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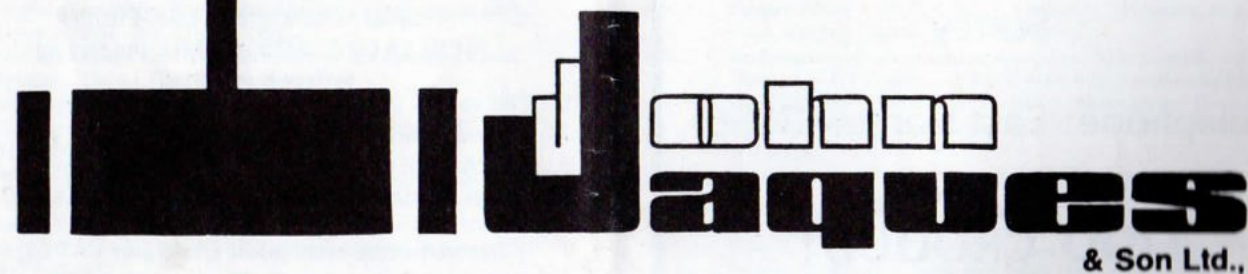
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# THE CROQUET GAZETTE

Number 138

December 1975

The Official Organ of the Croquet Association

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

### Calendar 1976

May 10 – 15	Budleigh Salterton
May 17 – 22	The Peels – at Cheltenham
May 24 – 29	Southwick
June 1 – 4	Inter-Counties Championship – at Hurlingham
June 7 – 12	Parkstone
June 7 – 12	Compton
June 14 – 19	Carrickmines: Championship of County Dublin
June 14 – 19	Veterans' Championship – at Budleigh Salterton
June 14 – 19	Ryde
June 21 – 26	Men's and Women's Championships and the Golf Croquet Championships – at Cheltenham
June 28 – July 3	The Challenge and Gilbey Cups – at Southwick
July 5 – 10	Budleigh Salterton
July 12 – 17	Colchester
July 19 – 24	The Open Championships – at Hurlingham
July 19 – 24	Southwick I
July 26 – 31	Cheltenham
August 5 – 14	Hurlingham
August 16 – 21	Carrickmines: Irish Open Championships
August 16 – 21	Nottingham
August 16 – 20	The Ladies' Field Cup – at Budleigh Salterton
August 23 – 28	Southwick II
August 23 – 28	Edinburgh
August 30 – September 4	Hunstanton I
September 6 – 11	Hunstanton II
September 6 – 10	The Chairman's Salver – at Compton
September 6 – 10	The Spencer Ell Cup – at Colchester
September 7 – 11 <sup>14-18</sup>	The President's Cup – at Hurlingham
September 13 – 18	Parkstone
September 20 – 25	Roehampton
September 27 – October 2	Devonshire Park (first week)
October 2 – 3	All-England Handicap Finals – at Roehampton
October 4 – 9	Devonshire Park (second week)

### Weekends

April 17 – 19	Cheltenham I (Easter)
April 22 – 25	Compton
May 15 – 16	Gleneagles I
May 21 – 23	Wrest Park I
May 29 – 31	Colchester I (Spring Bank Holiday)
May 29 – 31	Cheltenham II; Southport
June 4 – 6	Nottingham I
June 11 – 14	Hunstanton
June 18 – 20	Southwick
June 24 – 27	Woking
July 9 – 11	Wrest Park II
August 28 – 30	Cheltenham III; Colchester II (Late Summer Holiday)
August 27 – 30	Bowdon
September 17 – 19	Cheltenham IV; Ryde
September 18 – 19	Gleneagles II
September 24 – 26	Wrest Park III; Nottingham II
October 1 – 3	Budleigh Salterton
October 15 – 17	Cheltenham V

## Correspondence

## 'Cannons'

from W. Eggleston

Sir,  
I have been most interested to read the correspondence regarding the pseudo-cannon, or Australian pseudo-cannon, as it is called by Mr Riggall in the August issue.

I was introduced to this cannon, when I lived in Australia, by Tom Armstrong, whom many of your readers will know at least by repute. His name for it was the *Throll* (or threesome roll), and I think this a very apt title.

From the various comments it seems to me that there is a little misunderstanding as to use and method and, whilst I have no doubt as to Barry Chambers' ability to use a little brute force if the occasion demands it, his skill as a player and appreciation of ball mechanics is far more important.

I have made use of the *Throll* quite frequently and, under Tom Armstrong's guidance, achieved a degree of skill, though by no means perfection, and had the pleasure of demonstrating it to Dr Bray while he was in Adelaide (Brighton Club) a few years ago. My demonstration was disappointing, to say the least, but fortunately Dr Bray is a very understanding man, in the best sense, and saw the possibilities.

To me, the *Throll* is most useful from the 2nd corner when attempting hoops 6 and 1-back. Thus when playing Red I rush Blue into the 2nd corner, where Black is already a corner ball. I then position the balls in the order Red, Blue, Black with Blue slightly to the right of the straight line. I then play a roll in such a manner (I hope) that Blue goes near to 1-back and Red follows Black in a fashion to give an easy rush to hoop 6.

Applying this to the *Throll* from the 4th corner for hoops 2 and 3 (which, incidentally, I would never attempt, let alone achieve), it seems quite feasible that a player of Barry Chambers' calibre could, using the same colour scheme, place Blue between hoops 3 and 4 and lay an easy rush to hoop 2. Having run that hoop, a split shot would easily send Black to hoop 4 and Red in position to rush Blue to hoop 3.

Having mentioned Tom Armstrong, I should like to relate a story I heard about one of his recent activities which may interest those clubs in need of more members.

It seems that a middle-aged lady had arrived at the club for her first lesson. Tom was snowed under as usual trying to organise and teach new players, when he saw a 19-year-old youth (long hair, jeans and such) sitting astride his bike watching the activities. So he called to the youth: "Hey you, come in here." The lad went into the grounds looking bewildered and had a mallet thrust in his hand. "Just have a hit around with this lady for a few minutes while I'm busy." After that Tom made the lad join in golf croquet with him, the newcomer and Jean Armstrong. The next week the lad was there to learn to play properly, was put under the care of a very good friend of mine who happens to be a good player and good teacher, and before the day was out was doing 4-ball breaks.

The moral seems to be, if you want more members, go out after them and don't be put off by youth or appearance.

Glastonbury, Yours sincerely,  
Somerset, Wilf Eggleston

## 'Literary Allusions to Croquet'

from A.J. Bucknell

Sir,  
The interesting excerpt quoted by Brian Bliss in the August Gazette reminded me that many years ago I was browsing through some old periodicals dated 1905 (could it, I wonder,

have been in a surgery) when I came upon a short write-up about Lawn Croquet. The article concluded as follows:

"Nobody who has compassion in his bowels can possibly excel at Croquet. The Ladies and Gentlemen on the Vicarage lawn may keep up the appearance of amiability; but the language of the grovellers in the herbaceous borders is not to be found in the ecclesiastical vocabulary. One enthusiast said that the joy of the game was its non-energetic nature, and the element of pleasant swinishness involved."

What a delicious slice of Edwardian prose, and the operative word seems to be 'pleasant'. My dictionary tells me that 'swinish' is to have the characteristic of a swine, bestial, brutal, obscene. Pleasantly bestial indeed; whatever did they get up to on those well manicured lawns and adjacent shrubberies?

A magnificent row of rhododendron bushes flank our lawns at The Nottingham Club, and we can but wonder what they have witnessed over the years — apart from missed roquets and fluffed hoops.

87 Danethorpe Vale, Yours sincerely,  
Sherwood, A.J. Bucknell  
Nottingham.

## 'The Croquet Speed Record'

from Colin Prichard

Sir,  
It might be of interest to you that when you reported that my mother had written to you that William had won a game in 12½ minutes, she was wrong. The game took more like 14½ minutes. He was receiving 5 bisques, or indeed as many bisques as he needed to complete the course; the opposition did not give considerable help, but extensive coercion. We played the game as we both considered it impossible to complete a serious game in the times that people claim. Furthermore, I acted as his ball-boy throughout, and he knew that I was not going to take my shot at the end of the first break.

I think that it may be that people just time their breaks, or forget when they started. I should think that 25 minutes would be about the quickest time a game could be completed.

172 Ashley Gardens, Yours sincerely,  
London S.W.1, Colin Prichard

## Parkstone (East Dorset) American Tournament

To be held Tuesday 13 July to Thursday 15 July 1976

HANDICAP SINGLES (in blocks) Entrance Fee £1.00  
Each player is guaranteed 4 games in his block. Group winners play semi-finals and finals on Thursday.

Double-Banking will be used if necessary. Time limit 3 hours. In cases where Double-Banking is used, a time allowance will be made. C.A. Rules and Regulations apply.

Entries to be sent to the Hon. Secretary: Miss M.D. McMordie, 1 Delhi Close, Parkstone, Poole, Dorset. Closing date for entries is mid-day Thursday 8 July.

Teas will be provided, but lunches will not be available at the Club. A licensed bar will be open at lunch time. Facilities for snack lunches just across the road from the Club.

## 1975 In Retrospect

## Home and Dry

"And summer's lease hath all too short a date" — how gratefully we may record that 1975 proved a notable exception. The long hot summer, hesitant in May, settled in on the second day of Wimbledon and stayed with us until the last week of September. Of the Overseas visitors, who had chosen wisely and must have been well rewarded, Tom Barlow from South Africa in a short stay achieved a striking success in the Open Championship by reaching the final, having defeated Bernard Neal in the previous round. A much longer stay was enjoyed by Dennis and William Bulloch, who completed the whole circuit from Budleigh Salterton early in May to Roehampton in mid-September. Dennis, who is sixth in this year's New Zealand ranking order, was not only a player of the highest class but also maintained his form with remarkable consistency during nearly five months of non-stop croquet. His only defeats in level play were inflicted by President's Cup colleagues. William was seen at his best in winning the Handicap Singles at Budleigh out of 52 entries and in his splendid spurt during the second series of the Chairman's Salver.

After two new players, A.F. Coleman and J. MacLaren, had contested the final of the Men's Peel Memorials at Cheltenham, the season got under way with the Counties' meeting. Here Sussex for the first time recorded a notable advance, finishing second to the holders, led by Nigel Aspinall, and seemingly most happy in their pairings. In the Men's Championship the draw produced one of those occasional freak variations, with four President's Cup players in one half and Edgar Jackson in the other. Making full use of his good fortune, Jackson found his best form and defeated Andrew Hope in two straight games to win the title. Kitty Wheeler fought off the challenge of Barbara Meachem to take the Women's title, and later in the season the Ladies Field Cup. Colin Prichard brought off a fine "double" by winning the Du Pre Cup for the third year, and also the Mixed Doubles Championship, in partnership with his mother.

So to the Open Championships and a word, first of all, for some of the losers who played so well: Michael Heap and Keith Ross in a splendid Doubles Final, Martin Murray, William Ormerod against John Solomon, and John Solomon himself in one magnificent game against Aspinall. Of Nigel Aspinall what is one to say? Open Champion and President's Cup winner with a score of 14 out of 14, a feat achieved only twice previously — by Humphrey Hicks and John Solomon. Perhaps the unique merit of his skill is that he always seems able to raise the standard of his play to its peak, whenever a vital moment occurs. One might say that he has taken a leaf from the title of Lord Butler's autobiography "The Art of the Possible" and emended this to "The Art of the almost Impossible"! To the Singles title he added the Doubles Championship, in partnership with William Ormerod. In an extremely strong Plate, S.R. Hemsted defeated J.N. Robinson to conclude the week's programme.

1975 was a vintage year for Andrew Hope, runner-up in the President's Cup on his first appearance, and for Colin Prichard, winner of the Chairman's Salver; it was a good year for E.J. Tucker, S.R. Hemsted and J.N. Robinson, winner of the Spencer Ell Cup. Of up-and-coming players, some to catch the eye were A.F. Coleman, N.J. Davren, J. Doughty, Marion Hemsted and the new young generation from Roehampton, who shared the major proportion of the Hurlingham Tournament prizes between them. William Prichard was an enforced absentee from the world of croquet this season, but Michael Stride returned in the autumn from the Midlands and appears to be playing as well as ever. Dr J.W. Simon also hopes to be playing again next year, when his duties permit.

The Longman Cup and the All England Handicap, those excellent nurseries of croquet, were as popular and as keenly contested as in recent years. The Longman Cup was won by Harrow Oak, who defeated Colworth 3-2, the decisive game

being won by 2 points. And in the All England Handicap, J. Coutts from Jealotts Hill is to be congratulated on winning for the second year in succession. Ferranti of Bracknell had an original entry of more than 20 players for this event, an indication of the enthusiasm inspired by croquet in certain areas of the country. Similar reports have been received from Scotland and Ireland. The Scottish Association, who have designed an extremely handsome new tie for their members, are now able to field a "Best Eight" team of players of 2 bisques and under. And at Carrickmines the Club membership has been increased by several promising new recruits, thanks to the initiative of Terence Read.

The last event to take place was the final of the Inter-Club Championship on Sunday October 19, Cheltenham being at home to Hurlingham. One might have expected that this battle of giants would have proved a very close struggle, with slight odds perhaps on the home team. But on the day Hurlingham, with all five players striking their best form, scored a surprising but decisive victory by 6 matches to 1.

So the time has come to say goodbye at last to summer and to croquet; this is a moment which brings back, across the years, memories of school chapel and the familiar and favourite end-of-term hymn, a stirring sound when sung by 300 voices in unison, "Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing", a hymn which in its closing line held a message of welcome, most appropriate for us to read and think upon today, at the turn of the year — "Those returning make more faithful than before".

Adeste, fideles.

D.J.V.H.M.

## Development Scheme Report 1975

This year foundations have been laid for ten new clubs. Seven demonstrations have been given, and there have been five different courses, two Coaching Courses for beginners, two for middle bisquers, and a Referees Course. At least seven other specially arranged coaching sessions have taken place at various clubs, as well as the usual club coaching that goes on throughout the season. Equipment has been hired to nineteen clubs, and matches against Croquet Association teams, arranged to suit club standards, have been very popular.

In March, making a long round trip I visited eleven clubs, the most northerly of which was Newcastle, and finished up at Manchester for a North West Federation meeting. I met some very hospitable ladies who play croquet at a Cricket Club in Stockton-on-Tees. They play sequence croquet using two centre pegs, Eclipse balls and nice new mallets, and would welcome anyone who might visit them.

The City of Durham is the Headquarters of the North East Sports Council, where I met Mr. Richardson who is concerned with croquet. His understanding of a minority sport, together with his enthusiasm and advice, was invaluable in starting up a new club in Newcastle. Certainly the ingredients of success were there: a croquet-minded Director of Outdoor Activities in the Parks Department, an unwanted bowls green (if not two), and a willing coach and organiser, John Rose, who was backed up by the players of Norton Hall, a long established club. The only missing ingredient in Newcastle was the customers, but this proved to be no great problem. In fact, time and time again, it has been shown that as long as there is sufficient publicity, and the weather is kind, enough people will turn up to a demonstration to make starting a club worth while.

Thanks to the Parks Department and the Sports Council, the two Newcastle demonstrations on both Saturday and Sunday, and the coaching during the following weekend, were well advertised. The Sports Council overprinted our posters, putting their "Sport for All" symbol (a seal of approval) on them. The coaches were kept hard at it all weekend, and only managed to snatch half an hour for lunch each day. More coaching was arranged for the summer, so this new club has had every opportunity to get off to a good start.

Universities and Technical Colleges have always shown a mild interest in croquet, but this year both Hull and Exeter are starting to play more seriously. Durham has for some years had a strong corps of croquet-playing students, and I urged them to interest some of the more permanent members of the University to ensure continuity. This should really be the objective of all such institutions, and for this reason it is encouraging to learn that Matlock Teacher Training College Staff Club plays, and that more teachers and Heads of schools are encouraging the game.

Stamford School in Lincolnshire hired equipment and were put in touch with Wrest Park, and Longlands School, Turnford (near St. Albans), hopes to improve their lawn over the years. Sir Thomas Rich's School, Gloucester, has also hired equipment and not too far away is Hereford Cathedral School which is also interested.

With rising costs it becomes more and more apparent that the hiring of equipment is an enormous help. We now have fifteen sets of hoops and over sixty mallets. Balls get damaged and need to be replaced all too often, so if any club has any old, but not cracked balls, or even incomplete sets, the Development Scheme would like to buy them.

A new club at A.W.R.E. Aldermaston has got under way. Some of their members came to the Bisham Abbey Coaching Course, and borrowed the filmstrip to take back and show to the rest of the club. The Lilleshall course also had, amongst its beginners, people who were interested in starting clubs in both Cheshire and South Wales. The interest in and around Reading is spreading to Oxford, where a new club was successfully launched in Cutteslowe Park. The Director of Outdoor Activities was keenly interested in the project, and the small-sized lawn they started with will be enlarged for next year, and another may be added after levelling an adjacent bit of ground. St. Thomas' Hospital, Colchester Garrison Officers Club and Storrington Women's Institute have also had demonstrations, and members of Kensington Square Residents Association are tentatively trying out croquet in their Gardens.

This year Himley Hall in Wolverhampton was used for both a referees course and a coaching course for handicaps 8-14. The delightful setting and excellent accommodation and food made the weekends all the more appreciated. It is hoped that Himley can again be used, for like all clubs, their lawns, which could be as many as six, need to be cut and rolled as often as possible. Birmingham clubs continue to thrive, and interest in croquet steadily increases in the Midlands.

Every new club takes two or three years to settle down and establish itself, so while it can be said that this year about ten new clubs have been started, one must be prepared to revise that figure and admit that some will fade away.

E.A.Neal

### The Bowdon Croquet Club — A Short History

The Bowdon Croquet Club, which is now in its 64th year, has enjoyed an adventurous life full of ups and downs. Its most successful period was between the two world wars, during which time its tournaments were always over-subscribed. This situation was naturally very gratifying both for the players and for the Club's finances. The Club was very fortunate at this time to have the late Lord Tollemache as a country member and coach. As well as playing himself, Lord Tollemache used to have annual house-parties, with as many as 18 seasoned or top-ranking players as guests. Together with the Club's own members, these guests always ensured successful tournaments for the Club. Regrettably, this happy state of affairs did not survive the outbreak of the second world war. During the war there was scarcely any croquet and certainly no tournaments, whilst the post-war depression hit the Club hard. Since the Club was not affiliated to any other sports club, there were no subsidies and the Club was forced to battle on courageously on a hand-to-mouth basis.

More recently, however, there has begun a short but steady improvement, due partially to discreet advertising and other efforts aimed to attract new members. In 1973 Bowdon decided to hold its first official tournament since the war. This Tournament was in the form of an "American" held during the August Bank Holiday weekend, and proved to be very successful.

In 1974 the Club decided to direct its energies into getting more people interested in croquet and to devote more time to looking after the new members. Thus club members enjoyed two Golf Croquet Suppers, which were open to non-members and proved to be very pleasant social evenings. These evenings gained a few more members for the Club, and this season 25 more new members have been enrolled.

Amongst our activities in the last few years has been our participation in the Longman Cup, which we won once. This season we participated in the N.W. Federation matches, as well as organising our Club Whitsun weekend "American", two Golf Croquet Suppers and a Coaching Course for beginners. In addition, the Club has held an official weekend tournament during the Summer Bank Holiday weekend. A few of our members have put in many hours of work on the grounds, and thus our lawns are greatly improved. Bowdon extends a warm welcome to all who wish to visit.

Alix Fotiadi

### Croquet for the Disabled

Some of the 3¼ million disabled people in the country will have been croquet players, many are potential croquet players, and many of the people who at present play croquet will become disabled through disease or injury. It is in the interests of all of us therefore to consider the possibilities of disabled people joining our clubs or playing on our lawns.

The terms 'disabled people' and 'handicapped people' are often considered interchangeable. In fact they are not. Disability is the physical result of disease or injury — the paralysed limb or the loss of a lung. Handicap is the effect it has upon the person, and two people with the same disability may be handicapped to a completely different degree. A person, for instance, who plays a game which requires sudden bursts of energy or sustained physical output such as squash or hurdling will be far more handicapped if he loses a leg or a lung than the person who plays croquet who may not, in fact, be handicapped at all in this respect. In many ways croquet is a very suitable sport for some disabled people — it is slower and less hazardous than many other sports; there are no fast-moving balls other than at ground level and it is easy to get out of the way of these; the ground is flat and there are no unexpected obstacles.

Many disabled people who are looking for an opportunity to take up a competitive sport could, therefore, consider croquet, and many people who are at present players but are becoming less mobile from one cause or another will want to continue. One lady I met recently was very distressed because owing to increasing arthritis she needed to use a walking-stick and had been told by her club that she could not use it on the lawn. This of course meant she had to give up playing. It would surely have been an easy matter to fix a metal plate on to the end of the stick so that her weight was spread over a greater area and did not damage the grass. With a little thought and effort she could have continued getting considerable pleasure from the game. It is hoped that club organisers will be prepared and able to give this kind of advice.

There are many examples of people who continue to play croquet after becoming quite severely disabled, and these can be used to illustrate the potential of many disabled people. I understand that one member of the Croquet Association (the late Mr Spencer Ell) who, during the first world war, lost the whole of one arm and most of the other, continued to play very successfully with a specially made mallet. I have heard of

one player with very little residual vision who, providing she played with balls coloured in particularly contrasting shades and with luminous paint on the hoops, could play very adequately. I am sure that many people with chest conditions continue to play when they can no longer cope with tennis or golf.

It is, however, appreciated that mobility aids used by people with lower limb disabilities may, unless suitable adaptations can be devised, cause damage to the lawns, and this would be unacceptable where they are used for tournaments or are particularly well cared for. It should be easy to adapt walking aids, whether they are sticks, frames or crutches. As far as I know, nothing has been designed that will enable a wheelchair to be used on lawns, without the possibility of some damage to the grass. This problem has been given as a project to some design students and perhaps, hopefully, they will produce some means of spreading the load on the wheels to an acceptable level. However, this is a matter of degree and there are many lawns, both private and club, where the very small amount of damage caused by a wheelchair would not matter.

One of the main attractions of any sport or non-competitive physical activity is the opportunity it gives to mix with other people who have a similar interest. Some disabled people are forced by circumstances and society to lead isolated lives or to live in situations where they mix only with other disabled people. Any activity in which everyone can compete on equal terms will do much to help improve the chances of the integration of this minority group. Some live in residential homes, or attend special clubs, either because they wish to or because they have no choice, and there is a great need to provide them with the challenge and excitement of sport. Perhaps it would be possible for your club members to seek out local residential homes, long-stay hospitals, day centres or special schools, and look into the possibilities of starting a croquet club. It may involve time in providing coaching, or it may involve the loan of equipment but, if successful, it will result in much pleasure. In this situation the damage that mobility aids may do to the lawn is obviously of far less importance, and appropriate conditions could be worked out to provide all players with an equal chance.

It would be of great interest to know if club members have any experience, either personal or second-hand, of disabled people playing croquet, and in particular whether special aids are used, how problems are overcome, or if any special facilities are necessary. Perhaps they would be kind enough to send details to the Secretary. Any exchange of information may well enable more people to take up the game and enable others to continue playing.

The Disabled Living Foundation

### Deadline

The deadline for receipt of copy for the April gazette is Tuesday 16 March 1976.

### A Lottery?

The Central Council of Physical Recreation (C.C.P.R.) strongly advise all local sports clubs and associations as well as local sports councils to discuss with their local authority the prospects for a local authority lottery with a view to ensuring that the proceeds of such a lottery are directly available in the form of increased aid to local sports clubs.

### Stop Press

Please make a date in your diaries that the next A.G.M. will be held on Monday 31 May 1976.

### Rover Notes

#### Will you, won't you?

Eights' Week is once more over — unmarred in 1975 by the freak storms of last year. As the games progressed, day by day, the leaders often asked themselves what number of games they needed to make them safe, and the tail-enders wondered how comparatively bad their tally really was. Nigel Aspinall has completed a histogram of the results since the War which answers all these questions. Only events in which 8 players started are counted, and the sample includes 29 President's Cups, 10 Chairman's Salvagers and 19 Surrey/Spencer Ell Cups. A score of 11 games was a winning one no less than 25 times, and on only 4 of these occasions was a play-off involved. A score of 10 games has won the President's Cup 4 times (only once after a tie) but 9 has never won. The very first Chairman's Salver was won with 9 games, and it has also been won once with 10; in fact there has never been a play-off for the Chairman's Salver. In the Surrey/Spencer Ell, a score of 10 has also won 4 times, twice after a tie, one of them being a triple tie; 9 has been the winning score 3 times, each time after a tie, and again one was a triple tie.

In the three events 12 has been an outright winner 7 times, plus once when a play-off was necessary between Cotter and Solomon in the 1953 President's Cup (they also tied in 1956 at 15 games each, but that year 10 players were invited). On 10 occasions the winner has scored 13, but all 14 games have only been scored 3 times: by Hicks, Solomon and this year Aspinall. Miss Sessions did score 14 in the Ladies Field Cup in 1973, but it has never yet been scored in either the Chairman's or the Spencer Ell — a good mark to the Selectors perhaps.

At the other end of the scale 0 has only been recorded once and that was in the Surrey Cup; 1 has been recorded 7 times, 2 seventeen times, 3 sixteen times (5 times 7th equal), 4 fourteen times (5 times 7th equal), 5 twice. But in the odd year 1956, after one player had withdrawn from the President's Cup, 4 players were equal bottom with 5 games. Even more extraordinary was the 1969 Surrey Cup when the winner had 11 and 4 players tied 5th (or bottom) with as many as 6 games.

So. It would seem that 11 games gives you the likelihood of a win — or at the worst a play-off — which means that you can only lose 3 games, and that is the difficulty because no game, as it looms, appears to be easy. No research has yet been done to show how the winners stood at the half-way stage, nor whether the strain of being in the lead is a spur or a scourge. At the lower end one win, like a swallow in summer, is too few, but 2 appears often enough to be really respectable — and next year. . . .

### A Croquetical Warning

*Though Croquet has many a risk,  
There are times when one can have a frisk,  
But remember it's true  
There's one thing you can't do —  
You must not go to bed with a bisque.*

Ember

### The Secretary and The Editor

For general reference, the Secretary of the Croquet Association is Mr Vandeleur Robinson, The Hurlingham Club, London S.W.6 (Tel. (01) 736 3148). The standard annual rate of subscription to the C.A. is £5.

The Editor of the Croquet Gazette is Revd P.D.Hallett, 58 Romsey Road, Lyndhurst, Hampshire SO4 7AR. (Tel. Lyndhurst 2074).

## The Touch Stroke

(This Article represents only the views of its author; publication of this Article does not imply any particular view of the opinions expressed in it. A rejoinder by the Chairman of the Laws Committee appears below — Ed.)

There is widespread misapprehension over the strokes covered by Law 32 (x) and (xi), universally referred to as "crush strokes". This misunderstanding persists because in the Laws the name "crush stroke" is included in both of these paragraphs. This has led to the idea that a fault is only committed if the ball is crushed against a hoop upright or the peg. Nothing could be farther from the truth, because the slightest touch, invisible and perceptible only to a referee with sharp hearing and crouched close to the hoop, will be a fault under this law if the ball was close to the hoop.

Law 32 (x) states that a fault is made if the ball is struck so as to cause it to touch an upright or the peg whilst still in contact with the mallet. But very few croquet players realise how long the mallet stays with the ball in an average stroke. This was revealed in an engineering publication when a croquet hoop and balls were used in research on ballistics. The experiments proved that the ball stays on the mallet much longer than would be expected, and also that a ball which seems to have touched each upright once during its passage through a hoop has in fact usually vibrated between the uprights several times.

Several conclusions can be drawn from the foregoing. First, it would be better to change the expression "crush stroke" to "touch stroke" so as to dispel the misunderstanding referred to in the first paragraph. Second, referees should realise that only a very high-speed camera can reveal what happens during these strokes. Human vision is quite inadequate, and a referee must rely more upon his sense of hearing to judge the fairness of such strokes. His head should be close to the hoop, and no referee should undertake the responsibility of judging these strokes unless he has excellent hearing as well as good vision. Standing behind the striker to observe whether the ball has been deflected is not enough, because a ball may touch one or even both uprights without being deflected from the original course of the stroke. Incidentally, it is for this reason that the peg-out should be umpired, especially a long one, and the umpire must have keen hearing and move close to the peg as the ball approaches it, because a slight nick as the ball passes the peg may be imperceptible to vision and be detectable only by the slight sound it makes. Never place a finger on the peg because this might move it if the peg is not firm, as is so often the case.

Players have always a responsibility to play fairly, but in circumstances so difficult for the referee they should accept the responsibility of being seen to play fairly also. The worst offenders, quite numerous and including 'A' class players who could not plead ignorance, are those who do not call a referee to many strokes which could possibly be faults. Very bad also are those who play touch strokes with a quick poke in which the mallet is sharply withdrawn after the forward movement, all in one continuous action. This is a flagrant attempt to deceive the referees, who should show no mercy to such players when the ball touches the wire.

It often happens that a ball close to the hoop is centrally placed, but faults are often made, sometimes because the striker does not concentrate so hard with no referee watching. I was astonished recently when I called as a referee a very famous player, and he told me it was "impossible for me to make a fault", which was absolute nonsense. If such a ball is in the hoop, even a gentle shot is likely to be a fault if the ball touches the upright, and even if it is inches away and is hit hard, and the mallet is not grounded, it will be a fault if the ball touches the hoop.

Faults are frequently made when the ball is not centrally placed, including many which are approved by referees. Yet

the hoops can be made in 95% of these cases with a stroke which is demonstrably fair. Let us assume that the ball is one inch from the right-hand upright and a quarter of an inch from the left upright. You must call a referee and explain the stroke you wish to play. He will then make a note of the position of your ball, in case you make a fault and it has to be replaced. Now line your mallet so that the ball will just miss the nearest upright (in this case the left). In this matter there is no margin for error whatsoever, because if the ball touches the nearest upright it will be a fault. Strike accurately on this line with a tiny but firm stop-shot, so that the mallet is grounded immediately after contact. If the shot is played correctly, the ball will touch only the farthest upright and travel about three feet after running the hoop. Keep your mallet grounded and be careful not to move it (especially not to swivel it) until the referee has passed judgement on the stroke. If he is not sure, he should place a ball between the mallet face and the farthest upright, in line with the head of the mallet. There should be a small space; if there is, you have played a stroke which is demonstrably fair, because the mallet, ball and upright were never all in contact at the same moment. The same stroke can be played if the distances between the ball and the uprights are reduced to, say, one eighth and one half of an inch, but great care is needed and the ball will not travel so far after running the hoop. With these difficult shots players sometimes ground the mallet before it reaches the ball (the 'air shot'), but you will not make this mistake if you follow the Golden Rule of croquet, which is to keep your eye on the ball.

L.Riggall

## The Crush Stroke — A Rejoinder

Mr Riggall makes a number of cogent points in his Article. However, I do not agree with his contention that the expression "touch stroke" should be used in place of "crush stroke", which is defined unambiguously in Law 32 (x) and (xi). The term "touch stroke" might convey the impression that a fault is committed in hoop running if the ball touches the wire, but this is not necessarily the case.

In a single ball stroke, the mallet head will generally stay in contact with the ball for an appreciable distance, depending of course very much upon the type of stroke which is played. As Mr Riggall points out, only a high-speed camera would reveal the details; the referee must do his best to judge whether a stroke is a crush by using both vision and hearing, and also an appreciation of the practical possibilities of the stroke employed.

For straight hoop-running shots when the ball is close to the hoop, the referee can identify the limits of the direction of travel of the ball which are possible without the ball touching either wire. If the ball deflects outside these limits, it must have glanced off a wire. If the referee is of the opinion that the mallet was still in contact with the ball when it touched the wire, which becomes more likely the harder the stroke is played, he should declare a fault. But if the ball remains within these limits, it may still have glanced off a wire or even vibrated between both wires, and a fault could have been committed. Here the referee has another clue to assist him. He can judge how far the ball would have travelled had it not touched either wire; if it actually travelled a shorter distance it must have been slowed by impact with one or both wires. The sounds made are also revealing in such cases.

Mr Riggall emphasizes, quite rightly, the need to summon a referee before playing shots which could possibly be faults. He contends that players should ground their mallets when playing potential crush strokes with a stop shot action, and should not withdraw the mallet after impact. I do not agree; players are entitled to play strokes in any way they choose, and the referee must do his best to judge the result.

I also cannot agree that a hard straight hoop stroke, with the ball inches away from the hoop, will be a fault if the ball

touches the hoop and the mallet is not grounded. Such a shot might be a fault if the ball was severely checked by impact with the wires, but it is most unlikely to be a fault if the ball just glances off one wire and continues at almost the same speed.

Mr Riggall advocates a firm stop-shot for running angled hoops from close range; personally I advise a hammer stroke, which imparts very necessary forward spin to the ball. If played correctly, the mallet is grounded in this stroke, so that there is very little risk of a crush being committed.

I do not agree with Mr Riggall's view that a finger should not be placed on the peg when judging the peg-out. By doing this the referee can make use of another useful sense, that of touch, but he should remove the detachable portion of the peg before the shot is played. However, if the peg is loose in the ground, it should not be touched as it might thereby be moved.

Mr Riggall has focused attention on an important problem, and it is to be hoped that his Article and these comments will provoke a much needed discussion.

B.G.Neal,  
Chairman of the Laws Committee

## The Country House Croquet Scene

Croquet is croquet for those who know about croquet, but a number of people who live in comfortable small country houses on the north side of Morecambe Bay (in what used to be called Lancashire north of the Sands and a number of other synonyms) — those people have no clue as to how to play croquet. The rules are quite beyond their ken. They don't bother with them. It is golf croquet up here. I say "here" because it's "here" for me and I am one of these people. We may not know about croquet, but we are madly enthusiastic about golf croquet. There are house matches of the most passionate nature which brighten up the summer afternoons; these take place as often as not in the middle of an ordinary golf croquet party with several other non-involved players present, and are liable to disrupt other games as cheers and groans resound around some tiresome hoop.

Why are some hoops tiresome? This is due to a number of causes. To begin with, not all hoops are the same width at everyone's house, not even the same width on the same court. Nor indeed are the lawns either the same size or furnished with the same sort of grass and/or moss. One well-used, popular and hospitable court has a crab-apple tree of great age where the centre stick might be expected. This is not used as the stick, but rather as a hazard in moving from one centre hoop to the other. The stick proper is outside the court on the south side, down a slope which needs the most delightfully subtle planning of the curve of one's shot, and which provides an exquisite glimpse of the adjacent waters of Windermere. Another court, belonging indeed to the founder of the programme of house matches (suitably launched of course at a good drinks party), has for its hazards a depression near the first hoop caused by the private sewage works, and also forces upon one some exceedingly difficult shots by reason of a stiffly clipped yew hedge allowing for no margin for manoeuvre but not objecting in any way to a player's attempts to bury him- or herself in it in order to swing a mallet.

And talking of mallet-swinging, how good we are! Some superb shots, exquisite in power and therefore in length, with a sense of direction achieved by the most detailed local knowledge can be seen on many an afternoon or evening during the summer, especially during the deliciously long summer evenings of the north. There have been matches finished by light of candles stuck on hoops on windless midgey nights.

Our scoring methods are quite orthodox, and in House Matches all games have to be played out to the end in order to record the actual number of hoops won by each side, and the contest is not a knockout but an American tournament. We

play a double round of twelve hoops and one stick, and this is standard practice on all occasions unless a single round of seven is necessitated by the onset of tea, rain, or other unforeseen conditions. Footwear is unorthodox and can include none, or wellingtons.

In case a frivolous approach to the game may seem to be uppermost in the minds of the contestants in this area, I must end by emphasising that the most careful planning, devilish tactics and ingenious strategy are exhibited on nearly all occasions. No countryside could enjoy its croquet more.

James Harrison

## Obituaries

### Harold Clemons

The passing of Harold Clemons, who died in Launceston Tasmania on Saturday 6th September, is a grievous loss not only to his many friends but to the whole croquet world, which they will find it hard to bear. A qualified solicitor and Fellow of Corpus Christi College Oxford, Harold was in every way an intellectual man, and indeed a gentleman whose standards of behaviour at all times were of the very highest, yet seasoned with a very personal sense of humour.

As a croquet player he was one of the most successful, winning the English Silver Medal in Perth in 1971. He was a member of the Tasmanian Inter-State Team on many occasions, a member of the Australian International Team in 1969, and played in the Chairman's Salver in England. Always a pleasure to play with or against, Harold was never involved in disagreements in any match or game.

Having had the privilege of his friendship both on and off the croquet court, I must repeat that in these days when standards are slipping everywhere, we shall miss Harold more and more, realising how much we have lost by his passing.

A.S.

The passing of Harold Clemons will be mourned by his many friends on both sides of the World.

Hal was born in Tasmania of English parents in 1899 and was educated in England at Cheltenham College and Balliol College Oxford. He qualified as a Solicitor and spent all his working days in Oxford, finishing as Solicitor to the University. He was married, but his wife died after a few months, and those in the Croquet World probably thought of him as a bachelor. On retiring in 1964, he made up his mind that if a Labour government was returned to power at the General Election he would go to Tasmania. They were and he did — within a month Hal was on his way to Tasmania with all his belongings, including his two grand pianos.

I had the privilege of introducing Hal to croquet on my parents' lawn at Wallingford in the early 1960s. Despite his age, he was an apt pupil with a natural eye, but always stubborn as regards tactics, which were somewhat unorthodox to the end. He achieved considerable success in Australian national events and came back to England every other summer for our croquet season when he won several open singles, notably at Budleigh, Compton and Colchester.

He played for Australia in 1969, but failing eyesight prevented his being considered for their 1974 team. Despite this, he accompanied the team to England and helped Berkshire & Oxfordshire to win the Inter-Counties Championship.

R.F.R.

The deaths are also announced of Dr Gerald Laurence, Captain M.F.Buller, J.Lee and A.G.F.Ross.

## Hunstanton (Second Week): September 1-6

## American Handicap Singles

BLOCK A. Winner: Mrs P.Hooper (7) who beat Mrs D.M.Aubrey (4) +7 (T), W.H.Carlsle (7) +3 (T), R.A.Carte (2) +3 (T), E.A.Locke (6½) +1 (T) and Mrs J.N.Rolfe (1½) +1 (T).  
 BLOCK B. Winner: Miss E.L.Wood (12) who beat L.Batchelor (14) +3 (T), Mrs E.A.Locke (15) +15 (T), Dr R.F.Wheeler (12) +7 (T), Miss J.K.Samuel (9) +8 (T), and lost to Mrs K.F.W.Townsend (12\*) -2 (T).  
 BLOCK C. Winner: Mrs R.F.Wheeler (10) who beat Mrs L.Batchelor (14) +4 (T), Mrs G.C.Day (12) +3 (T), C.R.Palmer (11) +12 (T), K.F.W.Townsend (12\*) +6 (T) and Mrs H.A.Zinn (8) +5 (T).

## PLAY-OFF

*Semi-Final*  
 Miss E.I.Wood (12) bt. Mrs P.Hooper (7) +2 (T)

*Final*  
 Miss E.I.Wood (12) bt. Mrs R.F.Wheeler (10) +3 (T)

## HANDICAP DOUBLES (10 Pairs)

*First Round*  
 Mr & Mrs K.F.W.Townsend (24) bt. Mrs P.Hooper & Mrs H.A.Zinn (15) +3 (T)  
 A.H.Jones & D.Turner (21) bt. C.R.Palmer & Miss J.K.Samuel (20) +2 (T)

*Second Round*  
 R.A.Carte & Mrs L.Batchelor (14) bt. Mr & Mrs E.A.Locke (20½) +1 (T)  
 Dr & Mrs R.F.Wheeler (19) bt. Mr & Mrs Townsend +2 (T)  
 Jones & Turner bt. Mrs J.N.Rolfe & Miss E.L.Wood (13½) +1 (T)  
 Mrs D.M.Aubrey & Mrs G.C.Day (16) bt. W.H.Carlsle & L.Batchelor (19) +1 (T)

*Semi-Final*  
 Carte & Mrs Batchelor bt. Dr & Mrs Wheeler +6  
 Mrs Aubrey & Mrs Day bt. Jones & Turner +10

*Final*  
 Carte & Mrs Batchelor bt. Mrs Aubrey & Mrs Day +4

## Longman Cup 1975

The competition for the Longman Club Team Cup — to give it its full title — attracted 19 entries. As usual, the draw was geographical for the earlier rounds, the four Area winners being Southwick, Harrow Oak, Colworth and Stourbridge. Daten, winners in 1974, were unable to enter.

Colworth beat Stourbridge 4-1 in one semi-final, and Harrow Oak received a walk-over in the other, as Southwick were forced to scratch at the eleventh hour owing to several of their team suffering handicap reductions at tournaments the day before the match was due to be played on the last permitted date.

The final was played at Roehampton on Saturday 4 October and proved to be an even and exciting tussle right to the last game. In the morning Colworth won the first single and Harrow Oak the second. The third was adjourned at lunch time. After lunch Colworth won this third single, but Harrow Oak evened the score again by winning the first double, so all depended on the last double. Each pair consisted of a low and a high bisquer. Colworth's low bisquer was for 1-back with a bisque in hand one hoop behind Harrow Oak's high bisquer. Both sides played a good tactical game, but Harrow Oak made it by 2 points to win the match.

Graham Martin was there to receive the handsome cup from the Chairman of the Council, and so Harrow Oak get their name on the cup for the second time in five years. Congratulations to Harrow Oak, and commiserations to Colworth who put up a brave fight getting so near to victory in their first final.

Result: Harrow Oak beat Colworth 3-2

## Weekend Tournaments

## Cheltenham IV: September 12-14

BLOCK A. Winner: D.H.Moorcraft (½), who beat P.W.Hands (-3) +5, E.Bell (3) +4, L.G.Ayliffe (5) +7, Mrs F.E.Pearson (12) +14 and Mrs D.Exell (15) +14.  
 BLOCK B. Winner: Miss M.J.Lodge (8) who beat Mrs K.M.O.Wheeler (-1) +13, M.J.Evans (1) +12, W.J.Sturdy (3) +21, B.Slater (3½) +3, and lost to Sir Leonard Stone (15) -5.  
 BLOCK C. Winner: J.McLaren (6) who beat M.J.Bushnell (0) +26, J.Haigh (1) +13, Miss E.H.Arkell (3) +20, Col. G.T.Wheeler (5) +14 and Mrs M.Warren (15) +15.  
 BLOCK D. Winner: D.G.Richardson (5) who beat R.O.B.Whittington (0) +23, Wing-Cdr E.M.Smith (1½) +15, Miss R.M.Allen (3½) +23, P.V.Cozens (5) +15 and Mrs W.J.Sturdy (12) +18.  
 BLOCK E. Winner: Dr G.K.Taylor (0) who beat A.B.Hope (-2½) +22, R.E.Adlard (2) +20, Dr B.R.Sandiford (5½) +9, Mrs M.L.Shackleton (16) +19, and lost to Mrs D.H.Moorcraft (10) -15.  
 BLOCK F. Winner: P.Stoker (4) who beat J.A.Wheeler (½) +8, F.E.Pearson (2) +12, Miss I.M.Roe (5) +12, P.J.Barnes (7½) +9 and Lady Bazley (14) +11.

## Ryde: September 12-14

BLOCK A. Winner: C.G.Pountney (0) who beat K.H.Paterson (3½) +6, Mrs P.H.Mann (9) +5, R.W.Newnham (14) +1 (T) and Mrs C.Aberhalden (16) +19.  
 BLOCK B. Winner: G.Birch (1) who beat P.H.Mann (6) +13, R.B.W.Gladstone (8) +11, Mrs K.M.Lowein (12) +15 and M.Silverman (16) +21.  
 BLOCK C. Winner: Dr C.A.Boucher (2) who beat Mrs F.J.T.Mew (8) +17, C.Aberhalden (11) +11, Miss D.E.Rogers (14) +6, and lost to F.E.M.Puxon (7½) -1 (T).

The Ryde Secretary writes that Tore Gulbrandsen and another member of the Jeløy Croquet Club near Oslo visited Ryde during the summer and spent an afternoon playing croquet.

## Wrest Park II: September 19-21

BLOCK A. Winner: T.Wood (3\*) who beat H.C.Green (3) +26, C.Cumming (5½) +8, G.Richardson (4) +17, Mrs H.A.Pim (7) +6 (T), Mrs M.Grout (12) +4, and lost to D.Openshaw (1) -11.  
 BLOCK B. Winner: T.Anderson (9) who beat B.Keen (2) +5, A.C.W.Davies (4) +19, E.Audsley (8) +2 (T), C.Grout (14) +8, J.McLaren (4½) +7, and lost to J.A.Wheeler (½) -15.  
 BLOCK C. Winner: A.Dumont (7) who beat Dr J.N.Robinson (0) +3, R.F.Rothwell (½) +23, N.Davren (1) +14, E.Bell (3) +23, Dr H.A.Pim (5) +3 (T) and Mrs G.C.Day (12) +16.

## Budleigh Salterton: September 26-28

BLOCK A. Winner: Sir Leonard Daldry (0) who beat C.Edwards (3) +22, L.G.Ayliffe (5) +3, Mrs S.S.Cruden (8) +12, Mrs C.W.Marshall (12) +12, and lost to Mrs H.E.Ovens (11) -14.  
 BLOCK B. Winner: H.G.T.Bolton (1) who beat K.S.Schofield (3½) +11, P.K.Devitt (6) +14, Dr C.W.Marshall (11) +7, C.A.Grout (14) +3, and lost to H.E.Ovens (8) -7 (T).  
 BLOCK C. Winner: C.Hudson (8) who beat Captain H.F.Nalder (3½) +9, P.A.Tunmer (6½) +4 (T), Mrs M.Grout (12) +8, Mrs P.A.Dwerryhouse (14) +7, and lost to Dr W.R.Bucknell (1½) -13.  
 BLOCK D. Winner: B.G.Bucknell (9) who beat R.S.Stevens (1½) +15, J.G.Warwick (4) +15, Mrs M.J.Goode (12) +21, A.Ormerod (15\*) +5 (T), and lost to Mrs P.A.Tunmer (6) -6.  
 BLOCK E. Winner: M.Ormerod (6\*) who beat M. Granger Brown (4½) +25, Mrs H.F.Nalder (7) +1 (T), Mrs D.H.C.Whiteman (12) +6 (T), N.Morrison (12) +19, and lost to Miss M.J.Lodge (7) -4 (T).

Although clear winners emerged in each block, it was not easy to decide the runner-up in blocks B and C, for in each case two people had the same number of wins and points; in each case the title of runner-up was given to the contender who had beaten his fellow-contender.

## Nottingham II: October 3-5

BLOCK A. Winner: G.Birch (1) who beat P.Death (12) +11, Mrs L.A.Coombs (5) +17, Miss M.Lovett (9) +18 and A.N.Other +5.  
 BLOCK B. Winner: P.Stoker (4) who beat G.Henshaw (3½) +21, T.Smith (6) +10, R.Fletcher (8) +18 and Mrs P.Ogden (12) +19.  
 BLOCK C. Winner: E.Bell (3) who beat N.Gooch (5½) +22, Mrs N.Tyldesley (6) +13, R.Blackburn (8) +11 and R.Wheeler (12) +11.  
 BLOCK D. Winner: P.Barnes (7½) who beat B.Slater (3½) +4, A.J.Bucknell (5½) +2, Mrs R.Wheeler (9) +15 and Mrs C.W.Haworth (14) +19.

## PLAY-OFF

*Semi-Final*  
 G.Birch (1) bt. P.Stoker (4) +13  
 E.Bell (3) bt. P.Barnes (7½) +7

*Final*  
 E.Bell (3) bt. G.Birch (1) +26

## Cheltenham V: October 10-12

BLOCK A. Winner: D.G.Richardson (4) who beat Professor B.G.Neal (-3½) +14, D.H.Moorcraft (½) +24, Miss I.M.Roe (5) +15, G.F.Blumer (8) +18 and Mrs R.F.A.Crane (14) +15.  
 BLOCK B. Winner: Miss M.J.Lodge (6½) who beat G.E.P.Jackson (-1½) +16, Col. G.T.Wheeler (4) +3, Mrs P.H.Mann (8) +2, Lady Bazley (12) +18, and lost to R.F.Rothwell (½) -10.  
 BLOCK C. Winner: Captain P.H.S.Reid (13) who beat Mrs K.M.O.Wheeler (-1) +24, Miss R.M.Allen (3½) +11, P.H.Mann (6) +20, Mrs G.C.Day (12) +14, and lost to R.E.Adlard (2) -14.  
 BLOCK D. Winner: J.McLaren (4½) who beat Revd W.E.Gladstone (-½) +2, F.E.Pearson (2) +17, Mrs B.G.Neal (5½) +15, Mrs D.H.Moorcraft (10) +4 (T) and Sir Leonard Stone (14) +11.  
 BLOCK E. Winner: Dr J.N.Robinson (0) who beat Miss E.H.Arkell (3) +23, G.Henshaw (3½) +13, R.F.A.Crane (6) +3, Mrs W.J.Sturdy (12) +9 and Mrs D.Exell (15) +1.  
 BLOCK F. Winner: R.O.B.Whittington (0) who beat W.J.Sturdy (3) +5, L.G.Ayliffe (5) +6, A.J.Bucknell (5½) +22, Mrs M.L.Shackleton (16) +13, and lost to A.Blenkin (10) -18.

## The President's Cup: September 2-6

'I love to be invited to play in the Eight', said a witty player once to me; 'the only trouble is that you have to play in it.' The present writer could well understand the emotion thus expressed, but it is one not likely to have bothered any of those thus committed this year, unless it was poor Mr Jackson, who arrived with a bad attack of bronchitis but soldiered on bravely in spite of the fact. Novices to this event are generally so happy to be invited to engage in this historic competition that they are little likely to be 'troubled' by doing so, and the three 'new boys' this year, Mr Hemsted, Mr Hope, and Mr Dennis Bulloch, whom we are so glad to welcome here from New Zealand, showed few signs of being overcome by the occasion. The last named was the first player to win the first game finished this year and looked as if he might win a good many more.

We have sometimes complained in these pages that the courts were not allowed to be as fast as it is desirable that they should be in so important an event as this. There was no reason to do so this year; although beautifully green, they all allowed for and required a delicate touch. I asked one player who was new to the event which court he preferred, and he replied that he couldn't choose one — "they were all so uniformly good".

The opening day was a surly one, so misty indeed that your 'reporter' on arriving declared that everything was so dim that he couldn't see the 2nd hoop from the south boundary. But this did not seem to trouble the players any more than did the narrow hoops, needing to be coped with carefully by any unused to them. They seemed to present no special problems to any of the three new to them, Hemsted in particular on the opening day winning two games and putting up a strong challenge to such a great opponent as the holder, Nigel Aspinall, who seized an unexpected opportunity to finish with a quadruple. Bernard Neal achieved a triple at the expense of Dennis Bulloch, but we noticed no other peeling achievement on this day.

Wednesday brought a sunny morning, and though it became cloudy after lunch it remained dry and reasonably warm. As the day continued two facts asserted themselves: first, that John Solomon was not going to have his gameless first day repeated (it is said that in his long and triumphant career he had only once experienced such a thing), and by teatime he had won two games; the other striking fact was that while Nigel Aspinall had sailed unbeaten through six games, he was

not the only player to do so. Andrew Hope had done the same thing — a notable achievement for a player appearing in the event for the first time. The rest were well behind these two, who by a singular but happy coincidence were destined not to meet until the last round of the series. But those who lagged behind could comfort themselves by remembering — or being told — what William Longman's dictum was: 'In this competition nothing really matters till Thursday.'

On this Thursday morning, a sunny one, what might have 'really mattered' would have been a victory of Andrew Hope over Nigel Aspinall, but this was not to be and an early failure at the 3rd hoop left Hope with very few chances. The position by lunchtime was: Aspinall 7, Hope 6, Neal 4, Solomon 3, Bulloch and Hemsted 2 and Jackson 1.

With Aspinall so far unbeaten, the question arose of who and how often a player has won all 14 games. Research revealed that this triumph had only been achieved twice — once by Humphrey Hicks in 1954, and once by John Solomon in 1962. But very soon after lunch it began to look as if Nigel was going to lose his chance to join the other two. Jackson picked up a break almost at once, took it faultlessly to 4-back, and, the opponent's shot missing, the Cheltenham hero began dashing round with the other ball till he suddenly missed 1-back. Aspinall took full advantage of this, but Jackson got another innings, only to miss at 2-back. At least he had shown that our Champion was not inevitably invincible. Meanwhile it began to seem clear that if victory was to be snatched from him it would be at the hands of Hope, still second, or Neal, closely following him at third.

The next morning promised an interesting game between Hope and Neal, but it did not develop as a very close thing; it turned out that Neal won the game without much challenge. Meanwhile Aspinall, playing against Hemsted, seemed for once to be far from his confident self. He had found himself playing with the 'wrong' mallet, the one he wanted having become mysteriously locked up. His opponent was equal to taking full advantage of this situation, and if Nigel had not hit the 'last shot', his opponent seemed almost certain to have won. By teatime Aspinall had won another game and could not be 'caught'; the only question left was whether he would win the last three games.

With the arrival of a bright Saturday Nigel needed the last two games only to win the whole fourteen. A large 'gallery' soon gathered to watch what most of them were quite sure he would achieve. But Aspinall's first game was against a player who had done this very thing himself in the Sixties — John Solomon. And this challenger at one point showed distinct signs of preventing the star of the Seventies repeating a 14 game win on this occasion. Space is not available to give an account of particular games, and one can only say that John seemed to have a good chance of being the victor this time when he might have made the 5th hoop with a not difficult cut up to it. But he preferred to make an effort to collect the balls for a triple first; this failed and the result was that Nigel got the innings and ere long won this crucial game.

The remaining game was between Aspinall and Andrew Hope, who was by then already the runner-up. Here, however, Hope had only one faint chance of getting even one hoop. Nigel was in his most brilliant and ingenious form. With his first ball round he (purposely) conceded a 'contact' to Hope, but one so skilfully arranged that Andrew was left in contact with his partner already in corner 4, so that only a very good shot would enable him even to start anything like a break. The creation of this clever situation was successful in frustrating any progress, and Nigel was a winner in a brilliant game lasting only 35 minutes.

Thus Aspinall became not only a third consecutive winner of the President's Cup, but a third winner of all 14 games. He has never seemed so brilliant as he has been this year and, as is so often the case with those who achieve great things, more modest about it. On being congratulated on his double trio of victory he hastened to attribute it to the possibility that the

The President's Cup	G.N.Aspinall	A.B.Hope	Prof. B.G.Neal	M.E.W.Heap	J.W.Solomon	D.J.Bulloch	S.R.Hemsted	G.E.P.Jackson	WZ
G.N.Aspinall		+23*	+26	+26	+13	+17*	+ 7	+17	14
A.B.Hope	+26		+17	+17	+13	+25	+ 4	+ 9	9
Prof. B.G.Neal	-23	+ 1		+12	+ 9	+ 8	+26	+23	7
M.E.W.Heap	-26	-26	- 2		+26*	-25	+ 6	+ 5	7
J.W.Solomon	-26	- 1	+16	+18		+16*	-14	+21	7
D.J.Bulloch	-17	+26	+11	-22	-13		+26*	-23	7
S.R.Hemsted	-26	-12	-16	+ 5	-17	-11		+15	6
G.E.P.Jackson	-17	+ 2	-11	+16	+25	+14	+ 6		6
	-13	- 9	-18	- 5	+17	+16	+22		6
	-13	-26	+22	-16	+16	-12	+16		6
	-17	- 8	-16	+17	-17	-16	+17		5
	-25	+25	+13	-25	-16	+12	+ 8		5
	- 7	-26	+14	+11	-16	+16	-10		2
	- 4	- 6	-26	-14	+12	-12	+25		2
	-17	-23	-21	-15	-22	-17	+10		2
	- 9	- 5	+23	- 6	-16	- 8	-25		2

\* denotes Triple Peel

opposition this year was less strong than is usually the case. This is, one feels, certainly true when one recalls that such fine players as William Prichard, William Ormerod, Keith Wylie and Paul Hands were unable to compete this year, though the last two were present sometimes to watch the games. But the duties of a professional life must triumph over the call of our splendid game sometimes.

Andrew Hope well deserved his position as No. 2 this week. He has remarkably good stroke production and a serene temperament. To reach the second place on one's first appearance in this exacting competition is an achievement not often witnessed and points to an even greater one in the not distant future.

It is difficult now to imagine a 'Best Eight Week' in the hands of anyone but Colonel Cave, and happily he had a less exacting task this year with its rainless week than he had last year. Happy and glorious, long may he rule over us on future occasions.

May the writer of this account end by saying that, having been in close contact with this unique competition for a full thirty years, as a player or (on 17 occasions) as reporter for the Gazette, he would like at his advanced age to thank everyone for the great kindness they have shown him. His sight

is not now equal to undertaking this task again, and if this and other limitations at 87 have reduced the quality of this report, may he be forgiven for this.

**The Chairman's Salver, played at Nottingham, September 1-5**

Owing to various unavailabilities for the President's Cup, the Chairman's Salver was of slightly lower standard than usual, with only three of last year's eight playing; four of the previous year's Spencer Ell players were promoted, and there was William Bulloch, and it was he that produced the most startling results. Having started so badly that all the others were counting him as a certain victory in the second series, he never lost a match after the 6th round and finished 2nd equal with Rees. Indeed, he did this without ever changing his somewhat bizarre tactics, which were to roll up from anywhere and shoot at any ball if it would do him any good, regardless of the danger.

On the first day nearly everyone attempted triple peels, although some efforts were hardly recognisable as such. In fact none were completed during the week, one reason being Mrs

The Chairman's Salver	C.H.L.Prichard	D.V.H.Rees	W.R.Bulloch	R.A.Godby	A.V.Camroux	Mrs D.M.C.Prichard	J.A.Wheeler	Mrs K.M.O.Wheeler	WZ
C.H.L.Prichard		+20	+21	-21	+ 4	+19	+ 4	+13	10
D.V.H.Rees	-20		+25	+26	+24	+ 4	-12	-26	9
W.R.Bulloch	+13	-20		+10	- 7	+23	+12	+ 7	9
R.A.Godby	-21	-25	- 1		-13	+13	+ 3	-16	8
A.V.Camroux	+ 2	+20	+16	+ 1		+14	+ 6	+12	8
Mrs D.M.C.Prichard	+21	-26	+ 1	+ 3	+19		+12	+23	7
J.A.Wheeler	- 2	-10	-16	- 5	- 3	+ 1	+24		7
Mrs K.M.O.Wheeler	- 4	-24	+13	- 3	+23	- 3	+22		5
	-21	+ 7	- 1	+ 5	+ 4	-22	+ 7		5
	-19	- 4	-13	-19	-23	+ 3	+13		5
	+ 4	-23	-14	+ 3	- 4	-11	+12		5
	- 4	+12	- 3	-12	+ 3	- 3	-13		3
	-13	-12	- 6	- 1	+22	+11	+11		3
	-13	+26	+16	-23	-22	-13	+13		3
	-12	- 7	-12	-24	- 7	-12	-11		3

Wheeler's loss of form. She had one burst on Tuesday and a lightning win on Wednesday, but then sadly lost her touch with her second ball. By the last day only Colin Prichard and John Wheeler were vainly trying even to start triples. Colin Prichard even thought he could complete a delayed sextuple until, in peeling through 1-back, his front ball was tricked by a generous hoop and cannoned into the rhododendrons on the south boundary somewhere beneath the Rover hoop. Colin led, or shared the lead throughout, losing his only games immediately after lunch. Maybe he had some cause, as the lunches were efficiently prepared and lavishly served.

Rees and Godby, the other two survivors from last year's competition, chased Colin Prichard throughout. Robin Godby faltered in the second series, concentrating, it seemed, on finishing third, where he was selected. He did this, discounting William Bulloch, whose phenomenal later form could not have been predicted, not even by himself. It was against William that Godby recorded the luckiest win of the week. William cut a 4-yard rush straight on to the peg from 20 yards, a superb shot, but under the laws of croquet one has to pay the penalty.

Mrs Prichard set her own pace, and improved during the week, winning 3 of her last 4 games. The highlight of her game was her adventurous split shots which time and again rescued

her from hopeless positions. She must be the only good player who does split rolls in preference to small rushes and stop shots.

Vincent Camroux would have done even better than he did, had it not been for his magnanimous habit of sticking in Penult with one, or both, of his balls. His shooting failed him as well. Very nearly the same could be said of John Wheeler who, whilst appearing to do very well the whole time, managed to throw away games, invariably at Rover or through injudicious cut-rushes.

Few people play a 4-ball break as decisively as Vic Rees, but in some games he became totally bogged down for long periods, before emerging from his shell to play another perfect break.

Miss Brumpton managed the whole event in a very friendly manner, and only had to peg down one game. One reason for this might have been a chart kept by Colin Prichard to see who were the fastest and slowest to finish their games. William Bulloch was easily the quickest, being first off 7 times; John Wheeler was last off 7 times; Vic Rees was first 6 times and last 5 times; Colin Prichard was second off 8 times.

It was very sad that we were without H.O.Hodgson, who graced Nottingham for so long and seemed part of it. He will be much missed.

The Spencer-Ell Cup										
	Dr J.N.Robinson	I.H.Wright	P.W.Elmes	E.J.Tucker	E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake	D.H.Moorcraft	Prof. B.G.F.Weitz	D.J.V.Hamilton-Miller	W	Z
Dr J.N.Robinson	-	- 5	- 1	+16	+19	+10	+23	+16	11	
I.H.Wright	+ 5	-	+22	-17	+ 3	+ 3	+ 3	+21	10	
P.W.Elmes	+ 1	- 5	-	+ 5	+17	+ 7	+19	+ 2	9	
E.J.Tucker	-16	-11	- 5	-	- 2	- 4	+ 1	+ 7	8	
E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake	-19	+ 4	-17	+ 2	-	+ 9	- 7	-15	6	
D.H.Moorcraft	-10	- 9	- 7	+ 4	- 9	-	-15	+ 4	5	
Prof. B.G.F.Weitz	-23	-17	-19	- 1	+ 7	+15	-	-13	4	
D.J.V.Hamilton-Miller	-16	- 1	- 2	- 7	+15	- 4	+13	-	3	

**The Spencer Ell Cup, played at Compton, September 1-5**

After the weather *débâcle* of last year, which stopped the competition for the Spencer Ell Cup at the half-way stage, the balance was now restored in full measure, ensuring an uninterrupted week of enjoyment for the players, Manager and spectators on the excellent Compton lawns. This year's competition was hard fought from beginning to end, as may be judged from a breakdown of the 56 matches. Of these, 21 games were won by a margin of less than 6 points, 27 games by an over-all average of 12 points, and only 8 by a clear-cut victory of 20 points or more.

At the end of the first series, E.J.Tucker, playing with admirable accuracy and consistency, shared the lead with Neil Robinson for a total of 6 wins. But after losing to Ian Wright in a needle match in the 7th round, the strain began to tell upon the quality of his play, noticeably towards the end of three close games in the second series which he lost. Meanwhile, Robinson's play was gathering momentum and increasing in authority with each game, so that as soon as he had taken the lead he maintained his position against the rest of the field, only losing two very close games, and thus he finished with 11 wins to become a most deserving winner of the Cup.

Ian Wright's performance was both workmanlike and impressive. After a quiet start, he climbed the ladder slowly but surely into a final second position, due in no small degree to his accurate long shooting throughout the week. Elmes had the distinction of bringing off a delayed triple peel - the only one recorded - and in his galloping style raced through the second series with the loss of only one game. Tyrwhitt Drake with 3 wins in each series played a lot of sound croquet in his steady habit, which sometimes deceived his opponents, one of whom later remarked, somewhat ruefully, "Time after time I thought that he was going to break down, but he never did!" Moorcraft, with little opportunity for croquet this summer, acquitted himself with credit, taking one game from both Robinson and Wright and losing only one game by a wide margin. With his easy rhythmic swing he looked to be a very sure hoop-runner. Weitz was more likely than not to hit in at any distance, but his short game was uncertain at times, and too often he surrendered a position of advantage by leaving himself a long hoop to run, a challenge that he finds irresistible. Hamilton-Miller, rather out of touch in the first series, later had three close games within his grasp in the final stages and then lost all three by sticking in the Rover on each occasion.

So ended a delightful week, admirably supervised by Ed Strickland, with Giles Borrett at times a very busy Referee,

and Mrs E.J.Tucker providing us with greatly appreciated luncheons and teas. As one came away, certain moments lingered in the memory. Neil Robinson pacing restlessly up and down at the side of the court like a lean hungry tiger during his few needle matches, and again, shooting and shooting at that ever-elusive peg in his second game with Elmes; Tyrwhitt Drake almost on the wire at the 5th hoop but determined to make it, which he did at the fourth attempt!; Hamilton-Miller stymied by the peg from his opponent's only ball, yet shaking it by a gentle spin stroke; and Tucker casting his mallet from him, when his opponent had hit in at a vital stage, and raising his eyes in despair to heaven, as if to have a private word with God!

**Parkstone: September 8-13**

The Tournament commenced in brilliant sunshine - the sunshine no less warm than the welcome given to the visitors. This year there were more visitors than Club members - a record no doubt. The players from abroad were as follows: Dennis Bulloch from New Zealand, Mesdames D.Aubrey and P.Hooper and Mr R.A.Carte from South Africa.

The exhilarating points from the tournament were whenever Bulloch, Neal and Ormerod met! Each time all the spectators sat on the edge of their seats, and those three never failed them. In particular, the finals in both the Open and Handicap Singles, which were played in torrential rain, were never a moment without drama and I vouch were the best finals I've ever watched.

The management of the tournament by Mr Patrick Newton was impeccable. Consequently all sections were completed in good time, and the finals ended and the prize-giving over by 5.30 p.m.

**Results**

**Event 1: Open Singles (13 Entries)**

**DRAW**

<i>First Round</i>		
Mrs G.H.Wood	w.o. W.R.Bulloch	opp. scr.
Mrs N.A.C.McMillan	w.o. Captain M.F.Buller	opp. scr.
Mrs D.M.Aubrey	w.o. Dr W.P.Ormerod	opp. scr.
R.A.Carte	bt. Miss M.D.McMordie	+ 5 (T)
D.J. Bulloch	bt. L.S. Butler	+22

<i>Second Round</i>		
Prof. B.G.Neal	bt. Mrs G.H.Wood	+25
Mrs N.A.C.McMillan	bt. Mrs D.M.Aubrey	+17
D.J. Bulloch	bt. R.A.Carte	+26
Dr C.A.Parker	bt. Dr W.R.Bucknall	+ 1

<i>Semi-Final</i>		
Prof. B.G.Neal	bt. Mrs N.A.C.McMillan	+10
D.J. Bulloch	bt. Dr C.A.Parker	+15

<i>Final</i>		
Prof. B.G.Neal	bt. D.J. Bulloch	+19

**PROCESS**

<i>First Round</i>		
Prof. B.G.Neal	bt. R.A.Carte	+15
Dr W.R.Bucknall	w.o. Captain M.F.Buller	opp. scr.
D.J. Bulloch	w.o. W.R.Bulloch	opp. scr.
L.S. Butler	bt. Mrs G.H.Wood	+10
Mrs N.A.C.McMillan	bt. Dr C.A.Parker	+ 1 (T)

<i>Second Round</i>		
Prof. B.G.Neal	bt. Dr W.R.Bucknall	+18
D.J. Bulloch	bt. Mrs D.M.Aubrey	+23
Dr W.P.Ormerod	bt. L.S. Butler	+13
Miss M.D.McMordie	bt. Mrs N.A.C.McMillan	+ 8

<i>Semi-Final</i>		
Prof. B.G.Neal	bt. D.J. Bulloch	+19
Dr W.P.Ormerod	bt. Miss M.D.McMordie	+26

<i>Final</i>		
Dr W.P.Ormerod	bt. Prof. B.G.Neal	+17

**PLAY-OFF**

Dr W.P.Ormerod	bt. Prof. B.G.Neal	+ 2
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**Event 2: 'B' Level Singles (9 Entries)**

<i>First Round</i>		
Air Cdr J.H.Greswell	bt. Mrs P.Hooper	+16
<i>Second Round</i>		
Dr H.A.Pim	bt. Miss W.E.Creed Meredith	+17
Air Cdr J.H.Greswell	bt. Mrs H.A.Pim	+12
Lady Ursula Abbey	bt. J.H.T.Griffiths	+ 7
R.H.C.Carder	bt. Mrs B.G.Neal	+ 5 (T)

<i>Semi-Final</i>		
Dr H.A.Pim	bt. Air Cdr J.H.Greswell	+ 4
Lady Ursula Abbey	bt. R.H.C.Carder	+ 7

<i>Final</i>		
Dr H.A.Pim	bt. Lady Ursula Abbey	+ 6

**Event 3: 'C' Handicap Singles (10 Entries)**

<i>First Round</i>		
Mrs D.H.C.Whiteman (14)	bt. Mrs D.Mitchell (16)	+ 7 (T)
Mrs C.W.Marshall (13)	bt. W.A.Scarr (10)	+ 7
<i>Second Round</i>		
Dr C.W.Marshall (11)	bt. Mrs L.A.Davies (11)	+11
Mrs D.H.C.Whiteman (14)	bt. Mrs L.L.Duveen (10)	+14
Mrs C.W.Marshall (13)	bt. Mrs D.G.Waterhouse (11)	+ 6
Mrs G.L.Ormerod (9)	w.o. C.G.Le Bas (10)	opp. scr.

<i>Semi-Final</i>		
Mrs D.H.C.Whiteman (14)	bt. Dr C.W.Marshall (11)	+17
Mrs C.W.Marshall (13)	bt. Mrs G.L.Ormerod (9)	+ 3

<i>Final</i>		
Mrs D.H.C.Whiteman (14)	bt. Mrs C.W.Marshall (13)	+16

**Event 4a: 'X' Handicap Singles (32 Entries)**

<i>First Round</i>		
J.H.T.Griffiths (8)	bt. Mrs B.G.Neal (5½)	+12
R.H.C.Carder (6)	bt. Dr C.W.Marshall (11)	+ 8
Miss M.D.McMordie (3)	bt. Mrs D.M.Aubrey (4)	+11
Mrs G.L.Ormerod (9)	bt. Mrs D.H.C.Whiteman (14)	+ 3 (T)
Mrs D.G.Waterhouse (11)	w.o. C.G.Le Bas (10)	opp. scr.
D.J. Bulloch (-3)	bt. Mrs L.L.Duveen (10)	+13
Dr C.A.Parker (2)	bt. R.A.Carte (2)	+ 7
Mrs N.A.C.McMillan (2½)	bt. Mrs H.A.Pim (7)	+ 6
Dr W.R.Bucknall (1½)	bt. L.S. Butler (2½)	+24
Mrs D.Mitchell (16)	w.o. W.R.Bulloch (-1)	opp. scr.
Dr H.A.Pim (6)	w.o. Mrs E.V.Deakin (13)	opp. scr.
Miss W.E.Creed Meredith (8)	w.o. Captain M.F.Buller (4)	opp. scr.
Mrs C.W.Marshall (13)	bt. Mrs L.A.Davies (11)	+ 8
Prof. B.G.Neal (-3½)	bt. Mrs G.H.Wood (1½)	+ 2
W.A.Scarr (10)	bt. Mrs P.Hooper (7)	+ 8
Air Cdr J.H.Greswell (5)	bt. Lady Ursula Abbey (4½)	+ 9

<i>Second Round</i>		
R.H.C.Carder (6)	bt. J.H.T.Griffiths (8)	+ 4
Miss M.D.McMordie (3)	bt. Mrs G.L.Ormerod (9)	+ 8
D.J. Bulloch (-3)	bt. Mrs D.G.Waterhouse (11)	+20
Mrs N.A.C.McMillan (2½)	bt. Dr C.A.Parker (2)	+ 7
Dr W.R.Bucknall (1½)	bt. Mrs D.Mitchell (16)	+18
Miss W.E.Creed Meredith (8)	bt. Dr H.A.Pim (6)	+ 8 (T)
Prof. B.G.Neal (-3½)	bt. Mrs C.W.Marshall (13)	+10
Air Cdr J.H.Greswell (5)	bt. W.A.Scarr (10)	+11

<i>Third Round</i>		
Miss M.D.McMordie (3)	bt. R.H.C.Carder (6)	+12
D.J. Bulloch (-3)	bt. Mrs N.A.C.McMillan (2½)	+ 7
Dr W.R.Bucknall (1½)	bt. Miss W.E.Creed Meredith (8)	+10
Prof. B.G.Neal (-3½)	bt. Air Cdr J.H.Greswell (5)	+10

<i>Semi-Final</i>		
D.J. Bulloch (-3)	bt. Miss M.D.McMordie (3)	+20
Prof. B.G.Neal (-3½)	bt. Dr W.R.Bucknall (1½)	+ 4

<i>Final</i>		
D.J. Bulloch (-3)	bt. Prof. B.G.Neal (-3½)	+12

## Event 4b: 'Y' Handicap Singles (16 Entries)

<i>Final</i>		
L.S.Butler (2½)	bt. Mrs L.L.Duveen (10)	+15
<b>Event 5: Handicap Doubles (13 Pairs)</b>		
<i>First Round</i>		
D.J.Bulloch & Dr C.W.Marshall (8) bt. L.S.Butler & W.A.Scarr (12)		+16
Dr & Mrs H.A.Pim (13) w.o. Miss W.E.Creed Meredith & C.G.Le Bas (18)		opp. scr.
Dr C.A.Parker & R.H.C.Carder (8) bt. Prof. B.G.Neal & Mrs D. Mitchell (9½)		+ 1
R.A.Carte & Mrs D.M.Aubrey (6) bt. Aid Cdr J.H.Greswell & Mrs P.Hooper (12)		+10
Mrs N.A.C.McMillan & J.H.T.Griffiths (10½) bt. Dr W.R.Bucknall & Mrs L.A.Davies (12½)		+10
<i>Second Round</i>		
Bulloch & Dr Marshall bt. Mrs G.L.Ormerod & Mrs D.H.C.Whiteman (23)		+ 4
Dr & Mrs Pim bt. Dr Parker & Carder		+11
Carte & Mrs Aubrey bt. Mrs McMillan & Griffiths		+ 3
Miss M.D.McMordie & Mrs C.W.Marshall (15) bt. Mrs B.G.Neal & Mrs L.L.Duveen (15½)		+ 3 (T)
<i>Semi-Final</i>		
Bulloch & Dr Marshall bt. Dr & Mrs Pim		+14
Carte & Mrs Aubrey bt. Miss McMordie & Mrs Marshall		+ 1
<i>Final</i>		
Bulloch & Dr Marshall bt. Carte & Mrs Aubrey		+21

## Roehampton: September 15-20

It's unusual these days to find that you can enter a week's tournament and cheerfully lose all nine games, because elsewhere you would have nowhere near nine games if you persisted in losing. Edgar Jackson continued his annual feat of managing to keep all the players happy and of managing with his usual assurance. The tournament was sufficiently popular to be over-subscribed by the beginning of August, but thankfully not popular enough to receive the attentions of the "free George Davis" campaign. Eric Solomon was the most improved player since last year and won the Process, but in the play-off against Dennis Bulloch missed a "suicide" shot with his backward ball to allow Dennis to continue from the 4th hoop and win in two more turns. The last hour of the Doubles Final saw a very close contest, but both sides seemed to observe a most peculiar unwritten law that no one was allowed to pass through the Rover unless partner was also for that hoop. Your reporter suspects that faster finishes would result if only people would go to the peg, lay up and threaten to win the game in one quick turn. We say thank-you to Hurlingham for lending two courts, much appreciated.

## Results

## Event 1: Open Singles (13 Entries)

DRAW		
<i>First Round</i>		
Mrs B.G.Weitz	bt. R.A.Carte	+ 6
L.D.Adams	bt. Mrs W.Longman	+ 6
G.B.Martin	bt. G.H.Betts	+ 4
C.H.J.Cousins	bt. I.C.Baillieu	+15
G.E.P.Jackson	bt. E.W.Solomon	+11
<i>Second Round</i>		
W.R.Bulloch	bt. Mrs B.G.Weitz	+18
G.B.Martin	bt. L.D.Adams	+12
G.E.P.Jackson	bt. C.H.J.Cousins	+10
D.J.Bulloch	bt. D.J.V.Hamilton-Miller	+19
<i>Semi-Final</i>		
G.B.Martin	w.o. W.R.Bulloch	opp. scr.
D.J.Bulloch	bt. G.E.P.Jackson	+ 4
<i>Final</i>		
D.J.Bulloch	bt. G.B.Martin	+18

## PROCESS

<i>First Round</i>			
E.W.Solomon	w.o. W.R.Bulloch		opp. scr.
G.H.Betts	bt. Mrs B.G.Weitz		+ 6
D.J.Bulloch	bt. Mrs W.Longman		+ 4
R.A.Carte	bt. G.E.P.Jackson		+ 5
D.J.V.Hamilton-Miller	bt. L.D.Adams		+ 9
<i>Second Round</i>			
E.W.Solomon	bt. G.H.Betts		+23
C.H.J.Cousins	bt. D.J.Bulloch		+12
G.B.Martin	bt. R.A.Carte		+12
D.J.V.Hamilton-Miller	bt. I.C.Baillieu		+ 5
<i>Semi-Final</i>			
E.W.Solomon	bt. C.H.J.Cousins		+ 4
D.J.V.Hamilton-Miller	bt. G.B.Martin		+10
<i>Final</i>			
E.W.Solomon	bt. D.J.V.Hamilton-Miller		+15
PLAY-OFF			
D.J.Bulloch	bt. E.W.Solomon		+17
<b>Event 2: 'B' Level Singles (10 Entries)</b>			
DRAW			
<i>First Round</i>			
Mrs A.W.Skempton	bt. Mrs P.Hooper		+ 3
J.G.C.Phillips	bt. Mrs B.G.Neal		+17
<i>Second Round</i>			
M.J.Stevens	bt. Mrs D.M.Aubrey		+13
J.C.Ruddock	bt. Mrs A.W.Skempton		+11
J.G.C.Phillips	bt. Mrs E.E.Bressey		+ 9
M.G.Pearson	bt. Mrs G.W.Solomon		+10
<i>Semi-Final</i>			
J.C.Ruddock	bt. M.J.Stevens		+ 1
J.G.C.Phillips	bt. M.G.Pearson		+11
<i>Final</i>			
J.C.Ruddock	bt. J.G.C.Phillips		+ 5
PROCESS			
<i>First Round</i>			
M.G.Pearson	bt. Mrs D.M.Aubrey		+ 7
Mrs G.W.Solomon	bt. M.J.Stevens		+12
<i>Second Round</i>			
M.G.Pearson	bt. Mrs A.W.Skempton		+10
J.C.Ruddock	bt. J.G.C.Phillips		+ 4
Mrs G.W.Solomon	bt. Mrs B.G.Neal		+13
Mrs P.Hooper	bt. Mrs E.E.Bressey		+ 8
<i>Semi-Final</i>			
M.G.Pearson	bt. J.C.Ruddock		+20
Mrs G.W.Solomon	bt. Mrs P.Hooper		+11
<i>Final</i>			
M.G.Pearson	bt. Mrs G.W.Solomon		+ 4
PLAY-OFF			
J.C.Ruddock	bt. M.G.Pearson		+12
<b>Event 3: 'C' Handicap Singles (6 Entries)</b>			
DRAW			
<i>First Round</i>			
Miss J.Wraith (13)	w.o. C.G.Le Bas		opp. scr.
Mrs Jones (12)	bt. Miss J.Ingram (16)		+ 6
<i>Semi-Final</i>			
Mrs A.F.Adlam (9)	bt. Miss J.Wraith (13)		+ 6
Mrs B.Mansfield (12)	bt. Mrs Jones (12)		+ 2
<i>Final</i>			
Mrs B.Mansfield (12)	bt. Mrs A.F.Adlam (9)		+ 2

## PROCESS

<i>First Round</i>			
Mrs A.F.Adlam (9)	bt. Miss J.Ingram (16)		+ 1
Mrs B.Mansfield (12)	bt. Miss J.Wraith (13)		+ 6
<i>Semi-Final</i>			
Mrs H.Wills (9)	bt. Mrs A.F.Adlam (9)		+ 7
Mrs Jones (12)	bt. Mrs B.Mansfield (12)		+11
<i>Final</i>			
Mrs Jones (12)	bt. Mrs H.Wills (9)		+13
PLAY-OFF			
Mrs B.Mansfield (12)	bt. Mrs Jones (12)		+ 8
<b>Event 4: Swiss Handicap Singles (28 Entries)</b>			
After 6 Rounds			
BLOCK 1: Five Wins: C.H.J.Cousins (2).			
Four Wins: Mrs B.Mansfield (12), J.C.Ruddock (5½), Mrs E.E.Bressey (4), J.G.C.Phillips (5).			
Three Wins: G.E.P.Jackson (-½), L.D.Adams (3), I.C.Baillieu (3), D.J.Bulloch (-2½).			
Two Wins: Mrs B.G.Weitz (3½), Mrs D.M.Aubrey (4).			
One Win: Mrs B.G.Neal (5½), M.G.Pearson (6), Mrs G.W.Solomon (4).			
BLOCK 2: Six Wins: E.W.Solomon (2).			
Four Wins: Mrs P.Hooper (7), G.B.Martin (2½), M.J.Stevens (8).			
Three Wins: R.A.Carte, (2), Mrs A.W.Skempton (4½), G.H.Betts (2½), D.J.V.Hamilton-Miller (-½), Mrs H.Wills (9).			

## Devonshire Park Tournament: September 22 - October 4

Writing this report with echoes of the Gene Kelly programme on Parkinson's T.V. hour still ringing in my ears, I find myself tempted to entitle Devonshire Park 1975 "Swinging in the Rain". For in spite of some intermittent days of sunshine, rain and driving wind prevailed, notably throughout the first Saturday and the second Thursday. Entries - with strong support from Compton Club members - were only 5 less than last year, and, with no Conferences being held in Eastbourne during this fortnight, the adjoining Car Park was now available.

For the unusual excellence of the lawns this year we must be most grateful to Ed Strickland, who had the idea of reversing the entire lay-out and thus providing us with 9 lawns, free from all tennis markings. And since, by some accident so far unexplained, the average width of all hoops was 4 inches (with one solitary "President's Cup" hoop on lawn 3), protracted games were few and far between. Ability to hit in, together with accurate rushing became the two most important factors.

On Friday afternoon there seemed every likelihood that the South of England Championship might result in a "Double-Tapp" victory. For A.E.C.Tapp of Southwick, with an unbroken series of wins, had at this point reached the final of both Draw and Process. But here, alas, his fine challenge came to an end. A failure at 2-back in the Draw gave Giles Borrett the initiative, which he held and completed with two exemplary all-round breaks, while in the Process E.J.Tucker had the final word. The Play-Off was pegged down at Compton on Saturday evening with Borrett in a strong position. But on resumption next day, a missed roquet gave Tucker his opportunity, which proved decisive from this point onwards and brought him the first, and best, of his three successes during the fortnight.

In the Devonshire Park Salver, won by Robert Prichard for the second year, the final of the Draw brought a splendid late rally by Mrs Povey, who was eventually left with a long peg-out to win. Alas, having seen the front ball hit the peg successfully, such was her excitement that she then missed

Two Wins: Mrs W.Longman (1).  
One Win: Miss J.Ingram (16), Mrs A.F.Adlam (9), Miss J.Wraith (13), Mrs Jones (12).

## Event 5: Handicap Doubles (15 Pairs)

<i>First Round</i>		
G.E.P.Jackson & Miss J.Ingram (14½) bt. L.D.Adams & Miss J.Wraith (16)		+15
M.J.Stevens & M.G.Pearson (14) bt. D.J.V.Hamilton-Miller & Mrs A.F.Adlam (8½)		+18
C.H.J.Cousins & Mrs B.Mansfield (13) bt. Mrs P.Hooper & Mrs D.M.Aubrey (11)		+ 1
R.A.Carte & Mrs B.G.Neal (7½) bt. Mrs B.G.Weitz & Mrs E.E.Bressey (7½)		+16
I.C.Baillieu & Mrs Jones (15) bt. J.Sanders & Mrs S.M.Adler (13)		+13
E.W.Solomon & J.C.Ruddock (7½) bt. Mrs W.Longman & Mrs H.Wills (10)		+15
G.H.Betts & Mrs A.W.Skempton (7) bt. Mrs G.W.Solomon & Mrs P.D.Showan (9)		+ 8
<i>Second Round</i>		
Stevens & Pearson bt. Jackson & Miss Ingram		+17
Cousins & Mrs Mansfield bt. Carte & Mrs Neal		+19
Baillieu & Mrs Jones bt. Solomon & Ruddock		+ 7
Betts & Mrs Skempton bt. G.B.Martin & J.G.C.Phillips (7½)		+ 5
<i>Semi-Final</i>		
Stevens & Pearson bt. Cousins & Mrs Mansfield		+19
Betts & Mrs Skempton bt. Baillieu & Mrs Jones		+ 3
<i>Final</i>		
Betts & Mrs Skempton bt. Stevens & Pearson		+ 5

with her second ball from a few feet. and Prichard with his one remaining ball in position for Penult finished in the next turn! Everest in the Process against Prichard was unlucky in jumping over a ball when he had established a 4-ball break. Prichard also won the 'Y', defeating Harris decisively in the final.

H.N.D.Meyer, last year's finalist in the Luard Cup, found himself this year facing Mrs Devitt in the semi-final, with H.J.Devitt already in the final. He surmounted the first hurdle by the narrow margin of 3 points, but fell at the second, where Devitt proved the stronger player on the day. The Devitts, indeed, were seldom off the courts during this first week, appearing for the third year in the final of the Handicap Doubles, where they went down to the more powerful combination of E.J.Tucker and Miss Leach, the latter giving her partner excellent support. Mrs Devitt then won her way through to the final of the Sussex Challenge Cup, but here she was unable to make full use of her bisques against the redoubtable A.E.C.Tapp, whose victory came as a just reward for his excellent play throughout the week.

In the Trevor Williams Cup Lady Bazley, receiving 4 bisques, defeated Nicholson, a promising newcomer, and is to be congratulated not only for winning but also for making, in the course of this game, a break of 10 hoops with the aid of 2 bisques.

Edgar Jackson now took over from Giles Borrett as player-manager for the second week, which concluded with a notable (and I would think a first time) "double" for Carrickmines and Ireland, Terence Read and Frances Joly carrying off the Men's and Women's Singles. Read and Jackson, who had both been beaten in one half of the Singles, came through to defeat the same opponents, Hamilton-Miller and Borrett, convincingly in the final of the half in which they were left. After this Terence Read played fine croquet to win the Play-Off, in which Jackson went down with colours flying. In the Women's Singles Betty Prichard, the holder, came through to the final of both Draw and Process. But, like A.E.C.Tapp the previous week, she then lost both these games. Against Frances Joly she was not hitting her long shots as she sometimes does, and she encountered Kitty Wheeler at her formidable best in other half. A tense and exciting play-off resulted in Frances Joly narrowly reversing the issue of their



close game last year and so achieving her first major tournament victory.

In the two-life variation of the Felix Cup for players of 3 1/2 bisques and over, it might be said that Colonel Wheeler, by the end of his fourth game that day, just failed to reach the final peg before his opponent, Dr S.Malin! Congratulations to both the winner and loser in this event - Malin had done well to defeat Coleman in the semi-final, and Colonel Wheeler was in his best form to overcome R.E.Wallis. The same players were in opposition in the final of the Handicap Doubles, Malin and Wallis winning by 13 points against Colonel Wheeler and Mrs Read.

In the Sussex Union Challenge Cup, for which there was an entry of 43, some of us who happened to see the manner in which A.F.Coleman dealt with Tyrwhitt Drake in an earlier round were in no way surprised to find him presently facing D.A.Harris in the final; although Harris got the first strike and went round with one ball, Coleman had the necessary knowledge and technique to ensure that his opponent made no further advance. This was a fine win, though his handicap must have seemed over-generous to many of his opponents. Semi-finalists in this event were Terence Read and Mrs Simpson.

The Opens Doubles and Victor Vases were won after a very close finish by Tucker and Pountney, who defeated Tyrwhitt Drake and Harris by 2 points. Watching the winners during two earlier rounds, I found in their well-tryed partnership a certain resemblance to Holmes and Doctor Watson! No inclemency of the weather prevented Tucker from stepping out onto the court, whenever he deemed it necessary to give his partner words of advice and encouragement! And Pountney, on his part, responded nobly. This was a most creditable victory for the winners, since there were certainly two other strong (or stronger) pairs in the field.

Although we did not enjoy the rain, we enjoyed the odd days of sunshine in between, and the excellent lawns. We enjoyed too the delightful and sincere rejoinder by a wife to her husband, who was telling her that he faced a very tough assignment on that day. "Well, dear," she said. "Just you take it quietly and play Aunt Nellie!"

Results

First Week

Event 1: The Ionides Challenge Trophy (15 Entries)

DRAW

First Round

Table with 3 columns: Player, Opponent, Score. Includes Mrs D.M.C.Prichard vs E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake (+4), D.J.V.Hamilton-Miller vs N.T.Kennedy (+11), Miss F.Joly vs E.J.Tucker (+16), Cdr G.Borrett vs Mrs A.Fotiadi (+24), Lt-Col D.M.C.Prichard vs Mrs E.Rotherham (opp. scr.), Mrs K.M.O.Wheeler vs Lt-Col G.E.Cave (+5), A.E.C.Tapp vs D.A.Harris (+9).

Second Round

Table with 3 columns: Player, Opponent, Score. Includes D.J.V.Hamilton-Miller vs Mrs D.M.C.Prichard (+20), Cdr G.Borrett vs Miss F.Joly (+21), Lt-Col D.M.C.Prichard vs Mrs K.M.O.Wheeler (+14), A.E.C.Tapp vs A.J.Cooper (+11).

Semi-Final

Table with 3 columns: Player, Opponent, Score. Includes Cdr G.Borrett vs D.J.V.Hamilton-Miller (+14), A.E.C.Tapp vs Lt-Col D.M.C.Prichard (+11).

Final

Table with 3 columns: Player, Opponent, Score. Includes Cdr G. Borrett vs A.E.C.Tapp (+19).

PROCESS

First Round

Table with 3 columns: Player, Opponent, Score. Includes Mrs D.M.C.Prichard vs Mrs E.Rotherham (opp. scr.), E.J.Tucker vs D.A.Harris (+17), D.J.V.Hamilton-Miller vs Mrs K.M.O.Wheeler (+21), Cdr G.Borrett vs A.J.Cooper (+21).

Table with 3 columns: Player, Opponent, Score. Includes Lt-Col D.M.C.Prichard vs E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake (+4), A.E.C.Tapp vs Miss F.Joly (+9), N.T.Kennedy vs Lt-Col G.E.Cave (+5).

Second Round

Table with 3 columns: Player, Opponent, Score. Includes E.J.Tucker vs Mrs D.M.C.Prichard (+10), D.J.V.Hamilton-Miller vs Cdr G.Borrett (+12), A.E.C.Tapp vs Lt-Col D.M.C.Prichard (+9), Mrs A.Fotiadi vs w.o. N.T.Kennedy (opp. scr.).

Semi-Final

Table with 3 columns: Player, Opponent, Score. Includes E.J.Tucker vs D.J.V.Hamilton-Miller (+5), A.E.C.Tapp vs Mrs A.Fotiadi (+22).

Final

Table with 3 columns: Player, Opponent, Score. Includes E.J.Tucker vs A.E.C.Tapp (+12).

PLAY-OFF

Table with 3 columns: Player, Opponent, Score. Includes E.J.Tucker vs Cdr G.Borrett (+8).

Event 2: The Devonshire Park Salver (13 Entries)

DRAW

First Round

Table with 3 columns: Player, Opponent, Score. Includes S.G.Kent vs Prof. A.S.C.Ross (+6), Mrs G.E.Cave vs Col. G.T.Wheeler (+15), Mrs R.E.Tucker vs R.L.Everest (+9), Mrs J.Povey vs F.F.W.Staddon (+8), Mrs H.B.H.Carlisle vs Mrs S.J.Turner (+11).

Second Round

Table with 3 columns: Player, Opponent, Score. Includes R.D.C.Prichard vs S.G.Kent (+26), Mrs G.E.Cave vs Mrs R.E.Tucker (+5), Mrs J.Povey vs Mrs H.B.H.Carlisle (+5), Lady FitzGerald vs w.o. Mrs E.M.Temple (opp. scr.).

Semi-Final

Table with 3 columns: Player, Opponent, Score. Includes R.D.C.Prichard vs Mrs G.E.Cave (+12), Mrs J.Povey vs w.o. Lady FitzGerald (opp. scr.).

Final

Table with 3 columns: Player, Opponent, Score. Includes R.D.C.Prichard vs Mrs J.Povey (+1).

PROCESS

First Round

Table with 3 columns: Player, Opponent, Score. Includes R.D.C.Prichard vs F.F.W.Staddon (+23), Col. G.T.Wheeler vs w.o. Mrs E.M.Temple (opp. scr.), Prof. A.S.C.Ross vs Mrs S.J.Turner (+1), Mrs H.B.H.Carlisle vs S.G.Kent (+14), Mrs G.E.Cave vs w.o. Lady FitzGerald (opp. scr.).

Second Round

Table with 3 columns: Player, Opponent, Score. Includes R.D.C.Prichard vs Col. G.T.Wheeler (+22), Prof. A.S.C.Ross vs Mrs R.E.Tucker (+7), R.L.Everest vs Mrs H.B.H.Carlisle (+9), Mrs G.E.Cave vs Mrs J.Povey (+11).

Semi-Final

Table with 3 columns: Player, Opponent, Score. Includes R.D.C.Prichard vs Prof. A.S.C.Ross (+16), R.L.Everest vs Mrs G.E.Cave (+15).

Final

Table with 3 columns: Player, Opponent, Score. Includes R.D.C.Prichard vs R.L.Everest (+12).

Event 3: The Luard Cup (11 Entries)

First Round

Table with 3 columns: Player, Opponent, Score. Includes H.N.D.Meyer vs K.F.Hartley (+23), Mrs F.J.T.Mew vs E.Strickland (+6), H.J.Devitt vs Mrs N.T.Kennedy (+6).

Second Round

Table with 3 columns: Player, Opponent, Score. Includes Mrs H.J.Devitt vs Mrs F.F.W.Staddon (+23), H.N.D.Meyer vs Mrs F.J.T.Mew (+20), H.J.Devitt vs Miss M.Bryan (+6), Mrs B.G.Neal vs w.o. Miss M.Anderson (opp. scr.).

Semi-Final

Table with 3 columns: Player, Opponent, Score. Includes H.J.Devitt vs Mrs B.G.Neal (+14), H.N.D.Meyer vs Mrs H.J.Devitt (+3).

Final

Table with 3 columns: Player, Opponent, Score. Includes H.J.Devitt vs H.N.D.Meyer (+6).

Event 4: The Trevor Williams Cup (11 Entries)

First Round

Table with 3 columns: Player, Opponent, Score. Includes Mrs I.B.Tucker (9) vs Miss D.E.Rogers (13) (+22), W.Nicholson (10) vs A.Hutcheson (11) (+2), Lt-Col D.F.T.Brown (9) vs Madame O'Morchoe (10) (+6).

Second Round

Table with 3 columns: Player, Opponent, Score. Includes Mrs A.Millns (13) vs Mrs M.Rankin (14) (opp. scr.), W.Nicholson (10) vs Mrs I.B.Tucker (9) (+7), Mrs E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake (9) vs Lt-Col D.F.T.Brown (9) (+2), Lady Bazley (14) vs Mrs D.Waterhouse (11) (+10).

Semi-Final

Table with 3 columns: Player, Opponent, Score. Includes W.Nicholson (10) vs Mrs A.Millns (13) (+10), Lady Bazley (14) vs Mrs E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake (9) (+7).

Final

Table with 3 columns: Player, Opponent, Score. Includes Lady Bazley (14) vs W.Nicholson (10) (+13).

Event 5a: The Sussex Challenge Cup (46 Entries)

First Round

Table with 3 columns: Player, Opponent, Score. Includes Mrs E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake (9) vs Miss D.E.Rogers (13) (+19), Lt-Col D.M.C.Prichard (-1) vs Col. G.T.Wheeler (8) (+11), Lt-Col D.F.T.Brown (9) vs Mrs A.Fotiadi (2) (+1), Lady Bazley (14) vs E.J.Tucker (0) (+16), Mrs R.E.Tucker (5) vs D.A.Harris (1/2) (+5), Mrs G.E.Cave (5) vs Mrs A.Millns (13) (+13), Mrs N.T.Kennedy (6 1/2) vs Mrs E.M.Temple (4 1/2) (opp. scr.), H.J.Devitt (6) vs Mrs H.B.H.Carlisle (4) (+9), S.G.Kent (4) vs Lt-Col G.E.Cave (1/2) (+21), W.Nicholson (10) vs Col. G.T.Wheeler (5) (+6), Mrs J.Povey (4) vs Lt. A.J.Cooper (-1) (+25), Cdr G.Borrett (0) vs Mrs F.F.W.Staddon (6) (+18), Mrs I.B.Tucker (9) vs w.o. Mrs M.Rankin (14) (opp. scr.), Lady FitzGerald (5) vs K.F.Hartley (9) (+8).

Second Round

Table with 3 columns: Player, Opponent, Score. Includes Miss F.Joly (1/2) vs N.T.Kennedy (2) (+13), Mrs H.J.Devitt (7) vs Madame O'Morchoe (10) (+13), D.J.V.Hamilton-Miller (-1/2) vs Mrs S.J.Turner (4) (+15), Mrs D.M.C.Prichard (-1/2) vs Mrs E.Rotherham (0) (+23), Lt-Col D.M.C.Prichard (-1) vs Mrs E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake (9) (+7), Lady Bazley (14) vs Lt-Col D.F.T.Brown (9) (+12), Mrs R.E.Tucker (5) vs Mrs G.E.Cave (5) (+7), H.J.Devitt (6) vs Mrs N.T.Kennedy (6 1/2) (+3), W.Nicholson (10) vs S.G.Kent (4) (+7), Cdr G.Borrett (0) vs Mrs J.Povey (4) (+24), Mrs I.B.Tucker (9) vs Lady FitzGerald (5) (+6), Miss M.Anderson (5 1/2) vs Prof. A.S.C.Ross (2 1/2) (+6), Mrs B.G.Neal (5 1/2) vs Miss M.Bryan (8) (+13), A.E.C.Tapp (2) vs R.D.C.Prichard (2 1/2) (+3), Mrs K.M.O.Wheeler (-1) vs Mrs D.G.Waterhouse (11) (+14), E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake (-1) vs F.F.W.Staddon (5) (+8).

Third Round

Table with 3 columns: Player, Opponent, Score. Includes Mrs H.J.Devitt (7) vs Miss F.Joly (1/2) (+23), Mrs D.M.C.Prichard (-1/2) vs D.J.V.Hamilton-Miller (-1/2) (+17), Lt-Col D.M.C.Prichard (-1) vs Lady Bazley (14) (+8), H.J.Devitt (6) vs Mrs R.E.Tucker (5) (+2), Cdr G.Borrett (0) vs W.Nicholson (10) (+12), Mrs I.B.Tucker (9) vs w.o. Miss M.Anderson (5 1/2) (opp. scr.), A.E.C.Tapp (2) vs Mrs B.G.Neal (5 1/2) (+9), Mrs K.M.O.Wheeler (-1) vs E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake (-1) (+11).

Fourth Round

Table with 3 columns: Player, Opponent, Score. Includes Mrs H.J.Devitt (7) vs Mrs D.M.C.Prichard (-1/2) (+16), H.J.Devitt (6) vs Lt-Col D.M.C.Prichard (-1) (+26), Cdr G.Borrett (0) vs Mrs I.B.Tucker (9) (+5), A.E.C.Tapp (2) vs Mrs K.M.O.Wheeler (-1) (+26).

Semi-Final

Table with 3 columns: Player, Opponent, Score. Includes Mrs H.J.Devitt (7) vs H.J.Devitt (6) (+17), A.E.C.Tapp (2) vs Cdr G.Borrett (0) (+26).

Final

Table with 3 columns: Player, Opponent, Score. Includes A.E.C.Tapp (2) vs Mrs H.J.Devitt (7) (+16).

Event 5b: 'Y' Handicap Singles (22 Entries)

Final

Table with 3 columns: Player, Opponent, Score. Includes R.D.C.Prichard (2 1/2) vs D.A.Harris (1/2) (+22).

Event 6: Handicap Doubles (21 Pairs)

First Round

Table with 3 columns: Player, Opponent, Score. Includes E.J. Tucker & Miss D.Leach (7 1/2) vs R.D.C.Prichard & Mrs F.J.T.Mew (10 1/2) (+8), A.J.Cooper & A.E.C.Tapp (1) vs Mrs J.Povey & Lady Bazley (18) (+11), R.L.Everest & Miss D.E.Rogers (17) vs W.Nicholson & K.F.Hartley (19) (+9 (T)), Mrs B.G.Neal & Mrs H.B.H.Carlisle (9 1/2) vs S.G.Kent & Mrs I.B.Tucker (12) (+4), D.J.V.Hamilton-Miller & Mrs A.Fotiadi (1 1/2) vs Lt-Col & Mrs G.E.Cave (5 1/2) (+6).

Second Round

Table with 3 columns: Player, Opponent, Score. Includes Mr & Mrs F.F.W.Staddon (11) vs Mr & Mrs E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake (8) (+11), D.A.Harris & E.Strickland (8 1/2) vs Mrs D.M.C.Prichard & Mrs S.J.Turner (4) (+12), Tucker & Miss Leach vs Mr & Mrs N.T.Kennedy (8 1/2) (+15), Cooper & Tapp vs Everest & Miss Rogers (+6), Hamilton-Miller & Mrs Fotiadi vs Mrs Neal & Mrs Carlisle (+4), Lt-Col D.M.C.Prichard & Mrs R.E.Tucker (4) vs Col. & Mrs G.T.Wheeler (4) (+2), Mr & Mrs H.J.Devitt (13) vs Cdr G.Borrett & Prof. A.S.C.Ross (2 1/2) (+19), Lady FitzGerald & Madame O'Morchoe (15) vs Lt-Col D.F.T. Brown & Miss M.Bryan (17) (+8).

Third Round

Table with 3 columns: Player, Opponent, Score. Includes Harris & Strickland vs Mr & Mrs Staddon (+5), Tucker & Miss Leach vs Cooper & Tapp (+9), Prichard & Mrs R.E.Tucker vs Hamilton-Miller & Mrs Fotiadi (+10), Mr & Mrs Devitt vs Lady FitzGerald & Madame O'Morchoe (+14).

Semi-Final

Table with 3 columns: Player, Opponent, Score. Includes Tucker & Miss Leach vs Harris & Strickland (+1 (T)), Mr & Mrs Devitt vs Prichard & Mrs R.E.Tucker (+19).

Final

Table with 3 columns: Player, Opponent, Score. Includes Tucker & Miss Leach vs Mr & Mrs Devitt (+4 (T)).

Second Week

Event 1: Men's Singles Championship of the South of England (14 Entries)

DRAW

First Round

Table with 3 columns: Player, Opponent, Score. Includes A.J.Cooper vs R.L.Everest (+1), Cdr G.Borrett vs Major-General D.J.Wilson-Haffenden (+25), T.O.Read vs Lt-Col G.E.Cave (+25), D.J.V.Hamilton-Miller vs E.J.Tucker (+12), E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake vs R.A.Simpson (+2), G.E.P.Jackson vs D.A.Harris (+23).

Second Round

Table with 3 columns: Player, Opponent, Score. Includes Cdr G.Borrett vs A.J.Cooper (+4), D.J.V.Hamilton-Miller vs T.O.Read (+12), G.E.P.Jackson vs E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake (+14), C.G.Pountney vs Lt-Col D.M.C.Prichard (+11).

Semi-Final

Table with 3 columns: Player, Opponent, Score. Includes Cdr G.Borrett vs D.J.V.Hamilton-Miller (+24), G.E.P.Jackson vs C.G.Pountney (+5).

Final

Table with 3 columns: Player, Opponent, Score. Includes G.E.P.Jackson vs Cdr G.Borrett (+25).

PROCESS

First Round

Table with 3 columns: Player, Opponent, Score. Includes R.A.Simpson vs R.L.Everest (+8), C.G.Pountney vs Lt-Col G.E.Cave (+9), D.A.Harris vs Major-General D.J.Wilson-Haffenden (+12), A.J.Cooper vs E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake (+6), T.O.Read vs Lt-Col D.M.C.Prichard (+17), Cdr G.Borrett vs G.E.P.Jackson (+5).

Second Round

Table with 3 columns: Player, Opponent, Score. Includes R.A.Simpson vs C.G.Pountney (+8), D.J.V.Hamilton-Miller vs D.A.Harris (+6).

T.O.Read	bt. A.J.Cooper	+26
E.J.Tucker	bt. Cdr G.Borrett	+ 2
<i>Semi-Final</i>		
D.J.V.Hamilton-Miller	bt R.A.Simpson	+ 7
T.O.Read	bt. E.J.Tucker	+25
<i>Final</i>		
T.O.Read	bt. D.J.V. Hamilton-Miller	+21
<b>PLAY-OFF</b>		
T.O.Read	bt. G.E.P.Jackson	+17
<b>Event 2: Women's Singles Championship of the South of England (9 Entries)</b>		
<b>DRAW</b>		
<i>First Round</i>		
Mrs D.M.C.Prichard	bt. Mrs N.T.Kennedy	+19
<i>Second Round</i>		
Mrs R.A.Simpson	bt. Mrs A.Fotiadi	+ 5
Mrs D.M.C.Prichard	bt. Mrs N.A.C.McMillan	+ 2
Mrs G.H.Wood	bt. Mrs K.M.O.Wheeler	+ 6
Miss F.Joly	w.o. Mrs E.Rotherham	opp. scr.
<i>Semi-Final</i>		
Mrs D.M.C.Prichard	bt. Mrs R.A.Simpson	+16
Miss F.Joly	bt. Mrs G.H.Wood	+20
<i>Final</i>		
Miss F.Joly	bt. Mrs D.M.C.Prichard	+10
<b>PROCESS</b>		
<i>First Round</i>		
Mrs R.A.Simpson	bt. Miss F.Joly	+ 6
<i>Second Round</i>		
Mrs R.A.Simpson	bt. Mrs N.T.Kennedy	+ 7
Mrs K.M.O.Wheeler	bt. Mrs N.A.C.McMillan	+14
Mrs G.H.Wood	bt. Mrs A.Fotiadi	+12
Mrs D.M.C.Prichard	w.o. Mrs E.Rotherham	opp. scr.
<i>Semi-Final</i>		
Mrs K.M.O.Wheeler	bt. Mrs R.A.Simpson	+23
Mrs D.M.C.Prichard	bt. Mrs G.H.Wood	+ 8
<i>Final</i>		
Mrs K.M.O.Wheeler	bt. Mrs D.M.C.Prichard	+13
<b>PLAY-OFF</b>		
Miss F.Joly	bt. Mrs K.M.O.Wheeler	+ 3
<b>Event 3: The Felix Cup (19 Entries)</b>		
<b>DRAW</b>		
<i>First Round</i>		
Mrs J.Povey (4)	bt. Lt-Col D.F.T.Brown (9)	+ 8
Col. G.T.Wheeler (5)	bt. Mrs A.Millns (13)	+13
Mrs E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake (9)	bt. Lady FitzGerald (5)	+24
<i>Second Round</i>		
W.Nicholson (10)	bt. Mrs R.E.Tucker (5)	+ 2
Mrs H.M.Read (4½)	bt. Mrs S.J.Turner (4½)	+ 8
Dr S.R.C.Malin (7)	bt. Mrs G.E.Cave (5)	+12
Mrs J.Povey (4)	bt. Col. G.T.Wheeler (5)	+ 7
Mrs E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake (9)	bt. Mrs I.B.Tucker (9)	+ 5
R.E.Wallis (7)	bt. Madame O'Morchoe (10)	+16
A.F.Coleman (5)	bt. Mrs D.G.Waterhouse (11)	+20
C.E.Knight (5)	bt. Miss M.Bryan (8)	+13
<i>Third Round</i>		
Mrs H.M.Read (4½)	bt. W.Nicholson (10)	+14
Dr S.R.C.Malin (7)	bt. Mrs J.Povey (4)	+22
R.E.Wallis (7)	bt. Mrs E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake (9)	+10
A.F.Coleman (5)	bt. C.E.Knight (5)	+19

<b>PROCESS</b>		
<i>First Round</i>		
W.Nicholson (10)	w.o. Mrs D.G.Waterhouse (11)	opp. scr.
Mrs H.M.Read (4½)	bt. Miss M.Bryan (8)	+10
Mrs R.E.Tucker (5)	bt. C.E.Knight (5)	+10
<i>Second Round</i>		
Col. G.T.Wheeler (5)	bt. W.Nicholson (10)	+12
Mrs I.B.Tucker (9)	bt. Mrs G.E.Cave (5)	+13
Mrs E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake (9)	bt. Mrs H.M.Read (4½)	+16
Madame O'Morchoe (10)	bt. Lt-Col D.F.T.Brown (9)	+11
Mrs R.E.Tucker (5)	bt. Mrs A.Millns (13)	+13
R.E.Wallis (7)	bt. Dr S.R.C.Malin (7)	+11
Lady FitzGerald (5)	bt. Mrs S.J.Turner (4½)	+10
A.F.Coleman (5)	bt. Mrs J.Povey (4)	+23
<i>Third Round</i>		
Col. G.T.Wheeler (5)	bt. Mrs I.B.Tucker (9)	+10
Mrs E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake (9)	bt. Madame O'Morchoe (10)	+15
R.E.Wallis (7)	bt. Mrs R.E.Tucker (5)	+18
A.F.Coleman (5)	w.o. Lady FitzGerald (5)	opp. scr.
<b>SEMI-FINALISTS RE-DRAWN FOR FINAL STAGES</b>		
<i>First Round</i>		
Dr S.R.C.Malin (7)	bt. Mrs H.M.Read (4½)	+20
Col. G.T.Wheeler (5)	bt. Mrs E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake (9)	+ 5
<i>Semi-Final</i>		
Dr S.R.C.Malin (7)	bt. A.F.Coleman (5)	+ 5
Col. G.T.Wheeler (5)	bt. R.E.Wallis (7)	+14
<i>Final</i>		
Dr S.R.C.Malin (7)	bt. Col. G.T.Wheeler (5)	+ 2
<b>Event 4: The Sussex Union Cup (43 Entries)</b>		
<i>First Round</i>		
Lady FitzGerald (5)	bt. Prof. A.S.C.Ross (2½)	+ 8
C.G.Pountney (0)	bt. W.Nicholson (10)	+ 9
Mrs K.M.O.Wheeler (-1)	bt. Mrs N.T.Kennedy (6½)	+11
D.A.Harris (½)	bt. Mrs N.A.C.McMillan (2)	+20
Cdr G.Borrett (0)	bt. Mrs S.J.Turner (4½)	+20
Lt-Col G.E.Cave (1½)	bt. Major-General D.J.Wilson-Haffenden (4)	+ 1
E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake (-1)	bt. Mrs D.M.C.Prichard (-½)	+ 8
A.F.Coleman (5)	bt. Mrs A. Millns (13)	+ 5
G.E.P.Jackson (-1½)	bt. Dr S.R.C.Malin (7)	+ 6
Mrs H.M.Read (4½)	bt. Mrs E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake (9)	+ 4
Lt-Col D.M.C.Prichard (-1)	bt. Lt-Col D.F.T.Brown (9)	+10
<i>Second Round</i>		
Mrs A.Fotiadi (2)	bt. Mrs D.G.Waterhouse (11)	+13
T.O.Read (-2)	bt. F.G.French (13)	+ 8
R.E.Wallis (7)	bt. Mrs G.H.Wood (1½)	+17
Mrs J.Povey (4)	bt. Lady Bazley (12)	+16
R.L.Everest (3)	bt. D.J.V.Hamilton-Miller (-½)	+17
C.G.Pountney (0)	bt. Lady FitzGerald (5)	+ 6
D.A.Harris (½)	bt. Mrs K.M.O.Wheeler (-1)	+ 6
Lt-Col G.E.Cave (1½)	bt. Cdr G.Borrett (0)	+21
A.F.Coleman (5)	bt. E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake (-1)	+26
Mrs H.M.Read (4½)	bt. G.E.P.Jackson (-1½)	+ 4
E.J.Tucker (0)	bt. Lt-Col D.M.C.Prichard (-1)	+25
Mrs I.B.Tucker (9)	bt. Miss F.Joly (½)	+22
Mrs R.A.Simpson (3)	bt. Mrs G.E.Cave (5)	+ 2
Madame O'Morchoe (10)	bt. Miss M.Bryan (8)	+ 8
R.A.Simpson (1½)	bt. A.J.Cooper (-1)	+14
Col. G.T.Wheeler (5)	bt. Mrs R.E.Tucker (5)	+15
<i>Third Round</i>		
T.O.Read (-2)	bt. Mrs A.Fotiadi (2)	+20
R.E.Wallis (7)	bt. Mrs J.Povey (4)	+11
C.G.Pountney (0)	bt. R.L.Everest (3)	+ 5
D.A.Harris (½)	bt. Lt-Col G.E.Cave (1½)	+15
A.F.Coleman (5)	bt. Mrs H.M.Read (4½)	+24
Mrs I.B.Tucker (9)	bt. E.J.Tucker (0)	+26
Mrs R.A.Simpson (3)	bt. Madame O'Morchoe (10)	+10
Col. G.T.Wheeler (5)	bt. R.A.Simpson (1½)	+25
<i>Fourth Round</i>		
T.O.Read (-2)	bt. R.E.Wallis (7)	+26
D.A.Harris (½)	bt. C.G.Pountney (0)	+26

A.F.Coleman (5)	bt. Mrs I.B.Tucker (9)	+20
Mrs R.A.Simpson (3)	bt. Col. G.T.Wheeler (5)	+ 2
<i>Semi-Final</i>		
D.A.Harris (½)	bt. T.O.Read (-2)	+13
A.F.Coleman (5)	bt. Mrs R.A.Simpson (3)	+ 7
<i>Final</i>		
A.F.Coleman (5)	bt. D.A.Harris (½)	+15
<b>Event 5: The Victor Vases (10 Pairs)</b>		
<i>First Round</i>		
Cdr G.Borrett & Mrs G.H.Wood	bt. Major-General D.J.Wilson-Haffenden & Mrs N.A.C.McMillan	+ 8
T.O.Read & Mrs K.M.O.Wheeler	bt. R.A.Simpson & Mrs A.Fotiadi	+14
<i>Second Round</i>		
C.G.Pountney & E.J.Tucker	bt. D.J.V.Hamilton-Miller & Miss F.Joly	+ 7
Read & Mrs Wheeler	bt. Borrett & Mrs Wood	+15
E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake & D.A.Harris	bt. Lt-Col & Mrs D.M.C.Prichard	+14
Lt-Col G.E.Cave & R.L.Everest	bt. G.E.P.Jackson & A.J.Cooper	+ 3
<i>Semi-Final</i>		
Pountney & Tucker	bt. Read & Mrs Wheeler	+ 3
Tyrwhitt Drake & Harris	bt. Cave & Everest	+ 8

### Secretary's Notes

- NEW ASSOCIATES  
Mrs E.Barry, 7 Wildon Hall, King Edward Avenue, Pietermaritzburg, Natal, South Africa.  
Sir Alfred Beit, Bt., Russborough, Blessington, Co. Wicklow, Irish Republic.  
B.S.Coupe, 19 Northwold, Ely, Cambridgeshire CB6 1BG.  
Mr & Mrs D.S.Graham, 83 Minster Road, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1SR.  
N.Greatorex, Falmouth Hall, Princes Gardens, London SW7 1LU.  
Mrs Nicholas Kennedy, 25 Hawkewood Road, Sunbury-on-Thames, Middlesex.  
Arthur Lindley, Flat 4, 44 Peper Harrow Road, Godalming, Surrey.  
Robert Moss & Randall Susman, University of Chicago, Department of Anthropology, 1126 East 59th Street, Chicago, Illinois, 60637, U.S.A.  
Major R.R.Penney, Larksborough Farm, Whitchurch, Hampshire.  
Mrs W.A.Scarr, 2 Fairway Close, Worlebury, Weston-Super-Mare, Somerset.
- CHANGES OF ADDRESS ETC.  
P.J.Barnes — Tel. Sutton Coldfield (021 353) 1377.  
Christopher Bennett, 9 Temple Road, Solihull, Warwickshire (Tel. Knowle (056 45) 77041).  
G.E.L.A.Doughty, College of St Hild and St Bede, Durham University, Durham City, Durham.  
J.W.Haynes, Red Willow, East Street, West Coker, Yeovil, Somerset BA22 9BG (Tel. West Coker 2113).  
Mr & Mrs Nicholas Kennedy, 25 Hawkewood Road, Sunbury-on-Thames, Middlesex.  
G.W.Noble, 1 Cottesmore Drive, Loughborough, Leicestershire LE11 2RL.  
B.Redford, Rose Cottage, Westwood, Near Broadclyst, Devon.  
Dr J.N.Robinson, 18 Claylands, London S.W.8.  
Vandeleur Robinson, 31 Montagu Road, Datchet, Berkshire (Tel. Slough (75) 42865).  
R.O.B.Whittington, 3 Bleasby Gardens, Cheltenham GL51 6UZ (Tel. (0242) 26572).  
Mrs H.Wills — Tel. 01-949 1818.
- CHANGES IN THE CLUBS  
Cambridge University C.C. Hon Sec. David Wilson, Corpus

<i>Final</i>		
Pountney & Tucker	bt. Tyrwhitt Drake & Harris	+ 2
<b>Event 6: Handicap Doubles (13 Pairs)</b>		
<i>First Round</i>		
A.F.Coleman & Mrs J.Povey (9)	bt. Prof. A.S.C.Ross & Mrs D.G.Waterhouse (13½)	+ 3
Lt-Col D.F.T.Brown & W.Nicholson (18)	bt. Mr & Mrs F.F.W.Staddon (11)	+12
Col. G.T.Wheeler & Mrs H.M.Read (9½)	bt. Mrs R.E.Tucker & Mrs S.J.Turner (9½)	+ 5
Mrs I.B.Tucker & Mrs E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake (17)	bt. Lady FitzGerald & Madame O'Morchoe (15)	+12
Mrs G.E.Cave & Lady Bazley (17)	bt. C.E.Knight & L.Rushworth (13)	+ 2 (T)
<i>Second Round</i>		
Coleman & Mrs Povey	bt. E.Strickland & H.N.D.Meyer (15)	+14
Col. Wheeler & Mrs Read	bt. Lt-Col Brown & Nicholson	+12
Mrs Cave & Lady Bazley	bt. Mrs I.B.Tucker & Mrs Tyrwhitt Drake	+ 7
Dr S.R.C.Malin & R.E.Wallis (14)	bt. F.G.French & Miss M.Bryan (21)	+ 8
<i>Semi-Final</i>		
Col. Wheeler & Mrs Read	bt. Coleman & Mrs Povey	+20
Malin & Wallis	bt. Mrs Cave & Lady Bazley	+17
<i>Final</i>		
Malin & Wallis	bt. Col. Wheeler & Mrs Read	+13

- Christi College, Cambridge (term); 40 Billesley Lane, Moseley, Birmingham B13 9QS (Tel. (021 449) 2013) (vacation).  
Fish Hoek, Cape, South Africa. Hon. Sec. Miss H.Troughton, 3 Kingston Sunray Road, Fish Hoek, Cape Province, South Africa, 7975.  
Imperial College. Hon. Sec. N.Greatorex, Falmouth Hall, Princes Gardens, London SW7 1LU (Tel. 01-589 5111 (ext. 1075) — evenings).  
Ipswich. Club Address: Lower Arboretum, Christchurch Road, Ipswich, Suffolk.  
Jealotts Hill. Hon. Sec. J.Maud, 40 Osborne Road, Reading, Berkshire (Tel. at office: 0344 24701 ext. 274).  
Knighton. Hon. Sec. S.Brookes — postal code LDT 1AP.  
Shepley (unregistered). Hon. Sec. Miss Jan Alsop, 22 Abbey Drive, Shepley, Huddersfield.  
Victorian Croquet Association. Hon. Sec. Mrs F.Geraghty, 12 York Street, Brighton, 3186, Victoria, Australia.

- NEW PUBLICATIONS  
The following publications will become available shortly:  
(a) a new edition of the Handbook, to bring up to date and replace "Croquet Association 1970", is being prepared for issue in the new year.  
(b) a commentary on the basic Laws should be published very soon.  
(c) a new edition of the C.A. Directory will appear in early 1976 and will be followed (as in 1974-5) by a series of duplicated Amendment Sheets, which can be ordered from the C.A. office.  
Further information on all these items in the April gazette.

- HANDICAPS  
It will be remembered that in May 1973 the Council decided, in order to bring handicaps to a more appropriate level, to add two bisques to everybody's handicap at the beginning of 1974. This change was carried out.  
The resolution went on to provide that, every other year there should be another general increase of one bisque, unless the Council passed a resolution in respect of any year that on that occasion this general increase should not take place.  
A resolution to that effect was carried by the Council at its meeting of 18 October by 11 votes to 8. At the beginning of 1976, therefore, the increase of one bisque envisaged by the resolution of May 1973 will not take place.

## 6. MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Associates who have not paid their subscriptions for 1974 are asked to do so. These will be the last subscriptions payable at the rates in force since 1970. A general increase, resolved upon by the Council in May 1975, comes into force in relation to subscriptions for 1976. Here are the new rates:

Standard (tournament-playing) Rate	£5
Reduced (golf croquet and non-tournament-playing) Rate	£2.50
Junior (under 24) Rate	£2.50
Overseas Rate	£3

Members will find a leaflet inserted into this issue of the Croquet Gazette giving advice on methods of payment.

## 7. CLUB REGISTRATION FEES

The Club Registration Fee, which went up from £1.50 to £2 for 1974 and remained the same for 1975, has now had to be raised again, to £3.

Vandeleur Robinson,  
Secretary,  
November 1975.

## Extracts from Proceedings of Council Meeting held on 18 October 1975

- Professor Neal reported that the new pamphlet on the Basic Laws had reached final proof stage and would shortly be going to print. The cost has yet to be decided by the Finance Committee.
- It was reported that the Coronation Gold Cup for the Open Championship was running out of space on the plinth for the inscription of the winners' names. The matter was referred to the Finance Committee to consider, as was a similar problem with the Ladies Field Candlesticks.
- Revd Gladstone as Chairman of the Tournaments Committee sought approval of the proposed Calendar and Conditions for 1976. This was agreed. Amongst proposals put forward and approved were:
  - that a General Condition be inserted permitting Managers to introduce double banking in emergency in order to facilitate the completion of a tournament or event.
  - that the Mandate to the Selection Committee be for them to select seven ladies for the Ladies Field Cup Competition, but that they could at their discretion select eight.
  - that the Southport & Birkdale Club's request for a weekend tournament in May to be included in the C.A. Fixtures List for 1976 be granted and that for this first time only no levy would be charged.
  - that the Finance Committee be asked to consider a provision for allowing certain expenses to the Manager of the Open Championship, as had been made last year for the Managers of Devonshire Park.
- The Laws Committee were instructed to consider any changes in the Laws that would be necessary to legalise the use of the alternative colour balls, green, brown, white and pink.
- The Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, Mr Townsend, put forward recommendations for changes in 1976, which were agreed by the Council as follows:
  - Entry Fees for the Open Championships (to cover increase in lawn hire charge at Hurlingham) to be Singles £2.50, Doubles £2.50 and Association Plate £1.50.
  - The payments made to Clubs (other than Hurlingham) holding C.A. events to be £1.25 (from 75p) per lawn per day, and 75p (from 50p) per set per week for use of Clubs' balls.
  - To cover additional expense involved in the raising of the above rates, that all entrance fees for C.A. tourna-

ments (other than at Hurlingham) be raised by 25p per event, this increase to apply also to Devonshire Park.

- The entrance fee for the All-England Handicap be raised to 50p (25p to be retained by Clubs, 25p to be forwarded to the C.A.).
- On the proposition of Mr Baillieu, it was agreed that the former condition for the Inter-Counties tournament 'No entrance fee' be altered to 'a charge will be made to cover lawn charges'.
- The Scottish C.A. have invited the C.A. to send an England team to play Scotland in 1976. It was agreed that we would like to play them as an annual event, possibly alternately in England and Scotland.
- The Council have accepted the invitation by the New Zealand Croquet Council to take part in international matches for the MacRobertson Shield in New Zealand in January 1979.
- It was agreed that responsibility for appointing reporters for C.A. events and tournaments for publication in the gazette should rest with the Editorial Board.
- The Secretary reported on the progress of his investigations as to the legal ownership of the Robin Hood Cup. He was asked to approach the Nottingham Club with a view to getting it in writing that the Cup remains the property of the C.A. and is on loan to the Nottingham Club so long as they hold an official tournament at which the Cup can be competed for by Associates.
- On the proposition of Revd Gladstone, it was carried by 11 votes to 8 that NO general increase in handicap for all Associates be carried out for 1976, and that Clubs be so informed.
- Dr Bray informed the Council that a Colchester Club member was able to obtain considerable discounts on croquet equipment, and suggested that interested Clubs get in touch with the Colchester Club.
- Mrs Neal was appointed to represent the C.A. at a preliminary meeting at the Sports Council offices on 21 October to discuss the Sports Council's proposed National "Sports for All Week" in September 1976.

## All-England Handicap 1975

The 301 entries in this important competition in 31 Club competitions were whittled down through six Area Finals at Cheltenham, Edinburgh, Hurlingham, Roehampton, Southwick and Wrest Park to six finalists who assembled at Roehampton on Saturday 27 September.

It started to rain heavily on Friday evening and by the appointed starting time of 10 a.m. on Saturday all three lawns at Roehampton were unplayable. By 12.30 there was more water than grass visible, and optimistically, after a telephone call to get the local weather forecast, an early lunch was taken, causing the interruption of a Bridge four and a game of Patience in the club-house. By 12.45 the rain stopped and the sun began to shine. Aided by a strong wind, the well drained lawns were playable (just) soon after 2 p.m. During the wait the Manager, Mr Rothwell, after consultation with the competitors, decided, in view of further rain forecast for late afternoon and all day Sunday, to abandon the advertised 5-round American competition and substitute a straight knock-out. The weather forecast proved wrong, and the remainder of the weekend was fine and sunny, but with a very strong wind.

In the first round M.J. Stevens (7, Harrow Oak) beat H.R. Stanley (11, Wolverhampton) by 16 in 2 hrs. 20 mins., and E. Audsley (7, Wrest Park) beat C.J. Tait (7, Edinburgh) also by 16 in 2 hrs. 10 mins. In the semi-final, which was also played on Saturday with both games finished by 6.30 p.m., I.G. Vincent (1, Southwick) beat Stevens by 8 in 1 hr. 46 mins., and J. Coutts (6, Jealotts Hill near Bracknell), last year's winner, beat Audsley by 12 in 1 hr. 53 mins.

The final on Sunday morning was over before noon. Coutts beat Vincent by 12 in 1 hr. 53 mins. Giving 5 bisques, Vincent did not get many chances, and he just failed to make full use of those he did get. Coutts' intelligent use of bisques and his first class control when he had a break made him a worthy winner. He went out with 2 bisques to spare, but not again, since the handicapper reduced his handicap to 4 at the end of the competition.

It was unfortunate that the new method of playing the Final as a full American could not be tested, but it is understood that this form of Final will be scheduled for the 1976 competition. A time limit of 3 hours was allotted for each game, and it is interesting to record that the average time taken for the five games played in this year's Final was only 1 hr. 55 mins.

Sincere thanks are due to the Roehampton Club for staging the Final, as well as an Area Final, and to Mr Cook, the head groundsman, who even managed to get the lawns mown and freshly marked out for Sunday morning.

## Inter-Club Championship Final

Eleven Clubs entered, and the finalists were Cheltenham and Hurlingham. It was the first time that Cheltenham had entered, at least since the last War, and they fielded a very strong team which on paper looked like the winning team from the start. They reached the final by beating two recent winners of the competition, first Roehampton 6-0, and then Phyllis Court 5-2. Hurlingham, on the other hand, had to fight hard to get to the final. They beat the holders, Wrest Park, 4-3, and then by the skin of their teeth Harrow Oak 4-3.

The final was played at Cheltenham on Sunday 19 October on a fine, but rather chilly autumn day. Cheltenham were unable to have William Prichard in their team owing to his military duties. Both doubles and the single in the morning went to Hurlingham. Solomon soon beat Hands after lunch with a perfect triple to give Hurlingham a winning lead. Murray beat Fidler +8 to give Cheltenham their first victory, but Hurlingham rubbed it in when they won both of the remaining singles.

Result: Hurlingham 6 Cheltenham 1

## Singles (Hurlingham names on left hand side)

J.W. Solomon	bt. P.W. Hands	+19
Prof. B.G. Neal	bt. A.B. Hope	+16
P.J.M. Fidler	lost to Dr M. Murray	-8
R.A. Godby	bt. G.E.P. Jackson	+9
S.S. Townsend	bt. Mrs K.M.O. Wheeler	+20

## Doubles

Prof. B.G. Neal & P.J.M. Fidler	bt. Dr M. Murray & A.B. Hope	+5
J.W. Solomon & R.A. Godby	bt. G.E.P. Jackson & P.W. Hands	+13

## Handicap Alterations

## Parkstone: September 8-13

Mrs D.H.C. Whiteman 14 to 12; Mrs C.W. Marshall 13 to 12; Dr H.A. Pim 6 to 5½; Miss M.D. McMordie 3 to 2½; Mrs N.A.C. McMillan 2½ to 2.

## Cheltenham Weekend IV: September 12-14

J. McLaren 6 to 4½; D.G. Richardson 5 to 4; Miss M.J. Lodge 8 to 7; Sir Leonard Stone 15 to 14.

## Ryde Weekend: September 12-14

R.B.W. Gladstone 8 to 7; Miss D.E. Rogers 14 to 13; Mrs P.H. Mann 9 to 8; C. Aberhalden 11 to 10; Mrs C. Aberhalden 16 to 15; R.W. Newnham 14 to 13.

## Wrest Park Weekend II: September 19-21

E. Audsley 8 to 7; T. Wood 3\* to 2½; A. Dumont 7 to 5; T. Anderson 9 to 8.

## Devonshire Park (first week): September 22-27

Lady Bazley 14 to 12; Mrs H.J. Devitt 7 to 6; H.J. Devitt 6 to 5; Miss D.G. Leach 7½ to 7; W. Nicholson 10 to 9; R.D.C. Prichard 2½ to 1½; A.E.C. Tapp 2 to ½; Lt-Col G.E. Cave ½ to 1½ (at own request).

## Directory of Clubs

R = Registered with the Croquet Association.

A = Approved, having lawns and equipment in accordance with the Laws of the Croquet Association.

It would be very helpful if Clubs qualifying for approval, and anyone with up-to-date information, would let the Secretary or Mrs. Neal know of alterations, omissions and inaccuracies.

## Status/Lawns

- 1 Abington C.C., Northampton. Mrs. G.M. Chambers, Park Avenue South, Northampton.
- AR 2 A.E.R.E. C.C. Didcot. M. Moreton-Smith, B220, AERE Harwell, Didcot, Berks. Tel: Abingdon 4141, ext. 4547.
- A 1 Agricola Club, Ministry of Ag. Food & Fis., Civil Service Sports Ground, Eltham. Miss Ibbett, Room 275, Gt. Westminster House, Horseferry Road, S.W.1 2AE. Tel: 216-7514.
- AR 1 All England L.T. & C.C., Church Road, Wimbledon, S.W.19. Tel: 946-2244.
- A 2 Atomic Weapons Research Establishment, Recreational Section, Aldermaston. G.D. Coley, 32 Culver Road, Newbury, RG14 7AR.
- A 2 Barclays Bank, Radbroke Hall, Knutsford. Miss K.A. Mather, Barclays Bank Ltd., Management & Services Dept., Radbroke Hall, Knutsford, Cheshire.
- A 1 Barnes Sports Club, Croquet Section, Lonsdale Road, Barnes, SW13.
- A 2 Barnstaple C.C. Miss E.I. Efemey, 3 Victoria Lawn, Victoria St. Barnstaple, Devon.
- AR Bentley C.C., Brentwood. F. Stanley-Smith, Hatch House, Pilgrims Hatch, Brentwood, Essex. Tel: Coxtie Green 72456.
- A 1 Birmingham University, Lake Hall, The Vale, Edgbaston. C. Elliott, Manor House, Bristol Rd. South, Birmingham B13 2AE.
- AR 4 Bowdon C.C., The Firs, Altrincham. Mrs. J. Fowler, Old Field, St. Mary's Road, Bowdon, Cheshire.
- AR 2 Bretby C.C., N.C.B. Mining Research & Development Establishment, Ashby Road, Stanhope, Bretby. B. Purcell, 19 Valley Road, Littleover, Derby, DE3 6HR. Tel: 0332-25560.
- AR 3 Bristol C.C. Miss B.E. Setter, 38a Westover Road, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol.
- AR 9 Budleigh Salterton C.C., Cricket Field Lane. C. Edwards, Colver, 8 Long Copp, Budleigh Salterton, Devon. Tel: 039-54-2261. Tournament Sec. Dr. W.R. Bucknall, Norton House, 21 Vision Hill Road, Budleigh Salterton. Tel: 039-54-2141.
- A 1 Burley C.C., at Miss D. Carey-Morgan, Stavegate, Burley. Tel: 042-53-2225. Hon. Sec. Miss H.B. Harland, Little Pound Farm, Pound Lane, Burley. Tel: 042-53-3223.
- R Cambridge University C.C., David Wilson, Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. Home: 40 Billesley Lane, Moseley, Birmingham, B13 9QS. Tel: 021-459-2013.
- AR 0 Canute C.C., Nuclear Power Group, Ltd., Warrington Road, Risley, Warrington, Lancs WA3 6BZ. Tel: 0925-51291. D.G. Richardson, 7a Beaconsfield Road, Widnes, Lancs. WA8 9LA.
- AR 4 Carrickmines C.C., C.A. Gamble, Cartref, Redford, Greystones, Co. Wicklow, I.R.
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