

**British and best**

**Jaques**

**Equipment**

Known and used all over the world

**Mallets**

made to your own  
specification  
by Jaques craftsmen

The renowned  
**Eclipse**  
Championship Ball

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

**Jaques**  
& Son Ltd.,

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

Printed by Vineyard Press Ltd., Colchester, Essex, CO2 7DG

# THE CROQUET GAZETTE

Number 139

April 1976

The Official Organ of the Croquet Association

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

## In the Beginning

If I lived in London, I think I would spend a lot of time in the British Library at Colindale. First it is beautifully warm, and secondly you can lay your hands on any volume of any newspaper or periodical ever printed. Admittedly you can only have two at a time, but as soon as those two are finished with, the next two appear with only a few minutes wait. Being always short of time, we confined ourselves to 'The Field' and to the few relevant years of 'Land and Water', but I would love to read the daily papers of 100 years ago at the same time—a student nearby was working through all the early copies of 'The Times'—but I restrained myself and stuck to the task in hand, that of finding the earliest references to the game of Croquet.

The first we found was in 1858, which was a gay account of meetings of the County Meath Croquet Cracks. They were mostly young and met at each other's houses, and the reporter was George Annesley Pollock of Oatlands and Newcastle, County Meath. Later that year he sent a copy of his rules, under the pseudonym of 'Corncrake', and called them 'Rules of the Oatlands Club'. That is the first mention of a Croquet Club. For the next few years, apart from a trickle of enquiries about problems and differences in rules, there is very little to be found about the game—and that only under the heading 'Pastimes'. For a year between September 1864 and mid-1865 the Queen (under the same ownership) was deputed to deal with croquet matters.

But the game was beginning to be taken more seriously, and on 23 September 1865 'The Field' printed the first account of a Club in England—now no longer under 'Pastimes' but under 'Croquet'. The Worthing Club had been formed in May of that year, and meetings were held every Wednesday throughout the season at the Steyne Gardens. This was their last Prize Meeting of 1865. There was a band playing all the afternoon (play started at 2 o'clock) and the ground was marked off with flags of various colours to prevent "the large and fashionable assemblage from interrupting the players". There were about 30 players and they played three a side, in a knock-out competition. The Honorary Secretary was Mr Harry Hargood, and he won the seasonal prize for the gentleman who had played on the greatest number of winning sides.

In 1866 'The Field' printed the 1st Field Croquet Rules, and at the first Prize Meeting of the Worthing Club they were "strictly adhered to" (July 24 and 25). At this meeting too the Henty family competed in force; they and the Hargoods became active players and continued to play during the eclipse of tournament croquet and were among the first to play and organise tournaments on the revival in 1894. This meeting wound up with a dance held in the Steyne Assembly Rooms, where the prizes were presented by Mrs Lyons, the wife of Admiral Lyons, the President of the Club. At the September Prize Meeting we see the name of Mr G. Joad for the first time—he was later to win the first proper Open Championship (organised by the A.E.C.C. at Crystal Palace in 1869), while his wife won the very first Women's Championship at Bushey later that same year. But at Worthing they were both put out in the first round. Mr Joad presented a handsome silver challenge cup for "gentlemen being annual subscribers of the club"—this is another "first" for Worthing.

The tournament at Evesham is traditionally listed as the first Open Championship, but it was, in fact, never advertised and was

got up at a fortnight's notice and consisted mostly of Walter Jones Whitmore's friends and neighbours (July 1867). It was not reported in 'The Field', but Worthing was still reported. New names which were to become famous at Wimbledon are J.H. Hale (the former Sussex cricket captain) and Mr Henry Jones ("Cavendish"). The first club match to be fully reported was between Hargood, Henty and Joad, and the 12th Brigade R.A. Gosport, and took place at Priory Park Chichester. The first game lasted 5 hours "due to the slowness of the Worthing champions"! The second game was under 3 hours, "a very reasonable time". The Gunners won both!

By 1868 'The Field' had become the forum in which croquet matters were discussed and reported; they promoted the formation of the All England Croquet Club; national concerns, like a revised and unified Code of Laws, ousted local news. Worthing, however, rated the fullest report it had yet had for its Grand Annual Meeting in August (account written by "Cavendish", 'The Field' special correspondent). In it we see Jones going for the wrong hoop, Hale taking croquet with the wrong ball, and Miss Wood making a 14 point break, including putting her partner through 5 hoops. Following the example set at Moreton a month earlier (the first tournament open to all-comers) a referee was appointed, and it was none other than Harry Hargood who "discharged the delicate duties to universal satisfaction". He felt that he was precluded from playing and so did not defend Mr Joad's Challenge Cup of which he was the holder.

The Worthing Club were still playing three a side at their Grand Annual Meeting in 1869, although Brighton and Eastbourne, which only started that year, had introduced singles matches. The weeklies now became so full of important events, with 'The Field' giving pre-eminence to the All England Croquet Club (Mr Walsh the Editor was a founder member of the Committee and was taking an active part in acquiring and running the Wimbledon ground), while 'Land and Water' favoured the breakaway National Croquet Club, championing Whitmore in all his quarrels, that little space was left for the charms of Worthing with its Italian string band, and its mixed threesomes and its prize-givings with blue and gold scent bottles and ormolu drum match boxes. Sadly Worthing was no longer reported. It re-emerged as a club proper in 1899 in West Worthing—near the station—and went on until 1936. A tournament was arranged for 1937, but it never took place. Can we hope for another revival?

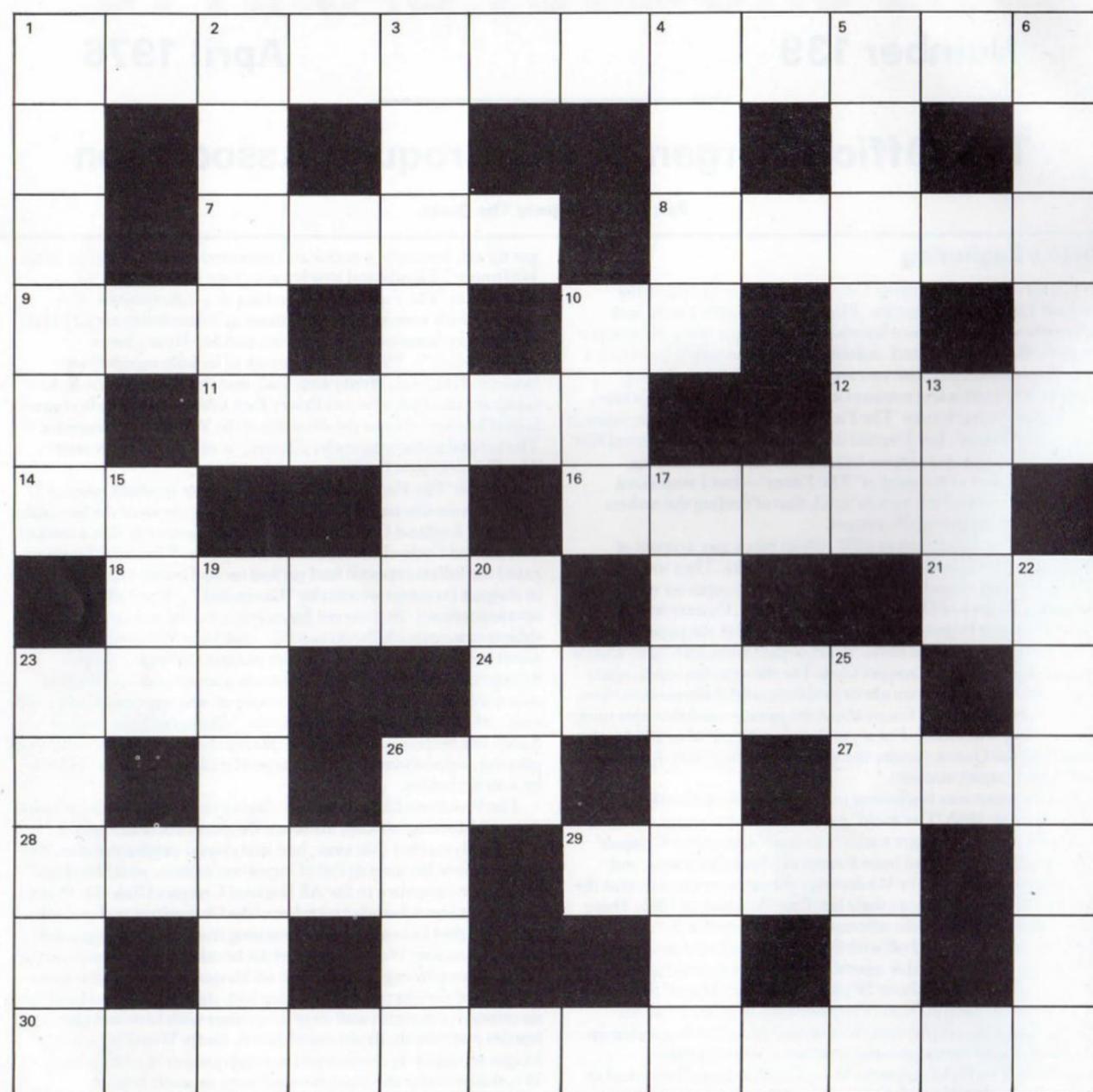
E.A.M. Prichard

## Handicaps—Procedure for Increase

The Council has approved the continuation until further notice of the amendment to handicapping procedure introduced experimentally for 1975, namely:—

A Handicap Increase requested by the player and recommended by a Tournament Handicapper will, provided that the increase is not more than one bisque and that the player's handicap has not been reduced during the previous twelve months, take effect immediately, and remain so unless and until varied by the Handicap Co-ordination Committee.

## Croquet Crossword



## CLUES ACROSS

- International trophy
- Porridge base
- Giver
- Tide out
- Musical note
- Attribute of aristocrat
- Lady Margaret Hall
- Territorial Army
- Medieval Musical Notation
- American shop
- Croquet club
- Place to which lawyers are called
- Speedy competitions
- Croquet Association
- Cut off
- Dart in the centre (1,4)
- Royal Institute of British Architects
- Premier Competition

## CLUES DOWN

- Basic croquet implement
- Top of a hoop
- Month that ends the season
- Southern croquet club
- A pair on court, but not a double
- 'B' baulk boundary
- Number of players in Beddow Cup
- Master of Science
- Amateur Swimming Association
- Oily approach
- Effect of being unable to hit in
- Period of time
- Points between which slips occur (3,3)
- French white
- Reduce handicaps savagely
- Found attached to hoops — or other things

P.D.H.

## Editorial Notes

## Croquet in Oxford and Cambridge

Croquet is evidently thriving in Cambridge. In 1975 there were 154 teams entered for Cuppers, including 16 teams from Emmanuel and 7 from Corpus; the final was won by Corpus, whose Captain, David Wilson, is this year's University Captain of Croquet. Corpus formed a Croquet Club in October 1972, and by the summer of 1974 membership had risen to 32. Emmanuel have set up a full size lawn at Wilberforce Road, in addition to their small nursery lawn in the paddock. The University Team continues to have fixtures against Colchester, Wrest Park and Hunstanton. All the indications are that a great many people are currently playing on college lawns, that there is much interest in the game, and that some players have achieved a good standard.

I am told that there is a revival of croquet at Oxford also, though no definite information has reached me, and that it is hoped to revive the Varsity Match this year, after a gap of some years. Up to date information on this, and indeed any other University croquet matters of general interest, would be very welcome.

## Photographs

The four pages of photographs in this issue were paid for by a most generous donation received last year from Mrs Clyde Burlison on behalf of club members of Houston, Texas; the gift was made in memory of the late Hatixhe Sarah Robinson, wife of the Secretary of the Croquet Association.

The pre-1914 Advertisement for table croquet sets which appears among the photographs in this issue was found in a table croquet set bought second-hand in the Southend area last autumn. Croquet historians might like to amuse themselves in speculation about the likely date of the advertisement on the basis of the persons commending the product. The set of table croquet in which the advertisement was found is interesting because of the construction of the hoops. Each hoop consists of a metal disc with two protruding spikes; the disc is placed under the table cloth, sheet or whatever surface one thinks appropriate, and the spikes go up through the table cloth etc; when this is done, small pieces of wood are placed on the spikes to form hoops. The result is a remarkably stable set of hoops. The set I saw was probably among the cheapest priced in the range advertised, and includes six hoops and two pegs. Much depends in table croquet upon the size of your table and the surface you elect to play on. I wonder if this idea of hoop making could be reproduced and marketed. What do readers think?

It is hoped to publish four pages of photographs in one issue every year. Photographs of new clubs, probably including the club house and a few players, would always be welcome, as would photos of clubs that have not previously appeared in the gazette in photographic form. Slides are not acceptable for the gazette unless they are first turned into colour prints. Local Press photographs should be accompanied by written permission to reproduce them in the Croquet Gazette.

## Changes in the Gazette

First, it has recently been decided that Changes of Address, telephone etc. will no longer be included in the gazette, as these are available through Directory Amendment Sheets.

As from the next issue, a new method of setting out tournament results will be used. This should help to free quite a lot of space for further Articles, Correspondence etc., so if you have an idea in your mind, please do put pen to paper and write the matter up and send me what you have written. Basically the change in results setting involves the setting of results straight along the line, instead of taking a new line for each result. Initials and handicaps will only be given once in each event, as this will make the change of setting far more effective. A new line will be taken for each round, and winners's names will be set in bold type, so that they can easily be picked out. We hope to save about a third of the space previously devoted to results by this method. Full results of non-weekend tournaments will still be recorded, but we shall now be able to have more short Articles and other material of interest; we hope you agree that the change is worthwhile.

## Indoor Croquet in the North West

Offered the use of the Burscough sports hall situated 6 miles from the Southport & Birkdale Croquet Club, members expressed sufficient interest to allow a preliminary survey of the potential.

The surface of the sports hall is a soft green carpet made from nylon and called 'Sorbowl'. Originally designed for indoor bowling, it approximates in speed to a dry brown August Cheltenham. The surface is obviously true, and there are no excuses for missed roquets.

It was impossible to mark out a full size court, but 100 ft x 60 ft was deemed useful enough for both practice and matches. Hoops were made specially and sunk into the concrete via a removable hole in the carpet, as was the peg. In anticipation of the ease of approach work, the hoops have been made very tight ( $3\frac{11}{16}$ ") and are completely unyielding, so all-round breaks are thus made more difficult. All other equipment is standard, and the sports centre has provided 6 new Jaques mallets, and sets of normal and alternative colour balls.

An inaugural meeting was held, with the host club inviting members of Ellesmere, Daten, St Annes and Bowdon Croquet Clubs. In the event 35 people attended, which somewhat embarrassed the organisers, who tried to make sure that everybody tested the surface. The object of the evening, however, was attained, for a series of games was arranged for the future, of which to date 6 have been played to the complete enjoyment of all concerned.

On Sunday 7 March a match took place at the sports centre between the North West Federation and the West Midlands Federation, the North West winning by 5 matches to 1.

## Results (North West Federation names first)

- B.Slater & Mrs N.Tyldesley (9½) beat D.Willetts & Mrs P.Woodhams (20) +8  
 P.Stoker & D.G.Richardson (6) lost to P.Young & F.Woodhams (14½) -10  
 E.Bell & P.Sandiford (7½) beat R.Welsh & F.Woodhams (16) +2  
 P.Stoker & B.Slater (6) beat D.Willetts & F.Woodhams (14) +3  
 Mrs N.Tyldesley & D.G.Richardson (9½) beat P.Young & Mrs P.Woodhams (20½) +8  
 E.Bell & B.Sandiford (7½) beat A.Girling & P.Woodhams (20) +4

Paul Stoker

## Three Official Notices

The Sports Council is sponsoring a *Sport for All Week* 12-18 September 1976. In order that as many C.A. Events as possible are played during this week, the Council have altered the dates of the Invitation Eights as follows:

- The President's Cup at Hurlingham, September 14-18.
  - The Chairman's Salver at Compton, September 13-17.
  - The Spencer Ell Cup at Colchester, September 13-17.
- All other fixtures in the C.A. Calendar remain unaltered.

A national *Golf Croquet Competition* in aid of the National Playing Fields Association arranged to be played at various stately homes, with the final at Woburn Abbey in September 1976, has now been postponed until 1977. Sponsored by the magazine 'Harpers & Queen', the C.A. has undertaken to organise and manage the event and will do so in 1977.

Eight Clubs have entered for the *Inter-Counties Championship*, to be played at Hurlingham and Roehampton 1-4 June, namely: Berkshire & Oxfordshire (holders), Bedfordshire, Devon, Eastern Counties, Middlesex, Midland Counties, Surrey and Sussex. With 8 Counties the draw has been made so that each County plays the other seven.

## Rover Notes

### Misunderstood

A large military gentleman was standing near the south boundary; he looked the very model of a modern Major-General. In the middle of the lawn stood a smaller seraphic man, famous for his sweet low swing; his blue eye was glued to the back of his blue ball—but something went wrong. Instead of blue giving yellow a sharp blow on the right cheek to send it reeling eastward, the opposite happened: blue went off to the east, while yellow rocketed to the south boundary. The glued eye raised itself and led the smaller man to the blue ball which he placed on the yardline; "Send me yellow, will you," he called out with bonhomie. The mind of the large man raced on upright lines: "He is asking me to send him the wrong ball. I know Law 51 says I must not warn him, but I cannot bring myself to connive and be an accomplice. I will pretend not to hear and stroll away". The seraph looked less seraphic: "Don't be awkward—yellow is just by you". So it was, winking conspiratorially at the military man—but the latter was inflexible. An observer of human nature, sensing ominous rumbles, interposed himself; he soon grasped the dilemma. "You want the yellow ball, do you?"—the great panjandrum tried to make his voice colourless. "Yes please—I can't think why my opponent would not send it," said the waiting player, with more irritation than was his wont; but as he bent to arrange yellow against blue his face relaxed: "Now I get it... I was about to play the wrong ball. Sorry old boy". He then placed blue against yellow and quickly got on with his turn. The observer and the opponent looked at each other as if to say all was well. But was it? What was wrong and could it be put right? (For answer see page 7.)

### As large as Life

In 1870 a photograph was taken which is of unparalleled interest to Croquet historians. It is a group taken at Wimbledon at the first Championships held there, and in it are Walter Jones Whitmore, Arthur Lillie, "Cavendish", J.H.Hale, J.H.Walsh, a very young man called Walter Peel, and many others beside. The first Treasurer of the All England Croquet Club was S.H.C. Maddock, and, as he had also become Secretary after the rift with Whitmore, most of the early planning revolved around him. The Committee Meetings took place in his office at 6 Spring Gardens; it was he who found the ground at Worple Road, Wimbledon, in September 1869, and he who had charge of raising the special building fund (he gave £200 himself) and of seeing that the new pavilion (of brick instead of stone as an economy) and thatched shelters were completed in time. But when he died suddenly in March 1871 it was found that his enthusiasm had outstripped his orderliness; there were no separate accounts and the 'photographic fund' had disappeared entirely—probably because he had spent more than he had received. So no one knows how many photographs were distributed, and 30 years later not even the name of the original photographer was known. However, in 1905 one copy was found—perhaps from Dr Prior's collection—and a block was made from it by Maull and Fry of London, and it was reprinted in the Gazette of June 22nd 1905. It is 6½ × 3 inches, but larger copies were offered for sale at 5s. each. Do any copies still exist, I wonder? Last year Lt-Col Prichard had the photograph in the Gazette photographed and from the negative he got some surprisingly clear prints. One of these he sent to Tom Todd, who is writing a History of Lawn Tennis (due out in 1976). Many of the early Croquet Committee members were equally active in the promotion of Lawn Tennis, and Mr Todd was so interested in this photograph, which he had not even known existed, that he had another negative made from the first, and also had an enlargement made which is 18 inches long. It is probably larger than the original but, although it is a little black and white, it brings them all to life, while the pavilion looks as though it were finished yesterday—which it was when the photograph was taken.

### Meddlesome Matty

Theoretically every player should win half the handicap games he plays. Practically this ideal can never be realised; for instance, in a Big Handicap with an entry of 64, 32 players would not win a match, 16 would win half their games, and the other 16 more than half. In a similar XY event 16 would win no game, 8 one out of three games, 20 half their games, and 20 more than half. Having stated this mathematical cliché, there are further facts and frailties which tip the scale. Apart from the 'luck of the draw', the state of the weather or the courts or the time of day, all of which affect different players to a varying degree, there is the fear of the tiro for the tiger which may account for the preponderance of 'A' class players in the closing stages of big handicaps. But there is another cause of imbalance which stems from "Meddlesome Matty", who adds a new factor—the Matty bisque. Meddlesome Matty is one of the unlucky majority playing the game from the sidelines: all-seeing, all-knowing, but sadly not all-silent. The meddlers come from all classes of players; in three instances at a recent tournament one was an 'A', one an inexperienced 'C' and one a 'B'; the first two men, the latter a woman.

1. In the last short cut rush of a turn the striker plays his partner ball and misses, leaving the balls yards apart. "You played the wrong ball", says Meddlesome Matty as the striker leaves the court. Result: the ball was replaced to leave a nice rush for the peg.

2. A quick player striking Black roquets Yellow and peels it through the 1st hoop; he places the yellow clip on the 2nd hoop and is about to take croquet with Red against Yellow when Meddlesome Matty gets up and picks up Black from the yardline area and rolls it to the striker. Result: a bisque saved.

3. An improving bisque-receiver rolls into a hoop; he thinks for a minute and then says "I'll leave that". "You have another stroke," says Meddlesome Matty. A nearby Referee exploded. "But he had left the court," parried Matty. The Referee explained the irrelevancy of this remark and the infamy of giving advice. (The recipient quite rightly refused to act on the advice given.)

Croquet is a thinking game, and a player's current handicap reflects his knowledge as well as his skill (the latter often eclipses the former). Even such remarks as "Why did you go so hard?" after a fault has been committed or "Why didn't you go back to Mother?" constitute advice—the player may be in the same position next turn. "Why is he going there with a lift coming up?" (with the opponent sitting near you) is even worse; he too may have forgotten the lift. Remarks about a wrong ball even several turns later can still affect the game (clips have to be correctly placed if the error is discovered right up to the end of the game, even though the limit of claims for the replacement of the balls may have expired, Law 35(b)). Such unsolicited advice can only cause embarrassment to the players. So, jolly Jacks and Jills, contain your jocular remarks and, please, Meddlesome Matthews and Matildas, read Law 51 and refrain from throwing the Matty bisque into the works; keep mum—and the peace.

### Peg Doubt

When a well-versed referee is appealed to, the question he has to answer is usually one of fact and not of opinion. The Laws aim to avoid friction by giving as clear-cut an answer as is possible. Law 34(b), however, which deals with interference by an outside agency during a stroke is inevitably an exception to this principle. The decision as to whether the interference has materially affected the outcome of the stroke is largely one of opinion, the only fact being that no point can be scored or roquet made thereby.

Except for Hurlingham, where even the most lovable shaggy sheepdog looms as an invasive force, the most common outside agency is the pegged out ball. One of our leading players asserts that Law 15(d), which states that the pegged out ball "is deemed to come to rest at the peg and thereafter is an outside agency", adds unnecessary complications to the game. That a ball should cease to affect the game as soon as it is pegged out does appear to be logical, but in practice the ball does not vanish in a puff of smoke and it does

quite often collide with another ball. This persuasive young man has convinced a number of his contemporaries—and half convinced the writer—that many headaches would be saved if a pegged out ball were to remain in play until it comes to rest. The Laws already decree that a ball which has made a roquet remains in play throughout the stroke. Why should the pegged out ball not be covered by the same principle?

What do readers think?

### Mark it with B

At tournaments, the class above the Opens is always referred to as the B's. But what exactly is a B class player? In the 1975 Fixture List only Ryde and Nottingham designate an event as B Level. The so-called B class starts at any handicap from 1½ to 4½ and ends between 3½ and 8½. At one tournament a 4 may be in the A class, and at the next in the Cs, but the actual span in any one B class event is never greater than 4½ bisques, and usually less. The degree of variation as between Clubs has increased since all handicaps were raised by 2, and some players feel that the Council should lay down a standard. But, while the Council is responsible for the laws of the game and for the regulations for advertised tournaments, it has never been their practice to tell Clubs how to run their own affairs.

Beside which, is standardisation desirable? There are good reasons for variations. At Roehampton, Parkstone, Colchester and Nottingham, where there are not over many A entries, the B's begin at 4 or 4½; at Hurlingham and the first week of Devonshire Park the A entry is so big that the B's begin at 1½ (and how popular these events are among those who are usually "also-ran" in the A's). A restricted handicap occasionally replaces the normal B event: at Carrickmines it starts at 6; at the Veterans and the second week of Devonshire Park at 3½ (Draw and Process), and of course in such events there is no upper limit. A further happy flexibility has been allowed for the past five years: a Manager may vary handicap limits for advertised events, in order to adjust an unbalanced entry, and he may introduce the American system or Draw and Process, should the entry be small.

Conditions for the B class player have improved greatly in the past 10 years. Nearly all B class events are now played under the laws of advanced play—only Roehampton and Ryde cling to the old semi-advanced play. Many B events are Draw and Process; some, admittedly, at Managers' discretion or with the Baillieu Two-life variation, but often at a lower entry fee than the A's. As always, it is the customer who dictates the terms: you may be a perennial B or merely passing through, but it is up to you to pick the menu which suits your taste—yours is the choice 'to B or not to B'.

### Responsibility for the position of a ball

A point of Law which should be known to all qualified referees, but I suspect is not by many players, is the entitlement of a lift under the last sentence of Law 13 (b). A ball may be entitled to a lift if it is shaken though not moved as a result of the consequence of the play of the opponent.

A typical example of this would be if Red attempts to run its hoop in order and sticks in it. Blue shoots at Red and hits the upright of the hoop but not the ball (the stroke having been watched by a referee of course). If Red is shaken, albeit minutely, as a result of the opponent's play but not moved to another position, then Red is entitled to a lift if it is within the jaws of the hoop, even though it could run the hoop in order. How often would you see Red complete the running of the hoop and then roquet nearby Blue with no prospect of a break, when maybe it could have been lifted to baulk without running the hoop, and then Black or Yellow conveniently waiting in or near baulk sent to the next hoop whilst Red is split to its hoop in order where Blue is waiting—and a 3-ball break at least has been established with one shot. The referee watching Blue attempting to hit Red in the hoop is not allowed to say, without being asked by either player, if Red has been moved or shaken, but he must be able to do so if asked.

### Marking positions of balls

When a referee is called to watch a hampered shot, he has to be able to replace any balls moved by the shot if the striker has made a fault under Law 32.

Different referees have different methods of marking the positions of balls; usually coins are used. Often two coins are used, one in line with the centre of the ball and the centre of a nearby hoop upright, and the other in line with the centre of the ball and the centre of the other hoop upright. Where these lines cross would be the position of the ball.

In some cases recently when I have called a referee to watch a hampered shot I have wished to play, I have seen as many as six coins of various denominations placed on the ground to mark the position of one ball.

Personally I always use two new ½p pieces to mark the position of a ball when it is some little way from a hoop. One is placed either side of the ball so that the inner edge of the coin is in line with the edge of the ball when viewed vertically immediately over the edge of the ball. The coins are placed at right angles to the line of play. I am always careful to ask the striker if the presence of the coins so near to the ball would act as a distraction to his aim, but I have never been asked to move the coins further away. This method seems to me to be a very precise way of marking the position of a ball with the minimum number of coins. If the ball is very close to a hoop, I would also measure the distance of the ball from the hoop upright using one of my fingers as a measure, but it is often difficult to remember which part of which finger was used when the ball has to be replaced.

It is of course equally important to mark the position of any other ball that may be moved by the stroke. In the case of a hoop-bound ball, how often one sees that ball being marked but not the ball being aimed at some feet away which may be moved by the shot and also have to be replaced if the shot is not a fair one.

### Puzzle Answer

The American puzzle appeared on page 12 of the Gazette No. 135. Red and Yellow are definitely the underdogs, but I think their best chance is for Red to take position at 3-back. There is a slim chance that Black may miss, letting Red off the hook; assuming Black hits Red, it will not be good enough for him to send Red miles away and then prepare to block the hoop, because Yellow will venture out to block 1-back, Blue takes a long position, so does Red, and then Black will be pinned to blocking 3-back and have to release it one shot before Yellow releases; Blue runs 1-back, Red runs 3-back and is now in with good chances. Black's problem is that, having hit Red, he must be at least 2-ball-dead before he can clear himself and maybe hit Red again, so he disappears down near the 2nd corner, Yellow waives, Blue gives Black a rush to 1-back, Red tries for position. Black now has to play *very* skilfully to rush Blue to perfect position and prevent Yellow having a shot at Blue (probably by removing it), then remain near 1-back, putting the burden of destroying Red's position on his partner Blue. If Blue fails, his side will be 6-ball-dead!

G.N.Aspinall

### Laws Alterations

At their meeting on 15 November 1975 the Council passed a resolution, which is published in accordance with C.A. Rule XIV, that the Laws and Regulations be altered as follows:—

1. Law 2(c) add after first sentence "(Alternative coloured balls, brown, green, pink and white are permitted)".
2. Law 4(a) add after first sentence "(or brown and green versus pink and white)".
3. Regulation 19(f) add "(v) to introduce double-banking. (Double-banking is the practice of playing two games on the same court simultaneously, using the alternative coloured balls for the second game)."

## Report of the Council 1975-6

The year started with the resignation of our President Maurice Reckitt after a unique contribution to the game over a span of over 50 years. The Council honoured him in March by making him an Honorary Associate. Best wishes are extended to his successor Edward Duffield whose work on the Council since he was elected to it in 1946 has been most valuable.

An important decision taken at the A.G.M. in May was to raise the subscription rates as from 1st January. At the time of writing there is no indication of any appreciable loss of Associates, as is always feared when subscription rates are raised. The number of Associates in February 1976 is 837, compared with 794 a year earlier.

The Accounts of the Association's workings in 1975 show an excess of Income over Expenditure of £104, compared with a deficit of £259 in 1974, although this should not lull us into complacency since 1974 was Test Tour year when many additional and non-recurring expenditures were incurred. With such a small balance in 1975 and with the inevitable rises in costs anticipated in 1976—rents, salaries, stationery, printing, postages etc.—the Council feel fully, if reluctantly, justified in having recommended the increase in subscription rates for 1976.

The Council is most grateful for the administrative grant made by the Sports Council which amounted to over £4000 in the year; without this our Development Scheme could not operate in its present successful form. Nine new clubs were formed in the year and demonstrations took place throughout the country which must have made a large contribution to our obtaining 123 new Associates in the year. Sincere thanks are due to Liz Neal, whose hard work and enthusiasm as the Development Administrator are much appreciated.

Unfortunately old age has taken its toll—25 deaths and 55 resignations have to be offset against the gains. Apart from the nett gain in membership, many more younger people are still taking up the game (unfortunately many more men than women) which must be a healthy sign for the future, and the game which used to be almost the exclusive province of the upper and leisured classes is now played by all with equal pleasure. We have also potential recruits which we must capture resulting from the future earlier retiring age.

The cost of publishing the Croquet Gazette continues to rise, and the Council have been forced to reduce the number of issues to four a year. Our grateful thanks are due to the Editor Peter Hallett for all his voluntary work in maintaining the high standard of our magazine, which incidentally does not qualify for the Sports Council Grant, but the Council feel strongly that this is an expenditure which the large majority of Associates would wish to be continued.

The future of the many valuable trophies owned by the Association is being actively considered by the Council. Now valued at £24,000 and with the Insurance premium raised to £360 per annum, the time has now come when a serious policy review has to be undertaken. Perhaps some should be sold and the money realised put to more positive use.

During the year a new and much needed publication in "The Basic Laws" has been added to the list of croquet literature available, largely through the painstaking work of Professor Neal to whom we are most grateful.

At the request of many Associates, the Extracts from Council Minutes appearing in the gazette have been made as full as space permits, and it is hoped that this has helped to keep Associates in touch with decisions taken by the Council. As Chairman I would like to take this opportunity of thanking chairmen of committees and others who have put in much hard work behind the scenes, Alan Oldham for his expert and painstaking work as Treasurer, Vandeleur Robinson and his staff for the efficient running of the office, all Managers, Referees and Handicappers who have officiated at tournaments (without whom our tournament programme could not function), and club officers and committees, for without active clubs the Association would soon fade away.

The Association has lost during the year 25 Associates, including Jack Dibley and John Clarke, both members of the Council for many years, Arthur Ross of New Zealand, Harold Clemons of Australia, and such club stalwarts as Gerald Scott (Southwick), H.O. Hodgson (Nottingham) and the Misses Mills (Budleigh Salterton).

Looking forward to the 1976 Season the Fixtures List maintains the 1975 pattern. Being Leap Year there was a choice of advancing 1975 comparable dates by 2 days or making them 5 days later, and the latter course was taken. To fit in with the Sports Council's "Sport for All Week" (starting on 12th September) the three Invitation Eights have been made a week later than originally advertised in the Fixtures Book (for which publication again our thanks are due to Jim Townsend). A glance at the Calendar will make apparent the ever increasing popularity of 3 or 4 day tournaments—there are no less than 23 scheduled for 1976, as well as 19 full-week club tournaments and the usual C.A. events. The Council has taken the step of legalising double banking (with reservations) at all Calendar tournaments, a reality that must be accepted by its opponents, and so keeps abreast of the times. With the ever increasing demand on lawn space and increased numbers playing the game, new clubs in particular have found double banking a necessity. Law adjustments have been made accordingly. Entry fees have been increased to allow for increased lawn hire and ball charges, and it is hoped that this will be accepted by entrants as a necessity in these worrying days of inflation.

R.F. Rothwell,  
Chairman

15.3.76

## Correspondence

### 'The Croquet Speed Record'

from Revd W.E. Gladstone

Sir,

I refer to the letter from Mr Colin Prichard which you published in the December 1975 gazette, where he estimates that about 25 minutes is the quickest time in which a game can be completed.

Some four or five years ago Miss Edith Arkell of Cheltenham beat me +26 in the Final of the Club Handicap Singles in 26 minutes. Since then I have always timed our games. She has beaten that time once. Giving her the 6 bisques to which she was then entitled, I won the toss and put her in. She made the conventional east boundary opening, and I missed my tice, the fourth ball going into the 2nd corner, where it stayed for the rest of the game! To describe the play very briefly, she used 3 bisques to set up a 3-ball break and went to the peg, leaving my "tice" ball by the 1st hoop and her balls with a rush into the court. Rightly or wrongly I shot for her and missed, and with her other 3 bisques she again went round on a 3-ball break and pegged out in 23 minutes.

Cheltenham Croquet Club Yours sincerely,  
W.E. Gladstone

### 'Nouvelles supplémentaires de Mon Oncle'

from Dr W.R. Bucknall

Monsieur,

Plusieurs de mes amis m'ont demandé encore des nouvelles de mon oncle. Heureusement, il m'a donné une bague pas plus loin qu'hier et a rapporté que le saut dernier il avait une mauvaise automne, quand il avait fait du mal à son coffre. Il a été absent sur un grand faux-pas par mer, et il est maintenant un petit joueur.

Comme vous savez, mon oncle aime bien la mélodie ouverte. Même dans la réne est-il heureux.

Il n'a pas joué au Croquet depuis longtemps, ainsi il a engagé une voiture pour l'aider à perfectionner son gibier. C'est un pari blond que, l'année prochaine, il serait très saint.

Son dernier gibier était très temps. Il avait construit beaucoup de fautes, et était en bonne santé en retard lorsque le bal de son adversaire est devenu confituré dans le dernier cerceau. Mon oncle

avait un ascenseur et sauvait son lard en frappant ce bal plein dans le visage. Il a réussi à obtenir en rond droit et à partir, une triomphe par le cuir de ses dents. Quand il joue en bonne santé, mon oncle est un vrai boucheur.

Il peut raconter beaucoup de fils environ ses gibiers, dont il a gagné beaucoup par vingt-six à l'amour. Une fois, il m'a écrit une longue baileur concernant l'impossibilité qu'un gibier peut terminer dans une cravate.

Le jeu de Croquet a une grande cale au-dessus de lui, et il a étudié l'histoire du jeu. Il énumère l'étage du "Jeu de Mail", une des ancêtres de Croquet, qui a ressemblé au Croquet et aussi au Golf. Dans ses tasses, il parle pendant des heures au sujet du Croquet, et il joue chaque jeu comme s'il pensait que c'était un morceau de gâteau.

L'année prochaine, je suis sûr qu'il fera hachis de la plupart de ses adversaires, et qu'il démontrera au repos du monde comme on doit jouer au Croquet.

Acceptez, monsieur, mes salutations les plus chauds.

Norton House,  
21 Vision Hill Road,  
Budleigh Salterton, Devon.

W.R. Bucknall

### 'The Crush Stroke'

from Mr L. Riggall

Sir,

May I comment on two points raised by Professor Neal. Apart from the ballistics engineers I mentioned, nobody seems to have seen a high-speed film of a croquet ball being driven through a hoop, but I think we would all be surprised if we did see one. I remember a film of a golf stroke which at natural speed produced a sharp crack, and the ball seemed to fly away from the club immediately after impact. But in very slow motion the ball was seen to be flattened into the club to an unbelievable extent, stayed on the club for a considerable part of the swing, and finally was actually catapulted away from the club.

Professor Neal advocates the hammer stroke, and this might be a practical solution for a player who possesses Professor Neal's meticulous accuracy and skill, but I always write for the average player. Experts tend to see things from their own point of view, and not to understand the misapprehensions and difficulties of ordinary players. I have met many players who believed it was not a fault unless the mallet itself was crushed against the hoop, hence my suggestion that the name be changed.

If played incorrectly, a hammer stroke can still be a "crush", and there are other risks which Professor Neal failed to mention. The hoop itself now hampers the striker, and the stroke can now be eight different kinds of fault under Law 32 (iii), (iv), (v), (vi), (vii), (viii), (x), (xi) and (xii). Also what was already a very difficult task for the referee has become impossible, because he cannot watch everything all at once.

It is true that the hammer stroke can be grounded as well as the stop shot. But unless it is played perfectly, the sharp edge of the mallet is driven into the turf in a vital area where the turf should be perfect and damage should be avoided if possible.

Quinta de Curvos,  
Forjaes, Eposende,  
Portugal

Yours sincerely,  
L. Riggall

### Answer to 'Misunderstood'

The croquet stroke should have been played from the south boundary where yellow had been rushed to, but, as the opponent had not forestalled the stroke, it was valid (Law 28).

If the striker had played yellow in error, then the opponent would have stopped him and, again, the balls should have been placed on the south boundary, where they ought to have been (Law 30), and not on the east boundary where the error occurred.

The Referee was quite right not to forewarn about the wrong ball. However, he too should have forestalled the croquet stroke with the balls misplaced, in order to ensure that play 'continued in accordance with the laws' (Reg. 7).



Croquet Roman style

## Draw for the Inter-Club Championship 1976

1ST ROUND	2ND ROUND
	The Heley Club Colworth
Harrow Oak Colchester	
Cheltenham Phyllis Court	
Southwick Hurlingham	
	Roehampton
	Wrest Park Compton

Conditions as in the 1976 Fixtures Book p.9 with the following addition: Provided both teams agree, double banking will be permitted.

Latest dates for completion of rounds (although it is hoped that matches will be completed earlier to allow more time for later rounds) are as follows: 1st Round by 13 June; 2nd Round by 18 July; Semi-Final by 29 August; Final by 10 October.

It is open to clubs to invite a third club to allow their match to be played on the third club's lawns. If they do so and if the third club makes a charge for use of lawns, this charge will not be the responsibility of the C.A. but must be paid by the clubs availing themselves of the third club's lawns. An exception to the foregoing is the Final, which should be played on a neutral ground. In this case the C.A. will pay the lawn charges if these are made.

Please note that Mr Rothwell's address is Berks, and not Bucks as in the Fixtures Book.

## From the Australian Croquet Gazette

The 1975 A.C.C. Carnival was run by the South Australian Croquet Association at Adelaide. The results were as follows:

### Interstate Cup

	Matches	Games	Points
South Australia	5	27	758
West Australia	3	17	586
New South Wales	3	15	580
Tasmania	3	13	575
Victoria	1	11	515
Queensland	0	7	454

**English Silver Medal:** Spencer Buck (South Australia)

5 matches 10 games

**English Bronze Medal:** Rodney Triffit (Tasmania)

4 matches 8 games

**Australian Singles Championship (The Wall Cup):** Neil Spooner (South Australia)

**Ladies Singles (The English Cup):** Mrs M. Anderson (South Australia)

**Men's Singles (The A.C.C. Tray):** Barrie Chambers (South Australia)

**Australian Doubles Championship:** Barrie Chambers & Neil Spooner (South Australia)

**A.B. Morrison Memorial Trophy for Junior 'A' Players:** Mrs H. Kelly (South Australia)

During the Carnival 26 triple peels and a quadruple peel were completed. Neil Spooner completed 10 triples and the quadruple, Spencer Buck 9 triples, Barrie Chambers 5, and Bill Smith and Rodney Triffit one each.

Mr W. Smith kindly donated a silver tray as a runner-up trophy for the Interstate Teams competition. The 1976 Carnival will be held at Hobart.

### Heard during the Carnival

Male player who has only been playing a short time was heard to remark: "Not only is croquet a better game than bowls, but the people you meet are a nicer type of people, more friendly, and one doesn't have to run off to the bar all the time"—What do readers think?

## From Our Correspondents in New Zealand

In the 1976 Open Championships at Auckland there were 4 seeded players, of whom only Alan Anderson lost before the semi-finals, though he still completed 10 triple peels in the week. There were 36 triple peels, completed by 11 players. The sensation of the tournament was 16-year-old Peter Adsett, playing in his first N.Z. Championships, who completed 7 triples, beat John Prince in both lives and other top players on the way to winning the Men's Championship. There were 32 entries for the Open, and one correspondent tells us that the majority of players are in favour of seeding and would prefer 8 seeds. Peter Adsett did not enter for the Open. Another correspondent writes: "It was a wonderful tournament with 32 entrants in the Open Event and the standard higher than ever before".

### Results

#### Open Championship

Semi-final		
J.G.Prince	bt. R.J.Murfitt	+15 + 4
R.V.Jackson	bt. T.Blade	+ 6 +17
Final		
J.G.Prince	bt. R.V.Jackson	+26 +26

**Doubles Championship:** 1. R.J.Murfitt & D.J.Bulloch 2. G.D. Rowling & R.V.Jackson.

**Men's Championship:** 1. P.Adsett 2. R.V.Jackson.

**Women's Championship:** 1. Miss J.Clark 2. Miss S.Grigg.

**Levels:** 1. P.Adsett 2. J.Hogan.

**Men's Handicap Singles:** 1. P.Adsett 2. C.J.Read.

**Women's Handicap Singles:** 1. Mrs M.Thompson 2. Miss S.Grigg

**Plate:** 1. R.J.Clark 2. Mrs K.Johnstone.

The *English Silver Medal* for 1975 was won by R.V.Jackson, and the *English Bronze Medal* by K.F.Woollett.

## From the South African Croquet Gazette

The 1975 South African Championships were held at Durban for the first time in many years. There were 24 Entries in the Singles, and this Event was played as Draw and Process. Tom Barlow was very much the best player, and no one did better against him than Gilbert Hobbs, who scored 11 points in the semi-final. Lester Sullivan, trained by Richard Carte, was runner-up in both Draw and Process in his first croquet season. His lack of experience was shown in the final of the Rondebosch Trophy, when he was in a commanding position and had a bisque in hand against Nick Carter, but still failed to win.

**Open Singles Final:** T.Barlow bt. L.Sullivan, +25 +25

**Doubles Final:** F.Arbutnot & G.N.Leech bt. C.A.Carter & A.E.Coetzee +2

**Carte Trophy:** L.Riggall

**Rondebosch Trophy:** N.Carter

### Carnival at Manly

Mrs Scotter, the President of the Manly Croquet Club in Australia, has written to inform us that the Manly Club celebrates its 75th Birthday this year and that the celebration will take the form of a "Monster Carnival" starting on Saturday 2nd October. Any players thinking of a tour this year might like to include this event in their itinerary. Events will include level and handicap singles for all grades. Each singles event will cost \$1 each and Doubles will cost 75c. per player. There will also be a special Men's Singles Handicap and a "Naggers Cup" (partners to be related). It is hoped that players from New Zealand and South Africa will be coming. Immediately following this carnival week, the Australian Championships will be held in Tasmania.

Mrs Scotter writes: "Needless to state, our Club will make all visitors very welcome and will help with accommodation, providing we know the type required. As Manly is a seaside suburb, there is plenty of accommodation of all types. Looking forward to hearing from some of you, and offering kindest regards from all Manly members to those of you who have visited us—we did enjoy your company."

### The Secretary and the Editor

For general reference, the Secretary of the Croquet Association is Mr Vandeleur Robinson, The Hurlingham Club, London SW6 (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).

### Deadlines for 1976

Copy for the August issue of the gazette must reach the Editor at the above address not later than 19 July, copy for the October issue not later than 13 September, and copy for the December gazette not later than 1 November.

## Notes from the Clubs

### Nottingham—A Tribute to Cicely Brumpton

It is with true pleasure that I am able to write a tribute to Cicely Brumpton, a member of the Nottingham Club since 1954. For the past 15 years she has been the Secretary of Nottingham Club, which onerous position she has occupied with distinction and efficiency. In 1962 she was both Secretary and Treasurer, a formidable task! and it is with mixed feelings that she has decided to relinquish her position after all these years and to make way for our new Secretary, Bob Blackburn.

All of Cicely's friends will know that she is a Manager and always supervises the Invitation Eights which are held at Nottingham. She also became an Official Handicapper in 1971.

In leaving her secretarial duties she will be able to devote more time to her own game and will perhaps equal her 1959 performance, when she won the Robin Hood Gold Challenge Trophy, a feat never before or since achieved by a lady player. No doubt we shall see her name appearing yet again on our club trophies. We hope that Cicely will now become a Vice-President of our club and continue to advise and encourage us all as she has done for so many years.

H.C.

### Cheltenham—Changes in the Open Tournament

In our Open Tournament this year we are offering a quite fresh menu. We have become dissatisfied with the bill-of-fare previously used in our week-long tournaments, because the amount of play has to be so unfairly distributed. Half the company get at best a game a day, and at worst only four games in the week; meanwhile one or two people are struggling day and often night to get through their 13 to 15 matches. Compare this with our Weekends, which guarantee 5 games in the 3 days.

In July we are going to limit the length of the matches, in appropriate events, by reducing the number of hoops to be made (Law 54). Two-hour Singles and 2¼-hour Doubles will be the aim. No one will get fewer than 8 matches, and the average will be about two games a day. There will be knockout Class events, all played as Draw and Process, and, equally important, each Class will be kept small to limit the number of rounds to be played; a Big Handicap of 5 non-knockout rounds followed by play-offs for the Cup; and the usual knockout Handicap Doubles. Of course all the details are in the Fixtures Book.

G.E.P.Jackson, Manager, July Open Tournament

### Beautiful Budleigh — A Sentimental Interlude

I left England in 1929 to work in the exciting continent of Africa but have often yearned nostalgically for the beauty of the English countryside. This year I found it all on my visit to Budleigh Salterton to play croquet.

Having just read R.F.Delderfield's 'A Horseman Riding By', my mind was partly conditioned as to what to expect, but the sheer beauty of the Devon countryside must move the heart of anyone used to the harsher vistas of Africa. For a delightful week I was able to forget the underlying anxieties of our life in South Africa. Instead I shall take back the gentler memories of the best features of England today — the warmth of an English hand-shake, the 'unforgettable, unforgotten' smell of the countryside, new potatoes and cold turkey for lunch followed by strawberries and cream, and the relaxed efficiency of the tournament management. Lulled to sleep by the 'tremulous cadence' of the sea on the shingle beach, I was awakened by the seagulls to a golden sun rising over the Bluff. Surely "Earth has not anything to show more fair".

As I write, I hear the soft New Zealand accent mixed with the Devon burr of a groundsman who loves his work. And thus I remember the many Colonials who fought and died on the battle fields of Europe to preserve this English way of life. There were men from this village also who sailed with Drake in

the Golden Hind, and others who manned the little ships which defeated the Mighty Armada of Spain and helped to found this heritage which we hope will never die.

I shall return to my expatriate friends and tell them: "If you want to enjoy a slice of the old England that we loved, take up croquet and enter for the tournament at Budleigh".

R.H.James

### North West Federation: 1975 Season

At the time of writing this report another season has just come to an end and the pleasant days of summer croquet are once again reduced to fond memory as winter begins to take effect. Not quite reduced to memory, however, at least not in the North West, because there are people still playing croquet here regardless of the winter weather. At Burscough Sports Centre in Lancashire the North West is pioneering a new venture in the croquet world, indoor croquet. The court, a very hard-wearing carpet laid in a new sports hall, is not quite full size, but all equipment used is standard. A word of praise is due to Paul Stoker of the Southport & Birkdale Croquet Club who has been solely responsible for the organisation and arrangement. A full report appears elsewhere in this issue, and I am sure that this will be received with great interest. This venture has been a fitting finale to a successful and enjoyable year for croquet in the North West.

The season started off well with Neil Williams representing England against Scotland, Daten winning the postponed final of the 1974 Longman Cup, and a North West Team defeating the West Midlands at Edgbaston. It continued with many excellent individual performances in tournaments from Bowdon to Budleigh, from Southport to Compton.

Throughout the season an intense local battle was fought for the N.W.F.C.C. League Championship, with four teams taking part this season. Daten determined not to let Ellesmere, the current holders, claim the title for the third year running, and started off well with convincing wins at Bowdon and Southport, whilst Ellesmere narrowly defeated Bowdon. Then followed the two vital matches between the two principals, with each club gaining one victory. The Ellesmere machine then began to fire on all cylinders and completely overwhelmed Southport; with only two games left, the two were level on points. Southport, however, determined to have their say in the matter, then produced their best form to defeat both Daten and Ellesmere, and there was now the possibility of a three way tie. Unfortunately Southport ran out of steam, losing their final match to Bowdon, whilst Daten and Ellesmere both collected two points to share the title.

### FINAL TABLE

	Played	Won	Lost	Games	Points
Daten	6	4	2	21-15	8
Ellesmere	6	4	2	20-14	8
Southport	6	3	3	18-18	6
Bowdon	6	1	5	11-23	2

Extremely successful tournaments were held at Southport and Bowdon, and congratulations are due to Eddie Halliwell and Chris Hudson for their organisation.

Bowdon, Daten, Ellesmere and Southport all report increased membership over the year, and plans are going ahead for a fifth lawn at Southport. Canute hopes to have a lawn next year, but sadly Lytham are still unable to find anywhere to play. Southport in particular have made outstanding progress in recruiting new members, and have been justly awarded the Apps-Heley Award for their contribution to the game during the 1975 season.

I look forward to the 1976 season with complete confidence that the enthusiasm generated in the North West over the last few years will be continued; given a certain degree of luck, who knows what heights we may scale?

Brian Slater, Hon. Sec. North West Federation

## Obituaries

*C.G. Mayo*

To call Gilbert "an Electrical Engineer" (which is how he described himself) is to call a lion a "Pussy-cat". During the War, he was stationed with the British Thompson Houston Company at Rugby, where his inventive genius with Radar and Acoustic mysteries contributed not a little to our victory. Some Acoustic "Bridges" are known as "Mayo Bridges" today.

Gilbert collapsed on the court during a game on Friday 3rd October, and died during the following Sunday night. He was 78 and leaves a widow and a son who bids fair to follow his brilliant father in the electronic field.

He will be remembered by Southwick Members not only for his skill in making and mending their mallets, but for his personality which, difficult and reserved, gradually stamped itself on the Club. Members are going to miss him sadly.

W.H.A.

*A.G.F. Ross*

By the death of Arthur Ross last year Croquet has lost one of the greatest personalities it has ever known. In the ninety years of its emergence from a pastime to a great and subtle game all the three centres where Test Matches are played have known many great performers and a number of great administrators. Arthur was both, but to a visitor to New Zealand he seemed something more than either—a monarch of all he surveyed, and happily content to be so.

Arthur was the son of E.J. Ross, a man generally known as a leading figure in the foundation of the N.Z.C.C.; and his son got on a croquet court at an early age. He won a championship for the first time in 1915, and the New Zealand Open Championship on eleven occasions—five of these successively in the 1920s. He represented his country in four international series of contests for the MacRobertson Shield, and was Captain when New Zealand won it in 1954.

Arthur came over to England only once, in 1954. Despite the fact that by this time he was thought to be a little past his best, Arthur won the Open Championship, beating John Solomon on the way.

Arthur Ross wrote a book 'Croquet and how to play it', which went through several editions. It was not perhaps a great work, but it contained ideas and tips not to be found elsewhere.

New Zealand will never forget him, nor will those, like myself, who enjoyed his hospitality over there. A great player and a great person.

M.B.R.

*Colonel J.G. Clarke*

Those Associates who have joined in the past decade have probably not heard of John Clarke, who gave up competitive play in 1965 when he retired and went to live in Cornwall with his wife. There was no croquet club within a hundred miles, and his garden was on such a slope as to make the construction of even a pocket croquet lawn an impossibility.

John, as a regular soldier, served on the staff of G.H.Q. Cairo for several years in the 1940s, and was able to spend much of his leisure time on the near perfect lawns of the Gezira Club (the lawns were regularly flooded with the water of the Nile, the club being situated on an island in the river). Also playing at Gezira at the time were such good players as Robert Tingey and Albert Saalfeld. John soon became a minus player.

At the end of the War he lived at Shiplake near Henley and was employed at the War Office. His delicate touch and good shooting and tactics won him a place in the President's Cup in 1947, and he won a Silver Medal in 1949. Had he been able to devote more time to competitive croquet, he would have got to the top, but he was ever loyal to his family, to whom he gave most of his leisure time. He did, however, turn out annually to play for Berkshire & Oxfordshire in the Inter-Counties for a number of years.

He did yeoman work on the Council, on which he served from 1949 until 1965, serving throughout this long period on the Finance

and Golf Croquet Committees, being Chairman of the latter for many years.

He retained his link with the croquet world by remaining an Associate, as did his wife. The sincere sympathy of his many friends in the croquet world is extended to her. His quiet charm and humour will long be remembered.

R.F.R.

*Mr A. Rawlinson*

It was sad to receive news of the death, after some months of illness, of Mr Bert Rawlinson, husband of the 1974 New Zealand Test Tour Manager. Correspondents have written recalling the successful and enjoyable visit of the Rawlinsons and the New Zealand Team to the Wolverhampton Club and to the West Midlands Federation in August 1974. Our sympathies go to Mrs Rawlinson.

P.D.H.

*Captain M.F. Buller*

Our world is small; a world of summer games  
Which but a handful play. And of these few the names  
Off fewer still evoke an inward smile  
And pleasing thoughts in all who knew them while  
They played. And Michael's name is one. His wry  
Self-deprecating air, mock-doleful eye,  
His humour, kindness, charm, his gentle face.  
Who can—but no one could—quite take his place.

E.A.M.P.

*W.H. Fordham*

W.H. Fordham, who died on 29 January aged 92, was the oldest Associate of the C.A., having been elected a Life Member in 1907. He rapidly rose to the top class, playing in the President's (then Champion) Cup in 1910 and 1914, and was the last survivor of the Best Tens of this era. He was a highly competitive player, and being invited during a tournament to play a friendly game replied "I do not play croquet for pleasure". He dropped out of croquet in the 1920s, but only four years ago sent a donation of £25 to the C.A. in gratitude for the enjoyment he had derived from the game 60 years ago.

D.M.C.P.

The deaths are also announced of H.P. Jeffery, Mrs E. Douglas and C.D. Batt.

## Croquet world-wide

### The Arizona Croquet Club

We have recently received the first issue, dated October 1975, of "The Arizona Croquet Club Post", which tells us of the conversion, through Captain Forrest Tucker and the Birnam Wood Club in Santa Barbara California, of the Arizona croquet players to English Association Croquet. The following extract from the publication may be of interest:

"Between October 1974 and April 1975 the A.C.C. (Arizona Croquet Club) was not really a serious club. True, the members got together and hammered the ball around a bit, and some attention was given to learning the "real" rules, and coming up with "real" equipment; but it was by going to the Birnam Wood Country Club in Santa Barbara, and seeing what the game really amounts to, that hooked the Founders of the A.C.C. on croquet seriously... As luck would have it, a championship game was on schedule the morning of the A.C.C.'s arrival. And it was in watching this game that the A.C.C. men came to realise what an incredibly complex, demanding, yet fascinating game croquet truly is. Two 12-hoop breaks highlighted the match. It was this match that moved croquet securely from the realms of the slightly ridiculous to the arena of challenge and intellect for the members of the A.C.C....

"The game that the A.C.C. (now) plays is English croquet; that is, our game as distinct from the form of the game that has evolved

in America over the past seventy-odd years. The A.C.C. looks to the Croquet Association in London for guidance on rules."

The Arizona Croquet Club appears to have mainly young men as members, and the average age of the players is claimed to be 32. Their 'conversion' has not meant any loss of the sense of fun or of the kind of social events with which the club began. Their publication includes reference to a croquet afternoon with a special art exhibition and slides about the game of croquet. They speak of a pleasant tradition "of warm weekend afternoons with burgers, drinks and conviviality", and they held a croquet camp on a ranch last summer—"It was everything that croquet ought to be. Sunny afternoons with beer, lots of food, a pool to leap in and out of, horses to ride, walks up and down Ash Creek, and lots of time to beat the ball around a nicely shaded lawn". They say they plan to do this often.

Anyone for croquet in Arizona?

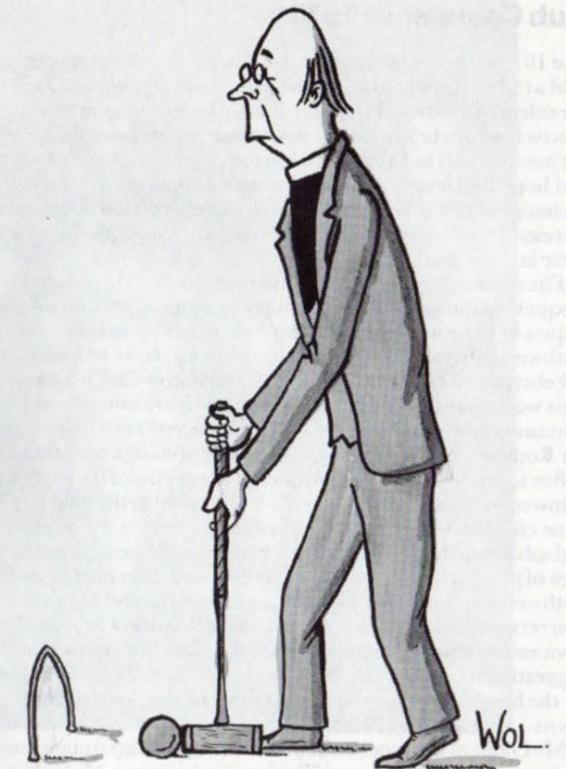
## Croquet in the Azores

Tom Armstrong from Brighton, South Australia, has written to me drawing our attention to an Article he wrote in the Australian Croquet Gazette for February 1969. It appears the islands of the Azores boast quite a number of croquet courts, both hard and grass, and most have lights for evening play (see the photograph on the centre pages). The game is played mostly by young men, and Sunday afternoon is the most popular time. Apparently croquet was the most popular game in the Azores until the 1930s when it was overtaken in popularity by English soccer. Tom Armstrong writes: "The game is like an elaborate golf croquet and the croquet stroke is not used. Wooden boards surround the courts, backed by a substantial wall, so that a ball may be driven "out" of court and rebounds into position for the hoop. One device, formerly used in England, is the cage. The centre hoop is crossed by another at right angles so that a cage is formed and from its centre a bell is suspended. The bell must be rung each time the cage is run. Some may see a religious significance here; priests have been notable performers in the past."

The court setting at San Miguel, the main island, is very similar to the Evesham Setting 1867 (illustrated on the front cover of 'Croquet' for January 1967) and consists of 9 hoops, one turning stick, and one starting and finishing stick. The court in San Miguel is 20 metres long, which corresponds to 65 feet 7 inches, 5 inches only different from the Evesham setting. As can be seen from the photograph of croquet on Santa Maria, the two sticks and the centre hoop are there, but it looks as if there are 11 hoops altogether—perhaps a local adaptation of the Evesham setting. How did this setting arrive in the Azores? Or was croquet brought to England from elsewhere? Tom Armstrong did quite a lot of research and achieved several interesting documents in Portuguese from the local archives of San Miguel and some from Lisbon. These have not yet been fully translated, but they reveal court dimensions of 20 metres by 14, and internal hoop dimensions of 25 centimetres. Your Editor does not possess knowledge of Portuguese, but his limited Spanish suggests to him that the documents reveal that croquet is not known in Portugal, except through a few immigrants. He suspects, however, that the documents, which include court setting with dimensions and complete rules, might if fully translated reveal something of interest. There might also be scope for further research on the earliest references to croquet in the Azores, and where the equipment and rules are likely to have come from.

## Corrigenda

- In the Directory of Clubs published in last December's gazette the entry for Wolverhampton should be amended as follows:  
Delete the telephone number given after the club address.  
After the Secretary's address add the post code WV6 9QG.
- In the 1975 Retrospect on p. 3 of the December gazette it is stated that Dennis Bulloch was only defeated in level play by President's Cup colleagues. In fact he was also beaten by P.W. Elmes at Nottingham and by C.H.J. Cousins at Roehampton.



*The one that remains*

## Attendances at Council and Committee Meetings 1975-6

R.F. Rothwell, Chairman \*, C 4, T 1, F & GP 2, P & D 1, L 1, S 2, Ed 1, Total 12/12.  
D.C. Caporn, Vice-Chairman \*, C 4, F & GP 2, P & D 1, Total 7/10.  
A.J. Oldham, Hon. Treasurer \*, C 4, F & GP 2, P & D 1, Total 7/10.  
G.N. Aspinall, C 4, T 1, Ed 1, Total 6/6.  
I.C. Baillieu, C 3, L 1, S 2, Total 6/7.  
Dr R.W. Bray, C 2, P & D 1, L 1, Total 4/6.  
Mrs E.E. Bressey, C 3, Total 3/5.  
Mrs H.B.H. Carlisle, C 4, P & D 1, Total 5/6.  
Revd W.E. Gladstone, C 3, T 1, S 2, Total 6/7.  
Mrs W. Longman, C 2, P & D 1, Total 3/5.  
G.B. Martin, C 4, T 1, P & D 1, Total 6/6.  
Mrs J.B. Meachem, C 3, F & GP 1, L 1, Total 5/8.  
D.H. Moorcraft, C 2, T 1, Total 3/5.  
Prof. B.G. Neal, C 4, L 1, Hcp 3, Total 8/9.  
Lt-Col D.M.C. Prichard, C 4, T 1, L 1, S 2, Total 8/8.  
C.B. Sanford, C 3, F & GP 1, Total 4/6.  
J.W. Solomon, C 1, S 2, Total 3/7.  
E. Strickland, C 4, T 1, F & GP 2, P & D 1, Total 8/8.  
Mrs B.L. Sundius-Smith, C 4, Hcp 3, Ed 1, Total 8/9.  
S.S. Townsend, C 3, F & GP 2, Hcp 3, Total 8/9.  
Mrs R.E. Tucker, C 2, T 1, Total 3/5.  
R.O.B. Whittington, C 1, T 1, Total 2/6.  
Dr W.R.D. Wiggins, C 3, L 1, Total 4/5.  
N. Williams, C 2, Total 2/5.

Key: C denotes Council, T Tournaments, F & GP Finance and General Purposes, P & D Publicity and Development, L Laws, Hcp Handicap Co-ordination, S Selection, Ed Editorial Board. The total shows the total attendances against the total possible attendances.

\* denotes Ex-officio all meetings except Handicap Co-ordination and Selection Committees.

## Club Conference 1975

The 1975 Club Conference, attended by more than 60 people, was held at The Hurlingham Club on Saturday 6 December. Our new President, Mr Edward Duffield, opened proceedings at 11 a.m. precisely with a brief message of welcome. He stressed the interest the members of the Council took in the views of ordinary players and hoped the occasion would provide an opportunity for a useful exchange of views. He noted the recent spread of new clubs and the increased number of working (non-retired) people playing croquet these last few years.

The morning session was to have been devoted to a talk on croquet equipment by Mr Christopher Jaques. Unfortunately Mr Jaques became indisposed the day before the Conference, and Mr Rothwell gallantly filled the gap by reading a paper he had written in February 1975 "Notes on the Construction of Croquet Lawns". This was a very full and painstakingly written document, which contained much technical detail but was listened to with interest. Mr Rothwell's paper is now available free of charge from the C.A. Office to any who may be interested. The reading of the paper was followed by questions, the first of which related to the difficulty some clubs had experienced in obtaining hollow tining machines and advice on the best kind of machine to use. When asked how an area of playing field could be adapted to make a croquet lawn, Mr Rothwell recommended ploughing up, levelling and re-seeding. He also recommended putting top-soil into low parts of an uneven lawn rather than rolling and seeking to reduce high spots. The suggestion was noted that the C.A. try to obtain favourable terms for the hire of machinery and other items needed for the care of lawns.

Mr Oldham then spoke about the new C.A. subscription rates and stressed the usefulness of Bankers Order forms. Mr Caporn introduced the idea of the discussion in small groups which was to take place in the afternoon. He read two letters supporting better coverage of weekend tournaments in the gazette, and greater use of weekends for C.A. events to enable working players to play in them. He expected strong reactions to this last proposal, but these did not really materialise. Since a part of the afternoon's discussion was to concern priorities for the gazette, the Editor thought fit to remind the assembled company of the results of the 1972 gazette questionnaire. He said that if it was desired to reduce the space allotted to tournament results, five possible schemes could be discussed. These were as follows: (A) to print results straight along the line, as with the *Daily Telegraph* tennis results, and set winners' names in heavier type; (B) to have some form of results broadsheet duplicated rather than printed; (C) to refer to competitors by numbers; (D) to omit reference to early rounds; (E) to give results of major C.A. events in full, but only results from quarter- or semi-final stage in the case of club events.

The President, Mr Duffield, then gave out the following trophies: *The Apps Bowl* to T.J. Wood of A.E.R.E. Harwell, *The Steel Bowl* to Marion Hemsted of Hurlingham, and *The Apps-Heley Award* to the Southport & Birkdale Club. He also presented a *C.A. Silver Medal* to A.Hope and the *Inter-Club Championship Trophy* to Professor Neal for Hurlingham.

The following hour and a half was devoted to drinking, lunching and conversation. A display of various types of indoor croquet equipment was on show. Proceedings resumed at 2 p.m., when the company divided into 5 groups, under the chairmanship of Revd P.D.Hallett, Mrs D.M.C.Prichard, Mr A.J.Oldham, Mr E.Duffield and Professor B.G.Neal. To this writer's knowledge group work had not previously been used by the C.A. at the Club Conference or on other occasions. People felt the afternoon to be a success because smaller groups of 12-14 people encouraged people to speak who would hesitate to do so in a larger company. People did express their opinions frankly, and many useful suggestions came out of the Conference.

At about 3.40 p.m. the groups joined together to hear the five chairmen summarise the views of their respective groups on the topics discussed. The first area of discussion concerned how growth might be encouraged, and how the C.A. could help in this. (Only a few of the many views expressed on this and other topics can be

given here.) The general opinion on the first topic seemed to be that the C.A. should encourage growth, and further that strong established clubs should encourage smaller clubs and groups in their areas and seek opportunities of encouraging schools, industries etc. to take up the game. The opinion was expressed that a demonstration with loud-hailer commentary was a good thing, but that such a game should not include lifts; much 'after care' should follow a demonstration, and potential players should be given a mallet in their hands at the earliest opportunity. Large clubs can help smaller by encouraging regular matches for players of similar handicaps; this could also benefit 'B' class players in the larger clubs. Leagues were generally felt to be a good thing. Correct information about how the game is played, where clubs may be found etc. should be widely disseminated through all useful channels, and personal contacts are important. Halogen lights placed at the corners of courts can prolong the hours during which play is possible. Various forms of shortened games for beginners and others were discussed. The Conference provided a useful opportunity for Clubs to pass on useful tips about publicity and how to encourage beginners.

The second area of discussion concerned possible changes in tournament conditions. Suggestions for overcoming accommodation difficulties were requested, and opinions sought on possible changes in the Calendar and in the game. We heard that in some clubs a *bisque* is used for re-taking a shot that fails to achieve its purpose, and in other clubs for continuing a turn but not to gain the innings. The 1976 West Park experiment of running an Open Block in a Weekend Tournament was commended, and the need expressed to provide weekend players with opportunities for Open and Level play, as well as handicap play. Double-banking should be accepted as part of the normal conditions of the competitive game. There seemed to be very little support for running C.A. events in two weekends as opposed to one whole week, but many, though not all, favoured more weekend tournaments, preferably with opportunities for Open and Level play. Some favoured the Swiss Draw rather than the Big Handicap for the main handicap event of a week's tournament, as more play for each player resulted. As regards accommodation, support was voiced from many quarters for the C.A. to encourage clubs to draw up a list of accommodation locally available, including hotels, bed and breakfast, and club members willing to take guests, but it was also stressed that lady club members could not be expected to play, provide club lunches and teas, and to entertain as well—it was just too much. Perhaps tournament entry forms might include reference to accommodation desired. The C.A. or Clubs might consider recommending a standard rate for bed and breakfast accommodation. Many people said that gymkhanas formed a useful area of club play, and it is hoped to publish a full account in the gazette of how one or more gymkhanas are run, with an opportunity for further correspondence.

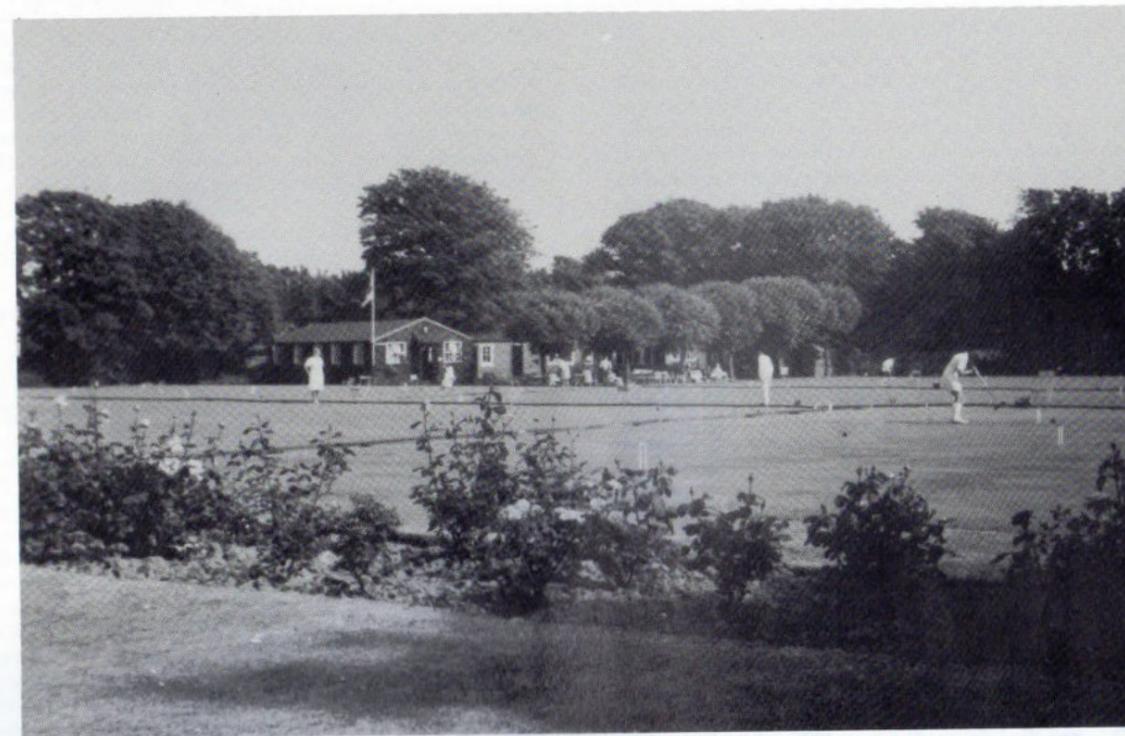
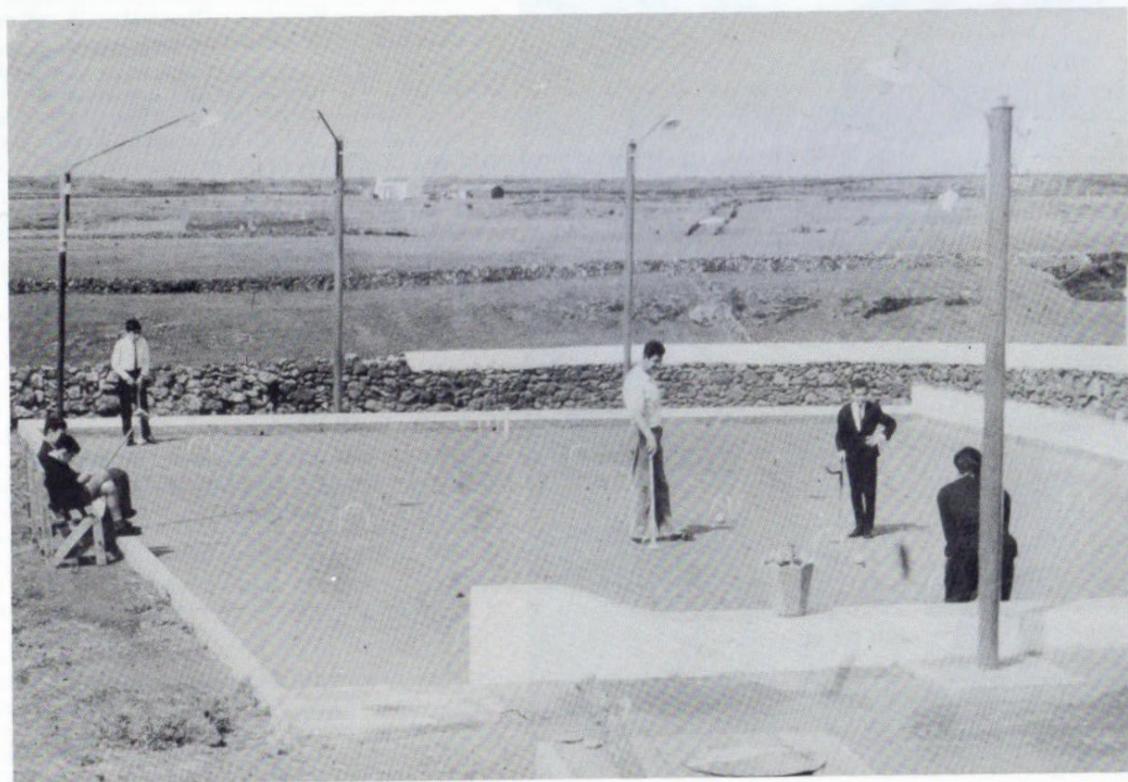
The third topic for discussion was devolution, of which the difficulties seemed to be more apparent than the advantages; there was very little support for the idea. The fifth topic concerned tactics, and there was no time to consider this. The fourth concerned the balance of tournament material and Articles in the gazette; suggestions for improvement in the gazette were requested. The President was kind enough to propose a vote of thanks to the Editor, and this was greeted with applause. The Editor had said in the morning session that he currently had a considerable backlog of Articles; many regretted that this should be the case, as the general feeling seemed to be that Articles, especially short ones of a general nature, were the most important part of the gazette. Opinion was divided as to whether people would be willing to pay increased C.A. subscriptions with a view to obtaining more and larger gazettes, but all seemed agreed that the gazette at its present high standard was an essential part of the C.A.'s activities. There was clearly support for setting tournament results out more concisely, and this has since been discussed at the appropriate levels. The suggestion was made that a combined report of club tournaments might be made for each issue of the gazette. More club news and photos of new clubs were requested. The recent longer reports of Council Proceedings were generally



Indoor Croquet at the Burscough Sports Centre. Above: The first ball about to be struck by the Chairman of West Lancs. Council, Councillor Miss May Cropper. Mrs Nell Tyldesley, Chairman of the North West Federation, is on her right. Left: Paul Stoker attempts a hoop during the first session. These photos are here reproduced by permission of 'The Ormskirk Advertiser'.



Above: Croquet at Hurlingham. Photographs were taken by the Editor. Below: Croquet at Santa Maria, in the Azores, in 1967. Note the flood-lighting. The photo was sent to us by Mr T.Armstrong.



Two photographs sent by Mr Scarr. Above: Southwick during the Gilbeys 1975. Below: Tea Time at the Bristol Croquet Club. Back Row (left to right): Miss B.Setter (Sec.), Mrs S.Scarr, Mr B.Casson, Col. P.Hallward, Miss K.Ault, Mrs R.Harris. Front Row (left to right): Mrs V.Ormerod (Pres.), Miss C.Freeman, Mrs V.Jupe.



Easily set up. No damage whatever to the Table Cover.  
HOOPS IMMOVABLE DURING PLAY.

# BUSSEY'S TABLE CROQUET

(STRONG'S PATENT)

The Regulation Game in Miniature.



A most Delightful and Fascinating Game, which cannot fail to charm.

Table Croquet before 1914. For details see Editorial Notes—Photographs.

welcomed. Some people would like new members, changes of address etc. omitted from the gazette, as these are given in Directory Amendment Sheets in any case; the Chairman's and Tournament Committee Chairman's Reports in the April gazette might reasonably be made into a single Article. Many felt that not enough was being done to secure better coverage of tournament results in the National Press, and there was some support for the appointment of a C.A. Press Officer.

The appropriate Council Committees have since discussed many of the opinions and recommendations expressed at the Conference, but the results of these discussions are not recorded in this report.

P.D.H.

### How Much Time Is Needed

I have always been fascinated by organisational problems, so when I found croquet I naturally became interested in the mechanics of management. A number of practices mystified me: for instance no one, in 1970, knew how long matches actually took, or how many matches a court could support in a day other than by a hunch (which turned out to be wrong). So I set out to produce some evidence. For over four seasons now I have been accumulating records about the time matches take. This article notes some of the facts I have found out.

As an introduction three random facts are mentioned. Players in the handicap span 2½ to 5 (new handicaps used throughout) take on average 2½ hours to play those of similar handicap, on handicap, but need 2¾ hours if they play level. Of the 336 Open games timed 70% finished within 2¼ hours, the average being within a minute of 2 hours. Games involving 13 bisquers and above playing each other take on average more than 4 hours to reach a conclusion. From the foregoing it will come as no surprise that in fact the average duration of matches relates absolutely to the handicaps of the participants.

The rest of this article deals exclusively with matters affecting Handicap Singles. The records I have come from handicap singles of all kinds, the Big Handicap of the week-long tournaments, both X and Y, the American and Swiss non-knockouts, including those which took place in weekend events.

The table below shows the average time needed for the various groups of handicaps to complete their games. All their handicap matches have been included, taking the whole range of opponents into account. Column 1 lists the groups of handicaps used (see Note 2 for the justification of these groupings). Column 2 records the number of matches timed. Column 3 gives the average duration of their matches, to the nearest 5 minutes, there being no time limit (see Note 1 for my treatment of time limits). Column 4 gives the duration of their matches, to the nearest 5 minutes, under a 3-hour time limit.

Handicap range	Matches	No time limit	3-hour limit
0 and lower	410	1 hour 55 min.	1 hour 55 min.
+½ to 2	477	2 hours 10 min.	2 hours 05 min.
2½ to 3½	244	2 hours 20 min.	2 hours 15 min.
4 to 5	406	2 hours 30 min.	2 hours 20 min.
5½ to 6½	393	2 hours 35 min.	2 hours 25 min.
7 to 8½	324	2 hours 50 min.	2 hours 30 min.
9 to 12	395	2 hours 50 min.	2 hours 30 min.
13 to 16	316	3 hours 00 min.	2 hours 30 min.

The average of all handicap singles, when there is a spread of bisquers throughout the whole handicap range, as in the usual Big Handicap events is 2 hours 30 minutes without any time limit and 2 hours 20 minutes under a 3-hour time limit. If a group of bisquers is unrepresented or one is heavily represented, these will alter a little the over-all average, as the table above indicates. However, there is a little room for latitude, as the figures my records produce are on the high side because:

- (a) No adjustment has been made should a player happen to be slow through lameness or other physical reason.
- (b) At tournaments I record only in multiples of 5 minutes.
- (c) In analysis the unit I use is quarter-hours.

For example, if a match started at 10.08 a.m. and ended at 12.13, it would go in my book at the time as 10.05 and 12.15. Later it would become a match of 9 quarter-hours. I have done this as it is as well to err on the high side. It gives a margin to cover the end of one match and the beginning of the next, and it also helps to cover the extra minutes needed when time has to be called. Incidentally, at stage (c) the identity of the players is lost. The record simply shows that, for example, a 6 beat a 3 in 11 quarter-hours in a non-knockout event.

There is a general belief that the pressure of a knockout match, as opposed to one of the American kind, adds to the length of the game. This is true, or at least knockout games do seem to take longer. The average knockout timed has taken between 5 and 10 minutes longer than the average non-knockout, taking all my records into account. However, in case there was bias from the effect of different lawns, club's attitude to attacking play, etc., I compared those knockout handicap singles played at Cheltenham with those American/Swiss ones timed there. The 274 knockouts averaged 2 hours 25 minutes under a 3-hour time limit and 2 hours 35 minutes without a time limit. The 821 non-knockouts needed 2 hours 10 minutes under a 3-hour time limit and 2 hours 20 minutes without. A difference of 15 minutes in each case, at Cheltenham. The sample seems big enough to give reliable answers, but the fact that they differ from the over-all pattern introduces doubt. Furthermore, there is another factor which may be significant. Only one of the six knockout tournaments was played under any time limit at all (a small event contributing only 13% of the total timed) whereas all the non-knockouts were limited, one to 3½ hours, two to 3¾ hours and the rest, 75% of the games, to 3 hours. Perhaps a time limit hastens play? However, until I have more evidence, and I shall hope to record some untimed non-knockouts, I shall take it that knockouts do take longer.

It will perhaps be asked what is the use of all this. The smart ones will, I suppose, claim they knew it all instinctively, while others may feel that averages are too vague to be of use in any particular case. I would say that it was the realisation that handicap singles under a 3-hour time limit took only about 2¼ hours on average that led the Cheltenham Club to raise the number of games to be got through in its weekend tournaments first from 75 to 90, a rate of 2½–3 games a day on each of its 10 lawns, and then, in 1974, to no less than 105 games, a rate of 3½ games a lawn. In addition, I have found the table given above useful in deciding lawn allocation to bring about high lawn occupation, an essential in crowded tournaments. Occasionally too I have used the full range of timing differences, given in the table in the Appendix, to fit games tidily between meals in an attempt to avoid making people break off in the middle of their match. Especially useful, as the information also applies to handicap Class Events, has been the following which is abstracted from the Appendix. This shows the time needed when 'handicaps play themselves', i.e. when both players are within the same handicap group. Column 1 lists the group of handicaps. Column 2 gives the number of matches timed. Column 3 shows the average duration to the nearest 5 minutes, without time limit. Column 4 gives the average under a 3-hour time limit.

Handicap range	Matches	No time limit	3-hour time limit
0 and lower	52	1 hour 45 min.	1 hour 45 min.
+½ to 2	58	2 hours 15 min.	2 hours 10 min.
2½ to 3½	11*	2 hours 10 min.	2 hours 10 min.
4 to 5	43	2 hours 40 min.	2 hours 25 min.
5½ to 6½	52	2 hours 55 min.	2 hours 35 min.
7 to 8½	48	3 hours 10 min.	2 hours 45 min.
9 to 12	67	3 hours 15 min.	2 hours 45 min.
13 to 16	38	4 hours 10 min.	2 hours 50 min.

\* Hardly large enough to give a reliable answer.

One of the facts these figures have brought out is the surprisingly little over-all effect of a 3-hour time limit — 10 minutes on each game, at the most 35 minutes a day! There is nothing especially splendid in finishing one's games more

quickly than others, indeed pity the poor minus player who has much less time in play than others do! What seems to be important is that it should be generally understood that in the ordinary way the imposition of a time limit affects the higher bisquers only, predominantly the 9s and over. Perhaps there should be a sliding scale of time limits so that all players are equally subject to the restriction. The lower bisquers should surely be able to cope with the problem! It does seem wrong to inflict this unique croquet ending (with its unusual factors) almost exclusively on those very people, often beginners, who are in need of experience of the true end game. A famous young player scotches the idea of a sliding time scale in favour of curtailing the game itself and so achieving parity in length of play without recourse to time limits. Everyone would then have a complete game. There is much merit in the idea. I hope some club will try it out in one of its tournaments. Perhaps the limits might be: a full game when the sum of the handicaps is 15 or less; a 14-point game when the sum is 25 or more; with divisions in between to permit 22- and 18-point games.

Finally, a word for a 3¼-hour time limit rather than a 3-hour one. When Managers feel they have to employ a time limit, the records imply that it will make practically no difference to the length of the playing day, but much to the true completion of several games if a 3¼-hour limit is given preference. As has been shown, it is easy to spot which games will go to 3 hours or more. Often these can be put on first thing. An ending at about 1.15 rather than 1 o'clock will 'cost' the Manager nothing, as the next players will probably be fed and ready for battle by then. However, that extra 15 minutes will have brought about a true ending or two. Almost half the matches involving 6 bisquers and below which went beyond 3 hours actually did end within the next 15 minutes. How many more would have done so? Indeed, the figures show that something like 1 in 5 matches going beyond 3 hours would have ended within ¾ hours.

Just in case there is misunderstanding, I repeat that all these facts and remarks apply exclusively to singles matches played on handicap.

*Note 1.* Where matches have gone to time, I have recorded them in one of two ways:

(A) When I could find out where the clips were at time I have used the following table (Time being 3 or ¾ hours)

If the sum of clips was	Record the game would have ended in
47 or more	¾ hours
46 - 41	¾ hours
40 - 38	4 hours
37 - 34	4½ hours
33	5 hours
32 - 30	5½ hours
29 or less	6 hours

(B) If I don't know about the clips, I simply recorded a likely 4-hour duration.

I know statisticians will laugh at my table. A prime objective was to err on the high side. With some knowledge now of what actually happens in long games, I could re-compile the table, but it does not seem worth it. For the life of me I cannot remember now why I devised the table as I did in 1971!

*Note 2.* Any method of grouping handicaps is open to objection. Mine no doubt is no exception. A spread of 32 handicaps is unwieldy, however, and would fail in the objective of showing the likely length of matches. In support of my grouping I would say: it makes a break between scratch and +½, where thereabouts a true break does occur (another occurs at about -2½, but there are not enough regular tournament players at this level to warrant recognition of this); it accords reasonably with the Class groupings in the everyday tournaments; it produces a fairly consistent spread of matches, as of course it

ought to, except for poor 2½ and 3 which seem to have incurred the handicappers' hate.

*Appendix.* The table below shows the average times for handicap singles by groupings, above the diagonal line under no time limit, below when the limit was 3 hours, in each case to the nearest 5 minutes. The figures given in the last column show the over-all average, all games included, for each group of handicaps without time limit. The figures given along the bottom line show the influence of a 3-hour time limit on those figures.

Groups of Handicaps	0 and below	+½ to 2	2½ to 3½	4 to 5	5½ to 6½	7 to 8	9 to 12	13 to 16	
0 and below	1.45	1.45	2.00	2.00	1.55	2.05	2.00	2.05	1.55
+½ to 2	1.45	2.15	2.00	2.05	2.10	2.30	2.20	2.20	2.10
2½ to 3½	2.00	2.00	2.10	2.40	2.30	2.20	2.35	2.15	2.20
4 to 5	2.00	2.05	2.30	2.40	2.40	2.45	2.45	2.50	2.30
5½ to 6½	1.55	2.10	2.20	2.25	2.55	3.05	2.50	2.55	2.35
7 to 8	2.05	2.20	2.20	2.25	2.35	3.10	3.20	3.30	2.50
9 to 12	2.00	2.15	2.25	2.30	2.35	2.45	3.15	3.15	2.50
13 to 16	2.00	2.15	2.10	2.35	2.40	2.45	2.45	4.10	3.00
	1.55	2.05	2.15	2.20	2.25	2.30	2.30	2.30	

## Handicap Alterations

*Budleigh Salterton Weekend: September 26-28*

Before Play: Mrs H.G.T. Bolton 15 to 14; Mrs P.A. Tunmer 7 to 6; M.Ormerod 6\*, A.Ormerod 15\*.

After Play: B.G. Bucknall 9 to 7½; C.Hudson 8 to 7½; Miss M.J. Lodge 7 to 6½; Mrs M.Grout 12 to 11; C.A. Grout 14 to 13; M.Ormerod 6\* to 5; A.Ormerod 15\* to 15.

*Devonshire Park (second week): September 29 - October 4*

A.F. Coleman 5 to 3½; R.E. Wallis 7 to 6; Mrs E.C. Tyrwhitt Drake 9 to 8; Mrs R.A. Simpson 3 to 2½; Dr S.R.C. Malin 7 to 6; Col. G.T. Wheeler 5 to 4.

*Compton Club Recommendations*

E. Strickland 10 to 8; Mrs D.M. White 12 to 10; Lt-Col D.F.T. Brown 11 to 9.

*Rochampton: September 15-20*

Dr E.W. Solomon 2 to 0; C.H.J. Cousins 2 to 1½; J.C. Ruddock 5 to 4; M.G. Pearson 6 to 5; Mrs B. Mansfield 12 to 10; Mrs W.G. Jones 12 to 10.

*Cheltenham V: October 10-12*

D.G. Richardson 4 to 3½; J. McLaren 4½ to 4; Captain P.H.S. Reid 13 D12 to 12.

*Increases following appeal or at own request*

H.O. Hicks -3 to -1; Mrs H.F.L. Jenking 8 to 10; Mrs W. Longman 1 to 2½; H.A. Sheppard 1½ to 3; Mrs B.G. Weitz 2½ to 3; Miss I.M. Roe 5 to 6.

*Reductions made by the Handicap Co-ordination Committee*

Miss B. Duthie 2 to 1½; Mrs J.B. Meachem 1½ to ½; C.H.L. Prichard -1 to -1½; D.V.H. Rees -½ to -1.

*Budleigh Salterton Club Recommendations*

Col. W.R. Healing ½ to 0; C. Edwards 3 to 2½; P.K. Devitt 6 to 5; Mrs S.S. Cruden 8 to 7; Mrs E.M. Pursey 12.

*Colchester Club Recommendations*

G.S. Digby 4 to 3½; F.E.M. Puxon 7½ to 7; Mrs G.F. Hallett 12 to 10; Dr W. Dean 13 to 12.

*Parkstone Club Recommendations*

Mrs L.L. Duveen 10 to 9; Air Commodore J.H. Greswell 5 to 4½; Miss A.M. Ryan 13 to 12; Mrs D. Mitchell 16 D13 to 15 D13.

*Parsons Green Club Recommendations*

P.E. Callan 15 to 11; Mrs S. Farlie 7 to 6; G. Frost 15 to 13.

*Phyllis Court Club Recommendations*

H.G.B. Wagnell 10 to 9; D. Croker 16 to 14.

*Southwick Club Recommendations*

H.J. Betts 9 to 6; L.M. Bromfield 14 to 12; Mrs L.M. Bromfield 14\* to 12; L.E. Brookes 5 to 4; D.M. Bull 6 to 5; G.T. Coates 11 to 10; F. Harrison 14 to 11; Mrs F. Harrison 14 to 11; Mrs E.H.P. Mallinson 7 to 5; Mrs F.F.W. Staddon 6 to 5; F.F.W. Staddon 6 to 5; Mrs R.E. Tucker 5 to 4½; I.G. Vincent 1 to ½; Mrs H. Wells 5 to 4½; G.F. Paxon 6 to 5.

*Woking Club Recommendations*

C.J. Caesar 12 to 11 D9; Mrs M. Nalder 7 to 6½.

*Wolverhampton Club Recommendations*

Mrs D. de Q. Lenfestey 11 to 9; H.R. Stanley 11 to 9; Mrs K.F.W. Townsend 12 to 11.

*Cheltenham Club Recommendation*

A. Blenkin 10 to 9.

*Stourbridge Club Recommendations*

W. Loynes 6½; Mrs P. Meredith 14; M.G. Tompkinson 6; D. Willetts 6; Mrs D. Willetts 8.

*Other Reduction*

Lt-Col E.D. Tims 3 to 2.

## Annual General Meeting to be held at The Hurlingham Club on Monday 31st May 1976 at 11.30 a.m.

### Agenda

- MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS A.G.M.  
These Minutes were published on pages 21 and 22 of issue number 136 (August 1975) of the Croquet Gazette.
- THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS
- CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
- TREASURER'S REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR 1975  
The Accounts are published elsewhere in this issue.
- ELECTION OF A VICE-PRESIDENT UNDER RULE V  
The Council recommends that J.W. Solomon be elected a Vice-President.
- ELECTION OF TREASURER UNDER RULE VIII  
The retiring Treasurer, Mr A.J. Oldham, offers himself for re-election.

## 7. ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL UNDER RULE VI

The following members of the Council retire by rotation under Rule II(a) and offer themselves for re-election:

I.C. Baillieu, Dr R.W. Bray, Mrs H.B.H. Carlisle, A.J. Oldham, R.F. Rothwell, E. Strickland, Mrs B.L. Sundius-Smith.

R.O.B. Whittington would also have been due to retire under Rule II(a), but in fact retired on 9 February 1976.

Revd W.E. Gladstone, who would have had one year to serve after 31 May 1976, retired on 25 November 1975.

J.W. Solomon, who would have had two years more to serve, retires on 31 May; but see Item 5 above.

There are thus ten vacancies to be filled and seven candidates presenting themselves for re-election.

As of 10 March, two other candidates have been proposed (more can be proposed up to 10 May): R.A. Godby, proposed by Lt-Col D.M.C. Prichard and seconded by Mrs Prichard; A.B. Hope, proposed by R.F. Rothwell and seconded by Revd W.E. Gladstone.

## 8. ELECTION OF AUDITORS

Messrs Nicholass, Ames & Co offer themselves for re-election.

## 9. AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF THE ASSOCIATION

### (A) SUBSCRIPTIONS. RULE XXIII

If in the autumn of any year it appears to the officers that an increase in the rates of membership subscription is necessary, it is extremely difficult for them to procure the summoning of a Special General Meeting in time to effect the changes before the end of the year. It has therefore in practice been necessary to await the next Annual General Meeting and ask it to authorise the change a year later than would have been desirable. In an inflationary situation this might have serious consequences. The Council therefore considers that Rule XXIII should be so amended as to give to Council the power to effect such changes, with limiting safeguards. The Council proposes the following amendments:

1. Delete the existing section (i) and substitute:

- (i) The categories of membership and the annual subscriptions payable shall be determined by the Council from time to time, provided that—
- No subscription shall be raised by more than 50% above the rate payable for the previous year without the approval of a General Meeting of the Association; AND
  - Associates shall be notified by 1st December of any alteration of subscriptions for the following year. This information may be conveyed either in "Croquet" or by post.

2. Add after the new section (i) the following new section:
- (ii) The annual subscription may be compounded by one payment carrying Associateship for Life, at such rate as shall be determined by the Council (subject to Rule XX).
3. Existing Sections (ii) and (iii) shall be re-numbered (iii) and (iv).

### (B) DATE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. RULE III

The Council proposes the following amendment to Rule III:

After "May" in the penultimate line, insert "or June".

## 10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1975**

Year to 31.12.74 £		£		£
	<b>INCOME</b>			
2,097	Subscriptions	2,129.22		
319	Affiliation Fees and Overseas Members	353.82		
422	Levy	395.48		
22	Tribute	24.00		
731	Sale of Books, Laws, etc.	975.42		
681	Income from Investments (net)	452.56		
<u>4,272</u>		<u>4,330.50</u>		
102	Less: Deficit on Tournaments (net)	11.28		
<u>4,170</u>		<u>4,319.22</u>		
	<b>Less: Expenditure</b>			
1,794	Magazine, less Income from Advertisements	1,870.02		
<u>2,376</u>		<u>2,449.20</u>		
	<b>General Overheads</b>			
429	Office Rent, Lighting, Heating and Cleaning	802.27		
1,749	Staff Salaries	2,268.36		
357	Postage and Telephone	470.52		
1,422	Printing and Stationery	870.90		
105	Insurance	182.98		
188	Sundry Expenses	188.19		
125	Audit and Accountancy Charges	150.00		
178	Maintenance of Office, Furniture and Equipment	24.56		
<u>4,553</u>		<u>4,957.78</u>		
1,607	Expenditure on Development Scheme — Publicity and Coaching	2,121.10		
<u>6,160</u>		<u>7,078.88</u>		
3,300	Development Grant	4,200.00		
225	Income from Courses, Hire of Equipment etc.	533.73		
<u>2,635</u>		<u>4,733.73</u>		
<u>£259</u> (Deficit)		<u>£104.05</u>		
		<u>£104.05</u>		
	<i>Excess of Income over Expenditure</i>	<u>£104.05</u>		

**INVESTMENTS HELD AT 31st DECEMBER 1975**

Nominal Value £		Cost £		Market Value £
	<b>QUOTED INVESTMENTS</b>			
1,260.00	Grand Metropolitan Hotels Limited 8½% Unsecured Loan Stock 1978/80	1,272.92		963
140.00	Midland Bank Limited. £1 Ordinary Shares	253.43		406
218.15	3¼% War Stock	115.50		53
400.00	The New Throgmorton Trust Limited Income Shares of 25p each	478.75		200
275.00	Telephone and General Trust Ordinary Shares of 25p each	1,811.74		1,562
141.75	Drayton Premier Investment Trust Ordinary Shares of 25p each	186.64		980
2,000.00	City of Worcester 11 3/8% Bonds 5.1.1977	2,006.00		2,000
		<u>6,124.98</u>		<u>£6,164</u>
	<b>UNQUOTED INVESTMENTS</b>			
	Rochampton Country Club £1 Shares	10.00		
	Abbey National Building Society	1,200.00		
	Britannia Building Society	3,405.39		
		<u>£10,740.37</u>		

**STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AS AT 31st DECEMBER 1975**

As at 31.12.74 £		£		£
	<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
200	Office Furniture and Equipment, at written down value	200.00		
5,000	Trophies, estimated to realise	7,000.00		
9,223	Investments, as per attached schedule	10,740.37		
<u>14,423</u>		<u>17,940.37</u>		
	<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
986	Sundry Debtors and Prepayments	1,023.28		
1,812	Cash in Hand and at Bank	664.85		
<u>2,798</u>		<u>1,688.13</u>		
<u>17,221</u>		<u>19,628.50</u>		
	<b>LESS: CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
213	Subscriptions received in Advance	535.38		
1,429	Accrued Expenses	1,203.63		
3	Taxation	40.00		
<u>1,645</u>		<u>1,779.01</u>		
<u>£15,576</u>		<u>£17,849.49</u>		
	<b>REPRESENTED BY</b>			
7,304	Accumulated General Fund, as at 1st January 1975	10,145.91		
—	Add: Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year	104.05		
—	Surplus on Redemption of Investments	291.41		
3,000	Increase in realisable value of Trophies	2,000.00		
101	Capital Gains Tax overprovided last year	—		
<u>10,405</u>		<u>12,541.37</u>		
259	Less: Excess of Expenditure over Income for the year	—		
<u>10,146</u>		<u>1,725.00</u>		
1,795	Life Membership Fund	215.50		
215	Apps Heley Memorial Fund	367.09		
419	Dominion Tour Fund	3,000.53		
3,001	Benefactors Fund	—		
<u>£15,576</u>		<u>£17,849.49</u>		

R.F.Rothwell, Chairman of the Council

A.J.Oldham, Hon. Treasurer

We have examined the books, vouchers and other records maintained by The Croquet Association for the year and obtained such further information as considered necessary. To the best of our knowledge and belief the above Statement of Accounts and the annexed Income and Expenditure Account give a true and fair view of the state of affairs as at 31st December, 1975 and of the Surplus of Income over Expenditure earned in the year to that date.

Kipling House  
43 Villiers Street  
London WC2N 6NJ

5th February, 1976

NICHOLASS, AMES & CO.,  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

**Treasurer's Report on the 1975 Accounts**

Expenditure on general overheads has continued to rise, but with the assistance of an increased Development Grant from the Sports Council covering 75% of our expenditure on development, publicity and coaching, and also a part of our administration costs, we have finished the year with a small surplus of income.

Net income from investments shown for 1975 is lower than the net income shown for 1974 for two related reasons; firstly, income received in 1974 was inflated by £176 which had been deferred from earlier years; secondly, the full amount of the tax due on this extra income was not charged in the 1974 accounts and the additional amount due has had to be brought into the 1975 accounts, so reducing the net income abnormally. Based on the investments held at 31 December 1975 we may expect to receive a net income of over £550 in 1976.

The response of Associates to the increase in subscription rates has been encouraging, but the financial out-turn for 1976 depends ultimately on the size of this year's Development Grant and the extent to which the rising costs of the magazine and of administration overheads can be contained.

A.J.Oldham,  
Hon. Treasurer  
8th March 1976.

**Extracts from Proceedings at Council Meetings**

**NOVEMBER 15th 1975**

- Mr Reckitt spoke feelingly about A.G.F (Arthur) Ross who died recently and who had been a mainstay of croquet in New Zealand for a great many years and whose books on the game were read worldwide.
- Professor Neal, Chairman of the Laws Committee, reported on proposed alterations to the Laws to legalise alternative coloured balls. These were approved by the Council and will be published in the gazette before being reconsidered by the Council in accordance with Rule XIV.
- It was agreed that the match against Scotland should be played at Gleneagles Hotel in Perthshire on 12-13 June, and that Professor Neal be left to make all arrangements, including our team selection.
- Dr Bray expressed the view that a working party should be established to express our views on such matters as the length of each match in the 1978-9 Test Series. Professor Neal gave notice of Motion to set up a working party at the next Council meeting.
- Mrs Sundius-Smith announced her resignation as Chairman of the Editorial Board owing to her mayoral duties, and Mr

Rothwell was confirmed as Acting Chairman until the next meeting of the Board.

6. Mr Caporn, Chairman of the *ad hoc* Committee formed to look into the question of the production of a new Handbook, reported that the Committee recommended printing of the Rules of the Association separately and omitting also the List of Clubs which appeared in the gazette once a year, and that the other material be pruned by giving tournament winners only from 1919. After considerable discussion it was decided in principle to produce a Handbook of historical records, possibly as loose leaf or comb binding, and that the matter be referred back to the Committee.
7. It was decided to support the Sports Council's "Sport for All Week" to be held in London and various centres in September 1976. It was agreed to give power to the Association's Officers, as a decision would have to be made before Council next met, to alter the date of Eights Week, so that it coincides with "Sport for All Week" (September 12-19).
8. The date of the next Annual General Meeting was fixed for Monday 31 May at Hurlingham (Spring Bank Holiday) after discussion on holding it at Cheltenham during the Caskets Week. It was agreed to make arrangements to alter the Rules of the Association to make it possible to hold the A.G.M. during the month of May or June.
9. The Council confirmed nominations for the Apps Bowl (T.I. Wood of A.E.R.E. Harwell), the Steel Bowl (Mrs S.R. Hemsted of Hurlingham) and the Apps-Heley Award (Southport & Birkdale Club).

#### MARCH 6th 1976

1. The resignations from the Council from Revd W.E. Gladstone (25 November 1975), R.O.B. Whittington (9 February 1976) and J.W. Solomon (31 May 1976) were accepted with regret.
2. The Council voted unanimously to make M.B. Reckitt a Life Associate and to recommend to Associates at the next A.G.M. that J.W. Solomon be made a Vice-President.
3. Professor Neal reported that he had received a letter from the New Zealand Council that they agreed to the proposed amendments of the Laws to permit Double Banking and use of Alternative Coloured Balls.  
Dr Wiggins, recently back from a visit to Australia, reported that the Australian Council would also agree to the changes, with the proviso that time limits could not be applied to double banked games.  
The proposed alterations are published elsewhere in this issue of the gazette.
4. The Chairman reported that, as the Clubs concerned had no objection, he had taken action to alter the C.A. Calendar so that the Eights Week in September would now be one week later than originally announced, so that the three Invitation Eights would take place during the Sports Council's "Sport for All Week" (12-18 September 1976.)
5. Mrs Rotherham asked that "Swiss" tournaments (which are mentioned in the 1976 Fixtures Book) should be given legislative sanction in the C.A. Regulations for Tournaments. This was referred to the Laws Committee for consideration.
6. Professor Neal was thanked for his mammoth work in producing the booklet on the Basic Laws, now available in its distinctive green cover at 25p.
7. The Golf Croquet Competition, organised by Harpers & Queen in aid of the National Playing Fields Association and due to take place at various stately homes during the coming summer, and which the C.A. has undertaken to organise and manage (announced in a recent News Letter "News and Views" 1976 sent to Clubs), has now been postponed until 1977.
8. Gerald Williams, Vice President, spoke about the financial troubles of the Tunbridge Wells Club. He was told that sympathetic consideration would be given by the Council through the Development Committee to assist the Club financially on receipt of an application, if accompanied by full and well documented and detailed information.

9. The desirability of changing to a new printer for the gazette, as presented by G. Binks an Associate and Secretary of the Southport Club on behalf of his firm, had been carefully considered by the Editorial Board and the Finance Committee. It was felt that the marginal saving in cost (mainly on reduced postage) would not offset the disruption in moving from printers with whom we had built up a very good relationship over many years, quite apart from the reduced size of 8" x 5 3/4" which the savings would necessitate. The Chairman was asked to write to Mr Binks thanking him for all the detailed work he had carried out.
10. The Editorial Board's recommendations to save space in the gazette to allow inclusion of other material, now we are confined to four issues each year, were accepted, namely (1) to exclude publication of Associates' changes in address etc. (which can be obtained by subscribing to the C.A. Secretary's Amendment Sheets of the Directory covering the period up to the issue of the 1978 Directory at a cost of £1) and (2) to set out tournament results across the page as in the Press, which will save about 8 pages (sides) over the four issues.
11. The Treasurer, A.J. Oldham, presented the Accounts for 1975, which showed an excess of Income over Expenditure of about £100. These were accepted by the Council. Mr Oldham was thanked for all the work he had put in and for the clear manner in which he had presented the accounts and answered questions.
12. The Chairman reported on two letters he had received from the President of the South African Croquet Association. As a result of the first (14 January) he had arranged for A.B. Hope and G.E.P. Jackson to fly to South Africa for four weeks in March to play against South African Clubs, their expenses partly paid by the S.A. Government. They would be joined by Dr R.W. Bray in South Africa for the same period as a coach, and by H.O. Hicks who will be in South Africa on holiday during March. The second letter (16 February) referred to the plan to send a team from South Africa to play in England in September. The Council welcomed this plan. As our team to South Africa must be an unofficial one, so we cannot acknowledge a visit to England by South Africans as a national team. Mrs Sundius-Smith, Chairman of the Croquet Committee of the Hurlingham Club, thought the Club would welcome entertaining an unofficial South African team in the first week in September when the President's Cup was originally planned to have been played.
13. A letter from the Belfast Rowing Club was read. The Club is the original home of Ulster croquet and has been charged with creating an Ulster Croquet Association playing the game according to the C.A. Laws and Regulations. At present, apparently, they play to the 1894 Laws!

#### Secretary's Notes

##### 1. NEW ASSOCIATES

- Dennis Armstrong, 4515 East La Salle, Phoenix, Arizona, 85281, U.S.A.  
Miss J.E. Assheton, 54 Mackenzie Road, Moseley, Birmingham.  
Erik Backman, Torbjörnsgatan 28, S-753 35, Uppsala, Sweden.  
Bengt Benson, Norbyvägen 127 C, S-752 45, Uppsala, Sweden.  
Mrs M.J. Brash-Smith, 9 Marlborough Buildings, Bath BA1 2LX.  
John J. Cullingworth, Langthorne, Rawdon, Leeds, Yorkshire.  
Arnold Curtis, P.O. Box 10, Limuru, Kenya.  
Mrs E.V.W. Deakin, 2 Rubbles Court, Burley, Ringwood, Hampshire.  
Mr & Mrs Claude Diamond, 57 Kingston House, Ennismore Gardens, London SW7.  
Anders Falk, Elin Wagners Gata 18, S-754 41, Uppsala, Sweden.  
E.L. Gardiner, 1 Brinley Way, Brierley Hill, West Midlands DY6 9DN.  
A.J. Girling, 4 Wellman Croft, Selly Oak, Birmingham B29 6NP.  
James Herrman, 4515 East La Salle, Phoenix, Arizona, 85281, U.S.A.

- Stephen Herrman, 8226 East Clarendon, Scottsdale, Arizona, 85281, U.S.A.  
Miss H. Hewitson, 1A Worfield Gardens, Pennfields, Wolverhampton, Staffordshire.  
Mrs W.G. Jones, 3 Alderville Road, London SW6.  
Miss Madeline Katz, 1529 East Winter Drive, Phoenix, Arizona, 85281, U.S.A.  
Lars Korkman, Elin Wagners Gata 10, S-754 41, Uppsala, Sweden.  
Mrs Ogden Phipps, 635 Park Avenue, New York City, N.Y., 10017, U.S.A.  
Mrs H.E.J. Owens, Cliffe Cottage, Cliff Road, Sidmouth, Devon, EX10 8JN. (Tel. Sidmouth (039 55) 4254)  
Dr D.A. Parker, 96 Michel Dene Road, East Dean, Eastbourne, Sussex, BN20 0IZ.  
Miss P.E. Parker, The Purbecks, 64 Orchard Avenue, Poole, Dorset, BH14 8AJ.  
Mrs E.M. Pursey, Fairway, 7 Westfield Road, Budleigh Salterton, Devon, EX9 6SS.  
James A. Randle, 67 Stanford Road, Brighton, Sussex, BN1 5PR.  
Knut Raxed, Ymergatan 6A, S-753 25, Uppsala, Sweden.  
Miss J. & Miss A.R. Robertson, 10 Widdicombe Avenue, Canford Cliffs, Poole, Dorset.  
E.E. Scott, The Poplars, 254 Beverley Road, Anlaby, Hull, North Humberside, HU10 7BD.  
Miss Angela Searle, 7 Ashby Road, Northchurch, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, HP4 3SJ.  
T.W. Smith, 12 Highland Grove, Worsop, Nottinghamshire, S81 0JN.  
John Walker, Eastern Barton, Amberley, Arundel, Sussex, BN18 9NE.  
Charles Waller, 11 Otterbourne Court, Coastguard Road, Budleigh Salterton, Devon.  
Ronald Welch, 67 Rowan Crescent, London SW16 5JA.  
Christopher Willoughby, The Orme School, Mayer, Arizona, U.S.A.

##### 2. NEW TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS

W.H. Austin, A.J. Bucknell, G. Henshaw, Miss M.D. McMordie, K.S. Schofield and Mrs R.E. Tucker have been appointed Handicappers. K.S. Schofield has also been appointed a Manager.

##### 3. CHANGES IN THE CLUBS

The following clubs have ceased to be registered: Barnstaple, Folkestone & Hythe, Oratory School.

The following clubs have recently become registered or affiliated: Birmingham University, Knighton, Uppsala (Sweden).

*Ipswich.* New Secretary H.C. Wright, 9 Hilly Fields, Woodbridge, Suffolk. (Tel. (039 43) 933 3033). In Club Address substitute 'Avenue' for 'Road'.

*Knighton.* New Secretary Mrs P. Vickary, Norton Manor Park, Presteigne, Powys.

*Sidmouth.* New Secretary Mrs K.L. Togni, 6 Brookside, Middle Woolbrook, Sidmouth, Devon. (Tel. (039 55) 4209)

*West Australian Referees Association.* New Secretary (following the death of Mrs E. Douglas) Mrs D. Gasmier, 178 Kitchener Road, Alfred Cove, West Australia.

##### 4. STATISTICAL MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

The number of Associates at February 1976 was 837, made up as follows: Life (including Honorary) Members 48; Standard Rate Members 447; Reduced (non-tournament) Rate 151; Junior Members 23; Overseas Members 168. The net gain in membership through 1975 was 43.

##### 5. LIST OF LITERATURE, TOURNAMENT STATIONERY, ADORNMENTS ETC. AVAILABLE FROM THE C.A. OFFICE AS AT FEBRUARY 1976

- (A) Two leaflets are available, in small numbers free of charge, or in bulk for a moderate charge. These are *Association Croquet and Croquet—a simple synopsis*. The latter is used as an outline of the game, replacing "Instructions to Beginners", which is out of print and has been discontinued.
- (B) *Laws of Association Croquet and Golf Croquet and Regulations for Tournaments*. 1972 Edition. 50p plus postage.
- (C) *Commentary on the Laws of Croquet* by Lt-Col Prichard. 50p plus postage.
- (D) *Basic Laws of Croquet*. This is a new publication written by Professor Bernard Neal and deals with those parts of the Laws which all players have to know. 25p.
- (E) *Know the Game—Croquet*, written by the late Dr G.L. Ormerod and published by Educational Productions Ltd. Ample stocks available. 25p
- (F) *Croquet*, published by Training Associates in conjunction with National Westminster Bank (orders should refer to T.A.C.). This contains in printed form the photographs and spoken commentary of the Rothmans-sponsored coaching film-strips. 35p plus postage.
- (G) *Croquet*, by John Solomon. £1 plus postage.
- (H) *Croquet and how to play it*, by David Miller and Rupert Thorp. 80p plus postage.
- (I) *Croquet*, by the late Revd G.F.H. Elvey. £1.
- (J) *The Croquet Association 1970*. (For the next issue it is intended to publish the Rules of the Croquet Association as a separate pamphlet, and to issue a new handbook, rather in the nature of a historical record related to trophies and their winners.) 35p.
- (K) *The Croquet Association Directory 1976-1978*. A new edition of this Directory is published every two years. This is a new edition, on sale at £1.
- (L) *Amendment Sheets to the Croquet Association Directory*. During the two-year currency of each edition of the Directory a series of duplicated Amendment Sheets (usually 8) are published. The whole series may be ordered for £1, post free. When a member pays his pound and orders the series, he receives those Amendment Sheets already issued, and the further issues are sent to him by post when they are issued.
- (M) *Croquet Fixtures 1976*. This is issued free to Life Members and paid-up Associates, but copies may be purchased at 50p. This book is an annual publication and contains full details of every tournament in the Calendar, and every event in these tournaments.
- (N) *Tournament Entry Forms*, available in pads of 25 forms for 30p.
- (O) *Draw Sheets*. Clubs can purchase these from the C.A. Office at the following prices per dozen sheets:  
For 8 or 16 entries £1.60  
For 32 entries £1.80  
For 64 entries £2.20
- (P) *Pegging-down books*. A little pad containing 20 forms, each with a form on one side and a diagram on the other. 10p.
- (Q) *Croquet Association Ties*. These are made in crimplene by Messrs Lewin & Sons, 106 Jermyn Street, London SW1Y 6EQ, from which they can be ordered. A small stock of the C.A. tie (which may be worn by all members of the Association) is kept in the C.A. Office, from which it can be purchased. Price £1.20.  
Ties available only to those who have played in the Invitation Eights can only be bought from Messrs Lewin.
- (R) *Brooches*. A badge with the C.A. colours enamelled on it and mounted as a brooch is available at a price of £1.

Vandeleur Robinson,  
Secretary,  
February 1976

## Prize List 1975

This list covers all events reported in the Croquet Gazette other than team events. It is not authoritative. Only Associates' results are included.

The figures in brackets indicate the handicap of a player at the beginning and end of the season in that order. Where the handicap did not change only one figure is given.

OS—Open Singles; RLS—Restricted Level Singles (B, C, or D); OD—Open Doubles; MOD—Mixed Open Doubles; HS—Handicap Singles (sometimes X, Y, or Z); RHS—Restricted Handicap Singles (B, C, or D); HD—Handicap Doubles; MHD (WHD)—Men's (Women's) Handicap Doubles; GCS—Golf Croquet Singles; GCD—Golf Croquet Doubles; W/E—week-end tournament; BW—Block Winner.

## A

**Abbey, Lady Ursula** (4½) Parkstone II RLSB2  
**Adlam, Mrs A.F.** (9) Budleigh Salterton I RHS2  
**Alford, R.** (6,5½) Colchester W/E II HS1  
**Allberry, E.C.** (9\*,10) Colchester RHSC1  
**Anderson, Revd D.** (11,9) Edinburgh RHSBY1, RHSCX2 (sic)  
**Anderson, T.W.** (10,8) Wrest Park W/E II BW  
**Asa-Thomas, E.** (12,10) Cheltenham RHSC2  
**Asa-Thomas, Mrs E.** (7,5) Parkstone I HD1, Cheltenham W/E III BW  
**Aspinall, G.N.** (-4,-5) Open Championship 1, Doubles Championship 1, Hurlingham MHD2, President's Cup 1  
**Aubrey, Mrs D.M.** (4) Hunstanton II HD2, Parkstone II HD2  
**Austin, W.H.** (2) Southwick III HSY=1

## B

**Bagnall, Mrs C.** (5½) Cheltenham W/E I BW  
**Baillieu, I.C.** (3) Hunstanton I HD1  
**Barlow, T.** (-1½,-2) Open Championship 2  
**Batchelor, Mrs L.J.** (14D12,13D11) Hunstanton II HD1  
**Bazley, Lady** (15,12) Devonshire Park I RHSD1  
**Bell, E.** (5,3) Nottingham W/E II HS1  
**Betts, A.J.** (12\*,8) Southwick II RHSD1  
**Betts, G.H.** (2½) Budleigh Salterton II HSY2, Roehampton HD1  
**Binks, G.** (13,10) Bowdon W/E HS2  
**Birch, G.** (1) Ryde HD2, Ryde W/E BW, Nottingham W/E II HS2  
**Bishop, Mrs L.M.** (9) Parkstone I RHSC1  
**Bishop, P.** (5,4½) Colchester HSX2  
**Bliss, B.H.** (7,6) Hurlingham RLSB1  
**Bolton, H.G.T.** (1½,1) Budleigh Salterton II HD2, Budleigh Salterton W/E BW  
**Bolton, Mrs H.G.T.** (15D13,14D12) Budleigh Salterton II HD2  
**Borrett, Cdr G.** (-1,0) Devonshire Park I OS2  
**Boucher, Dr C.A.** (2) Ryde W/E BW  
**Bressey, Mrs E.E.** (5,4) Ryde HSY2  
**Bucknall, B.G.** (10,7½) Budleigh Salterton W/E BW  
**Bucknall, Dr W.R.** (1½) Parkstone I HD1  
**Bull, D.M.** (7,5) Southwick II RHSC2, HD2  
**Bulloch, D.J.** (-2½,-3) Budleigh Salterton I HD1, Peels HD2, HSX1, Southwick I HDX1, Parkstone I OS2, HSX2, Challenge & Gilbey OS1, HD1, HSX1, Budleigh Salterton II OS1, HSX2, Colchester OS2, Delves Broughton GCD2, Hurlingham OS1, Southwick II OS1, President's Cup =5, Parkstone II HSX1, HD1, Roehampton OS1  
**Bulloch, W.R.** (2,-1) Budleigh Salterton I RHS1, Peels HD1, Southwick I HDX2, Du Pre Cup 2, Challenge & Gilbey HSY2, Budleigh Salterton II HSX1, Chairman's Salver =2  
**Butler, L.S.** (3,2½) Parkstone I HD2, Budleigh Salterton II RLSB1, Parkstone II HSY1

## C

**Calder, R.O.** (5,3) Hurlingham RLSC2, Nottingham HS2  
**Camroux, A.V.** (-½) Chairman's Salver 5  
**Carlisle, Mrs H.B.H.** (5,4) Hurlingham MOD2, WHD1  
**Carlisle, W.H.** (8,6½) Hunstanton W/E BW, Hunstanton I RHSC2  
**Carte, R.A.** (2½,2) Southwick III HSX2, Hunstanton II HD1, Parkstone II HD2  
**Cave, Mrs G.E.** (5) Budleigh Salterton HD1  
**Coates, G.T.** (13,10) Challenge & Gilbey RLSD2  
**Coleman, A.F.** (6,3½) Peels MHS1, Devonshire Park II HS1  
**Cooper, A.J.** (-½,-1) Budleigh Salterton I RHS2  
**Cousins, C.H.J.** (5,2) Hurlingham MHD1, Colchester W/E II HD2, Roehampton HS=1  
**Coutts, J.** (7,4) Cheltenham W/E III BW, All England HS1  
**Cox, Mrs N.W.T.** (5,3) Southwick I HS2, HDY1, Challenge & Gilbey RLSB1, Southwick III HD2  
**Cozens, P.V.** (8,5) Peels, HD1, Nottingham RLSB1  
**Craig, A.D.** (4,3½) Carrickmines I HD1  
**Cross, H.** (13,11) Colchester W/E II HD1

## D

**Daldry, Sir Leonard** (0) Veterans OS2, Budleigh Salterton W/E BW  
**Davies, Mrs L.A.** (13,11) Budleigh Salterton I RHS2  
**Davren, N.J.** (4,1) Hunstanton I HSX1  
**Day, Mrs G.C.** (12) Hunstanton II HD2  
**Devitt, H.J.** (6½,5) Compton RLSB1, Devonshire Park I RLSC1, HD2  
**Devitt, Mrs H.J.** (8,6) Compton W/E BW, Devonshire Park I HSX2, HD2  
**Digby, G.S.** (5½,3½) Colchester W/E I HS2, HD1, Veterans RHS1, HSX1  
**Digby, Mrs G.S.** (3) Colchester W/E I HD1, Ladies' Field Cup 7  
**Doughty, G.E.** (8,7) Hurlingham RHSD2, HSY1  
**Drake, H.G.** (3,2½) Cheltenham RLSB2  
**Duck, M.J.** (7,6) Cheltenham W/E III BW  
**Dumont, A.** (8,5) Wrest Park W/E II BW  
**Duthie, Miss B.** (2) Ladies' Field Cup 4  
**Duveen, Mrs L.L.** (11,9) Parkstone II HSY2

## E

**Eades, R.S.** (4,3) Hurlingham HSX2  
**Edwards, C.** (3) Veterans HD1, Budleigh Salterton II RLSB2  
**Elmes, P.W.** (1,0) Cheltenham W/E I BW, Cheltenham W/E II BW, Nottingham OS2, Spencer Ell Cup 3  
**Evans, M.J.** (1) Cheltenham W/E I BW  
**Everest, R.L.** (3) Devonshire Park I RLSB2

## F

**Fernyhough, Brig. H.E.** (9D8) Budleigh Salterton II RHSC2  
**Figgis, Mrs D.** (6,5) Carrickmines I RHSB2, HD2  
**Forth, R.** (10,8) Edinburgh HD2, HSY2

## G

**Gamble, C.A.** (2½,2) Carrickmines I HD1, Carrickmines II OS2  
**Gladstone, Revd W.E.** (-½) Peels HSY1, Compton OS1  
**Godby, R.A.** (0,-1) Chairman's Salver 4  
**Gooch, N.J.** (7½,5½) Colchester RLSB1, HSX1, HD1  
**Greswell, Air-Commodore J.H.** (5,4½) Parkstone I RLSB1

## H

**Haigh, J.** (2½,1) Cheltenham RLSB1, HSX2  
**Hallett, G.F.** (1) Colchester HSY2  
**Hamilton-Miller, D.J.V.** (-½) Southwick III HD1, Spencer Ell Cup 8

## The Croquet Gazette April 1976

**Hampson, Miss S.G.** (4,3) Hunstanton W/E BW, Nottingham HSY1, HD1, Hunstanton I RLSB2  
**Hands, P.W.** (-3) Mixed Doubles Championship 2  
**Hannon, R.L.** (6) Carrickmines II HD2  
**Harris, D.A.** (½) Devonshire Park I HSY2, Devonshire Park II HS2, OD2  
**Haslam, Dr M.T.** (8,6) Nottingham W/E BW  
**Healing, Col. W.R.** (1½,0) Veterans HD1  
**Heap, M.E.W.** (-1½,-2½) Colchester W/E I HS1, Colchester OS1, Doubles Championship 2, President's Cup =3  
**Hemsted, S.R.** (-1,-1½) Association Plate 1, Hurlingham MOD1, President's Cup 7  
**Hemsted, Mrs S.R.** (8,6) Hurlingham RHSD1, MOD1  
**Henshaw, G.** (4½,3½) Nottingham W/E I BW  
**Higinbotham, Mrs E.** (7) Southwick I HDY1, Challenge & Gilbey RLSC2  
**Hodgens, Miss E.X.** (9,8) Southwick II RHSD2  
**Hooper, Mrs P.** (7) Carrickmines II HS1  
**Hope, A.B.** (-1,-1½) Men's Championship 2, Cheltenham OS1, HD1, President's Cup 2  
**Horridge, Maj. G.B.** (5½) Veterans RHS2  
**Hudson, C.** (9,7½) Cheltenham W/E I BW, Budleigh Salterton W/E BW

## J

**Jackson, G.E.P.** (-1½) Cheltenham W/E I BW, Peels HSX2, Men's Championship 1, Cheltenham HD2, President's Cup 8, Devonshire Park II MOS2  
**Jenking, H.F.L.** (5) Southwick III HD2  
**Joly, Miss F.** (1,½) Carrickmines I HS2, Budleigh Salterton II HSY1, Ladies' Field Cup =5, Devonshire Park II WOS1  
**Jones, Mrs W.** (16,12) Roehampton RHSC2

## K

**Keen, B.A.** (3½,2) Hurlingham RLSB2  
**Kent, S.G.** (5,4) Hunstanton I RLSB1, HSY2  
**Knight, C.E.** (7½,5) Compton RHSC1, HD1, Challenge & Gilbey RLSC1, Southwick II RHSC1

## L

**Latham, Miss D. Locks** (9) Veterans HSY2  
**Leach, Miss D.G.** (7½,7) Devonshire Park I HD1  
**Lee, R.H.** (4,3½) Budleigh Salterton I RHS1  
**Lenfestey, D. de Q.** (7,6) Parkstone I RLSB2  
**Lenfestey, Mrs D. de Q.** (12,11) Nottingham RHSC2  
**Leonard, R.J.** (1½) Carrickmines I OS2  
**Lightfoot, Mrs E.M.** (1½) Mixed Doubles Championship 2  
**Locke, E.A.** (8,6½) Ryde RLSB2, HSX1, Colchester W/E II HS2  
**Lodge, Miss M.J.** (9,6½) Peels HD2, Cheltenham W/E II BW, Cheltenham W/E IV BW, Cheltenham W/E V BW

## M

**McLaren, J.** (8,4) Peels MHS2, Cheltenham W/E III BW, Cheltenham W/E IV BW, Cheltenham W/E V BW  
**McMillan, Mrs N.A.C.** (2½,2) Southwick II RLSB2  
**McMordie, Miss M.D.** (3½,2½) Parkstone I HSY1  
**Malin, Dr S.R.C.** (9,6) Compton W/E HS1, Compton HD2, Devonshire Park II RHSB1, HD1  
**Mallinson, Lt-Col E.H.P.** (10,8D7) Southwick HDX1, Challenge & Gilbey HD1, Southwick III HD1  
**Mann, Mrs P.H.** (10,8) Ryde RHSC2, HSY1  
**Mansfield, Mrs B.** (13,12D11) Roehampton RHSC1  
**Marshall, Dr C.W.** (13,11) Parkstone II HD1  
**Marshall, Mrs C.W.** (14,12) Budleigh Salterton I HD1, Parkstone II RHSC2  
**Mayo, C.G.** (6) Southwick I HDY2  
**Meachem, Mrs J.B.** (1½) Women's Championship 2, Ladies' Field Cup 2

**Meadows, B.A.** (6½,5½) Hurlingham MOD2, MHD2  
**Meyer, H.N.D.** (7) Devonshire Park I RLSC2  
**Mitchell, Mrs D.** (16D14,15D13) Parkstone I HD2  
**Moorcraft, D.H.** (½) Spencer Ell Cup 6, Cheltenham W/E II BW  
**Moorcraft, Mrs D.H.** (10) Hurlingham WHD2  
**Moore, W.E.** (-1) Challenge & Gilbey OS2, Southwick II OS2, Southwick III OS2

## N

**Neal, Prof. B.G.** (-3½) President's Cup =3, Parkstone II OS2, HSX2  
**Neal, Mrs B.G.** (6,5½) Challenge & Gilbey RLSB2  
**Newnham, R.W.** (15,13) Ryde RHSD1  
**Newton, P.** (-½) Veterans HD2  
**Newton, Mrs P.** (6) Veterans HSZ2, HD2  
**Noble, G.** (6½,3½) Nottingham RLSB2, HSX2  
**Norman, N.A.J.** (3,2½) Cheltenham HSY1, HD1

## O

**Openshaw, D.K.** (3,1) Hurlingham RLSB1, MHD1, HSX1  
**Ormerod, Dr W.P.** (-3,-3½) Parkstone I OS1, Doubles Championship 1, Parkstone II OS1  
**Ovens, H.E.J.** (10,8) Budleigh Salterton I RHS1, Southwick III RHSD2  
**Owen, T.F.** (5½,2) Southwick I HS1, Southwick III RLSB2

## P

**Palmer, C.R.** (11) Colchester HD2  
**Paterson, K.H.** (4,3½) Colchester HSY1, HD1  
**Pearson, F.E.** (3,2) Cheltenham W/E II BW  
**Pearson, M.G.** (6) Roehampton RLSB2, HD2  
**Perry, B.G.** (-2) Veterans OS1  
**Phillips, J.G.C.** (7\*,6) Southwick II HS1  
**Pilling, F.** (12,10) Budleigh Salterton II RHSC1  
**Pim, Dr H.A.** (6½,5) Southwick III RHSC1, Parkstone II RLSB1  
**Pountney, C.G.** (½,0) Compton OS2, Ryde OS1, HSX2, HD1, Ryde W/E BW, Devonshire Park II OD1  
**Prichard, Lt-Col D.M.C.** (-1) Cheltenham W/E I BW, Mixed Doubles Championship 2  
**Prichard, Mrs D.M.C.** (0,-½) Budleigh Salterton I HD2, Peels WHS2, Mixed Doubles Championship 1, Budleigh Salterton II OS2, Chairman's Salver =6  
**Prichard, C.H.LI.** (-1) Mixed Doubles Championship 1, Du Pre Cup 1, Chairman's Salver 1  
**Prichard, R.D.C.** (2½,1½) Devonshire Park I RLSB1, HSY1  
**Puxon, Mrs F.E.M.** (5,4½) Ryde RLSB1, Colchester RLSB2, Colchester W/E II HD1

## R

**Rankin, Mrs M.** (14,14D12) Challenge & Gilbey HD2  
**Read, Mrs H.M.** (3½,4½) Devonshire Park II HD2  
**Read, T.O.** (-1½,-2) Carrickmines I OS1, Cheltenham OS2, Carrickmines II OS1, HD1, Devonshire Park II MOS1  
**Rees, D.V.H.** (0,-½) Hurlingham OS2, Chairman's Salver =2  
**Regan, Mrs F.** (7,6) Carrickmines I RHSB1  
**Reid, Capt. P.H.S.** (13,12) Cheltenham W/E V BW  
**Richardson, D.G.** (7,3½) Bowdon W/E HS1, Cheltenham W/E IV BW, Cheltenham W/E V BW  
**Riggall, L.** (4½) Colchester HD2, Nottingham HD2  
**Riggall, Mrs L.** (6½,6) Colchester HD2, Nottingham HD2  
**Robinson, J.N.** (1,0) Parkstone I HSX1, Challenge & Gilbey HD2, Association Plate 2, Spencer Ell Cup 1, Cheltenham W/E V BW  
**Rolfe, Mrs J.N.** (1½) Peels HSY2  
**Rooke, Revd W.** (6) Carrickmines I HD2, Carrickmines II RHSB2  
**Ross, Prof. A.S.C.** (2½) Southwick II RLSB1

**Ross, K.A.** (-1½, -2) Cheltenham W/E I BW, Doubles Championship 2, Nottingham OS1, HSX1  
**Rothwell, R.F.** (1, ½) Hunstanton I OS=1, HD2, HSY1  
**Rowe, Cdr J.E.** (8, 7) Edinburgh HD1, HSY1  
**Ruddock, J.C.** (5½) Roehampton RLSB1

**S**

**Sandiford, Dr B.R.** (4½, 5½) Veterans HSY1  
**Scarr, W.A.** (12, 10) Ryde RHSC1, HD2, Challenge & Gilbey RLSD1  
**Scarr, Mrs W.A.** (16D14) Ryde RHSD2  
**Schmieder, C.M. von** (6, 3½) Carrickmines I HS1, Carrickmines II HD2  
**Schofield, K.S.** (3½) Veterans HSZ1  
**Simpson, R.A.** (1½) Hunstanton HSX2  
**Skempton, Mrs A.W.** (4½) Hurlingham WHD1, Roehampton HD1

**Snowdon, C.B.** (6) Cheltenham HSY2  
**Solomon, Dr E.W.** (2½, 2) Roehampton OS2, HS=1  
**Solomon, J.R.G.** (2) Delves Broughton GCD1  
**Solomon, J.W.** (-3½, -4) Ascot Cup GCS2, Delves Broughton GCD1, President's Cup =5  
**Stevens, M.J.** (11, 8) Hurlingham HSY2, Roehampton HD2  
**Stoker, P.** (5, 4) Cheltenham W/E IV BW  
**Strachan, M.D.A.** (7, 6) Cheltenham RHSC1  
**Strutt, G.G.** (3, 2) Nottingham W/E I BW, Delves Broughton GCD2  
**Sturdy, Mrs W.J.** (14D11, 12D11) Cheltenham W/E III BW  
**Sundius-Smith, Mrs B.L.** (-½) Ladies' Field Cup 3, Hunstanton I OS=1, HD1

**T**

**Tait, C.J.** (9D8, 8) Edinburgh RHSBY2, RHSCX1 (sic)  
**Tapp, A.E.C.** (3, ½) Southwick II HD1, Devonshire Park I HSX1  
**Tapp, S.** (2, 0) Southwick II HD1, Southwick III HSX1  
**Taylor, Dr G.K.** (1½, 0) Cheltenham W/E II BW, Cheltenham HD2, Nottingham HS1, Cheltenham W/E IV BW  
**Temple, Mrs E.M.** (4½) Compton RLSB2  
**Townshend, Revd C.H.** (8, 6½) Southwick III RHSC2  
**Tucker, E.J.** (1, ½) Compton W/E HS2, Compton HS1, Ryde OS2, Southwick II HD2, Spencer Ell Cup 4, Devonshire Park I OS1, HD1, Devonshire Park II OD1  
**Tucker, Capt. F.** (9\*, 9) Parkstone I RHSC2  
**Tucker, Mrs I.B.** (10, 9D8) Southwick I HDY2, Ryde HD1  
**Turner, D.** (15, 12D11) Hunstanton I RHSC1  
**Turner, Mrs S.J.** (6½, 4½) Southwick I HDX2, Challenge & Gilbey HSY1, Southwick II HS2, Southwick III HSY=1  
**Tyrwhitt Drake, E.C.** (-1) Spencer Ell Cup 5, Devonshire Park II OD2

**V**

**Vincent, I.G.** (2, ½) Challenge & Gilbey HSX2, All England HS2  
**Vulliamy, Col. E.L.L.** (3½, 3) Veterans HSX2

**W**

**Wallis, R.E.** (8, 6) Devonshire Park HD1  
**Warwick, J.G.** (4) Budleigh Salterton I HS2, Cheltenham W/E II BW, Hunstanton I HD2  
**Weitz, Prof. B.G.** (2, ½) Cheltenham HSX1, Spencer Ell Cup 7  
**Weitz, Mrs B.G.** (4, 3½) Hurlingham WHD2  
**Wheeler, Col. G.T.** (5, 4) Devonshire Park II RHSB2, HD2  
**Wheeler, Mrs G.T.** (-1) Peels WHS1, Women's Championship 1, Mixed Doubles Championship 2, Ladies' Field Cup 1, Chairman's Salver 8, Devonshire Park II WOS2  
**Wheeler, J.A.** (½) Chairman's Salver =6  
**Wheeler, Mrs R.F.** (12, 9) Nottingham RHSC1, Hunstanton II HS2  
**Whiteman, Mrs D.H.C.** (15, 12) Parkstone II RHSC1

**Whittington, R.O.B.** (0) Cheltenham W/E V BW  
**Wood, Miss E.I.** (12, 11) Hunstanton II HS1  
**Wood, Mrs G.H.** (1½) Parkstone I HSY2, Budleigh Salterton II HD1, Ladies' Field Cup =5  
**Wood, R.** (1) Compton HD2  
**Wood, T.** (8, 2½) Compton W/E BW, Wrest Park W/E II BW  
**Wright, I.H.** (1, 0) Glencagles W/E HS1, Nottingham HSY2, HD1, Edinburgh OS2, HSX1, Spencer Ell Cup 2  
**Wright, S.J.H.** (0) Edinburgh HD2  
**Wylie, K.F.** (-3) Ascot Cup GCS1

**Y**

**Yallop, B.D.** (8, 6) Compton RHSC2, HS2

**Z**

**Zinn, Mrs H.A.** (10, 8) Colchester W/E I HD2

**Automatic Handicapping 1975**

Locock's system of Automatic Handicapping, as published for the last two years, was carefully explained in Gazette No. 129 (December 1973). This year I have calculated the results of those players who ended the season at handicap 2 or better. I have not taken into consideration Weekend or American tournaments, or 'Y' events, because their results do not appear in full in the gazette. Players whose handicaps have been reduced during the season are shown separately at each handicap. Qualification for inclusion—25 games or participation in a C.A. Invitation Event.

D.M.C.Prichard

**Played above their theoretical form**

At Hcp	Name	Plus Points	Games
* ½	J.N.Robinson (2)	19.15	47
-1	A.B.Hope (1)	16.7	33
* 2	A.E.C.Tapp (2)	14.5	16
-2½	D.J.Bullock (1)	13.4	50
* ½	L.H.Wright (2)	12.7	32
* 1	Dr G.K.Taylor	12.0	26
- ½	D.V.H.Rees (2)	11.0	22
-1½	A.B.Hope (2)	10.8	14
- ½	W.R.Bullock (4)	10.7	22
1½	Mrs B.Meachem	10.65	30
* 1	S.Tapp (2)	9.4	22
0	P.W.Elmes	9.3	27
1	E.J.Tucker (1)	9.1	13
0	E.J.Tucker (3)	9.0	43
-2	M.E.W.Heap (1)	8.7	22
½	C.G.Pountney (1)	8.1	22
† 0	Cdr G.Borrett (2)	8.0	23
2	Miss B.Duthie	7.3	29
1½	Prof. B.G.Weitz (2)	6.7	11
½	W.R.Bullock (2)	6.7	20
-3	D.J.Bullock (2)	6.0	94
0	Mrs D.M.C.Prichard (1)	6.0	32
1½	W.R.Bullock (1)	5.5	14
-1	W.E.Moore	5.1	36
*-4½	G.N.Aspinall (2)	5.0	14
½	L.H.Wright (1)	4.9	9
-1½	T.O.Read (1)	4.3	24
2	Prof. B.G.Weitz (1)	3.9	10
-2	K.A.Ross (2)	3.7	14
3	A.E.C.Tapp (1)	3.7	10
† 1	J.N.Robinson (1)	3.5	9
-3	Dr W.P.Ormerod (1)	3.3	21
-1	C.H.L.Prichard	3.1	35
2	S.Tapp (1)	3.0	8
- ½	A.V.Camroux	2.9	23
-1	S.R.Hemsted (1)	2.85	14
-1½	S.R.Hemsted (2)	2.6	19
1½	Mrs J.N.Rolfe	2.55	23
- ½	R.A.Godby (2)	2.5	11
½	E.J.Tucker (2)	2.3	19
-2	T.O.Read (2)	2.2	14
-3½	Dr W.P.Ormerod (2)	2.2	4

-1½	K.A.Ross (1)	2.15	13
0	C.G.Pountney (2)	2.1	16
0	R.A.Godby (1)	2.0	9
0	D.V.H.Rees (1)	1.9	9
½	D.H.Moorcraft	1.6	23
-4	G.N.Aspinall (1)	1.3	19
0	W.R.Bullock (3)	0.8	8
-3½	J.W.Solomon (1)	0.65	16

\* Handicaps subsequently reduced, but have not since played in a tournament.

† Handicap previously increased at own request from -1 to 0.

‡ Handicap previously increased at own request from 0 to 1.

**Played below their theoretical handicap**

At Hcp	Name	Minus Points	Games
-1½	G.E.P.Jackson	0.95	57
-1	R.A.Godby (3)	2.1	21
1	Miss F.Joly (1)	2.1	17
- ½	Revd W.E.Gladstone	2.55	33
- ½	P.Newton	2.8	26
1½	Dr W.R.Bucknall	3.2	35
1½	Mrs E.M.Lightfoot	3.2	28
½	Prof. B.G.Weitz (3)	3.4	21
0	S.J.H.Wright	3.5	34
- ½	Mrs B.L.Sundius-Smith	4.8	24
1½	Mrs G.H.Wood	6.4	45
1	Mrs W.Longman	6.9	40
-3½	Prof. B.G.Neal	7.0	42
-4	J.W.Solomon (2)	8.4	14
-1	Cdr G.Borrett (1)	9.1	11
½	Miss F.Joly (2)	10.55	27
-1	Lt-Col D.M.C.Prichard	12.65	54
-1	W.R.Bullock (5)	13.75	52
- ½	Mrs D.M.C.Prichard (2)	13.8	32
-1	Mrs K.M.O.Wheeler	15.6	73
-1	E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake	16.03	37
- ½	D.J.V.Hamilton-Miller	21.65	66

**Draw for the Longman Cup 1976**

1ST ROUND	2ND ROUND
	Phyllis Court
Rochampton Hurlingham	.....
	A.E.R.E. Harwell Parsons Green
	.....
	Woking
Herstmonceux Southwick	.....
	Compton Ryde
	.....
	Harrow Oak
	Wrest Park
	.....
	Colchester
	Colworth
	.....
	Stourbridge
	.....
Wolverhampton Southport	.....
	Edgbaston
	Bretby
	.....
	Ellesmere

Conditions as in the 1976 Fixtures Book p.8 with the following additions: Provided both teams agree, double banking will be permitted (in which case the number of lawns required would be reduced to two, and the match would consist of 3 Singles and 2 Doubles).

Latest dates for completion of rounds (although it is hoped that matches will be completed earlier to allow more time for later rounds) are as follows: 1st Round by 30 May; 2nd Round by 27 June; 3rd Round by 25 July; Semi-Final by 29 August; Final by 3 October.

It is open to clubs to invite a third club to allow their match to be played on the third club's lawns. If they do so and if the third club makes a charge for use of lawns, this charge will not be the responsibility of the C.A. but must be paid by the clubs availing themselves of the third club's lawns. An exception to the foregoing is the Final, which should be played on a neutral ground. In this case the C.A. will pay the lawn charges if these are made.

Please note Mr Rothwell's address is Berks, and not Bucks as in the Fixtures Book.

**CROKEY**

A new indoor Board Game for two or four players based on Croquet

A CROKEY Board is a checkerboard laid out like a Croquet Lawn,

with hoops, clips and a centre peg.

Counters, which represent balls, are moved in a Chess-like manner. As in Chess, the permitted moves are simple, but the situations

which can arise from them are limitless, and a CROKEY game can be played at all levels of skill.

A CROKEY Board really is a board;

47 x 38 cm and weight 2 Kg,

supplied in teak-finish veneer.

Send S.A.E. for fully descriptive leaflet showing typical CROKEY situations.

Price: £5.50 post free

In batches of 8, sent by B.R.S.

(allow two weeks for delivery)

£42.40 inclusive.

Tactical Games 19 Northwold Ely Cambs CB6 1BG