		
Mrs P.Hooper (7)	bt. T.O.Read (-1½)	+25
M.McWeeney (4)	bt. Lady FitzGerald (4)	+15
<i>Final</i>		
Mrs P.Hooper (7)	bt. M.McWeeney (4)	+ 4

Event 5: Handicap Doubles (10 Pairs)

<i>First Round</i>		
Sir A.Beit & R.E.Steen (20) bt. Mr & Mrs F.Regan (12)	+ 1 (T)	
R.A.Carte & Mrs D.M.Aubrey (6½) bt. R.J.Leonard & M.McWeeney (5½)	+17	
<i>Second Round</i>		
Lady FitzGerald & Madame O'Morchoe (11) bt. J.Campbell & Miss G.Hopkins (22)	+ 1 (T)	
T.O.Read & J.Maguire (14½) bt. Beit & Steen	+13	
C.M.von Schmieder & R.L.Hannon (9½) bt. Carte & Mrs Aubrey	+14	
Mrs P.Hooper & Mrs H.M.Read (11½) bt. A.D.Craig & C.A.Gamble (5½)	+ 4 (T)	
<i>Semi-Final</i>		
Read & Maguire bt. Lady FitzGerald & Madame O'Morchoe	+11	
von Schmieder & Hannon bt. Mrs Hooper & Mrs Read	+ 4 (T)	
<i>Final</i>		
Read & Maguire bt. von Schmieder & Hannon	+14	

Southwick I: August 18-23

Occasional rain and cold winds dampened enthusiasm in the first week at Southwick, but the only serious problem was the heavy going, especially on the first three lawns, and the holes in hoops and elsewhere. The maintenance of ten lawns must be a daunting task in these difficult times.

One player who took all problems in his stride was Ian Vincent, who achieved a remarkable triple peel against the odds. At the first peel his ball touched the opponent's ball, which had to remain at hoop 3. After making 4 and 5, he collected the two balls left at 3 and arranged a perfect peeling position at Penult, only to realise that the ball waiting to be peeled was the opponent's ball. After further tribulations, he pegged out eventually from the south boundary. Vincent had another success against odds when he peeled Arthur Tapp's ball through Rover but failed to peg it out, and pegged out his own ball by mistake. His single ball had all the hoops to make, while Tapp's backward ball was already for 3, but Vincent won by 7.

Conditions did not suit Dennis Bulloch, who was beaten by Sir Leonard Daldry. The latter played well, and after he got the first break to 4-back Dennis hit a hoop instead of the ball when he took the lift, and Sir Leonard went round. The latter was then narrowly defeated by Bill Moore because he twice stuck in holes in hoops when the break was laid. The play-off was a one-sided game. Dennis Bulloch makes this difficult game look easy and has earned a place in the President's Cup, where his fluent style and courageous play will add interest to the Event.

In contrast with several very elderly players, the youngest competitor was 16-year-old Simon Tapp, who is already a good player. With his father he shared victory in the Doubles, and the finish of the final against Tucker and Bull was astonishing. The latter pair still had 9 points to make when Tucker pegged out the Tapps' Red when Yellow was for the stick. Of course it was Tucker and Bull who desperately needed Red to make a break, and this suicidal move quickly gave victory to the Tapps. This was an extreme example, but it does illustrate a widespread delusion that pegging out the opponent automatically brings victory, whereas in practice it often brings defeat.

The Car Park provided a temporary residence for four players, the Bulloch brothers in their converted van, and Mr and Mrs Tucker in a comfortable caravan. The catering was first class, and the ladies who provide the excellent home-cooked food deserve high praise, especially when they forego playing in the tournament to provide this service. Norman Cox proved to be an ideal Manager, whose services will be in great demand in the future. It was much to be regretted that attitudes to the rules and customs of the game, and to referees, often left much to be desired, especially where some of the older players were concerned.

Results

Event 1: Open Singles (14 Entries)

DRAW

<i>First Round</i>		
S.A.Tapp	bt. Mrs W.Longman	+19
W.E.Moore	bt. R.O.Havery	+18
W.R.Bulloch	bt. H.A.Sheppard	+23
E.J.Tucker	bt. W.H.Austin	+ 7
D.J.Bulloch	bt. A.E.C.Tapp	+ 8
Sir Leonard Daldry	bt. F.Reynold	+ 4
<i>Second Round</i>		
S.A.Tapp	bt. Dr W.R.Bucknall	+14
W.E.Moore	bt. W.R.Bulloch	+ 7
D.J.Bulloch	bt. E.J.Tucker	+ 6
Sir Leonard Daldry	bt. I.G.Vincent	+ 2

<i>Semi-Final</i>		
W.E.Moore	bt. S.A.Tapp	+ 4
Sir Leonard Daldry	bt. D.J.Bulloch	+ 5
<i>Final</i>		
W.E.Moore	bt. Sir Leonard Daldry	+ 4
PROCESS		
<i>First Round</i>		
W.H.Austin	bt. Dr W.R.Bucknall	+ 5
W.E.Moore	bt. F.Reynold	+ 6
A.E.C.Tapp	bt. S.A.Tapp	+ 6
I.G.Vincent	bt. H.A.Sheppard	+24
R.O.Havery	bt. Sir Leonard Daldry	+11
D.J.Bulloch	bt. Mrs W.Longman	+26
<i>Second Round</i>		
W.E.Moore	bt. W.H.Austin	+16
I.G.Vincent	bt. A.E.C.Tapp	+ 7
E.J.Tucker	bt. R.O.Havery	+11
D.J.Bulloch	w.o. W.R.Bulloch	opp. ret'd.
<i>Semi-Final</i>		
W.E.Moore	bt. I.G.Vincent	+10
D.J.Bulloch	bt. E.J.Tucker	+21
<i>Final</i>		
D.J.Bulloch	bt. W.E.Moore	+21
PLAY-OFF		
D.J.Bulloch	bt. W.E.Moore	+20
Event 2: 'B' Level Singles (14 Entries)		
DRAW		
<i>First Round</i>		
L.Riggall	bt. F.F.W.Staddon	+10
E.E.Rees	bt. Mrs N.A.C.McMillan	+ 9
Mrs R.E.Tucker	bt. Lady Ursula Abbey	+ 2
Mrs E.M.Speer	bt. Mrs G.F.H.Elvey	+14
H.F.L.Jenking	bt. R.L.Everest	+14
Mrs E.R.Cox	bt. Captain M.F.Buller	+ 8
<i>Second Round</i>		
Prof. A.S.C.Ross	bt. L.Riggall	+10
E.E.Rees	bt. Mrs R.E.Tucker	+16
H.F.L.Jenking	bt. Mrs E.M.Speer	+ 6
Mrs E.R.Cox	bt. Mrs H.F.Chittenden	+ 4
<i>Semi-Final</i>		
Prof. A.S.C. Ross	bt. E.E.Rees	+10
Mrs E.R.Cox	bt. H.F.L.Jenking	+21
<i>Final</i>		
Prof. A.S.C.Ross	bt. Mrs E.R.Cox	+ 5
PROCESS		
<i>First Round</i>		
Prof. A.S.C.Ross	bt. Mrs E.M.Speer	+12
Mrs E.R.Cox	bt. E.E.Rees	+ 5
L.Riggall	bt. H.F.L.Jenking	+12
Mrs R.E.Tucker	bt. Mrs H.F.Chittenden	+ 8
Mrs N.A.C.McMillan	bt. Captain M.F.Buller	+ 6
R.L.Everest	bt. F.F.W.Staddon	+ 2
<i>Second Round</i>		
Mrs E.R.Cox	bt. Prof. A.S.C.Ross	+17
L.Riggall	bt. Mrs R.E.Tucker	+ 8
Mrs N.A.C.McMillan	bt. Mrs G.F.H.Elvey	+ 7
R.L.Everest	w.o. Lady Ursula Abbey	opp. scr.
<i>Semi-Final</i>		
L.Riggall	bt. Mrs E.R.Cox	+17
Mrs N.A.C.McMillan	bt. R.L.Everest	+ 2
<i>Final</i>		
Mrs N.A.C.McMillan	bt. L.Riggall	+ 9
PLAY-OFF		
Prof. A.S.C.Ross	bt. Mrs N.A.C.McMillan	+ 6

Event 3: 'C' Handicap Singles (16 Entries)

First Round

D.M.Bull (7)	bt. Mrs S.J.Turner (6)	+17
Mrs E.H.P.Mallinson (7)	bt. J.H.T.Griffiths (8)	+16
D.M.Horne (5½)	bt. Miss H.D.Parker (5)	+15
Mrs L.Riggall (6)	w.o. W.B.C.Paynter (6)	opp. scr.
Mrs H.J.Devitt (7½)	bt. G.F.Paxon (6)	+16
C.E.Knight (6)	bt. Mrs W.Naylor (7)	+14
J.G.C.Phillips (6*)	bt. Mrs F.F.W.Staddon (6)	+ 8
H.J.Devitt (6)	w.o. Mrs E.Thompson (8)	opp. scr.

Second Round

D.M.Bull (7)	bt. Mrs E.H.P.Mallinson (7)	+ 6
Mrs L.Riggall (6)	bt. D.M.Horne (5½)	+ 6
C.E.Knight (6)	bt. Mrs H.J.Devitt (7½)	+ 6
J.G.C.Phillips (6*)	bt. H.J.Devitt (6)	+16

Semi-Final

D.M.Bull (7)	bt. Mrs L.Riggall (6)	+ 3
C.E.Knight (6)	bt. J.G.C.Phillips (6*)	+12

Final

C.E.Knight (6)	bt. D.M.Bull (7)	+ 8
----------------	------------------	-----

Event 4: 'D' Handicap Singles (14 Entries)

First Round

Mrs E.V.Deakin (13)	bt. Mrs F.Fox (10)	+ 8 (T)
Miss E.X.Hodgens (9)	bt. Mrs E.C.Goldbard (11)	+19
Miss A.M.Ryan (14)	bt. L.Bromfield (14)	+ 8
G.C.Coates (12)	bt. Mrs D.Mitchell (16)	+20
Mrs L.L.Duveen (11)	bt. Mrs E.Lewis (12)	+12
Mrs I.B.Tucker (10)	bt. Miss P.Shine (14)	+10

Second Round

Lt-Col E.H.P.Mallinson (9)	bt. Mrs E.V.Deakin (13)	+11 (T)
Miss E.X.Hodgens (9)	bt. Miss A.M.Ryan (14)	+ 6 (T)
G.C.Coates (12)	bt. Mrs L.L.Duveen (11)	+20
A.J.Betts (12*)	bt. Mrs I.B.Tucker (10)	+ 7 (T)

Semi-Final

Miss E.X.Hodgens (9)	bt. Lt-Col E.H.P.Mallinson (9)	+ 1 (T)
A.J.Betts (12*)	bt. G.C.Coates (12)	+22

Final

A.J.Betts (12*)	bt. Miss E.X.Hodgens (9)	+14
-----------------	--------------------------	-----

Event 5: Open Handicap Singles (53 Entries)

First Round

Miss E.X.Hodgens (9)	bt. Mrs F.F.W.Staddon (6)	+14
Dr W.R.Bucknall (1½)	bt. Mrs L.L.Duveen (11)	+ 2
Mrs E.M.Speer (4)	bt. Miss P.Shine (14)	+ 6
W.E.Moore (-1)	bt. Mrs E.C.Goldbard (11)	+17
I.G.Vincent (1½)	bt. W.R.Bulloch (-1)	+25
G.F.Paxon (6)	bt. Mrs D.Mitchell (16)	+ 4
D.M.Horne (5½)	bt. H.A.Sheppard (1½)	+ 3
Mrs N.A.C.McMillan (2½)	bt. G.C.Coates (12)	+ 6
D.J.Bulloch (-3)	bt. W.B.C.Paynter (6)	+22
E.J.Tucker (0)	bt. L.M.Bromfield (14)	+15
J.G.C.Phillips (7*)	bt. Mrs E.Lewis (12)	+15
E.E.Rees (5)	bt. Captain M.F.Buller (4)	+ 4
Mrs R.E.Tucker (5)	bt. Mrs G.F.H.Elvey (2½)	+ 6
D.M.Bull (7)	bt. H.J.Devitt (6)	+24
A.J.Betts (12*)	bt. Sir Leonard Daldry (0)	+19
Miss A.M.Ryan (14)	bt. Mrs I.B.Tucker (10)	+11
Prof. A.S.C.Ross (2½)	bt. Mrs W.Longman (1)	+23
A.E.C.Tapp (3)	bt. J.H.T.Griffiths (8)	+10
Mrs H.J.Devitt (7½)	bt. Miss H.D.Parker (5½)	+10
Mrs S.J.Turner (6)	bt. Lady Ursula Abbey (4½)	+17
Mrs H.F.Chittenden (2½)	bt. Mrs E.H.P.Mallinson (7)	+15

Second Round

L.Riggall (4½)	bt. S.A.Tapp (1)	+12
W.H.Austin (2)	bt. R.O.Havery (2)	+21
R.L.Everest (3)	bt. Miss E.X.Hodgens (9)	+ 6
Dr W.R.Bucknall (1½)	bt. Mrs E.M.Speer (4)	+ 7
I.G.Vincent (1½)	bt. W.E.Moore (-1)	+26
D.M.Horne (5½)	bt. G.F.Paxon (6)	+13
D.J.Bulloch (-3)	bt. Mrs N.A.C.McMillan (2½)	+10

J.G.C.Phillips (7*)	bt. E.J.Tucker (0)	+17
E.E.Rees (5)	bt. Mrs R.E.Tucker (5)	+ 6
A.J.Betts (12*)	bt. D.M.Bull (7)	+ 9
Prof. A.S.C.Ross (2½)	bt. Miss A.M.Ryan (14)	+ 3
Mrs H.J.Devitt (7½)	bt. A.E.C.Tapp (3)	+ 4
Mrs S.J.Turner (6)	bt. Mrs H.F.Chittenden (2½)	+24
F.F.W.Staddon (5)	bt. Mrs E.V.Deakin (13)	+16
C.E.Knight (6)	w.o. Mrs E.Thompson (8)	opp. scr.
Mrs W.Naylor (7)	bt. Mrs L.Riggall (6)	+ 4

Third Round

W.H.Austin (2)	bt. L.Riggall (4½)	+ 5
R.L.Everest (3)	bt. Dr W.R.Bucknall (1½)	+16
I.G.Vincent (1½)	bt. D.M.Horne (5½)	+13
J.G.C.Phillips (7*)	bt. D.J.Bulloch (-3)	+25
E.E.Rees (5)	bt. A.J.Betts (12*)	+ 9
Mrs H.J.Devitt (7½)	bt. Prof. A.S.C.Ross (2½)	+20
Mrs S.J.Turner (6)	bt. F.F.W.Staddon (5)	+16
C.E.Knight (6)	bt. Mrs W.Naylor (7)	+ 4

Fourth Round

R.L.Everest (3)	bt. W.H.Austin (2)	+18
J.G.C.Phillips (7*)	bt. I.G.Vincent (1½)	+24
Mrs H.J.Devitt (7½)	bt. E.E.Rees (5)	+16
Mrs S.J.Turner (6)	bt. C.E.Knight (6)	+ 7

Semi-Final

J.G.C.Phillips (7*)	bt. R.L.Everest (3)	+22
Mrs S.J.Turner (6)	bt. Mrs H.J.Devitt (7½)	+10

Final

J.G.C.Phillips (7*)	bt. Mrs S.J.Turner (6)	+ 9
---------------------	------------------------	-----

Event 6: Handicap Doubles (26 Pairs)

First Round

W.E.Moore & H.F.L.Jenking (4)	bt. Mrs E.M.Speer & C.E.Knight (10)	+14
Dr W.R.Bucknall & Mrs I.B.Tucker (11½)	bt. Mrs W.Longman & J.G.C.Phillips (8)	+ 5 (T)
Mrs E.H.P.Mallinson & Mrs D.Mitchell (20)	bt. Captain M.F.Buller & Lady Ursula Abbey (8½)	+ 8
Mr & Mrs H.J.Devitt (13½)	bt. G.F.Paxon & Miss A.M.Ryan (19)	+ 6 (T)
Mrs G.F.H.Elvey & R.L.Everest (5½)	bt. Mrs H.F.Chittenden & Mrs E.Jackson (15½)	+11
S.A.Tapp & A.E.C.Tapp (4)	bt. R.O.Havery & Mrs W.Naylor (9)	+14
Mrs N.A.C.McMillan & E.E.Rees (7½)	bt. W.H.Austin & G.C.Coates (14)	+ 8
Sir Leonard Daldry & Mrs R.E.Tucker (5)	bt. Mrs F.F.W.Staddon & Mrs L.L.Duveen (17)	+12
W.R.Bulloch & Mrs S.J.Turner (5)	bt. Miss H.D.Parker & J.H.T.Griffiths (13½)	+ 7
Miss C.Cox & Mrs G.Silverman (15)	bt. D.J.Bulloch & Lt-Col E.H.P.Mallinson (5)	+ 5

Second Round

Mrs E.R.Cox & Miss E.X.Hodgens (12)	bt. Prof. A.S.C.Ross & L.M.Bromfield (16½)	+ 7
Dr Bucknall & Mrs I.B.Tucker	bt. Moore & Jenking	+11
Mr & Mrs Devitt	bt. Mrs Mallinson & Mrs Mitchell	+ 5 (T)
S.Tapp & A.Tapp	bt. Mrs Elvey & Everest	+14
Mrs McMillan & Rees	bt. Sir Leonard Daldry & Mrs R.E.Tucker	+ 8
W.R.Bulloch & Mrs Turner	bt. Miss C.Cox & Mrs Silverman	+13
E.J.Tucker & D.M.Bull (7)	bt. H.A.Sheppard & Mrs E.V.Deakin (14½)	+ 8
Mr & Mrs L.Riggall (10½)	bt. F.Reynold & F.F.W.Staddon (6)	+ 2

Third Round

Dr Bucknall & Mrs I.B.Tucker	bt. Mrs E.R.Cox & Miss Hodgens	+ 6 (T)
S.Tapp & A.Tapp	bt. Mr & Mrs Devitt	+10
Mrs McMillan & Rees	bt. W.R.Bulloch & Mrs Turner	+12
Tucker & Bull	bt. Mr & Mrs Riggall	+ 6

Semi-Final

S.Tapp & A.Tapp	bt. Dr Bucknall & Mrs I.B.Tucker	+ 8
Tucker & Bull	bt. Mrs McMillan & Rees	+10

Final

S.Tapp & A.Tapp	bt. Tucker & Bull	+ 9
-----------------	-------------------	-----

The Ladies Field Cup, played at Hurlingham, August 18-22

After many years the Ladies Field Cup returned to its erstwhile regular venue at Hurlingham. The players much appreciated the quality of the lawns which were fast enough to avoid slogging and not so fiery as to make any approach a hazard. Even so play continued until late in the evening, and two contestants informed me that they found the Event too exhausting and would not accept a future invitation to play. Until a new generation of young lady players appear on the scene, it would probably be advisable to reduce the number of players to 7, as was the practice before its temporary abandonment in the sixties.

If one were to judge the standard of play by the good strokes played, I think that the answer would be that the standard was above average. On the other hand, if one were to judge the standard of play by the number of mistakes made, I think the reverse would be true.

The above generalisation applied in particular to the winner, Mrs Wheeler (or Miss Sessions as she is more commonly known in the croquet world). This very popular player undoubtedly produced an attacking game which no other player could really match, and her petite and appealing figure disguised a power action which few would suspect.

Mrs Meachem was second, beaten by only 3 points after a play-off. She deserved her position, but her power action with her long swing was there for all to see and admire. She was clearly another example of "When she was good, she was very, very good etc."

As will be seen below, Mrs Sundius-Smith, the past joint holder with Mrs Wheeler, was third. She did not produce her form of earlier years, and this was probably due to her lack of

practice and her mayoral responsibilities. Her shooting lacked the consistency which we have come to expect, but her fighting qualities stayed with her and ensured her of at least third place.

Mrs Neville Rolfe won 3 games in the first series, lost the first two games in the second series and then had to retire for family reasons. We all missed her pleasing personality on the courts and both Miss Duthie and Mrs Wood, her victors, were naturally deprived of the credit of one extra game.

The subsequent order appears below, and at the bottom comes Mrs Digby - I am bound to add last but not least. She thoroughly deserved her inclusion in the Event, and on a number of occasions was the first player to get a ball to 4-back after a break. Her disposition was cheerful throughout and she was always fighting. Her shooting, until the last day, was certainly above average. I think by that time the continued strain was beginning to take its toll.

Miss Duthie was determination itself. She played better as the tournament progressed. We all admired the beautifully timed swing of Mrs Wood, who probably has made more progress in the last two years than any other lady player. The possible exception is Mrs Meachem. Her progress, however, is not so much in the quality of her good strokes, but in the frequency with which she makes them.

There remains Miss Joly with her Irish charm. She hit many a long shot, but she also produced what was probably the shot of the tournament. Having croqueted her own ball and being about to give a lift, she had perforce to take croquet from one enemy ball in approximately the second corner and drive it to approximately the fourth corner whilst her striker's ball had to be near enough to the south boundary to pick up the other enemy ball on that boundary. She executed the stroke to perfection.

The Ladies' Field Cup	Mrs K.M.O.Wheeler	Mrs B.Meachem	Mrs B.L.Sundius-Smith	Miss B.Duthie	Mrs G.H.Wood	Miss F.Joly	Mrs G.S.Digby	Mrs J.N.Rolfe	WINS
Mrs K.M.O.Wheeler	-	- 1	+17	+22	+ 7	+ 1	+ 8	-12	10
Mrs B.Meachem	+ 1	-	+ 4	+17	+25	- 8	+ 6	+17	10
Mrs B.L.Sundius-Smith	-17	- 4	-	+13	+11	+ 8	+12	-17	8
Miss B.Duthie	- 3	-10	+10	-	+ 8	+ 5	+ 2	-10	6
Mrs G.H.Wood	-22	-17	-13	+ 8	-	+ 3	+ 7	-10	5
Miss F.Joly	- 8	+19	- 8	+24	+ 1	+20	-	-	5
Mrs G.S.Digby	- 7	-25	-11	+20	-23	+20	+19	-	5
Mrs J.N.Rolfe	+10	-11	- 5	-24	+24	-13	-	+16	2
Mrs J.N.Rolfe	- 1	+ 8	- 8	- 3	+23	+ 5	+ 4	-	5
Mrs J.N.Rolfe	-17	- 3	- 8	- 1	-24	+16	-	-	2
Mrs J.N.Rolfe	- 8	- 6	-12	- 7	-20	- 5	+16	-	2
Mrs J.N.Rolfe	-17	- 7	- 2	-20	+13	-16	-	-	2
Mrs J.N.Rolfe	+12	-17	+17	+10	-19	- 4	-16	-	2

Play-off: Mrs K.M.O.Wheeler bt. Mrs B.Meachem + 3

Edinburgh: August 25-30

Six courts were, as usual, laid out in the grounds of Dunfermline College of Physical Education at Cramond, on the outskirts of Edinburgh. We were lucky to catch the tail end of the recent bright spell of weather, Monday to Thursday seeing practically tropical conditions! However, a transformation took place on Friday as immaculate whites (well - whites) were replaced by 'wet-weather rigs' of fascinating and, in some cases, formidable aspect. But Saturday saw a return to good weather at mid-day and the courts presented a mixture of a frogman's get-together and a sun-drenched Ascot scene.

Two unusual events occurred in Open Singles matches. In one black, for hoop 4, was wired by hoop 2 from the blue ball near the 4th corner. A golf style jump shot was played and black jumped not only hoop 2 but hoop 4 as well after bouncing right across the lawn! As the player ruefully observed - "Well, after all that it might have passed just under the crown of hoop 4 instead of hitting the top!"

In the other incident yellow had given away a lift and red was too near a baulk line. As black was for Rover and blue for 2-back it was necessary to persuade the opponent to play black, so, as the innings was certain to change, yellow was rolled up to black in the middle of the court!

Thanks to Mrs Laing and Mrs Milne, who each donated a trophy, and to the club members who donated a third trophy, we now have permanent trophies for each main event and for one of the 'Y' events.

Results

Event 1: Open Singles (8 Entries)

DRAW

<i>First Round</i>		
R.F.O.Kemp	bt. R.O.Calder	+ 3
I.H.Wright	bt. R.Williams	+17
F.V.X.Norton	bt. J.G.White	+ 3
J.E.Rowe	bt. Mrs J.E.Rowe	+ 5

<i>Semi-Final</i>		
I.H.Wright	bt. R.F.O.Kemp	+14
F.V.X.Norton	bt. J.E.Rowe	+ 2

<i>Final</i>		
F.V.X.Norton	bt. I.H.Wright	+20

PROCESS

<i>First Round</i>		
J.G.White	bt. R.O.Calder	+ 7
R.Williams	bt. Mrs J.E.Rowe	+14
F.V.X.Norton	bt. R.F.O.Kemp	+10
I.H.Wright	bt. J.E.Rowe	+22

<i>Semi-Final</i>		
R.Williams	bt. J.G.White	+14
I.H.Wright	bt. F.V.X.Norton	+ 8

<i>Final</i>		
I.H.Wright	bt. R.Williams	+12

<i>PLAY-OFF</i>		
F.V.X.Norton	bt. I.H.Wright	+15

Event 2a: 'B' Handicap Singles ('X') (10 Entries)

<i>First Round</i>		
Mrs J.E.Rowe (7)	bt. J.G.White (5)	+ 2
J.E.Rowe (8)	bt. C.J.Tait (9)	+ 2

<i>Second Round</i>		
Mrs V.M.Macpherson (8)	bt. R.Forth (9)	+13
Mrs J.E.Rowe (7)	bt. D.Anderson (11)	+ 2
R.Williams (3½)	bt. J.E.Rowe (8)	+ 7
A.D.Lamont (14)	bt. J.Ferguson (12)	+15

<i>Semi-Final</i>		
Mrs J.E.Rowe (7)	bt. Mrs V.M.Macpherson (8)	+ 3
R.Williams (3½)	bt. A.D.Lamont (14)	+15

<i>Final</i>		
R.Williams (3½)	bt. Mrs J.E.Rowe (7)	+15

Event 2b: 'B' Handicap Singles ('Y') (5 Entries)

<i>Final</i>		
D.Anderson (11)	bt. C.J.Tait (9)	+ 6

Event 3a: 'C' Handicap Singles ('X') (8 Entries)

<i>First Round</i>		
Mrs L.M.Armstrong (12)	bt. J.Ferguson (12)	+ 4
D.Anderson (11)	bt. Mrs V.M.Macpherson (8)	+14
R.Forth (9)	bt. Miss A.M.Murray (9)	+ 9
C.J.Tait (9)	bt. A.D.Lamont (12)	+ 5

<i>Semi-Final</i>		
D.Anderson (11)	bt. Mrs L.M.Armstrong (12)	+19
C.J.Tait (9)	bt. R.Forth (9)	+ 3

<i>Final</i>		
C.J.Tait (9)	bt. D.Anderson (11)	+ 7 (T)

Event 3b: 'C' Handicap Singles ('Y') (4 Entries)

<i>Final</i>		
Miss A.M.Murray (9)	bt. Mrs V.M.Macpherson (8)	+15

Event 4: Handicap Doubles (9 Pairs)

<i>First Round</i>		
R.F.O.Kemp & C.J.Tait (12)	bt. F.V.X.Norton & J.G.White (7)	+ 4

<i>Second Round</i>		
R.Williams & Miss J.MacCrimmon (17½)	bt. A.D.Lamont & Miss Hart (24)	+ 7 (T)
Mr & Mrs J.E.Rowe (15)	bt. Kemp & Tait	+ 2
R.O.Calder & D.Anderson (14)	bt. I.H.Wright & Mrs M.Lauder (11½)	+16
S.J.H.Wright & R.Forth (9)	bt. Mrs V.M.Macpherson & Mrs L.Armstrong (21)	+14

<i>Semi-Final</i>		
Mr & Mrs Rowe	bt. Williams & Miss MacCrimmon	+ 7
S.Wright & Forth	bt. Calder & Anderson	+14

<i>Final</i>		
Mr & Mrs Rowe	bt. S.Wright & Forth	+11

Event 5a: 'X' Handicap Singles (16 Entries)

<i>First Round</i>		
R.F.O.Kemp (4)	bt. R.Forth (9)	+ 4
F.V.X.Norton (2)	bt. Mrs J.E.Rowe (7)	+ 4
J.G.White (5)	bt. Mrs V.M.Macpherson (8)	+12
R.O.Calder (3)	bt. R.Williams (3½)	+ 4
S.J.H.Wright (0)	bt. A.D.Lamont (12)	+ 5
I.H.Wright (½)	bt. Miss A.M.Murray (9)	+12
C.J.Tait (9)	bt. J.Ferguson (12)	+11
D.Anderson (11)	bt. J.E.Rowe (8)	+16

<i>Second Round</i>		
F.V.X.Norton (2)	bt. R.F.O.Kemp (4)	+14
J.G.White (5)	bt. R.O.Calder (3)	+10
I.H.Wright (½)	bt. S.J.H.Wright (0)	+ 2
D.Anderson (11)	bt. C.J.Tait (9)	+ 8

<i>Semi-Final</i>		
J.G.White (5)	bt. F.V.X.Norton (2)	+10
I.H.Wright (½)	bt. D.Anderson (11)	+14

<i>Final</i>		
I.H.Wright (½)	bt. J.G.White (5)	+ 3

Event 5b: 'Y' Handicap Singles (8 Entries)

<i>Final</i>		
J.E.Rowe (8)	bt. R.Forth (9)	+ 3

Southwick II: August 25-30

A well-mixed assortment of 56 local players and visitors gathered on the lawns at Southwick for the first day of the tournament week and the sun shone down as battle commenced. It continued to shine with remarkable vigour for the next four days, beaming with equal enthusiasm upon strokes horrible and sublime, upon long hoops run and short ones missed. Only on Saturday did the clouds gather, and late in the afternoon a shower of rain dampened those who had achieved the distinction of the final stages.

By the end of the week 164 games had been completed under the combined supervision of Ian Vincent and Edith Tucker, a considerable success for these two beginners in the management business, especially when some players had to go to great lengths to resolve their differences.

Time limits were inevitable and produced the usual complaints that some people played too slowly, on several occasions from those whose own game could never be described as rapid. As with limited over cricket, tense finishes followed games which were not always distinguished by enterprise or expertise.

The Handicap Doubles was won by the formidable combination of D.Hamilton-Miller and Col. E.H.P.Mallinson, who put paid in the early rounds to several fancied pairs and took their first game by the unusually large margin of +25. In the final they met the local pairing of Mrs E.R.Cox and H.F.L. Jenking who had themselves scored some good wins on the way through.

In the Open Event Dennis Bulloch successfully carried off another prize for his collection, beating W.E.Moore in the play-off by 25 after a valiant attempt at a triple. Sartorially he won over all comers with a superb shirt in white with a Victorian croquet scene in pale blue covering the back, though it must be said that not all those present were in serious contention! In the Draw Bulloch had disposed of Ian Vincent, who reached the final in spite of his managerial distractions; in the Process Moore beat a lukewarm Tapp by 9 in the final.

The 'B' Level Event was won convincingly by T.F.Owen in both halves. Mr Owen thus earned the right to put his name on the brand-new cup given to the Club in memory of Gerald Scott.

Dr H.A.Pim won the 'C' Handicap having reached the final with three wins on time, two of them by a single point! He overcame Revd C.H.Townshend who had played with some flair earlier in the week, even pulling off a straight double in the semi-final, a feat which did not escape the notice of the handicapper. Mrs D.Linstead in her first tournament had a good win in her class event against Mr H.E.Ovens, also a relative newcomer to tournament croquet.

The Big Handicap for the Douglas Jones Cup was won by Simon Tapp in a nail-biting twilight finish. He got off to a very rapid start against R.A.Carte and only broke down when he attempted the first part of a double peel. Within an hour he had reached the peg with both balls and also attempted a peg-out from the boundary with his opponent for 1-back and 2. Then Carte took his half bisque and began to pull steadily back into the game, while Tapp shot whenever occasion offered. Carte had taken one ball to the stick before Simon finally hit in, the result of a failed approach to 2-back; the game ended a good hour after all had seemed over. It was ironic that one of the most exciting games of the week should have taken place before a mere handful of spectators who simply could not tear themselves away.

Once again Southwick had provided a feast of croquet for players and spectators with eleven lawns, the objects of Mr Finch's tender care, on which play could be made and watched. To visitors came the usual warm welcome and the care taken to ensure their comfort was greatly appreciated. A word of thanks must be said to those who prepared and served excellent food and drink to all, under the direction of Mrs H. Wells. Thank you all - we'll come again.

Results

Event 1: Open Singles (12 Entries)

DRAW

<i>First Round</i>		
S.A.Tapp	bt. F.Reynold	+ 4
D.J.Bulloch	bt. H.A.Sheppard	+18
I.G.Vincent	bt. W.H.Austin	+20
D.J.V.Hamilton-Miller	bt. W.R.Bulloch	+15

<i>Second Round</i>		
Mrs W.Longman	bt. H.A.Green	+ 5 (T)
D.J.Bulloch	bt. S.A.Tapp	+13
I.G.Vincent	bt. D.J.V.Hamilton-Miller	+ 8
W.E.Moore	bt. E.Whitehead	+17

<i>Semi-Final</i>		
D.J.Bulloch	bt. Mrs W.Longman	+23
I.G.Vincent	bt. W.E.Moore	+ 3

<i>Final</i>		
D.J.Bulloch	bt. I.G.Vincent	+16

PROCESS

<i>First Round</i>		
W.R.Bulloch	bt. H.A.Green	+18
S.A.Tapp	bt. E.Whitehead	+ 9
Mrs W.Longman	bt. D.J.V.Hamilton-Miller	+14
W.E.Moore	bt. F.Reynold	+23

<i>Second Round</i>		
D.J.Bulloch	w.o. W.R.Bulloch	opp. retd.
S.A.Tapp	bt. W.H.Austin	+18
H.A.Sheppard	bt. Mrs W.Longman	+ 8 (T)
W.E.Moore	bt. I.G.Vincent	+ 2

<i>Semi-Final</i>		
S.A.Tapp	bt. D.J.Bulloch	+ 7
W.E.Moore	bt. H.A.Sheppard	+24

<i>Final</i>		
W.E.Moore	bt. S.A.Tapp	+ 9

PLAY-OFF

D.J.Bulloch	bt. W.E.Moore	+10
-------------	---------------	-----

Event 2: 'B' Level Singles (14 Entries)

DRAW

<i>First Round</i>		
C.E.Knight	bt. F.F.W.Staddon	+13
Mrs N.A.C.McMillan	bt. Prof. A.S.C.Ross	+ 8
T.F.Owen	bt. Mrs H.F.Chittenden	+23
Mrs E.M.Speer	bt. Mrs G.F.H.Elvey	+10
E.E.Rees	bt. R.A.Carte	+ 8
Mrs B.G.Weitz	bt. Mrs S.J.Turner	+ 3

<i>Second Round</i>		
Mrs D.M.Aubrey	bt. C.E.Knight	+19
T.F.Owen	w.o. Mrs N.A.C.McMillan	opp. scr.
E.E.Rees	bt. Mrs E.M.Speer	+17
Mrs E.R.Cox	bt. Mrs B.G.Weitz	+22

<i>Semi-Final</i>		
T.F.Owen	bt. Mrs D.M.Aubrey	+ 7
Mrs E.R.Cox	bt. E.E.Rees	+18

<i>Final</i>		
T.F.Owen	w.o. Mrs E.R.Cox	opp. scr.

PROCESS

<i>First Round</i>		
Mrs D.M.Aubrey	bt. Mrs E.M.Speer	+14
Prof. A.S.C.Ross	bt. Mrs S.J.Turner	+ 8
E.E.Rees	bt. F.F.W.Staddon	+16
R.A.Carte	w.o. C.E.Knight	opp. scr.
T.F.Owen	bt. Mrs E.R.Cox	+22
Mrs B.G.Weitz	bt. Mrs N.A.C.McMillan	+10

