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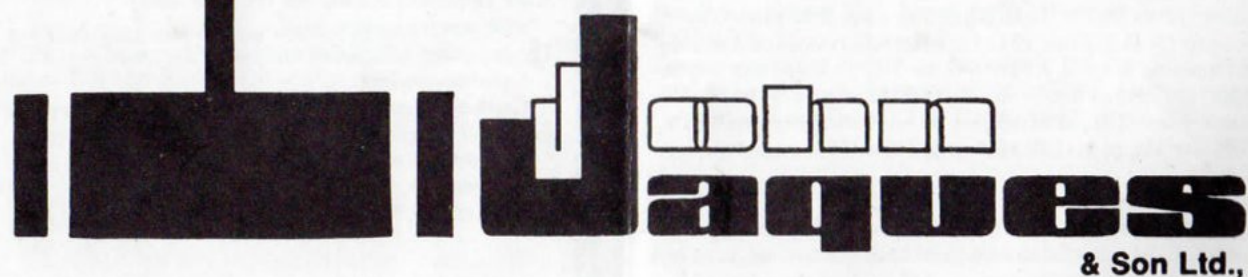
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THE CROQUET GAZETTE

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Some Croquet Characters

I suppose most communities have outstanding members to whom they can point, but the Croquet fraternity has always been exceptionally rich in characters and personalities who would stand out anywhere. Whether this is because the demanding nature of the game of Croquet plays a part in forming these characters and personalities, or whether it is rather that the game attracts such as its players, is perhaps a moot point. It doesn't matter; they are to be found on the Croquet Courts anyway, up and down the country.

Long remembered by the Croquet world will be the man who played a remarkably good game despite the fact that both his arms had been shot off in the War. He wore a complicated contraption—a mechanical set of arms, clamped to his stumps, and with these he swung his mallet with deadly accuracy. The comments of two spectators watching from a bench were overheard: "Extraordinary!" exclaimed one—"he never misses!" "Well", said the other, "look at his *advantage* with that mechanical swing!" But it is not for his astonishing Croquet alone that he is still remembered, but for his cheerful courage and independence which protected him from sympathy and pity, since any such gesture would have been a glaring insult not to be risked by those who knew him.

I was drawn against him in a tournament, and tentatively explained that I had no idea what services, if any, he required. Pointing to a line of six small pipes and a tobacco pouch laid out on his chair, he said casually "Oh, just fill those for me, and remove my clips if I fail to kick 'em off."

I shall never forget the man, long since dead, who was my opponent in my first Tournament, at which I received a vast bunch of bisques. Himself an 'A' player (the only man I have met with a left-side stance), he nursed me to victory! "Now take a bisque"; "NO! Blue to Red"; "Try your hoop" . . . and so on. All very naughty of course, according to the grim Laws of Association Croquet, but could generosity go further?

We have a man who suffers slightly from dyslexia who, notwithstanding this strange disability, has carved a first class career for himself. The 'contradiction' is reflected in his considerable ability on the Croquet lawns, where he stands like a rugged, storm-blown Captain on the Bridge. One might expect his style to be the hefty broadside attack, the powerful drive forward—guns ablaze. Not so, for this man is master of the gentle touch, the delicate "In off" of the Billiard Table. And the disparity of "appearance" and "behaviour" is carried out in himself. This somewhat forbidding figure is one of the nicest characters in the Croquet world.

One of our top lady players is also a Tournament Referee. Referees from every type of sport should study this lady's methods and style. To begin with, she knows her Rule book backwards and can instantly relate any situation to its appropriate paragraph and sub-heading. But that is not enough by itself. The Rule book will dictate the correct decision but not how to deliver it.

John has a delicate problem requiring a Referee. She propels herself briskly forward, her smile dissipating any suggestion of the matter being other than part of the afternoon's pleasant activity, and asks "What's to do?" Having made arrangements

to aid observation and, if necessary, to restore the *status quo*, she says cheerfully "Right, John", and John carefully takes his shot. "That was a magnificent and very brave shot," she says admiringly. "Unfortunately, yellow *did* just touch the wire, so it was a crush. What a pity!" . . . and John retires, disappointed perhaps but in no way disgraced, and indeed consoled in spite of himself. This is genius, yoked with a kind and gentle heart.

Then there is the Scholar or Schoolmaster, stern, unsmiling, unbending, a formidable champion of the game before whom the beginner might well tremble, despite the fence of bisques which protects him. But such a "rabbit" invariably comes in (victorious or defeated) with a warm feeling that he has had a wonderful experience; that he has seen the game played with no shadow of advantage taken; that behind the grim facade there was courtesy, sympathy and encouragement; that he has had a delightful match against a gentleman.

There are eccentrics too—none the less distinguished personalities. An eminent figure in the Croquet Association, and in his day a first class player and an authority on the game, talks his ball round the Court. "No, no! Not *that* side"; "Get *on*, Red"; or, having missed a long roquet by a whisker, his agonised cry might be heard by the whole assembly . . . "Oh! and it was a *good* shot!" This famous octogenarian can always be beaten in an impending thunder-storm. His turn to play—with lightning flashing at intervals—he runs out draped in oilskins, strikes his ball without address, and returns to shelter without waiting to see the result of his shot.

I also recall a dear old lady whose Croquet career was almost as famous as her name. She was still playing at 96, though her eyesight was such that she could not see a ball 10 yards away. "Where is the yellow ball?" she would ask in a cultured tone, and someone would spring forward to hold a white handkerchief over it. "Thank you", she would say graciously—and proceed to roquet yellow plonk in the middle!

These are but a few of the characters and personalities that have impressed me (and doubtless those who may recognise them), but the Croquet Clubs are rich with others: a heartening collection of people in this world of declining principles, manners and distinction.

Anon

The Longman Cup 1976

Results in Order

Third Round: **Hurlingham** beat Parsons Green 4—1; **Southwick** beat Compton 3—2; **Colworth** beat Harrow Oak 3—2; **Stourbridge** beat Edgbaston 4—1.

Semi-Final: **Southwick** beat Hurlingham 3—2; **Stourbridge** beat Colworth 3—2.

Inter-Club Championship 1976

Results in Order

Semi-Final: **Cheltenham** beat The Heley Club 6—1; **Hurlingham** beat Wrest Park 4—3.

Correspondence

'Loose Head?'

from C.G.Pountney

Sir,

Many times during this season's almost tropical dry period I've noticed players in trouble with the mallet head becoming loose on the handle shaft. The quick remedy is to wet for a few minutes the end of the shaft where it comes through the bottom of the head. Expansion soon makes it firm again.

After a day's play I found the head of my mallet had become loose, so I gave it a good tap and stood it in a bowl with about 1/8 inch of water for a while. Next day it was secure, but obviously I had not thought about my remedy sufficiently as I found, somewhat to my consternation, that my attempts at the few opportunities I had at reasonable length roquets were missing their mark by six inches or more to the right. It was not till I returned home after completing the tournament that I found that I must have twisted the head somewhat, as it was not facing directly at right angles to the front side of the octagonal shape of the mallet shaft. Thus my customary grip on the handle gave the direction of the hitting surface just a few degrees out of line. I've put this right and now await my next game to see if the expected improvement comes about.

I thought this might be of interest to anyone likely to be in a similar predicament.

Seacrest,
Seagrove Farm Road,
Seaview, I.O.W.

Yours sincerely,
Cyril Pountney

'Don't raise our handicaps'

from Mrs M.Puxon

Sir,

I have heard it rumoured by a member of the Council that handicaps are probably going up by 2 every other year, and 1 in the intervening year; if so, is it really to the benefit of croquet, or to benefit the vanity of minus players? (I have heard it said by The Very Highest Authority that there are too many of them) or the benefit of Aunt Emma? (the more bisques the better, she would say).

A new player beginning to improve and really bitten with the game, and having been reduced to, say, 14 during the first few months would find himself back at square one at the end of the season. Encouraging?

Middle aged or elderly players perhaps only able to go to one or two tournaments a year, and who have struggled to get down to 5 and anyway would be reduced by half a bisque a time would find themselves back in double numbers in no time at all, even with their play still improving.

Why doesn't the Council hold a fashionable plebiscite? or only put up handicaps on request, or, if they must persist, only to those who don't object?

If, all the same, handicaps are to be increased regularly, this elderly medium (4 1/2) bisquer will take the following steps:

1. Resign from her club.
2. Not resign from the Association.
3. Not enter for tournaments or competitions.
4. Play on her own court, and with friends.
5. Practise peeling (she has once done a triple, and several times nearly).
6. When her handicap has returned to 16 she will be just 67, and with luck might be able to achieve a quadruple and will re-emerge into competitive croquet.

Westgate House,
Long Melford, Suffolk.

Yours sincerely,
Mary Puxon

Regattas and Tournaments

from Dr R.F.Wheeler

Sir,

As an ex-oarsman who is a newcomer to croquet tournaments, I have been struck by the fact that the method of organizing competitive rowing seems to offer distinct advantages over the handicap system for tournament croquet and the following observations are therefore offered in the hope of stimulating discussion.

Events at rowing regattas are (or at least were, in my day; it could be different now) usually knock-out events held at four standards: maiden, junior, junior-senior and senior. As soon as a crew of novice oarsmen wins a maiden event at an open regatta, they immediately acquire junior status and are no longer eligible to compete in maiden events. At either of the next two levels, however, the members of any winning crew are allowed to continue competing at the same standard during the remainder of that regatta season, but the following year *must* compete in the next higher class of race, until they reach senior status. Thus senior events at regattas resemble open championships at croquet tournaments, but it will be seen that the structure of events at lower standards is more systematic. Whereas the qualification for entering, say, a B class event at a croquet tournament is to have a handicap in some arbitrary range, such as 3 1/2 to 6, the qualification for entering a junior event at a regatta is that no member of the crew shall have won a junior event at an official regatta in any previous season.

This type of competition, recognising a graduated improvement in skill, seems ideally suited to our sport and, in the smaller and more intimate world of croquet, should be even easier to administer. For croquet, more standards would certainly be needed; perhaps six would be an appropriate number. In an event at the lowest standard, some form of shortened game would probably be desirable, while games in perhaps the top three classes could all be played according to the laws of advanced play, to give up-and-coming players experience of the experts' game.

It is certainly not proposed that this structure should supersede the handicap system; some such system is essential to ensure that a game between players of different ability can be reasonably satisfying to both sides. There is not even any suggestion that all handicap events at C.A. tournaments should be discontinued. Perish the thought—they are much too enjoyable. The idea being floated is simply that, if the C.A. sponsored such a scheme, then many of the miscellaneous jumble of events open to players with a restricted range of handicap (whether at present played level or on handicap) could be incorporated into a unified system of events at specified standards (all played level), with players progressing to the next higher standard by some recognised procedure, such as the 'rowing method' described above. Obviously, at a small tournament the full range of classes would not be offered. Also, there is no reason why there could not be experiments with this type of competition at weekend tournaments; the winner could be decided on an American system, just as well as on a knock-out or draw and process.

It must surely be more satisfying for a competitor to win an event after playing level against opponents of roughly his own calibre, and thereby to prove himself ready to advance towards new challenges, than to feel guilty that he beat them only because (as he will be assured by his friends back in the clubhouse) he was over-bisqued because of the inherent vagaries of the handicap system. (The snag, of course, is that it does deny the loser the consolation of his conviction that, alone among all the participants in the event, he was under-bisqued. Instead, however, he will just have to be allowed to have had an off day.)

In the early stages of introducing such a system of competition, some limit of handicap would presumably be imposed on the events to deter any 'pot-hunters' from competing at too low a level (though surely most of us are more likely to suffer from secret delusions that we are really much better players than we actually are on the lawns!). But, after a few years of operation, this would

not be necessary; the scheme would be self-regulating, as it is for rowing.

Nottingham Croquet Club

Yours sincerely,
Roger Wheeler

Ranking of Competitors in Unfinished American Blocks

I wish to consider the question of determining the winner of an unfinished block in an American tournament, and to propose a method of doing so. Reg. 20A does not cover this case explicitly, and a straight count of games is obviously unfair to a competitor with an unfinished game. L.V.Latham (Croquet Gazette No. 128) raised this matter two years ago, concluding that totally scratching the results of any player unable to complete his programme is also unsatisfactory, but he did not offer an alternative.

The problem is to achieve a fair balance between a player who has finished all his games but has lost one or more of them and one who has been doing well but, through no fault of his own (a defaulting opponent or bad weather perhaps), has one or more results outstanding. In the case of A who has played all 5 games in a block of 6 players and won 4 with +30 net points, and B, who has completed 4 and won 3 of them with a better points total of +35, what are we to do when the rain comes? We have already rejected the idea of neglecting B's remaining game as unfair to B; scratching B's remaining opponent would be equally unfair to A (and anyhow he can hardly be blamed for the stormy weather, however gloomy his predictions of the night before). Equally it can readily be seen that awarding an average result of say half a win is no better.

In formulating a method to tackle this problem let us first examine the properties that any acceptable solution should have. As I see it these are that it should:—

- i) be equivalent to the procedure laid down in Reg. 20A if applied to a full block;
- ii) ensure that a player can gain no advantage to himself by defaulting;
- iii) leave unchanged any partial ordering that could have been predicted on the assumption that the remaining games were completed, whatever their outcome;
- iv) include the case of players retiring from a game in progress, as well as games unplayed owing to external circumstances;
- v) use as much of the information contained in the results of partially or wholly completed games as possible.

The method I suggest fulfils these conditions and avoids the dilemma exposed in the second paragraph by using a pairwise, rather than global, comparison of players' scores. Two players' performances are compared on the basis of the game(s) between them and their results against opponents whom they have both played. I propose that Regulation 20A be amended so as to read as follows:—

'Unless otherwise laid down before the start of play, the method of determining block winners in American events shall be as follows:—

- a) At the end of the event the results of all unfinished games shall be recorded as a star qualified by the maximum possible margins by which the game could have been won or lost, except that a player who was unable (otherwise than for causes beyond his control) or neglected to complete a game shall be scored as having lost that game by the number of points he had remaining to make.
- b) When comparing the results of two players, a star shall be replaced by the result within its qualifying range that is nearest to that of the other player against the same opponent. In the case where the star arises as a result of a game between the two players concerned, in which one of them defaulted, the most favourable result for the other that lies in the range shall be taken.

c) A player has a better set of results than another if, after carrying out the substitution described in b) above, he has a greater number of wins and a greater total of net points (calculated by totalling the points scored and subtracting the points conceded). The results of two players are equal if they have an equal number of wins and net points.

d) Each player in the block shall be awarded match points on the basis of two points for each player relative to whom he has a better set of results, and one for each player with results equal to his own.

e) The winner shall be the player with the greatest number of match points. In the event of a tie the players concerned shall be drawn to play off on the Bagnall-Wild system, unless one of the players has beaten all the others in the tie, in which case he shall be the winner.

Let us see how this works with an example. Consider this block of five players. A has played all his games, but E was unable to play C, and D had to retire when he was for Rover and 3-back, his opponent B being three points behind.

	A	B	C	D	E	Match Points	Position
A	X	+6	-14	+19	+16	8	1
B	-6	X	+9	*(-7,+10)	+10	4	3
C	+14	-9	X	+2	*(-26,+26)	6	2
D	-19	-10	-2	X	+8	2	4
E	-16	-10	-26	-8	X	0	5

Looking at the position, we can see that only A, B and C are in the hunt. If the expedient of scratching D and E's results entirely were adopted, C would win the resulting 3 by 3 block. Following the procedure given above in comparing A and B's results, B is given a score of +10 in his match against D, giving him 3 wins and 23 net points, as against A's 3 and 27. The 16 points D scored against B were enough to deprive B of the +15 win he would have needed to do better than A over-all. In comparing A and C the star (whose (-26,+26) qualifier can be omitted for brevity) is replaced by +16, which is obviously equivalent to neglecting E's game with A. Both have played D, however, and A has a better score than C by a margin of 4 points. A has better results than all of the other players in the block, and thus gains a maximum of eight match points and wins the block. Comparing B's results with those of C requires us to give B a win by +2 over D, and C a win of +10 against E. Thus only the game between themselves and their games against A (the only opponent both of them have played complete games against) count, and C has done better than B.

My second example has just one uncompleted game, between A and C, which the Manager was unable to fit into this (hypothetical) extra.

	A	B	C	D	Match Points	Position
A	X	+19	*	-12	5	1
B	-19	X	+13	+23	4	2
C	*	-13	X	+20	3	3
D	+12	-23	-20	X	0	4

Comparing the results as before, we see that A and C have equal results, but A's are better than B's whereas C's are worse. This gives match points and a ranking as shown.

Not every American event will produce blocks as finely balanced as these of course; in most cases common sense is enough to decide the outcome. The method that I have proposed, however, codifies this common sense so that it can be used impartially in situations where the just result is not obvious at first sight to all concerned. (Club Americans in particular seem prone to ending the season short of a few vital results with no straightforward way to determine the winner.) I hope it will receive the attention of the Laws Committee.

I.G.Vincent

The Secretary and the Editor

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

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

Obituaries

Daisy Lintern

There is some sad news that is also good news, and surely the death of this lady in the first week of August is of this nature. For many months Daisy had been out of her mind, one of the most active minds that had ever been so unceasingly and helpfully devoted to our game. My brother christened her (to her great pleasure) *Magic Lintern*, and there was something special about Daisy's dedication to croquet. In one respect she was indeed unique, for she was the only lady who has, so far, been elected as 'Chairman' of the C.A. Council, and proved to be a very efficient one. During this period she had to preside over the transfer of our headquarters to Hurlingham, a task of some considerable complexity.

Daisy's fascination for croquet started early, while she was still living in Shepton Mallet, after watching the game at Bath tournaments, and she was soon to be seen at Hurlingham as a member of her County team. On the death of her mother she came up to London (in the middle of World War I) to live with her brother who held an important position in the Civil Service. Once here, the standard of her game rapidly improved, and it was not long before she and her great rival, Mrs Rotherham, practically divided the Ladies Championship between them, and often appeared in what is now known as the President's Cup. But Daisy's 'base' soon became the Roehampton Club where she 'ruled' for many years, much admired by its croquet players who learned a great deal from her tuition, for which she had an exceptional talent.

As a tactician Daisy was particularly good, and most of all in Doubles, for which she had an exceptional ability, both as captaining and weaker partner or in champion events, as this writer has good cause to know.

Croquet was not the only game for which she had a talent. She travelled with the recent British team to Australia, and though her days as a croquet player were over, she revealed her skill as a Bridge player. When I asked the half a dozen members of the team who was the best player in their evening games, they were all one in answering 'Daisy, I think'.

All good things must come to an end, and by 1976 this was true of Daisy. Her hold on life was slipping away, and the croquet players at Roehampton combined to present her with a handsome gift to signify all that they owed to her, which she showed herself delighted to receive in an admirable speech. But with the arrival of 1976 her breakdown was evident. It was no longer for us to ask Daisy to give us her answer. It is for us to answer our memory of her with admiration, and, especially if at Roehampton, affection.

M.B.R.

Mrs F.R. Briggs

The older generation of croquet players will have learned with regret of the death in June of Mrs Briggs. Mary, as she was known to all of us at the Bowdon Club, joined it over 50 years ago, and was an enthusiastic member until the last few years when, owing to failing health, she could no longer play. She was no mean player in her day, and played regularly at the Bowdon, Budleigh Salterton, Buxton and Devonshire Park Tournaments, where her graceful style was much admired. She served the Bowdon Club faithfully and generously, and her quiet and gentle disposition will long be remembered by its members.

A.F.

Dr T.E. Ryves

Tournament players of the sixties will no doubt recall the aimable figure of Dr Ryves at both Roehampton and Cheltenham events. He was a staunch member of the old Blackheath Club and did much to keep the club alive after its revival after the war until it finally came to an end in 1959. He then joined Roehampton and was a familiar figure on the courts until ill health caused him to give up the game. He remained a member of the C.A. and followed results with keen interest. He was a handicap 5 player, but, as he himself put it "It depends whether Dr Jekell Ryves or Dr Hyde

Ryves is in control". On his day he could beat almost anybody on handicap; at other times he would lose abysmally, but whatever the result he retained his usual *bonhomie* and puckish sense of humour.
A.V.C.

The death is also announced of Mr A.F. Adlam.

Members-Only Tournaments at Cheltenham

When our President and Mrs Duffield graced the Caskets week held at Cheltenham, they heard about the Members-Only Tournaments we had just held. Our President suggested I should send a note to the gazette about them.

The first consisted of handicap singles exclusively. Played over 3 days, it was run as a normal Swiss (Cheltenham rules) in 1 block of 8 rounds. There were 24 entrants, with handicaps ranging from -1½ to 16. The length of the games to be played depended on the sum of the handicap of the two contestants, viz: if 15 or less, a full game; if 15½ to 19½, a 22 point game; if 20 to 24½, 18 points; if 25 or more, 14 points. This formula was created in the belief that the game in each group would average 1.75 hours. In the event, the average times were: full game, 2.01 hours; 22 points, 1.77 hours; 18 points, 1.92 hours; 14 points, 1.65 hours. The times for the full game broke down thus: with handicap sum 5 or less, 1.63 hours; over 5 and under 15, 2.22 hours. For this reason and because the 22 point game has always seemed to be unpopular, we used the following formula for the second tournament:

If the sum of the handicaps is 5 or less, play a full game;
If the sum of the handicaps is 25 or more, play a 14 point game;
In other cases play an 18 point game (1 and 3-back).

These averaged about 1 hour and 45 minutes, and the result seemed to be generally popular.

In the second tournament, besides the Swiss, we played a Progressive Doubles of 5 rounds with 24 players (by a fluke we had 12 men and 12 women entrants). Briefly the rules were as follows: the initial pairings and opponents were drawn by lot; winning men went 'up' and winning women went 'down', the losing pair re-paired with the new arrivals; 5th hoop start for both balls; each player had his own ration of bisques (home made formula) which did not belong to the side; only one peel was permitted; games lasted 45 minutes, beginning and ending on the ringing of a bell (no finishing the turn etc.); each player scored the number of hoops his side had made plus 1 if they had completed the game; the highest scoring man and woman took the prizes. There were rules to deal with opponents not being ready at the first bell etc. I will willingly supply a copy of our rules if anyone is interested, but I suggest they will need to be modified to fit the strength of players, number of lawns etc. For us, we seemed to strike a balance between the desires of the minus players (by drawing their teeth a bit) and the accomplishments of the long bisquers (by forcing them to take their own bisques). In fact a new set of tactics developed.

We call this method 'Knots' in honour of the Nottingham Club from which the idea came. The method was deemed to be good, and highly amusing for -2s and 16s alike.

G.E.P. Jackson

Bath Croquet Club

That the City of Bath can now include Croquet in its extensive list of amenities is due in no small measure to the determination, energy and resourcefulness of one person. When Mrs Joyce Brash-Smith came to reside in the city some six years ago, she was disappointed and a little surprised to learn that the Croquet Club which had flourished in earlier years no longer existed, and last year she decided to seek support for the establishment of a new club.

An approach to the Corporation's Department of Leisure & Tourist Services was sufficiently encouraging to warrant the setting up of a small working party, comprising four local residents and a member of the C.A. living at Weston-super-Mare. It was

learned that the City Council was prepared to rent an area at the corner of its large Recreation Ground adjacent to the recently opened Sports Centre. This was found to be a most pleasant spot with excellent turf and bounded by a row of trees and a high wall on one side. Negotiations proceeded rapidly and a contract was drawn up which included the maintenance of one court and a practice strip throughout the season. There was ample space for a second court to be established later. The Corporation undertook to provide check fencing on two sides of the court at no cost to the Club. During these early days the help and advice received from Mrs E. Neal, the Croquet Association's Development Administrator, were greatly appreciated.

Under the energetic leadership of Mrs Brash-Smith, the working party set about the publicising of the new venture which culminated in the official opening of the Club by the Mayor of Bath on May 15th. The ceremony was watched by some 80 members of the public and followed by a demonstration match between Martin Murray and Andrew Hope, with R.O.B. Whittington giving a shot-by-shot commentary using a portable public address system. Only one point separated the contestants when the match provided a thrilling finish at exactly 4 pm.

Membership of the Club grew steadily as the season progressed and all newcomers were provided with coaching each week. When 30 full members had been enrolled, together with one or two country members, it was decided to compile a waiting list.

With the future of the Club assured, the Corporation gave a generous grant towards equipment, and this has enabled the Club to terminate the hire of equipment from the C.A. and to buy all the essentials for next season, when it is anticipated that two lawns will be available. In addition, a small hut has been purchased and erected on the site.

As elsewhere, curtailment of play has been an inevitable result of the drought, but a splendid start has been made, and the members look forward to a most promising future for their Club.

W.A. Scarr

Reflections (After the Tournament)

*If you believe the human race
Is really fair and full of grace,
Just hie yourself—with head well bent
Towards a croquet tournament.*

*They say, "My friend—how did it go?"
It isn't that they want to know.
It's just an opening to say,
Point by point, their line of play,
And once they've really got your ear,
You cannot ever interfere
To say with what a clever tack
You managed that red to four back!*

*It's 'let me tell' and 'did you see';
You cannot think that folk can be
So full of self—they cannot note
That you were also on a court.*

*You want to tell your story too,
Of how his red just missed your blue,
For you are one of those well bent
And have the self-same temperament.*

*So if you really want to be
A lovely person—lithe and free—
It's better never to make roquet
And thus avoid the game of croquet.*

Mabel Jackson

Deadline

Copy for the December issue of the Croquet Gazette must reach the Editor by 1 November.

Colchester: July 12-17

With the lawns looking the colour of the Sahara and a temperature to match, the 13th Colchester Tournament got under way. Sixteen visitors were present from all parts of the country, which made the event a truly national one. A trend which lasted most of the week was that of 'time' finishes, proving that when lawns become ultra-fast, visitors and 'locals' alike have difficulty in coping. Had the lawns not been so marvellously true, I can well imagine that games would have been longer and Mr Duffield's job of managing made more difficult. As it was, a thunderstorm on Thursday evening halved the average playing time, which enabled every event to be finished by prize-giving on Saturday night.

The Open Draw was won by M.E.W. Heap, in devastating form for the third year in succession, as was the Process, which was the more interesting, as we witnessed an exciting ending with Heap attempting a triple peel only to end up 'snookered' and S.J.H. Wright almost (but not quite) catching him up on the peg.

The 'X' Handicap was won by John Ruddock, who was following the Colchester Tournament with a Longman Cup match, only to find that by the end of finals day his handicap was lowered so much by R. Bray that he no longer qualified for the Longman. (Oh the price of success!) In this event a remarkable game between C.S. Ratcliffe and H.O. Hicks took place. Ratcliffe won narrowly, a remarkable event for a nonagenarian who went on to play 6 more games during the week.

The winner of 'Y' was H.A. Cross, who defeated Mrs Wheeler in the final. Mrs Wheeler, however, had the consolation of winning the 'C' Handicap Singles. Some games in the 'Y' were played on the marvellous lawn at Wivenhoe belonging to Dr Dean. This facility was much enjoyed by the visitors and saved double banking on the main lawns.

The final of the Doubles between H.O. Hicks & S.J.H. Wright and P. Stoker & Revd D. Anderson was a dour struggle, the higher bisquers winning by a flattering margin which did not reflect the closeness of the play. Revd D. Anderson, a newcomer to full week events, earned the praise of the spectators and justifiably had his handicap reduced by 2.

In every tournament everybody has something to learn, this writer being no exception, as he was solidly reprimanded by one venerable player for placing the clips on the initial hoop in the wrong colour order before the start of the game. Oh, the modern generation!

Results

Event 1: Open Singles (7 Entries)

DRAW

First Round: **H.O. Hicks** bt. S.J.H. Wright +4; **M.E.W. Heap** bt. G.F. Hallett +5; **P. Stoker** bt. D.W. Archer +18.

Semi-Final: **Heap** bt. Hicks +17; **C.G. Pountney** bt. Stoker +3 (T).

Final: **Heap** bt. Pountney +23.

PROCESS

First Round: **Wright** bt. Stoker +7 (T); **Pountney** bt. Hallett +1 (T); **Hicks** bt. Archer +6 (T).

Semi-Final: **Wright** bt. Pountney +19; **Heap** bt. Hicks +16.

Final: **Heap** bt. Wright +7.

PLAY-OFF FOR SECOND PLACE

Wright bt. Pountney +23.

Event 2: 'B' Level Singles (11 Entries)

First Round: **R.S. Alford** bt. K.H. Paterson +7 (T); **P. Bishop** bt. N.J.C. Gooch +10; **Mrs E.E. Bressey** bt. Mrs F.E.M. Puxon +5.

Second Round: **G.S.Digby** bt. E.A.Locke +7; **Alford** bt. Bishop +15 (T); **J.C.Ruddock** bt. Mrs Bressey +13; **Mrs G.S.Digby** bt. C.S.Ratcliffe +6 (T).

Semi-Final: **Alford** bt. Digby +17; **Ruddock** bt. Mrs Digby +13.

Final: **Alford** bt. Ruddock +3.

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

First Round: **Mrs G.F.Hallett** (10) bt. Dr R.F.Wheeler (9) +7; **Mrs R.F.Wheeler** (7) bt. Mrs I.B.Chadwick (15) +6.

Second Round: **F.E.M.Puxon** (7) bt. Miss D.E.Rogers (11) +5; **Mrs Hallett** bt. Revd D.Anderson (9) +9; **Mrs Wheeler** bt. Mrs C.W.Haworth (13) +13; **C.W.Haworth** (6½) bt. Mrs M.E.W.Heap (15) +7 (T).

Semi-Final: **Mrs Hallett** bt. Puxon +9; **Mrs Wheeler** bt. Haworth +13.

Final: **Mrs Wheeler** bt. Mrs Hallett +11.

Event 4a: 'X' Handicap Singles (28 Entries)

First Round: **G.S.Digby** (3) bt. G.F.Hallett (1) +15; **J.C.Ruddock** (4) bt. C.G.Pountney (0) +9; **R.S.Alford** (5) bt. H.A.Cross (10) +7; **Mrs I.B.Chadwick** (15) bt. Dr R.F.Wheeler (9) +2 (T); **P.Bishop** (4½) bt. S.J.H.Wright (0) +26; **Mrs E.E.Bressey** (4) bt. K.H.Paterson (3½) +1 (T); **Mrs G.F.Hallett** (10) bt. Mrs R.F.Wheeler (7) +5 (T); **N.J.C.Gooch** (5) bt. F.E.M.Puxon (7) +10 (T); **E.A.Locke** (5) bt. Mrs C.W.Haworth (13) +9; **Revd D.Anderson** (9) bt. Mrs F.E.M.Puxon (4½) +14; **Mrs G.S.Digby** (3) bt. D.W.Archer (2) +10; **C.S.Ratcliffe** (5) bt. H.O.Hicks (-1) +1 (T).

Second Round: **C.W.Haworth** (6½) bt. Miss D.E.Rogers (11) +4 (T); **Ruddock** bt. Digby +9; **Alford** bt. Mrs Chadwick +11; **Mrs Bressey** bt. Bishop +3; **Gooch** bt. Mrs Hallett +5; **Anderson** bt. Locke +18; **Mrs Digby** bt. Ratcliffe +3 (T); **P.Stoker** (2½) bt. Mrs E.A.Locke (14) +17.

Third Round: **Ruddock** bt. Haworth +5; **Alford** bt. Mrs Bressey +16; **Anderson** bt. Gooch +3 (T); **Stoker** bt. Mrs Digby +7.

Semi-Final: **Ruddock** bt. Alford +15; **Stoker** bt. Anderson +7.

Final: **Ruddock** bt. Stoker +14.

Event 4b: 'Y' Handicap Singles (14 Entries)

Final: **H.A.Cross** (10) bt. Mrs R.F.Wheeler (7) +16 (T).

Event 5: Handicap Doubles (13 Pairs)

First Round: **P.Bishop & R.S.Alford** (9½) bt. Mr & Mrs G.F.Hallett (11) +7; **P.Stoker & Revd D.Anderson** (11½) bt. J.C.Ruddock & Mrs C.W.Haworth (16) +9; **C.W.Haworth & G.Kimber** (18½) bt. Mr & Mrs G.S.Digby (6) +4; **H.O.Hicks & S.J.H.Wright** (-1) bt. Mr & Mrs E.A.Locke (18) +5 (T); **C.G.Pountney & Mrs E.E.Bressey** (4) bt. D.W.Archer & Mrs I.B.Chadwick (16) +7.

Second Round: **Bishop & Alford** bt. Mrs F.E.M.Puxon & Miss D.E.Rogers (13½) +12; **Stoker & Anderson** bt. Haworth & Kimber +16; **Hicks & Wright** bt. Pountney & Mrs Bressey +6 (T); **K.H.Paterson & N.J.C.Gooch** (8½) bt. Dr & Mrs R.F.Wheeler (16) +3 (T).

Semi-Final: **Stoker & Anderson** bt. Bishop & Alford +7; **Hicks & Wright** bt. Paterson & Gooch +3.

Final: **Stoker & Anderson** bt. Hicks & Wright +20.

The Open Championships: July 19-24

The Mediterranean summer continued throughout the week, broken only by one tropical cloudburst. The parched surrounds of Hurlingham emphasised the marbled lawns, the pace of which varied from finest velvet (in itself faster than any surface presented at these Championships since the sprinklers were installed) to sheet ice. The quality of play was lower, but then the entry too was leaner. Even Aspinall in earlier rounds looked almost beatable. Openshaw, playing in his first Open Championship, came within 8, and Rees came within 6 of taking a game off him. Heap, on the cricket field, where the grass was coarser and uniformly brown, won the first game in a little over an hour despite sticking in 1-back. Aspinall had hit this ball very narrowly but peeled it and then stuck in a couple of hoops himself. In the second game Aspinall missed a 4-yard roquet and Heap settled into a good rhythm until his second ball got hampered by 1-back, in spite of careful planning to avoid having to run a controlled hoop there. Heap lost the innings, the game, and the match without another chance.

Meanwhile Ormerod, who had had an adventurous 3-game match of real cut and thrust against Colin Prichard in the first round, had gone on to beat both D.C.Russell (over here between moving from Tasmania to New Zealand) and Neal in straight games. In the semi-final he and Aspinall kept the crowd guessing for nearly 8 hours. At the end Ormerod had played 250 minutes for his 66 hoops and 3 peg points, while Aspinall played 170 minutes for 59 hoops and 4 peg points. An uncharacteristic blunder at 4-back cost Ormerod the first game (he just wiggled through), although there were quite a number of errors at the end of this game. Refreshed by the lunch break (55 minutes), Ormerod took the second game, and after much dogged fighting the third looked to be his too, when he missed a gentle roquet on a glassy patch near 2-back. So Aspinall, the odds-on favourite, did get through to the final. Once there, he gives no quarter: he appears to catch his opponents in his web and paralyse them, and for the second year running the final was no contest.

Murray had come up from the bottom quarter having played a good quality 4th round match against William Prichard (on leave from the Welsh Guards after two years absence from top class competition). Murray went straight to 4-back in the 4th turn but

later attempted a Cheltenham 1st hoop, and Prichard won the game with three peels (but failed the peg-out). It was the 5th turn in the next game which took Murray to 4-back, and Prichard joined him there in the 6th. Then Murray's play became less positive, but Prichard could not hit in until Murray was both for Rover. Prichard set up a triple peel but cracked at hoop 5. In the decider first Prichard and then Murray went immediately to 4-back. Prichard hit the lift but did a wormy cannon and a disastrous split, and Murray polished off the match. Now Murray had to meet Dr E.Solomon who came from the allegedly 'soft' third quarter. Solomon had started with the narrowest of wins over Stephen Wright who found Roehampton grassy after glassy Colchester. In the next round Hamilton-Miller fired well on 3 cylinders, after Solomon made a hash of the third peel of the triple, and had to peg one ball out, but he gave Solomon too many shots. Solomon then won a teetering marathon against Cousins, a young barrister also from the Roehampton Club, but in the semi-final Dr Solomon really shook Dr Murray. With the latter on 2-back and 4-back Solomon started to triple peel his opponent; it may have been an ill-advised manoeuvre but he gave a masterly display before breaking down at 2-back, giving Murray an easy run-out with only a single peel to do for himself. Murray also had to rescue the second game; this he started to do by going from the 5th hoop with a series of 20-yard hits and 15-yard take-offs to hoops which he ran from every conceivable angle and distance. He put jam on it after running 3-back by merely joining his partner to leave a normal lift leave—the perfect no-ball break.

Only three Doubles matches went to three games and each lasted over 8 hours. Hicks and Soutter were within an ace of putting out Neal and Murray. For a game and a half Hicks never missed a long shot, and there were plenty of them while Neal battled against the contours of the cricket field. Camroux and Dr E.Solomon lost the first game to Wright and Elmes, but Solomon made victory certain by completing two triple peels on his partner. Meanwhile Mrs Prichard and Archer snatched the first game from Rees and Wheeler by good wiring after a missed peg-out, and won the third with Archer hitting the peg from 8 yards as time was up. Partners who started their croquet in the 1920s were Hamilton-Miller and Wiggins, and they played as beautifully as ever to put out Colin Prichard and Tucker (the latter had taken a game off Heap in the

singles), but Heap and Robinson were too good for them in the next round, and this last pair also put out Neal and Murray after a close first game but a runaway second, in which Heap completed a triple peel.

The Doubles final started well. Heap and Robinson joined so wide on the East boundary that Aspinall and Ormerod joined in the 2nd corner. Robinson responded to the insult by going straight to 4-back. Then Heap started a triple peel and peeled him through 4-back; then Aspinall started a double peel and peeled him through Penult; then Ormerod did the single peel through Rover and pegged him out. So Robinson, the minnow among the sharks, played a faultless game, while the sharks made a couple of costly errors apiece. The first game was all attack, but the second was purely defensive on both sides. Aspinall and Ormerod won it plus 26 in a record-breaking 2 hours 45 minutes. This was actual playing and discussion time but did not include the tea break. This was Aspinall's seventh win in 11 years and his fourth with Ormerod as his partner.

"Would you like to play in the Plate?" Roger Bray was heard to ask. "Why yes," came the answer, "I've never won that"! Bray managed to run it as Draw and Process for the first time ever, and even with 20 entries observed the greatest economy in the use of lawns. The back markers were Heap and Colin Prichard. Heap was beaten in the Draw by Wiggins, and had to be scratched from the Process because of the Doubles Final, which left Colin Prichard to win both lives. Heap did a triple peel against Mrs Russell—his best defence against her good shooting. Prichard did the three peels no less than three times, but each time failed to get his rush to the peg. All the competitors appreciated having two lives, and hope the experiment will be repeated.

NOTED:

How successful the first-timers were: Openshaw, Cousins, and even more so Dr E.Solomon, who is to be congratulated on qualifying for a Silver Medal.

How few matches started punctually at 10 o'clock. Many too many players were late from habit rather than necessity.

How the tigers start. Second ball to 2nd corner. Fourth ball shoots at the East boundary balls. Over 50% hit.

How the short lift shot was taken almost invariably. (Colin Prichard managed to avoid this shot being taken by leaving an 8-yard rush after his breaks. The opponents thought he might miss—he sometimes did.)

How Murray ended a straight Double Peel. After running Rover, he made 1st enemy ball cannon his partner through Rover; he made 2nd enemy ball nudge it from behind Rover leaving a 6-inch gap through which Murray had to cut (about 80°) his partner towards the peg; he did it so well that he rushed it on to the peg.

How Openshaw plotted and executed a most brilliant scatter shot in a good doubles match against the eventual winners.

What a gap was left by John Solomon's absence; he had added a new dimension to these championships. He won the singles 10 times, the last win being in 1968 (for the sixth year running!). He also won the Doubles 10 times with Patrick Cotter. While John promises to return in a few years time, it is very sad that Patrick has resigned from the C.A.

More triple peels were tried but fewer were completed. Aspinall, Ormerod, Heap, Neal and Dr E.Solomon did 14 between them. In addition, Aspinall did a 3-ball triple in a Doubles game, leaving the red ball in the 4th corner throughout. Only one other has been recorded in this country and that was by John Solomon.

Also missed on the courts, both for their feats and their personalities, were Keith Wylie, Paul Hands, Andrew Hope and Robin Godby. It is hoped they will all be back next year, when it is also hoped that Roger Bray will again manage us all as only he can do it.

Results

Event 1: The Croquet Championship (33 Entries)

First Round: **D.C.Russell** bt. J.H.J.Soutter +22 +18.

Second Round: **Miss B.Duthie** bt. Mrs D.C.Russell +13 -20 +16; **D.V.H.Rees** bt. P.W.Elmes +24 -17 +26; **G.N.Aspinnall** bt. D.K.Openshaw +22 +8; **M.E.W.Heap** bt. E.J.Tucker -4 +19 +26; **Dr J.N.Robinson** bt. Lt-Col D.M.C.Prichard -4 +7 +20; **Professor B.G.Neal** bt. Mrs D.M.C.Prichard +18 +4; **Dr W.P.Ormerod** bt. C.H.L.Prichard +12 -2 +25; **Russell** bt. N.J.Davren +11 -3 +4; **D.J.V.Hamilton-Miller** w.o. J.R.G.Solomon opp. scr.; **Dr E.W.Solomon** bt. S.J.H.Wright +1 +9; **J.A.Wheeler** bt. H.O.Hicks +21 +23; **C.H.J.Cousins** w.o. Mrs W.Longman -3 opp. scr.; **Dr M.Murray** bt. C.Southern +20 +3; **J.Haigh** bt. D.W.Archer +8 +23; **S.R.Hemsted** bt. Dr W.R.D.Wiggins +24 -16 +4; **W.de B.Prichard** bt. A.V.Camroux +11 +23.

Third Round: **Rees** bt. Miss Duthie +17 +24; **Aspinall** bt. Heap -23 +12 +26; **Neal** bt. Robinson +11 +23; **Ormerod** bt. Russell +21 +12; **E.Solomon** bt. Hamilton-Miller +5 +9; **Cousins** bt. Wheeler +10 +6; **Murray** bt. Haigh +24 +9; **W.Prichard** bt. Hemsted -12 +16 +26.

Fourth Round: **Aspinall** bt. Rees +6 +26; **Ormerod** bt. Neal +11 +10; **E.Solomon** bt. Cousins +10 -4 +8; **Murray** bt. W.Prichard -17 +12 +17.

Semi-Final: **Aspinall** bt. Ormerod +3 -15 +6; **Murray** bt. E.Solomon +14 +3.

Final: **Aspinall** bt. Murray +25 +24.

Event 2: The Doubles Championship (16 Pairs)

First Round: **M.E.W.Heap & Dr J.N.Robinson** bt. Mr & Mrs D.C.Russell +18 +8; **D.J.V.Hamilton-Miller & Dr W.R.D.Wiggins** bt. C.H.L.Prichard & E.J.Tucker +3 +17; **Dr M.Murray & Professor B.G.Neal** bt. H.O.Hicks & J.H.J.Soutter +16 -16 +9; **D.W.Archer & Mrs D.M.C.Prichard** bt. D.V.H.Rees & J.A.Wheeler +1 -14 +10; **C.H.J.Cousins & D.K.Openshaw** bt. J.Haigh & C.Southern +5 +13; **G.N.Aspinnall & Dr W.P.Ormerod** bt. Lt-Col D.M.C.Prichard & W.de B.Prichard +15 +26; **A.V.Camroux & Dr E.W.Solomon** bt. E.Audley & N.J.Davren +16 +23; **P.W.Elmes & S.J.H.Wright** bt. I.C.Baillieu & Miss B.Duthie +22 +25.

Second Round: **Heap & Robinson** bt. Hamilton-Miller & Wiggins +12 +10; **Murray & Neal** bt. Archer & Mrs Prichard +24 +25; **Aspinall & Ormerod** bt. Cousins & Openshaw +14 +7; **Camroux & E.Solomon** bt. Elmes & Wright -17 +16 +26.

Semi-Final: **Heap & Robinson** bt. Murray & Neal +4 +25; **Aspinall & Ormerod** bt. Camroux & E.Solomon +16 +24.

Final: **Aspinall & Ormerod** bt. Heap & Robinson +7 +26.

Event 3: The Association Plate (20 Entries)

DRAW

First Round: **J.Haigh** bt. S.J.H.Wright +6; **M.E.W.Heap** bt. Mrs D.C.Russell +22; **J.H.J.Soutter** bt. D.J.V.Hamilton-Miller +4; **J.A.Wheeler** bt. C.Southern +11.

Second Round: **N.J.Davren** bt. Dr W.R.D.Wiggins +21; **C.H.L.Prichard** bt. A.V.Camroux +23; **Mrs D.M.C.Prichard** bt. D.W.Archer +12; **Heap** bt. Haigh +16; **Wheeler** bt. Soutter +5; **D.K.Openshaw** bt. Miss B.Duthie +23; **Lt-Col D.M.C.Prichard** bt. P.W.Elmes +10; **Mrs W.Longman** w.o. E.J.Tucker opp. retd.

Third Round: **C.Prichard** bt. Davren +7; **Heap** bt. Mrs Prichard +13; **Openshaw** bt. Wheeler +12; **D.Prichard** bt. Mrs Longman +7.

Semi-Final: **C.Prichard** w.o. Heap opp. scr.; **Openshaw** bt. D.Prichard +10.

Final: **C.Prichard** bt. Openshaw +14.

PROCESS

First Round: **Wiggins** bt. D.Prichard +14; **C.Prichard** bt. Tucker +16; **Davren** bt. Elmes +5; **Camroux** bt. Mrs Longman +26.

Second Round: **Wiggins** bt. Heap +12; **Archer** bt. Southern +12; **C.Prichard** bt. Hamilton-Miller +26; **Wright** bt. Miss Duthie +23; **Davren** bt. Mrs Russell +5; **Wheeler** bt. Mrs Prichard +10; **Camroux** bt. Soutter +17; **Openshaw** bt. Haigh +14.

Third Round: **Archer** bt. Wiggins +9; **C.Prichard** bt. Wright +7; **Davren** bt. Wheeler +2; **Camroux** bt. Openshaw +11.

Semi-Final: **C.Prichard** bt. Archer +9; **Davren** bt. Camroux +11.

Final: **C.Prichard** bt. Davren +11.

Southwick I: July 19-24

Good weather is all that is required to guarantee another successful summer tournament at Southwick, the friendly club where visitors are made to feel as much at home as the members themselves. With the recent experience of the Challenge & Gilbert Tournament when games dragged on interminably on the sun-baked lawns (Did you hear of the two minus players who took 7 hours to finish one singles game?), Edith Tucker the Manager wisely decided to impose a time limit on all games. The lawns suffering from the drought were difficult; each one had its especially tricky spots—indeed one approached these danger points with the apprehension of a child playing Snakes and Ladders. We vied with each other in describing the unbelievable contortions achieved by the perfectly played ball. However, the disbelief and irritation of the beginning of the week gave way to philosophical resignation and amusement, although it must be said that it was much funnier when it was an opponent's ball behaving in this manner.

As the week progressed and we smaller fry were eliminated, once again it became clear by the emergence of such stalwarts as Moore, Owen, Bolton and Simon Tapp as the semi-finalists in the Big Handicap that whatever the conditions class will tell. Interesting features relating to the competitors were that ages ranged from 13 to 85 years, and handicaps from -1 to 16. Of particular interest was the number of relatives playing; indeed, it was said that there were 7 happy families, including 3 with children playing in the tournament. The latest Tapp to appear is 13-year-old Matthew who by winning the Monteith Bowl to add to the family collection showed us that he is clearly destined to emulate the success of father Arthur and brother Simon.

Perhaps the most interesting feature of the week was the emergence of the Parkers as a family to be reckoned with. Daughter Pat was steered by her partner Norman Cox to the Doubles Final. Allan Parker was unfortunately indisposed on the Tuesday, whereupon Joan his wife stepped into the breach to partner son David, and right nobly they performed to reach the semi-final. Pat was on the winning side in the Doubles Final, while David got as far as the final in the 'C' Handicap Singles, where he lost to that consistent performer Miss E.Hodgens on time.

In the 'B' Level Singles both Draw and Process were won by the stylish Ted Rees who goes from strength to strength. Also prominent in this class was H.A.Sheppard who at 85 years of age leaves most of his opponents wondering what they are doing in the same class. Moore and Owen shared the Big Handicap, while Tyrwhitt Drake beat Moore in the play-off for the Open Singles.

In business circles it is often said with truth, "Show me the chief of a department and I will tell you whether you have an efficient department," and so it is with a croquet tournament. We were lucky to have Edith Tucker as the chief. Her quiet, unobtrusive but efficient organisation left nothing to be desired and was greatly appreciated. Our thanks are also due to the groundsman who toiled indefatigably against the difficult drought situation. Mrs Wells and her supporting team produced the usual Southwick standard of catering which, the writer was assured by a lady visitor who has her priorities right, is the best. Yes, thank you Southwick for another enjoyable and companionable tournament.

Results

Event 1: Open Singles (10 Entries)

DRAW

First Round: **S.A.Tapp** bt. Dr C.A.Parker +24; **W.H.Austin** bt. W.E.Moore +5 (T).

Second Round: **H.G.T.Bolton** bt. D.A.Harris +1 (T); **Austin** bt. S.Tapp +17; **E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake** bt. Mrs N.A.C.McMillan +11; **A.E.C.Tapp** bt. T.F.Owen +9.

Semi-Final: **Bolton** bt. Austin +15; **Tyrwhitt Drake** bt. A.Tapp +5 (T).

Final: **Tyrwhitt Drake** bt. Bolton +3.

PROCESS

First Round: **A.Tapp** bt. Harris +14.

Second Round: **Moore** bt. A.Tapp +19; **Tyrwhitt Drake** bt. Parker +1 (T); **Owen** bt. Austin +16 (T); **S.Tapp** bt. Mrs McMillan +16.

Semi-Final: **Moore** bt. Tyrwhitt Drake +9; **S.Tapp** bt. Owen +16 (T).

Final: **Moore** bt. S.Tapp +3.

PLAY-OFF

Tyrwhitt Drake bt. Moore +4.

Event 2: 'B' Level Singles (15 Entries)

DRAW

First Round: **D.M.Bull** bt. Mrs F.F.W.Staddon +1 (T); **Mrs G.F.H.Elvey** bt. Professor A.S.C.Ross +2 (T); **E.E.Rees** bt. Miss H.D.Parker +16; **C.E.Knight** bt. G.F.Paxon +5 (T); **Mrs E.M.Temple** bt. F.F.W.Staddon +13; **H.A.Sheppard** bt. Mrs H.F.Chittenden +9 (T); **Mrs E.H.P.Mallinson** bt. H.J.Devitt +3 (T).

Second Round: **Mrs Elvey** bt. Bull +10 (T); **Rees** bt. Knight +16; **Mrs Temple** bt. Sheppard +4 (T); **Mrs Mallinson** bt. Mrs S.J.Turner +5.

Semi-Final: **Rees** bt. Mrs Elvey +15; **Mrs Mallinson** bt. Mrs Temple +3 (T).

Final: **Rees** bt. Mrs Mallinson +3 (T).

PROCESS

First Round: **Bull** bt. Staddon +16; **Mrs Mallinson** bt. Miss Parker +24; **Sheppard** bt. Ross +2; **Knight** bt. Mrs Turner +2 (T); **Mrs Staddon** bt. Mrs Temple +2 (T); **Rees** bt. Devitt +3 (T); **Mrs Elvey** bt. Mrs Chittenden +8 (T).

Second Round: **Bull** bt. Mrs Mallinson +1 (T); **Sheppard** bt. Knight +17; **Rees** bt. Mrs Staddon +9; **Mrs Elvey** bt. Paxon +5 (T).

Semi-Final: **Sheppard** bt. Bull +7 (T); **Rees** bt. Mrs Elvey +4 (T).

Final: **Rees** bt. Sheppard +14 (T).

Event 3: 'C' Handicap Singles (9 Entries)

First Round: **Dr D.A.Parker** (7) bt. Mrs W.A.Naylor (7) +13.

Second Round: **Mrs E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake** (8) bt. W.B.C.Paynter (7) +9 (T); **Parker** bt. Mrs H.J.Devitt (6) +6 (T); **Miss E.X.Hodgens** (8) bt. J.H.T.Griffiths (8) +2 (T); **Lt-Col E.H.P.Mallinson** (8) bt. D.M.Horne (5½) +1 (T).

Semi-Final: **Parker** bt. Mrs Tyrwhitt Drake +12; **Miss Hodgens** bt. Mallinson +11 (T).

Final: **Miss Hodgens** bt. Parker +3 (T).

Event 4: 'D' Handicap Singles (9 Entries)

First Round: **M.Tapp** (9) bt. Miss P.E.Parker (15) +5.

Second Round: **Mrs M.Rankin** (12) bt. Mrs D.G.Waterhouse (11) +5 (T); **M.Tapp** bt. Mrs J.M.Parker (16) +15; **Mrs A.E.Millns** (13) bt. Mrs G.C.Day (10) +11; **Mrs I.B.Tucker** (9) bt. Mrs E.Lewis (10) +8.

Semi-Final: **M.Tapp** bt. Mrs Rankin +11; **Mrs I.B.Tucker** bt. Mrs Millns +16.

Final: **M.Tapp** bt. Mrs I.B.Tucker +11.

Event 5: Open Handicap Singles (38 Entries)

First Round: **Mrs I.B.Tucker** (9) bt. Mrs G.C.Day (10) +4; **H.A.Sheppard** (3) bt. C.E.Knight (4½) +11; **S.A.Tapp** (0) bt.

D.A.Harris (½) +16; **Dr C.A.Parker** (2) bt. Mrs A.E.Millns (13) +11; **Mrs E.Lewis** (10) bt. E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake (-1) +11; **H.G.T.Bolton** (1) bt. F.F.W.Staddon (5) +16.

Second Round: **T.F.Owen** (½) bt. H.J.Devitt (5) +17; **Miss P.E.Parker** (15) bt. Professor A.S.C.Ross (2½) +5 (T); **W.H.Austin** (2) bt. Mrs D.G.Waterhouse (11) +15; **A.E.C.Tapp** (½) bt. Mrs H.G.T.Bolton (14) +3; **Mrs E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake** (8) bt. Miss H.D.Parker (5½) +21; **J.H.T.Griffiths** (8) bt. Mrs W.A.Naylor (7) +12; **Sheppard** bt. Mrs I.B.Tucker +12; **S.Tapp** bt. C.A.Parker +13; **Bolton** bt. Mrs Lewis +11; **D.M.Bull** (5) bt. Mrs E.M.Temple (4½) +10 (T); **Dr D.A.Parker** (7) bt. W.B.C.Paynter (7) +22; **Mrs H.J.Devitt** (6) bt. Mrs H.F.Chittenden (2½) +14; **D.M.Horne** (5½) bt. M.Tapp (9) +3 (T); **W.E.Moore** (-1) bt. Mrs N.A.C.McMillan (2) +6; **Mrs G.F.H.Elvey** (2½) bt. G.F.Paxon (5) +9 (T); **Miss E.X.Hodgens** (8) bt. Mrs S.J.Turner (4½) +25.

Third Round: **Owen** bt. Miss P.Parker +5 (T); **A.Tapp** bt. Austin +6; **Mrs Tyrwhitt Drake** bt. Griffiths +20; **S.Tapp** bt. Sheppard +20; **Bolton** bt. Bull +15; **D.Parker** bt. Mrs Devitt +5; **Moore** bt. Horne +3 (T); **Mrs Elvey** bt. Miss Hodgens +6.

Fourth Round: **Owen** bt. A.Tapp +17; **S.Tapp** bt. Mrs Tyrwhitt Drake +17; **Bolton** bt. D.Parker +3 (T); **Moore** bt. Mrs Elvey +6 (T).

Semi-Final: **Owen** bt. S.Tapp +9; **Moore** bt. Bolton +2 (T).

Final: Owen and Moore divided.

Event 6: Handicap Doubles (21 Pairs)

First Round: **W.H.Austin & M.Tapp** (11) bt. Mrs M.Rankin & Mrs G.C.Day (22) +13; **W.E.Moore & Miss E.X.Hodgens** (7) bt. S.A.Tapp & Mrs S.J.Turner (4½) +8; **N.W.T.Cox & Miss P.E.Parker** (13) bt. D.M.Bull & Mrs I.B.Tucker (13) +14; **T.F.Owen & G.F.Paxon** (5½) bt. Mr & Mrs E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake (6) +7; **H.A.Sheppard & F.F.W.Staddon** (8) bt. Mr & Mrs H.J.Devitt (11) +10.

Second Round: **Mrs N.A.C.McMillan & E.E.Rees** (5) bt. Professor A.S.C.Ross & Mrs E.H.P.Mallinson (7½) +2 (T); **Mrs E.R.Cox & Mrs A.E.Millns** (14) bt. A.E.C.Tapp & Lt-Col E.H.P.Mallinson (7½) +5 (T); **Austin & M.Tapp** bt. J.H.T.Griffiths & Miss H.D.Parker (13) +14; **Cox & Miss P.Parker** bt. Moore & Miss Hodgens +9; **Owen & Paxon** bt. Sheppard & Staddon +3 (T); **Dr D.A.Parker & Mrs J.M.Parker** (21) bt. Mrs H.F.Chittenden & Mrs G.F.H.Elvey (5) +2 (T); **Mr & Mrs H.G.T.Bolton** (13) bt. Mrs E.Lewis & Mrs W.A.Naylor (17) +23; **C.E.Knight & D.A.Harris** (5) bt. Mrs F.F.W.Staddon & Miss C.Cox (11) +10.

Third Round: **Mrs McMillan & Rees** bt. Mrs Cox & Mrs Millns +15; **Cox & Miss P.Parker** bt. Austin & M.Tapp +20; **D.Parker & Mrs Parker** bt. Owen & Paxon +1 (T); **Mr & Mrs Bolton** bt. Knight & Harris +10.

Semi-Final: **Cox & Miss P.Parker** bt. Mrs McMillan & Rees +4 (T); **Mr & Mrs Bolton** bt. D.Parker & Mrs Parker +6.

Final: **Cox & Miss P.Parker** bt. Mr & Mrs Bolton +8 (T).

Cheltenham Open Tournament: July 26-31

The report on this tournament can be no ordinary one, for it was no ordinary tournament! This will be understood by those who read the conditions in the Calendar Fixture List and the article of explanation in the April Gazette, and certainly by the 50 or so people who participated in it.

Is a Croquet Tournament primarily for the few who play all through and win a Cup, regardless of those who get knocked out, or is it to be a happy social event, with good class croquet—yes—but also with something worthwhile to occupy the less good players for the 5 or even 6 days? Especially is this a consideration in these days of finding accommodation within financial reach of one's pocket.

So Cheltenham set out to provide a tournament which would give everybody at least 8 games, whereas in the more orthodox tournament a player could be finished for the week after 4 losses. The Open, naturally, was completely orthodox, with Draw and Process. The 'B', 'C' and 'D' classes were also Draw and Process, but with modified games under Laws 54 and 55 where applicable, with two-life variation. The great innovation was to run the Big Handicap as a Swiss Tournament, with 3 blocks of 16 players, with six rounds of play. It turned out that the play-off semi-final matched the winner of 6 games in Block A with the winner of 5

games in Block C, and the winner of 6 games in Block B with the other winner of 5 games in Block C. Who these players were can be seen in the list of results.

The entire satisfaction with the results of the experiment was considerably modified by the speed of the lawns owing to the drought, which caused so many games, including 'A' class matches, to be won on time, and by the necessity for so many people to play later in the evening than they would normally wish to, and by the need to double bank in some games of the Swiss event.

There were some players who were critical of the experiment, but there were others who said that it was the best tournament they had ever been to. Many of the higher bisquers said how much they enjoyed playing the low bisquers, even though they may have lost, the point being that in the Swiss, unlike an ordinary Big Handicap, even if they lost to a crack player in the first round they were not eliminated but could meet some other good players in subsequent rounds.

In the Championship Hemsted did well to beat Colin Prichard twice (after the latter's success in the Association Plate in the Open Championships) and to win both Draw and Process, albeit with five games on time!

In the 'B' Levels the two back-markers Hallett (1) and Butler (1) reached the final and had a splendidly close game. In the 'C' Levels again the back-marker Mrs Povey (3½) won, defeating McLaren who up till that final game had won ten in a row. In the 'D' class, played on handicap, it was good to see two players in the middle of the handicap range (6½ -16); Mrs Sturdy (12) and Mrs Moorcraft (10) reached the final and had an excellent game, the former being the winner.

The Doubles produced some close and exciting games, but most people's money was on Taylor & Butler, the back-markers, who played very well together, though back-markers in Doubles by no means always win.

Mention should be made of Mrs Hemsted (6) who, playing level, gave Mrs Povey (3½) a very good game in their match. Mrs Hemsted then progressed in the Swiss to play Blumer in the Final. By mutual agreement they played it, with time limit lifted, on Sunday morning, or rather morning and afternoon, 10 a.m. to 2.15 p.m. non-stop, 4¼ hours for an 18-point game, thus showing the unfortunate necessity for timed games throughout the tournament.

Results

Event 1: Open Singles (16 Entries)

DRAW

First Round: **Mrs D.M.C.Prichard** bt. P.Newton +4 (T); **G.E.P.Jackson** bt. Revd W.E.Gladstone +17; **S.R.Hemsted** bt. R.O.B.Whittington +4 (T); **Lt-Col D.M.C.Prichard** bt. D.H.Moorcraft +15; **Mrs K.M.O.Wheeler** bt. C.G.Hopewell +6; **A.B.Hope** bt. Dr G.K.Taylor +9; **Professor B.G.Weitz** bt. J.Haigh +8 (T); **C.H.L.Prichard** bt. T.F.Owen +22.

Second Round: **Jackson** bt. Mrs Prichard +23; **Hemsted** bt. D.Prichard +23; **Hope** bt. Mrs Wheeler +3; **C.Prichard** bt. Weitz +12.

Semi-Final: **Hemsted** w.o. Jackson opp. retd.; **C.Prichard** bt. Hope +4 (T).

Final: **Hemsted** bt. C.Prichard +16.

PROCESS

First Round: **Mrs Wheeler** bt. Mrs Prichard +4; **Hemsted** bt. Haigh +1 (T); **Hope** bt. Gladstone +18; **C.Prichard** bt. Moorcraft +8; **Newton** bt. Hopewell +17; **Weitz** bt. Whittington +8; **Jackson** bt. Taylor +18; **Owen** bt. D.Prichard +2 (T).

Second Round: **Hemsted** bt. Mrs Wheeler +1 (T); **C.Prichard** bt. Hope +26; **Weitz** bt. Newton +11; **Jackson** bt. Owen +6.

Semi-Final: **Hemsted** bt. C.Prichard +4 (T); **Weitz** w.o. Jackson opp. retd.

Final: **Hemsted** bt. Weitz +4 (T).

PLAY-OFF FOR SECOND PLACE

Weitz bt. C.Prichard

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

DRAW

First Round: Miss E.H.Arkell bt. C.Edwards +11; W.J.Sturdy w.o. Mrs H.F.Chittenden opp. scr.; Mrs W.Longman bt. R.O.Calder +11 (T); L.S.Butler bt. F.E.Pearson +13; G.S.Digby bt. Mrs E.M.Lightfoot +18.

Second Round: G.F.Hallett bt. Miss Arkell +1; Sturdy bt. Mrs Longman +5 (T); Butler bt. Digby +17; Mrs G.S.Digby bt. Mrs G.F.H.Elvey +6 (T).

PROCESS

First Round: Hallett bt. Pearson +16; Mrs Digby bt. Sturdy +8 (T); Digby bt. Miss Arkell +1 (T); Butler bt. Mrs Elvey +13; Mrs Lightfoot bt. Edwards +14.

Second Round: Mrs Digby bt. Hallett +17; Digby w.o. Mrs Chittenden opp. scr.; Butler bt. Calder +14; Mrs Lightfoot bt. Mrs Longman +15.

SEMI-FINALISTS RE-DRAWN FOR FINAL STAGES

First Round: Mrs Lightfoot bt. Digby +1 (T); Hallett bt. Sturdy +9.

Semi-Final: Butler bt. Mrs Lightfoot +8; Hallett bt. Mrs Digby +9.

Final: Hallett bt. Butler +3.

Event 3: 'C' Level Singles (13 Entries)

DRAW

First Round: Col. G.T.Wheeler bt. Mrs P.Newton +10; Dr B.R.Sandiford bt. T.G.S.Colls +2; Mrs S.R.Hemsted bt. Mrs H.G.Handley +13; J.McLaren bt. L.G.Ayliffe +2; Mrs E.Asa-Thomas bt. Miss R.M.Allen +1.

Second Round: Wheeler bt. Miss I.M.Roe +12; Mrs Hemsted bt. Sandiford +13; McLaren bt. Mrs Asa-Thomas +2; Mrs B.G.Weitz bt. Mrs J.Povey +5.

PROCESS

First Round: McLaren bt. Miss Roe +15; Colls bt. Mrs Weitz +4; Wheeler bt. Mrs Asa-Thomas +7; Miss Allen bt. Mrs Newton +4; Mrs Povey bt. Sandiford +16.

Second Round: McLaren bt. Colls +6; Mrs Hemsted bt. Wheeler +6; Mrs Handley w.o. Miss Allen opp. scr.; Mrs Povey bt. Ayliffe +7 (T).

SEMI-FINALISTS RE-DRAWN FOR FINAL STAGES

First Round: Mrs Weitz bt. Mrs Handley +10; Mrs Povey bt. Wheeler +13.

Semi-Final: McLaren bt. Mrs Weitz +11; Mrs Povey bt. Mrs Hemsted +6.

Final: Mrs Povey bt. McLaren +12.

Event 4: 'D' Handicap Singles (10 Entries)

DRAW

First Round: Miss M.J.Lodge (6½) bt. E.Asa-Thomas (9) +12; Mrs W.J.Sturdy (12) bt. Mrs E.V.Deakin (13) +1 (T).

Second Round: Mrs Sturdy bt. Miss Lodge +8; Mrs D.H.Moorcraft (10) bt. Miss J.Wraith (12) +12; Miss A.M.Ryan (12) bt. Mrs M.A.L.Warren (15) +8; G.F.Blumer (7½) bt. Mrs L.L.Duveen (9) +5.

PROCESS

First Round: Mrs Duveen bt. Miss Wraith +12; Mrs Moorcraft bt. Blumer +1 (T).

Second Round: Mrs Sturdy bt. Mrs Duveen +2; Mrs Warren bt. Asa-Thomas +4; Mrs Moorcraft bt. Mrs Deakin +12; Miss Ryan bt. Miss Lodge +1 (T).

SEMI-FINALISTS RE-DRAWN FOR FINAL STAGES

First Round: Blumer bt. Mrs Warren +10.

Semi-Final: Mrs Moorcraft bt. Miss Ryan +5 (T); Mrs Sturdy bt. Blumer +12.

Final: Mrs Sturdy bt. Mrs Moorcraft +4.

Event 5: Swiss Handicap Singles (48 Entries)

Played in 3 blocks of 16 each; 18-point games; time limit of 3 hours in the first 4 rounds, 2½ hours in 5th and 6th rounds.

BLOCK A WINNER: J.McLaren (4), 6 wins.
BLOCK B WINNER: Dr G.K.Taylor (0), 6 wins.
BLOCK C JOINT WINNERS: G.F.Blumer (7½) and Mrs S.R.Hemsted (6), 5 wins each.

PLAY-OFF

Semi-Final: G.F.Blumer (7½) bt. J.McLaren (4) +5; Mrs S.R.Hemsted (6) bt. Dr G.K.Taylor (0) +4 (T).

Final: Mrs Hemsted bt. Blumer +5.

Event 6: Handicap Doubles (24 Pairs)

First Round: Mr & Mrs D.H.Moorcraft (10½) bt. R.O.Calder & Miss J.Wraith (15) +5 (T); C.Edwards & Miss A.M.Ryan (14½) w.o. opp. scr.; J.Haigh & Mrs E.V.Deakin (13½) bt. J.McLaren & Miss M.J.Lodge (10½) +3 (T); G.F.Hallett & Mrs L.L.Duveen (10) bt. Dr B.R.Sandiford & Mrs H.G.Handley (10½) +17; Mr & Mrs W.J.Sturdy (14) bt. Mr & Mrs F.E.Pearson (14) +11 (T); Mr & Mrs G.S.Digby (6) bt. Col. & Mrs G.T.Wheeler (3) +7; Mrs D.M.C.Prichard & G.F.Blumer (7) bt. Mr & Mrs P.Newton (5½) +11; Mrs E.M.Lightfoot & E.Asa-Thomas (10½) bt. T.G.S.Colls & Miss I.M.Roe (11) +2 (T).

Second Round: R.O.B.Whittington & Miss E.H.Arkell (2½) bt. Lt-Col D.M.C.Prichard & Mrs J.Povey (2½) +3; Mr & Mrs S.R.Hemsted (4½) bt. C.G.Hopewell & Mrs M.A.L.Warren (13½) +17; Mr & Mrs Moorcraft bt. Edwards & Miss Ryan +7 (T); Hallett & Mrs Duveen bt. Haigh & Mrs Deakin +4 (T); Mr & Mrs Digby bt. Mr & Mrs Sturdy +2 (T); Mrs Lightfoot & Asa-Thomas bt. Mrs Prichard & Blumer +5 (T); Dr G.K.Taylor & L.S.Butler (1) bt. Revd W.E.Gladstone & Mrs E.Asa-Thomas (4½) +14; T.F.Owen & Mrs W.Longman (2) bt. Professor & Mrs B.G.Weitz (4) +2.

Third Round: Whittington & Miss Arkell bt. Mr & Mrs Hemsted +8; Mr & Mrs Moorcraft bt. Hallett & Mrs Duveen +2 (T); Mr & Mrs Digby bt. Mrs Lightfoot & Asa-Thomas +1 (T); Taylor & Butler bt. Owen & Mrs Longman +16.

Semi-Final: Mr & Mrs Moorcraft bt. Whittington & Miss Arkell +8; Taylor & Butler bt. Mr & Mrs Digby +9.

Final: Taylor & Butler bt. Mr & Mrs Moorcraft +10.

Hurlingham: August 5-14

Three features in particular of this year's Hurlingham Tournament justify comment. As many as 75 players competed in one or more events, the largest entry for many years, and, much as the Committee and the Manager would have liked to have accepted more, half a dozen or so entries had to be rejected; as it was, there were some 250 games to be completed. Secondly, the writer can hardly fail to mention the lawns which, because of the unprecedented drought and saline pollution from Thames water, were more testing than any player could recall. It was inevitable that rigorous time limits had to be imposed throughout the whole of the tournament. Thirdly, in what is arguably the most difficult tournament in the Calendar to manage, Graham Martin's handling was superb. It was scarcely credible that this was his first assignment as a Manager, but throughout he carried out his duties as if to the manner born. By keeping a record of the lawns on which competitors had played he was able to allot their games as equitably as possible and, apart from the odd irresponsible comment from a player or two who should have known better, his running of the tournament received unstinted praise.

Before leaving the subject of Graham Martin, among the entries this year was a notable sprinkling of the younger generation, some

of whom had emerged from the Martin stable at Harrow Oak. Dr Solomon, who won the main event, the Hurlingham Cup, and who has made great strides this year, learned much of his early croquet from the tutelage of Graham. Others of the younger generation who seemed to be on the lawns a great deal were Stevens, Parr, Phillips, Openshaw, Keen, Bell and Marion Hemsted who had such a successful debut last year at Hurlingham.

It was a good result for Dr Solomon to come through quite a strong field to win the Hurlingham Cup. Michael Stride may count himself a little unlucky as, having beaten the doctor in one semi-final, he had to play his fourth game of the day against Vic Rees in the final when he was beginning to wilt in the heat. A slight over-roll at the Rover after peeling his opponent probably cost him the game.

The popular Guy Betts beat the welcome visitor from the Antipodes, June Russell, after a play-off in the Turner Cup, while young Mike Stevens won both halves of the Younger Cup and will have heard from the handicapper. Stevens also won the handsome Wine Coolers in the company of Michael Stride, and lost narrowly in the Silver Jubilee Cup final to John Parr, whose handicap was overdue for trimming.

Lady Bazley had a good tournament and showed considerable promise, winning the Longworth Cup, and the Ladies Field Candlesticks with Barbara Meachem, a powerful pair who would have been ranked as favourites in any bookmaker's lists. During the playing of the Candlesticks, news reached the ground of the death of Daisy Lintern who had won the event no fewer than 8 times. She had laboured hard and diligently in the service of croquet.

The playing of the Hurlingham Doubles at the weekend enables working players to enter just for this one event, and this year it attracted the attention of three champions, Aspinall, Neal and Wylie. The first two were unfortunately drawn against each other (with their partners) in their opening game on one of the most difficult lawns, and the issue was decided on time with Aspinall and Veronica Carlisle prevailing and then going on to reach the final, where they met Wylie and Sarah Hampson who had enjoyed a highly successful union when playing for Eastern Counties earlier in the season. The last half hour of this final was absorbing to the gallery, but rather nerve-racking to the contestants. Sarah Hampson had the unexpected privilege afforded to her of pegging out the Open Champion, and with errors on both sides in the subsequent exchanges she and her partner narrowly won.

A final word concerns one who first appeared at Hurlingham 50 or so years ago, and who won the main event in 1932. It was a delight to see Humphrey Hicks' tactics on the fast lawns. On one lawn where controlled croquet was virtually impossible Humphrey made no attempt to make more than a hoop or two at a time, but engineered wired leaves with no shot of advantage for the opponent.

Results

Event 1: The Hurlingham Cup (20 Entries)

DRAW

First Round: Dr E.W.Solomon bt. Mrs B.M.Meachem +18; Professor B.G.Weitz bt. T.F.Owen +12; R.A.Godby bt. Mrs G.H.Wood +8 (T); H.O.Hicks bt. E.Bell +1 (T).

Second Round: D.C.Russell bt. D.J.V.Hamilton-Miller +25; M.Stride bt. Mrs E.M.Lightfoot +12; S.S.Townsend bt. C.H.J.Cousins +3 (T); Solomon bt. Weitz +12; Hicks bt. Godby +15; J.Haigh bt. Miss B.Duthie +14; D.V.H.Rees bt. Mrs B.L.Sundius-Smith +17; C.G.Pountney bt. D.Openshaw +11 (T).

Third Round: Stride bt. Russell +25; Solomon bt. Townsend +5 (T); Hicks bt. Haigh +5; Rees bt. Pountney +11.

Semi-Final: Stride bt. Solomon +16; Rees w.o. Hicks opp. scr.

Final: Rees bt. Stride +3.

PROCESS

First Round: Russell bt. Mrs Sundius-Smith +10 (T); Pountney bt.

Mrs Lightfoot +12 (T); Hamilton-Miller bt. Rees +12 (T); Stride bt. Openshaw +4.

Second Round: Russell bt. Weitz +2; Bell bt. Cousins +2 (T); Godby bt. Pountney +21; Solomon bt. Haigh +11; Hamilton-Miller bt. Owen +1 (T); Hicks bt. Townsend +13; Stride bt. Mrs Wood +13; Mrs Meachem bt. Miss Duthie +3 (T).

Third Round: Bell bt. Russell +4 (T); Solomon bt. Godby +6; Hicks w.o. Hamilton-Miller opp. scr.; Stride bt. Mrs Meachem +25.

Semi-Final: Solomon bt. Bell +19; Stride bt. Hicks +26.

Final: Solomon bt. Stride +14.

PLAY-OFF

Solomon bt. Rees +17.

Event 2: The Turner Cup (18 Entries)

DRAW

First Round: Mrs D.C.Russell bt. R.A.Carte +12 (T); Miss S.G.Hampson bt. G.H.Betts +3.

Second Round: Mrs B.G.Weitz w.o. R.S.Eades opp. scr.; B.A.Keen bt. Mrs E.E.Bressey +16; S.G.Kent bt. T.G.S.Colls +9 (T); Mrs Russell bt. Miss Hampson +2 (T); Mrs W.Longman bt. G.M.Leech +12 (T); J.G.C.Phillips bt. Mrs G.W.Solomon +18; Mrs N.A.C.McMillan bt. I.C.Baillieu +15; R.O.Havery bt. Mrs D.M.Aubrey +1 (T).

Third Round: Mrs Weitz bt. Keen +4; Mrs Russell bt. Kent +15; Mrs Longman bt. Phillips +7; Havery bt. Mrs McMillan +7 (T).

Semi-Final: Mrs Russell bt. Mrs Weitz +3 (T); Mrs Longman bt. Havery +4 (T).

Final: Mrs Russell bt. Mrs Longman +6 (T).

PROCESS

First Round: Mrs Aubrey w.o. Eades opp. scr.; Mrs Weitz bt. Havery +7.

Second Round: Miss Hampson bt. Mrs Aubrey +20; Phillips bt. Colls +4; Mrs Longman bt. Mrs Bressey +4 (T); Mrs Russell bt. Baillieu +18; Betts bt. Mrs Weitz +9; Kent bt. Mrs Solomon +14; Keen bt. Leech +16; Carte bt. Mrs McMillan +3 (T).

Third Round: Miss Hampson bt. Phillips +1 (T); Mrs Russell bt. Mrs Longman +16; Betts bt. Kent +2 (T); Keen bt. Carte +1 (T).

Semi-Final: Mrs Russell bt. Miss Hampson +13; Betts bt. Keen +20.

Final: Betts bt. Mrs Russell +14.

PLAY-OFF

Betts bt. Mrs Russell +10.

Event 3: The Younger Cup (18 Entries)

DRAW

First Round: Mrs S.R.Hemsted bt. J.Parr +2 (T); A.Gordon bt. Mrs H.J.Devitt +1 (T).

Second Round: C.B.Sanford bt. H.J.Devitt +9 (T); B.H.Bliss bt. E.B.T.Tanner +9 (T); M.G.Pearson bt. P.H.Mann +3 (T); Mrs Hemsted bt. Gordon +18; B.A.Meadows bt. O.A.Kerensky +12; Mrs P.W.Hooper bt. C.W.Haworth +21; M.J.Stevens bt. Mrs B.G.Neal +2 (T); C.T.J.Lindsay bt. Mrs F.H.N.Davidson +21.

Third Round: Bliss bt. Sanford +18; Mrs Hemsted bt. Pearson +17; Meadows bt. Mrs Hooper +1 (T); Stevens bt. Lindsay +19.

Semi-Final: Mrs Hemsted bt. Bliss +6; Stevens bt. Meadows +9.

Final: Stevens bt. Mrs Hemsted +7.

PROCESS

First Round: Lindsay bt. Sanford +1 (T); Devitt bt. Mrs Davidson +2 (T).

Second Round: Lindsay bt. Gordon +19; Pearson bt. Mrs Hooper +14; Meadows bt. Bliss +1 (T); Parr bt. Mrs Neal +22; Devitt bt. Mrs Devitt +7; Mann bt. Haworth +8 (T); Tanner bt. Kerensky +5 (T); Stevens bt. Mrs Hemsted +1 (T).

Third Round: Lindsay bt. Pearson +3 (T); Meadows bt. Parr +19; Devitt bt. Mann +19; Stevens bt. Tanner +4.

Semi-Final: **Lindsay** bt. Meadows +20; **Stevens** bt. Devitt +25.

Final: **Stevens** bt. Lindsay +19.

Event 4: The Longworth Cup (10 Entries)

DRAW

First Round: **C.M.Fox** (14) bt. Mrs P.H.Mann (8) +4 (T); **J.G.O.Miller** (11) bt. Miss H.R.Buller (16) +3 (T).

Second Round: **Miss J.Wraith** (12) bt. Mrs R.E.Rentoul (9) +2; **Miller** bt. Fox +7 (T); **G.L.Frost** (12) bt. Mrs S.S.Townsend (16) +3 (T); **Lady Bazley** (12) bt. Mrs C.W.Haworth (13) +11 (T).

Semi-Final: **Miss Wraith** bt. Miller +4 (T); **Lady Bazley** bt. Frost +3.

Final: **Lady Bazley** bt. Miss Wraith +4.

PROCESS

First Round: **Lady Bazley** bt. Miss Wraith +8; **Mrs Rentoul** bt. Mrs Haworth +12.

Second Round: **Lady Bazley** bt. Miss Buller +1 (T); **Frost** bt. Mrs Mann +16; **Miller** bt. Mrs Rentoul +6 (T); **Fox** bt. Mrs Townsend +6 (T).

Semi-Final: **Frost** bt. Lady Bazley +9; **Fox** bt. Miller +1 (T).

Final: **Frost** bt. Fox +5.

PLAY-OFF

Lady Bazley bt. Frost +10.

Event 5: The Hurlingham Doubles (18 Pairs)

First Round: **B.A.Meadows & Mrs E.E.Bressey** bt. J.Haigh & Mrs P.W.Hooper +2 (T); **Mr & Mrs D.C.Russell** bt. T.G.S.Colls & Mrs E.M.Lightfoot +24.

Second Round: **R.A.Godby & Mrs G.H.Wood** bt. R.O.Havery & Mrs B.L.Sundius-Smith +3; **G.N.Aspinall & Mrs H.B.H.Carlisle** bt. Professor & Mrs B.G.Neal +7 (T); **M.Stride & Mrs W.Longman** bt. B.H.Bliss & Mrs A.W.Skempton +9; **Mr & Mrs Russell** bt. Meadows & Mrs Bressey +17; **K.F.Wylie & Miss S.G.Hampson** bt. D.J.V.Hamilton-Miller & Mrs G.W.Solomon +13 (T); **C.G.Pountney & Mrs B.M.Meachem** bt. I.C.Baillieu & Miss B.Duthie +7 (T); **H.O.Hicks & Mrs N.A.C.McMillan** bt. Professor & Mrs B.G.Weitz +12; **Mr & Mrs S.R.Hemsted** bt. R.A.Carte & Mrs D.M.Aubrey +16 (T).

Third Round: **Aspinall & Mrs Carlisle** bt. Godby & Mrs Wood +16; **Mr & Mrs Russell** bt. Stride & Mrs Longman +25; **Wylie & Miss Hampson** bt. Pountney & Mrs Meachem +4; **Mr & Mrs Hemsted** bt. Hicks & Mrs McMillan +8.

Semi-Final: **Aspinall & Mrs Carlisle** bt. Mr & Mrs Russell +17; **Wylie & Miss Hampson** bt. Mr & Mrs Hemsted +20.

Final: **Wylie & Miss Hampson** bt. Aspinall & Mrs Carlisle +2.

Event 6: The Ladies Field Candlesticks (11 Pairs)

First Round: **Mrs F.H.N.Davidson & Mrs N.A.C.McMillan** (9) bt. Mrs B.G.Weitz & Mrs D.H.Moorcraft (13½) +2 (T); **Mrs W.Longman & Mrs H.J.Devitt** (8½) bt. Mrs S.R.Hemsted & Mrs B.G.Neal (11½) +12 (T); **Mrs H.B.H.Carlisle & Mrs A.W.Skempton** (8½) bt. Mrs G.H.Wood & Miss B.Duthie (3) +1 (T).

Second Round: **Mrs P.H.Mann & Mrs G.W.Solomon** (12) bt. Mrs P.W.Hooper & Mrs D.M.Aubrey (10) +12; **Mrs Davidson & Mrs McMillan** bt. Mrs Longman & Mrs Devitt +4 (T); **Mrs Carlisle & Mrs Skempton** bt. Miss S.G.Hampson & Mrs B.L.Sundius-Smith (2½) +19; **Mrs B.M.Meachem & Lady Bazley** (12) bt. Mrs D.C.Russell & Miss J.Wraith (15) +14.

Semi-Final: **Mrs Davidson & Mrs McMillan** bt. Mrs Mann & Mrs Solomon +7; **Mrs Meachem & Lady Bazley** bt. Mrs Carlisle & Mrs Skempton +15.

Final: **Mrs Meachem & Lady Bazley** bt. Mrs Davidson & Mrs McMillan +21.

Event 7: Men's Handicap Doubles (17 Pairs)

First Round: **J.Haigh & R.A.Carte** (2½) bt. E.Bell & B.A.Keen (3) +2 (T).

Second Round: **J.G.C.Phillips & C.H.J.Cousins** (5) bt. Dr E.W.Solomon & C.W.Haworth (5½) +6; **I.C.Baillieu & R.O.Havery** (5) bt. J.G.O.Miller & G.H.Betts (13½) +1 (T); **Professor B.G.Neal & C.T.J.Lindsay** (3½) bt. G.L.Frost & O.A.Kerensky (18) +21; **Haigh & Carte** bt. H.J.Devitt & G.N.Leech (8) +15; **M.Stride & M.J.Stevens** (5) bt. M.G.Pearson & J.Parr (11½) +13; **Professor B.G.Weitz & D.C.Russell** (1) bt. B.A.Meadows & R.S.Eades (8) +13; **H.O.Hicks & S.G.Kent** (3) bt. E.B.T.Tanner & T.F.Owen (5½) +12 (T); **C.G.Pountney & T.G.S.Colls** (5) bt. R.A.Godby & P.H.Mann (4½) +7.

Third Round: **Baillieu & Havery** bt. Phillips & Cousins +2 (T); **Neal & Lindsay** bt. Haigh & Carte +20; **Stride & Stevens** bt. Weitz & Russell +17; **Hicks & Kent** bt. Pountney & Colls +6.

Semi-Final: **Neal & Lindsay** bt. Baillieu & Havery +13 (T); **Stride & Stevens** bt. Hicks & Kent +23.

Final: **Stride & Stevens** bt. Neal & Lindsay +24.

Event 8: The Silver Jubilee Cup (55 Entries)

First Round: **E.Bell** (1) bt. Mrs G.H.Wood (1½) +12; **C.B.Sanford** (4½) bt. Mrs B.M.Meachem (0) +18; **I.C.Baillieu** (3) bt. E.B.T.Tanner (6) +2 (T); **D.Openshaw** (1) bt. H.J.Devitt (5) +18; **Dr E.W.Solomon** (-1) bt. Professor B.G.Weitz (½) +8; **D.C.Caporn** (2½) w.o. G.N.Leech (3) opp. scr.; **Mrs E.M.Lightfoot** (1½) bt. G.H.Betts (2½) +8; **Mrs H.J.Devitt** (6) bt. A.Gordon (6½) +10 (T); **G.F.Hallett** (1) bt. D.C.Russell (½) +8 (T); **R.A.Carte** (2) bt. M.G.Pearson (5) +1 (T); **R.A.Godby** (-1½) bt. Mrs B.G.Neal (5½) +1 (T); **J.Parr** (6) bt. S.G.Kent (4) +7 (T); **B.H.Bliss** (6) bt. Miss J.Wraith (12) +5; **C.M.Fox** (14) bt. P.H.Mann (6) +5 (T); **R.S.Eades** (3) bt. T.G.S.Colls (5) +9; **B.A.Keen** (2) bt. Mrs G.W.Solomon (4) +20; **Mrs B.L.Sundius-Smith** (-½) bt. C.H.J.Cousins (½) +7 (T); **Mrs B.G.Weitz** (3½) bt. D.J.V.Hamilton-Miller (-½) +12; **Mrs D.C.Russell** (3) bt. Miss S.G.Hampson (3) +2 (T); **M.J.Stevens** (6) bt. Miss B.Duthie (1½) +12; **H.O.Hicks** (-1) bt. Mrs P.H.Mann (8) +13; **J.Haigh** (2) bt. Mrs P.M.Hooper (7) +6 (T); **Mrs D.M.Aubrey** (3) bt. R.O.Havery (2) +7 (T).

Second Round: **O.A.Kerensky** (6) bt. Mrs W.Longman (2½) +5 (T); **C.G.Pountney** (0) bt. Lady Bazley (12) +6 (T); **Bell** bt. Sanford +21; **Baillieu** bt. Openshaw +12; **Solomon** bt. Caporn +4; **Mrs Devitt** bt. Mrs Lightfoot +6 (T); **Carte** bt. Hallett +11 (T); **Parr** bt. Godby +4 (T); **Bliss** bt. Fox +22; **Keen** bt. Eades +3 (T); **Mrs Weitz** bt. Mrs Sundius-Smith +16; **Stevens** bt. Mrs Russell +17; **Hicks** bt. Haigh +11; **G.L.Frost** (12) bt. Mrs Aubrey +9; **Mrs N.A.C.McMillan** (2) bt. Mrs E.E.Bressey (4) +13 (T); **J.G.C.Phillips** (4½) bt. Mrs F.H.N.Davidson (7) +4 (T).

Third Round: **Pountney** bt. Kerensky +20 (T); **Bell** bt. Baillieu +10; **Solomon** bt. Mrs Devitt +12; **Parr** bt. Carte +19 (T); **Keen** bt. Bliss +1 (T); **Stevens** bt. Mrs Weitz +13; **Hicks** bt. Frost +5; **Mrs McMillan** bt. Phillips +12.

Fourth Round: **Pountney** bt. Bell +8 (T); **Parr** bt. Solomon +22; **Stevens** bt. Keen +26; **Hicks** bt. Mrs McMillan +13.

Semi-Final: **Parr** bt. Pountney +26; **Stevens** bt. Hicks +18.

Final: **Parr** bt. Stevens +9.

Event 9: The Baillieu Plate (26 Entries)

Final: **Professor B.G.Weitz** (½) bt. C.H.J.Cousins (½) +11.

Nottingham: August 16-21

One of the advantages of the Nottingham Tournament from the players' point of view is that they are offered 4 events to compete in, and so are assured of a good number of games. Add to this the high standard of catering, with wine at lunch donated by the President of the Club and Stilton donated by the Chairman, and an enjoyable tournament is guaranteed.

As elsewhere, the courts had suffered from the drought, but the two temporary courts on the bowling greens, being of different grass, were fairly lush, which gave players some interesting problems as they played successive games on slow, fast, ultra-fast or mixed courts. This resulted in an extraordinary number of close games. In a quarter of all games the winning margin was 4 or less.

Typical of these was the Handicap Doubles Final in which Bob Calder, partnered by Eve Chamberlain, was trying to make sure that one of the cups went back to Scotland for the third successive year, while John Phillips and Eve's husband Bob were determined that it would not. As time was called, the first pair were two points ahead, but John Phillips got in and scored the necessary three hoops.

A close game with an extraordinary finish was that between Cecily Brumpton and A.J.Bucknell, who were still level after time was called and both turns over. "Buck" split Cecily's yellow from his own black ball and watched with dismay as the yellow ball rolled round and just trickled through its hoop to lose him the game. Afterwards, a referee who takes the laws literally wondered whether "Buck" had not, in fact, won the game as the law on Time Limits states quite clearly "If the points are equal at this stage, the side which scores the next point shall win", and equally clearly "Buck" had scored the point, while Cecily Brumpton had merely had the point scored for her.

To accommodate some late overseas entries the tournament was over-subscribed, but the Manager, Edward Duffield, took this in his stride and overcame it with the judicious application of double-banking when it was needed to bring the games back on schedule. Perhaps it was the effect of double-banking, but one competitor in an un-double-banked game, who had just run 2-back, was more than a little surprised, on turning round, to see her opponent successfully running hoop 3.

Receivers of bisques are often taught to put the opponent in, take a bisque to set up a break, and use half the remaining bisques to go round in the 4th turn. This is often bad advice, especially if they are armed with less than their full allocation of bisques, but Roger Wheeler had his full allocation of 9 bisques against Ian Wright and showed just how it should be done. He used 3 bisques in the 4th turn to take his first ball to Rover and left his opponent with a 25-yard shot which he missed. Then, in what was effectively the 6th turn, he took his second ball to Rover, doing a copy-book Rover peel at hoop 5, before the remaining bisques ran out. It then just needed one mistake on the wrong ball by Ian Wright, which he conveniently made at 2-back, for Roger to finish off the game.

With all the cup holders knocked out in the first round or unable to defend their trophies, all the events were very open and were keenly contested, and in every event the winner was in doubt right up to the Final, which made this year's Nottingham Tournament as interesting for the spectators as it was enjoyable for the players.

Results

Event 1: 'Robin Hood' Open Handicap Singles (30 Entries)

First Round: **G.N.Leech** (3) bt. R.Fletcher (7) +8; **Mrs R.F.Wheeler** (6½) bt. Dr G.K.Taylor (0) +3; **Miss E.C.Brumpton** (5) bt. Revd D.Anderson (8) +3 (T); **R.A.Carte** (2) bt. A.J.Bucknell (5½) +7; **D.de Q. Lenfestey** (5½) bt. Mrs L.A.Coombs (3½) +8; **J.G.C.Phillips** (4½) bt. Mrs A.J.Bucknell (9) +16; **Miss S.G.Hampson** (2½) bt. Dr R.F.Wheeler (9) +1 (T); **I.H.Wright** (0) bt. Mrs D.de Q. Lenfestey (8) +12; **R.O.Calder** (3) bt. P.Death (6½) +3; **P.W.Elmes** (0) bt. Mrs K.F.W.Townsend (10) +16; **W.A.Scarr** (10) bt. Mrs C.Chamberlain (8) +21; **T.Smith** (5) bt. Mrs P.Hooper (7) +15; **S.J.H.Wright** (0) bt. G.Henshaw (3) +9; **C.Chamberlain** (7) bt. Mrs D.M.Aubrey (4) +12.

Second Round: **Mrs Wheeler** bt. Leech +5 (T); **Miss E.C.Brumpton** bt. Carte +21; **Phillips** bt. Lenfestey +18; **I.Wright** bt. Miss Hampson +15; **Elmes** bt. Calder +4; **Smith** bt. Scarr +8; **S.Wright** bt. Chamberlain +11; **G.Noble** (2½) bt. K.F.W.Townsend (12) +12.

Third Round: **Mrs Wheeler** bt. Miss E.C.Brumpton +14; **I.Wright** bt. Phillips +2; **Elmes** bt. Smith +6; **S.Wright** bt. Noble +12.

Semi-Final: **I.Wright** bt. Mrs Wheeler +12; **S.Wright** bt. Elmes +19.

Final: **S.Wright** bt. I.Wright +15.

Event 2: Open Singles (10 Entries)

DRAW

First Round: **Miss S.G.Hampson** bt. Dr G.K.Taylor +1 (T); **I.H.Wright** bt. G.Henshaw +17.

Second Round: **G.Noble** bt. G.N.Leech +21; **I.Wright** bt. Miss Hampson +16; **P.W.Elmes** bt. R.A.Carte +25; **S.J.H.Wright** bt. R.O.Calder +25.

Semi-Final: **I.Wright** bt. Noble +10; **S.Wright** bt. Elmes +5.

Final: **S.Wright** bt. I.Wright +10.

PROCESS

First Round: **Calder** bt. Leech +10; **S.Wright** bt. Noble +14.

Second Round: **Henshaw** bt. Calder +13; **Miss Hampson** bt. Carte +3 (T); **I.Wright** bt. S.Wright +8; **Elmes** bt. Taylor +8.

Semi-Final: **Henshaw** bt. Miss Hampson +14; **Elmes** bt. I.Wright +17.

Final: **Elmes** bt. Henshaw +23.

PLAY-OFF

S.Wright bt. Elmes +3.

Event 3: 'B' Level Singles (14 Entries)

First Round: **C.W.Haworth** bt. Mrs C.Chamberlain +8 (T); **Mrs R.F.Wheeler** bt. Mrs D.M.Aubrey +15; **J.G.C.Phillips** bt. A.J.Bucknell +23; **Miss E.C.Brumpton** bt. D.de Q. Lenfestey +10 (T); **P.Death** bt. Revd D.Anderson +13; **Mrs P.Hooper** bt. R.Fletcher +9.

Second Round: **Mrs Wheeler** w.o. Haworth opp. retcd.; **Phillips** bt. Miss E.C.Brumpton +23; **Death** bt. Mrs Hooper +11; **T.Smith** bt. Mrs D.de Q. Lenfestey +20.

Semi-Final: **Phillips** bt. Mrs Wheeler +18; **Death** bt. Smith +12.

Final: **Phillips** bt. Death +22.

Event 4: 'C' Handicap Singles (8 Entries)

First Round: **L.Robinson** (9) bt. W.A.Scarr (10) +3; **Mrs A.J.Bucknell** (9) bt. K.F.W.Townsend (12) +2 (T); **Dr R.F.Wheeler** (9) bt. Mrs W.A.Scarr (9) +5; **Mrs K.F.W.Townsend** (10) bt. Mrs C.W.Haworth (13) +16.

Semi-Final: **Robinson** bt. Mrs Bucknell +7 (T); **Wheeler** bt. Mrs Townsend +8 (T).

Final: **Wheeler** bt. Robinson +7 (T).

Event 5a: 'X' Handicap Singles (30 Entries)

First Round: **Miss S.G.Hampson** (2½) bt. Mrs C.W.Haworth (13) +18; **Mrs C.Chamberlain** (8) bt. Mrs K.F.W.Townsend (10) +7 (T); **D.de Q. Lenfestey** (5½) bt. A.J.Bucknell (5½) +4 (T); **Mrs W.A.Scarr** (11) bt. Miss E.C.Brumpton (5) +9; **G.Henshaw** (3) bt. W.A.Scarr (10) +18; **G.N.Leech** (3) bt. C.Chamberlain (7) +2; **T.Smith** (5) bt. J.G.C.Phillips (4½) +4; **Mrs R.F.Wheeler** (6½) bt. R.O.Calder (3) +12; **L.Robinson** (9) bt. Mrs D.de Q. Lenfestey (8) +2 (T); **P.Death** (6½) bt. K.F.W.Townsend (12) +16; **S.J.H.Wright** (0) bt. Dr R.F.Wheeler (9) +14; **Revd D.Anderson** (8) bt. G.Noble (2½) +4; **G.K.Taylor** (0) bt. Mrs L.A.Coombs (3½) +4; **P.W.Elmes** (0) bt. I.H.Wright (0) +21.

Second Round: **Mrs Chamberlain** bt. Miss Hampson +5; **Lenfestey** bt. Mrs Scarr +15; **Henshaw** bt. Leech +7; **Smith** bt. Mrs Wheeler +2; **Death** bt. Robinson +8; **S.Wright** bt. Anderson +22; **Taylor** bt. Elmes +14; **Mrs P.Hooper** (7) bt. Mrs A.J.Bucknell (9) +18.

Third Round: **Lenfestey** bt. Mrs Chamberlain +15; **Henshaw** bt. Smith +2; **S.Wright** bt. Death +2 (T); **Taylor** bt. Mrs Hooper +5.

Semi-Final: **Henshaw** bt. Lenfestey +5; **Taylor** bt. S.Wright +14.

Final: **Taylor** bt. Henshaw +15.

Event 5b: 'Y' Handicap Singles (15 Entries)

Final: **C.Chamberlain** (7) bt. Dr R.F.Wheeler (9) +13.

Event 6: Handicap Doubles (15 Pairs)

First Round: **A.J.Bucknell & T.Smith** (10½) bt. I.H.Wright & Miss S.G.Hampson (2½) +13; **P.W.Elmes & R.Fletcher** (7) bt. Mr & Mrs K.F.W.Townsend (22) +9; **R.A.Carte & Mrs D.M.Aubrey** (6) bt.

G.Noble & Dr R.F.Wheeler (11½) +2 (T); **R.O.Calder & Mrs C.Chamberlain** (11) bt. Dr G.K.Taylor & Mrs L.A.Coombs (3½) +6; **P.Death & Mrs R.F.Wheeler** (13) bt. G.N.Leech & Mrs P.W.Hooper (10) +6 (T); **Mr & Mrs W.A.Scarr** (19) bt. C.W.Haworth & L.Robinson (15) +7; **G.Henshaw & Mrs A.J.Bucknell** (11) bt. Mr & Mrs D. de Q. Lenfestey (13½) +4 (T).

Second Round: **Bucknell & Smith** bt. Elmes & Fletcher +2 (T); **Calder & Mrs Chamberlain** bt. Carte & Mrs Aubrey +1 (T); **Death & Mrs Wheeler** bt. Mr & Mrs Scarr +24; **J.G.C.Phillips & C.Chamberlain** (11½) bt. Henshaw & Mrs Bucknell +12.

Semi-Final: **Calder & Mrs Chamberlain** bt. Bucknell & Smith +8; **Phillips & Chamberlain** bt. Death & Mrs Wheeler +8.

Final: **Phillips & Chamberlain** bt. Calder & Mrs Chamberlain +2 (T).

The Ladies Field Cup, played at Budleigh Salterton, August 16-19

The decline in the standard of play, but not in enjoyment, of Ladies Croquet was apparent in this tournament. There were no triple peels, or even double peels for that matter, and a break of 7 or more hoops was only achieved on three occasions. To some extent this may be attributed to the difficulties that the dry season has enforced on the lawns, which were, however, in the opinion of two recent players at Hurlingham, in better condition than the lawns of that renowned club. The main reason, surely, was the safety tactics indulged in by some of the players, preferring to croquet balls to the comparative safety of far corners rather than to the next hoops or possible useful positions. I say comparative safety because the standard of hitting in was high, considerably more so than the subsequent play.

The cup was won by Mrs Sundius-Smith, who twice beat last year's winner, Mrs Wheeler, who was the runner-up. The hardness of the ground was probably responsible for the fact that the latter's renowned sideways hoop shots bounced firmly back off the wires, despite the generous setting of the hoops.

Miss Joly and the elegant stylist Mrs Russell competed for third place, which was won by the former, and Mrs Weitz and Mrs Digby tied for fifth place, there being only six competitors.

Our condolences go to those leading players who had accepted but had to withdraw at the last moment. It is a pity, however, that the tournament is never fully representative of the best that English ladies can produce.

Mrs Cave's management was more than adequately rewarded by the players, who also expressed their appreciation of the hospitality afforded by the Budleigh Salterton Club.

The Ladies' Field Cup	Mrs B.L. Sundius-Smith	Mrs K.M.O. Wheeler	Miss F.I. Joly	Mrs D.C. Russell	Mrs B.G. Weitz	Mrs G.S. Digby	W I N S
Mrs B.L. Sundius-Smith		+2	-13	+5	-4	+7	8
Mrs K.M.O. Wheeler	-2		+10	+18	+14	+15	7
Miss F.I. Joly	+13	-10		-19	+1	+20	5
Mrs D.C. Russell	-5	-18	+19		-14	+7	4
Mrs B.G. Weitz	+4	-14	-1	+14		-10	3
Mrs G.S. Digby	-7	-15	-20	-7	+10		3

Carrickmines (Championship of Ireland): August 16-21

A week of brilliant sunshine in the peace of Carrickmines, with its backdrop of the Dublin mountains topped by the ruins of the old Hellfire Club; watching croquet on the terraced lawns; good food and pleasant company—all this makes actually playing seem an unnecessary exertion. But play we actually did. A smaller than usual entry produced much excellent croquet, and the ice-rink fast lawns provided thrills and spills and contributed to many exciting finishes. David Rooke, a useful young beginner, had a comfortable passage in the high bisque class, and Terence Read, who managed to find control on the fast lawns, won the Championship of Ireland for the fifth successive year.

One hopes that this tournament will attract many more visitors in the future; perhaps they could include a week's croquet in a touring holiday in Ireland.

Results

Event 1: Championship of Ireland (8 Entries)

First Round: **C.A.Gamble** bt. A.D.Craig +20 +24; **Mrs H.M.Read** bt. P.V.Cozens +7 +2; **T.O.Read** bt. C.M. von Schmieder +20 +16; **R.J.Leonard** bt. R.E.Steen +20 +12.

Semi-Final: **Gamble** bt. Mrs Read +18 +19; **Read** bt. Leonard +23 +20.

Final: **Read** bt. Gamble +24 +22.

Event 2: 'B' Handicap Singles (7 Entries)

First Round: **M.FitzGerald** (6) bt. Revd W.Rooke (6) +1; **J.Campbell** (9) bt. Madame O'Morchoe (10) +15; **D.Rooke** (16) bt. Sir A.Beit (13) +5.

Semi-Final: **FitzGerald** bt. Campbell +6; **D.Rooke** bt. Miss G.Hopkins (6) +25.

Final: **Rooke** bt. FitzGerald +15.

Event 4: Open Handicap Singles (12 Entries)

First Round: **Revd W.Rooke** (6) w.o. Madame O'Morchoe (10) opp. scr.; **Mrs H.M.Read** (4½) bt. R.J.Leonard (1½) +2; **C.M. von Schmieder** (3½) bt. A.D.Craig (3½) +13; **T.O.Read** (-2) bt. R.E.Steen (5) +17.

Second Round: **P.V.Cozens** (5) bt. Miss G.Hopkins (6) +14; **W.Rooke** bt. Mrs Read +16; **Schmieder** bt. Read +17; **R.L.Hannon** (5) bt. M.Fitzgerald (6) +9.

Semi-Final: **Cozens** bt. W.Rooke +13; **Schmieder** bt. Hannon +12.

Final: **Schmieder** bt. Cozens +6.

Event 5: Handicap Doubles (6 Pairs)

First Round: **T.O.Read & P.Mahony** (12) bt. A.D.Craig & M.FitzGerald (9½) +21; **C.A.Gamble & Mrs H.M.Read** (6½) bt. Revd W. & D.Rooke (20) +8.

Semi-Final: **J.Campbell & Miss G.Hopkins** (15) bt. Read & Mahony +4 (T); **Gamble & Mrs Read** bt. R.J.Leonard & P.V.Cozens (6½) +7 (T).

Final: **Gamble & Mrs Read** bt. Campbell & Miss Hopkins +3 (T).

Southwick II: August 23-28

Seldom in the world of competitive croquet has so much self control been exercised by so many, for so long, under such difficult conditions. Nevertheless, at mid-day, early in the week, spontaneous fire broke out round the hut by number 6 court, requiring the services of sundry beaters and buckets of water to save the hut. We are assured by the players on the adjacent court that the cause of the blaze was a dropped match and not the heat generated by their language. A similar assurance has been given by

Bill Moore than when the head of his mallet hurtled through the air in the direction of his opponent, this was due to hot weather and not hot temper. We must of course accept both explanations.

The Final of the Open Draw between Bill Moore and Bernard Weitz in the overpowering heat on the Wednesday was a matter of the survival of the fittest. When time was called after 3 hours hard slog, each had one ball on the peg and one on the Rover, when Bernard, digging deep into his last reserves of strength, hit in and pegged one ball out, thus winning by 1. Having scratched in the Process through over-commitment, he went on to beat Derek Russell in the Play-Off, thus proving the true value of being able to run hoops from any distance and any angle.

On Friday morning an unexpected shower of rain left many players undecided as to whether to run for their wet weather clothes or to cast off such clothes as they had and 'streak' wildly round the ground waving their arms in the air and shouting 'Alleluia'. The Heavens have opened. It is a matter for debate as to whether it was the eagle eye of the Manager, or the chilly wind, which tipped the balance in favour of the former. Whichever it was, the mind boggles at what might have been had the decision been reversed!

Saturday brought the customary managerial frustration at the sight of many empty courts and no one available to fill them. The Final of the 'X' was won by John Phillips by 2 after a fierce struggle with Pat Newton and the courts, in about equal parts. We shall hear more of John in the future, when he will undoubtedly be numbered among the elite of Croquet.

There was a certain school of thought among the majority of the players, which deemed that anyone making an all-round break in the conditions prevailing should have been disqualified forthwith, on the grounds that such a thing could only have been achieved with outside help, be it celestial or diabolic.

To be serious—we must offer our sincerest sympathy to the groundstaff in their distress, for distress it must be to see years of work ruined by such freak climatic conditions. We would thank them for their efforts, which, alone, made play possible. We would also thank all those who tended to our solid and liquid refreshment. Lastly our Manager, who brought to a successful conclusion an almost impossible task. Norah Elvey is always efficient, but seldom have her firmness, tact and good humour been so necessary and so evident. May we humbly suggest to the Tournament Committee that a slight adjustment to the bisque limitations of the Classes would help any future manager.

Results

Event 1: Open Singles (8 Entries)

DRAW

First Round: **D.C.Russell** bt. F.Reynold +12 (T); **W.E.Moore** bt. Dr W.R.Bucknall +9; **T.F.Owen** bt. S.N.Mulliner +4 (T); **Professor B.G.Weitz** bt. P.Newton +7 (T).

Semi-Final: **Moore** bt. Russell +1 (T); **Weitz** bt. Owen +17.

Final: **Weitz** bt. Moore +1 (T).

PROCESS

First Round: **Russell** bt. Mulliner +15; **Bucknall** w.o. Weitz opp. ret.; **Owen** bt. Reynold +21; **Moore** bt. Newton +16.

Semi-Final: **Russell** bt. Bucknall +9; **Moore** bt. Owen +12.

Final: **Russell** bt. Moore +9.

PLAY-OFF

Weitz bt. Russell +13.

Event 2: 'B' Level Singles (24 Entries)

DRAW

First Round: **R.O.Havery** bt. D.M.Bull +3 (T); **J.G.C.Phillips** bt. Mrs S.J.Turner +4 (T); **H.A.Green** bt. H.A.Sheppard +3 (T); **R.A.Carte** bt. G.F.Paxon +1 (T); **Professor A.S.C.Ross** bt. I.C.Baillieu +10; **W.J.Baverstock** bt. G.N.Leech +8; **T.G.S.Colls** bt. Miss H.D.Parker +3 (T); **Mrs D.M.Aubrey** bt. Mrs E.R.Cox +1 (T).

Second Round: **Mrs E.H.P.Mallinson** bt. Mrs W.Longman +4 (T); **E.E.Rees** bt. Mrs B.G.Weitz +17; **Phillips** bt. Havery +21; **Green** bt. Carte +5 (T); **Ross** bt. Baverstock +11; **Colls** bt. Mrs Aubrey +8 (T); **H.F.L.Jenking** w.o. Mrs H.F.Chittenden opp. scr.; **W.H.Austin** bt. Mrs D.C.Russell +13 (T).

Third Round: **Rees** bt. Mrs Mallinson +8 (T); **Phillips** bt. Green +15; **Colls** bt. Ross +6; **Austin** bt. Jenking +10 (T).

Semi-Final: **Phillips** bt. Rees +11; **Austin** bt. Colls +2 (T).

Final: **Phillips** bt. Austin +4 (T).

PROCESS

First Round: **Mrs Mallinson** bt. Miss Parker +2 (T); **Bull** bt. Jenking +10 (T); **Mrs Cox** bt. Rees +12 (T); **Austin** bt. Mrs Turner +24; **Colls** bt. Mrs Longman +4 (T); **Havery** w.o. Mrs Chittenden opp. scr.; **Mrs Weitz** bt. Mrs Aubrey +11; **Phillips** bt. Mrs Russell +4 (T).

Second Round: **Mrs Mallinson** bt. Sheppard +1 (T); **Ross** bt. Bull +3; **Mrs Cox** bt. Paxon +7 (T); **Austin** bt. Baverstock +20; **Green** bt. Colls +5 (T); **Baillieu** bt. Havery +2 (T); **Carte** bt. Mrs Weitz +4 (T); **Phillips** bt. Leech +19.

Third Round: **Mrs Mallinson** bt. Ross +4 (T); **Mrs Cox** w.o. Austin opp. ret.; **Green** w.o. Baillieu opp. ret.; **Carte** w.o. Phillips opp. scr.

Semi-Final: **Mrs Cox** bt. Mrs Mallinson +2 (T); **Carte** bt. Green +1 (T).

Final: **Mrs Cox** bt. Carte +6 (T).

PLAY-OFF

Phillips and Mrs Cox divided.

Event 3: 'C' Handicap Singles (7 Entries)

First Round: **Mrs P.Newton** (6) bt. G.T.Coates (7) +1 (T); **Revd C.H.Townshend** (6½) bt. Mrs P.Hooper (7) +2 (T); **Mrs D.Linstead** (8) bt. E.B.T.Tanner (6) +2 (T).

Semi-Final: **Mrs Newton** bt. Townshend +7 (T); **Mrs Linstead** bt. Lt-Col E.H.P.Mallinson (8) +16 (T).

Final: **Mrs Newton** bt. Mrs Linstead +11.

Event 4: 'D' Handicap Singles (11 Entries)

First Round: **Mrs A.E.Millns** (13) bt. Mrs M.Rankin (12) +3 (T); **Mrs E.F.Dell** (10) bt. Mrs H.F.L.Jenking (10) +5 (T); **Mrs G.C.Day** (10) bt. Mrs E.B.T.Tanner (12) +6.

Second Round: **Mrs P.Harrison** (11) bt. Miss P.Shine (14) +8 (T); **Mrs Dell** bt. Mrs Millns +10; **Mrs Day** bt. F.Harrison (11) +2 (T); **L.M.Bromfield** (10) bt. Miss D.E.Rogers (11) +14.

Semi-Final: **Mrs Harrison** bt. Mrs Dell +15; **Bromfield** bt. Mrs Day +4 (T).

Final: **Bromfield** bt. Mrs Harrison +3 (T).

Event 5a: 'X' Handicap Singles (47 Entries)

First Round: **Miss P.Shine** (14) bt. R.A.Carte (2) +4 (T); **Professor B.G.Weitz** (½) bt. L.M.Bromfield (10) +9 (T); **Mrs P.Hooper** (7) bt. Professor A.S.C.Ross (2½) +2 (T); **R.O.Havery** (2) bt. Mrs S.J.Turner (4½) +1 (T); **P.Newton** (-½) bt. G.T.Coates (7) +21; **S.N.Mulliner** (1) bt. W.H.Austin (2) +6 (T); **H.F.L.Jenking** (5) bt. Revd C.H.Townshend (6½) +5 (T); **F.Reynold** (1) bt. Dr W.R.Bucknall (1½) +1 (T); **J.G.C.Phillips** (3) bt. Mrs E.Lewis (10) +19; **Mrs D.Linstead** (8) bt. G.F.Paxon (5) +3 (T); **Mrs W.Longman** (2½) bt. Mrs M.Rankin (12) +21; **Mrs E.R.Cox** (2) bt. Mrs H.F.Chittenden (2½) +23; **Mrs D.C.Russell** (2) bt. Miss H.D.Parker (5½) +4 (T); **Mrs A.E.Millns** (13) bt. Mrs E.H.P.Mallinson (5) +1 (T); **Mrs B.G.Weitz** (3) bt. T.F.Owen (-½) +13.

Second Round: **D.M.Bull** (5) bt. G.N.Leech (3) +18; **Mrs D.M.Aubrey** (4) bt. Mrs H.F.L.Jenking (10) +6 (T); **Mrs G.C.Day** (10) bt. Mrs P.Newton (6) +17 (T); **H.A.Green** (2) bt. Mrs E.F.Dell (10) +18; **Weitz** bt. Miss Shine +4 (T); **Mrs Hooper** bt. Havery +8 (T); **Newton** bt. Mulliner +6; **Reynold** bt. Jenking +10; **Phillips** bt. Mrs Linstead +4 (T); **Mrs Cox** bt. Mrs Longman +12 (T); **Mrs Millns** bt. Mrs Russell +4 (T); **Mrs F.F.W.Staddon** (5) bt. Mrs Weitz +9; **T.G.S.Colls** (5) bt. F.Harrison (11) +5 (T); **D.C.Russell** (½) bt. W.E.Moore (½) +11; **I.C.Baillieu** (3) bt. W.J.Baverstock (3½) +14 (T); **H.A.Sheppard** (3) bt. E.B.T.Tanner (6) +1 (T).

Third Round: **Bull** bt. Mrs Aubrey +11; **Green** bt. Mrs Day +13 (T); **Weitz** bt. Mrs Hooper +8 (T); **Newton** bt. Reynold +10; **Phillips** bt. Mrs Cox +12 (T); **Mrs Staddon** bt. Mrs Millns +12; **Russell** bt. Colls +6; **Sheppard** bt. Baillieu +8 (T).

Fourth Round: **Green** bt. Bull +20; **Newton** bt. Weitz +5; **Phillips** bt. Mrs Staddon +9; **Russell** bt. Sheppard +8 (T).

Semi-Final: **Newton** bt. Green +11; **Phillips** bt. Russell +9.

Final: **Phillips** bt. Newton +2.

Event 5b: 'Y' Handicap Singles (24 Entries)

Final: **Revd C.H.Townshend** (6½) bt. E.B.T.Tanner (6) +3 (T).

Event 6: Handicap Doubles (25 Pairs)

First Round: **Mrs F.F.W.Staddon & Mrs S.J.Turner** (9½) bt. Mrs H.F.Chittenden & Miss H.D.Parker (8) +14; **W.E.Moore & Mrs G.C.Day** (8½) bt. R.A.Carte & Mrs D.M.Aubrey (6) +16; **Mrs E.R.Cox & L.M.Bromfield** (12) bt. D.C.Russell & Mrs W.A.Naylor (7½) +14; **N.W.T.Cox & F.Harrison** (10) bt. H.A.Sheppard & W.J.Baverstock (6½) +17; **Professor A.S.C.Ross & F.F.W.Staddon** (7½) bt. Mrs B.G.Weitz & Miss P.Shine (17) +15; **Professor B.G.Weitz & Mrs A.E.Millns** (12½) bt. P.Newton & Miss D.E.Rogers (8½) +1 (T); **H.A.Green & Mrs D.Linstead** (10) bt. W.H.Austin & T.G.S.Colls (7) +2 (T); **Mrs W.Longman & J.G.C.Phillips** (5½) bt. Mrs D.C.Russell & Mrs M.Rankin (14) +7 (T); **Revd C.H.Townshend & S.N.Mulliner** (7½) bt. E.E.Rees & D.M.Bull (7) +10.

Second Round: **Dr W.R.Bucknall & Mrs P.Newton** (7½) bt. R.O.Havery & Lt-Col E.H.P.Mallinson (9) +3 (T); **Mrs Staddon & Mrs Turner** bt. T.F.Owen & Mrs P.Hooper (6½) +3 (T); **Mrs Cox & Bromfield** bt. Moore & Mrs Day +4 (T); **Ross & Staddon** bt. Cox & Harrison +10; **Weitz & Mrs Millns** bt. Green & Mrs Linstead +2 (T); **Townshend & Mulliner** bt. Mrs Longman & Phillips +2 (T); **I.C.Baillieu & G.T.Coates** (10) bt. G.F.Paxon & G.N.Leech (8) +3 (T); **Mr & Mrs H.F.L.Jenking** (15) bt. Mr & Mrs E.B.T.Tanner (18) +4 (T).

Third Round: **Bucknall & Mrs Newton** bt. Mrs Staddon & Mrs Turner +4 (T); **Mrs Cox & Bromfield** bt. Ross & Staddon +8; **Weitz & Mrs Millns** bt. Townshend & Mulliner +2 (T); **Baillieu & Coates** bt. Mr & Mrs Jenking +4 (T).

Semi-Final: **Mrs Cox & Bromfield** bt. Bucknall & Mrs Newton +13; **Baillieu & Coates** bt. Weitz & Mrs Millns +2 (T).

Final: **Baillieu & Coates** bt. Mrs Cox & Bromfield +6 (T).

Edinburgh: August 23-28

Sunshine and hot weather again ushered in the Edinburgh Tournament, and in this year of drought it was pleasant, especially for our visitors from the south, to see the six green courts prepared with loving care for the event, each one with its own hidden hazards waiting to be discovered by the unwary.

There was a record number of entrants and it was very encouraging to see so many newcomers showing distinct croquet potential. Two of these were Alec and Moira Scott, and the former, in his game against Stephen Wright, showed that he knew how to use the 13 bisques at his disposal. He played a very cautious game, trying nothing that he did not think he could do, and so won the only game which his opponent lost during the week.

Because the ground is not normally used for croquet the hoops were freshly driven in, and, with the ground like iron, there was no yield in the hoops at all. On the Monday only one or two of the low handicapped players had mastered the technique needed to run such rigid hoops, and all week they continued to trap the unwary, which is probably why so many games went to time.

One of the most exciting of these finishes was a handicap doubles game in which Rod Williams and Bill Masterton were leading by 8 points when Stephen Wright hit a "last shot" across the full width of the court just as time was called. He then made a nerve-racking break of 10 hoops to win with Reg Forth. Meanwhile, in the other half of the draw Bob Calder and Moira Scott were demolishing all opposition, but fell to the more experienced pair in the Final. Following his performance at Nottingham the previous week, Bob

Calder is showing that as a handicap doubles player he is a force to be reckoned with.

The conventional method of recording a score as the difference between the points scored by the two sides is quite informative enough in a completed game, but does not really give much idea of how things went in a game which finished on time. One 'A' class player was quite glad to be able to hide behind the conventional record of +4 (T) when 13-9 would have been a better summing-up of that particular handicap doubles game.

Much of croquet, like missing short roquets and easy hoops, is all in the mind, as one competitor found after repeatedly failing to score a particular hoop. Eventually he asked the Referee of the Tournament to gauge the hoop, claiming that his black ball could not go where the other three had been as it had expanded in the sun. But alas, the gauge proved that, if anything, the hoop was wide.

One of the cheering sights of the week was George Henshaw, a tireless and obliging referee, who scurried hither and thither about the lawns at the double. No time-ridden game ever had to wait for his ministrations.

With the end of another tournament we pulled out the hoops (those grim obstacles) a little sadly and said goodbye to the familiar faces whom we hope to see again next year.

Results

Event 1: Open Singles (7 Entries)

DRAW

First Round: **I.H.Wright** bt. G.Henshaw +18; **S.J.H.Wright** bt. R.N.Maclean +9; **F.V.X.Norton** bt. R.O.Calder +7.

Semi-Final: **S.Wright** bt. I.Wright +16; **Norton** bt. J.G.White +7.

Final: **S.Wright** bt. Norton +15.

PROCESS

First Round: **I.Wright** bt. Calder +18; **Maclean** bt. White +17; **Norton** bt. Henshaw +15.

Semi-Final: **I.Wright** bt. Maclean +21; **S.Wright** bt. Norton +16.

Final: **S.Wright** bt. I.Wright +9.

PLAY-OFF FOR SECOND PLACE

I.Wright bt. Norton +10.

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

First Round: **J.C.Shearer** (8) bt. P.J.Barnes (5) +2 (T); **Mrs S.Willets** (8) bt. Mrs V.M.Macpherson (7) +2 (T).

Second Round: **D.C.Willets** (6) bt. A.D.Lamont (9) +9; **Shearer** bt. Mrs C.A.Rowe (6½) +2 (T); **Mrs Willets** bt. R.Williams (3) +2 (T); **J.E.Rowe** (7) bt. A.Gordon (6½) -18.

Semi-Final: **Willets** bt. Shearer +3; **Rowe** bt. Mrs Willets +1.

Final: **Rowe** bt. Willets +7 (T).

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

Final: **R.Williams** (3) bt. Mrs C.A.Rowe (6½) +4 (T).

Event 3a: 'C' Handicap Singles ('X') (13 Entries)

First Round: **R.Sieger** (11) bt. Mrs D.Brown (11) +2 (T); **S.Tones** (10) bt. Mrs M.Lauder (11) +3 (T); **M.Smith** (9) bt. Mrs H.R.Wright (13) +17; **A.Scott** (12) bt. Mrs J.S.Morrison (14) +19; **Mrs M.Scott** (14) bt. Miss A.M.Murray (9) +9 (T).

Second Round: **C.J.Tait** (7) bt. Sieger +5; **W.G.Masterton** (9) bt. Tones +9; **Smith** bt. Scott +1 (T); **R.Forth** (9) bt. Mrs Scott +15.

Semi-Final: **Masterton** bt. Tait +4; **Smith** bt. Forth +3 (T).

Final: **Smith** bt. Masterton +1 (T).

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

Final: **Mrs M.Lauder** (11) bt. Miss A.M.Murray (9) +19.

Event 4: Handicap Doubles (15 Pairs)

First Round: **R.Williams & W.G.Masterton** (12) bt. G.Henshaw & A.Gordon (10) +17; **Mr & Mrs J.E.Rowe** (13½) bt. F.V.X.Norton & Mrs H.R.Wright (14) +16; **J.C.Shearer & G.Mason** (22) bt. R.N.Maclean & Mrs J.S.Morrison (15½) +3 (T); **I.H.Wright & Mrs M.Lauder** (9½) bt. M.Smith & S.Tones (19) +4 (T); **J.G.White & R.Sieger** (15) bt. C.J.Tait & A.D.Lamont (16) +1 (T); **Mr & Mrs D.C.Willets** (14) bt. Mrs V.M.Macpherson & A.Scott (19) +5 (T); **R.O.Calder & Mrs M.Scott** (17) bt. Mrs Flaherty & Mrs Wright (27) +15.

Second Round: **S.J.H.Wright & R.Forth** (7) bt. Williams & Masterton +2 (T); **Shearer & Mason** bt. Mr & Mrs Rowe +1 (T); **I.Wright & Mrs Lauder** bt. White & Sieger +20; **Calder & Mrs Scott** bt. Mr & Mrs Willets +10 (T).

Semi-Final: **S.Wright & Forth** bt. Shearer & Mason +10 (T); **Calder & Mrs Scott** bt. I.Wright & Mrs Lauder +12 (T).

Final: **S.Wright & Forth** bt. Calder & Mrs Scott +8 (T).

Event 5a: 'X' Handicap Singles (28 Entries)

First Round: **I.H.Wright** (-½) bt. Mrs D.Brown (11) +20; **A.D.Lamont** (9) bt. P.J.Barnes (5) +16; **J.G.White** (4) bt. Mrs C.A.Rowe (6½) +2 (T); **F.V.X.Norton** (1) bt. R.O.Calder (3) +9; **R.N.Maclean** (1½) bt. S.Tones (10) +19; **A.Gordon** (6½) bt. Mrs J.S.Morrison (14) +16; **G.Henshaw** (3) bt. C.J.Tait (7) +10; **J.E.Rowe** (7) bt. D.C.Willets (6) +5; **Miss A.M.Murray** (9) bt. M.Smith (9) +6; **R.Williams** (3) bt. Miss V.M.Macpherson (7) +12; **A.Scott** (12) bt. R.Sieger (11) +14; **W.G.Masterton** (9) bt. J.C.Shearer (8) +3 (T).

Second Round: **Mrs S.Willets** (8) bt. Mrs H.R.Wright (13) +19; **I.Wright** bt. Lamont +18; **Norton** bt. White +10; **Maclean** bt. Gordon +17; **Rowe** bt. Henshaw +10; **Williams** bt. Miss Murray +1 (T); **Scott** bt. Masterton +9; **S.J.H.Wright** (-1) bt. R.Forth (8) +20.

Third Round: **I.Wright** bt. Mrs Willets +14; **Norton** bt. Maclean +12 (T); **Williams** bt. Rowe +14; **Scott** bt. S.Wright +1 (T).

Semi-Final: **I.Wright** bt. Norton +6; **Williams** bt. Scott +13.

Final: **Williams** bt. I.Wright +14.

Event 5b: 'Y' Handicap Singles (14 Entries)

Final: **Mrs V.M.Macpherson** (7) bt. Mrs C.A.Rowe (6½) +12.

Hunstanton (first week): August 30-September 4

Unfortunately the weather decided to break just in time for this tournament, but, though the lawns were soaked at the start, it didn't dampen the enthusiasm of the competitors who enjoyed seeing some green grass for a change. Hunstanton is such a friendly tournament, with many of the visitors staying in the same hotels, and all appearing with their nosebags at 9.30 a.m. ready to enjoy picnic lunches in the Clubhouse in due course.

There were two casualties during the week. Mrs Sundius-Smith was stung by a wasp on the hand, and this doubtless affected her play. Richard Carte had to retire with a very bad cold.

By making an early start each day double banking was avoided, and the tournament was most ably managed by Edward Duffield, aided and assisted by Mrs Duffield who was a most excellent time keeper.

There was no very spectacular play and few close finishes. In the game between Ian Baillieu and Jane Neville Rolfe the sides were level when time was called. Jane hit in and got a good rush on Ian's ball to 4-back. She missed the rush completely, and Ian was then able to peg out his forward ball to win by 1.

Results

Event 1: Open Singles (10 Entries)

DRAW

First Round: **E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake** bt. J.C.Ruddock +17; **H.C.Green** bt. Judge A.D.Karmel +21.

Second Round: **Mrs B.L.Sundius-Smith** bt. Mrs J.N.Rolfe +21; **Green** bt. Tyrwhitt Drake +17; **R.O.Havery** bt. R.A.Carte +4 (T); **E.J.Tucker** bt. I.C.Baillieu +15.

Semi-Final: **Mrs Sundius-Smith** bt. Green +13; **Tucker** bt. Havery +24.

Final: **Tucker** bt. Mrs Sundius-Smith +13.

PROCESS

First Round: **Baillieu** bt. Mrs Rolfe +1 (T); **Mrs Sundius-Smith** bt. Tucker +6 (T).

Second Round: **Green** bt. Baillieu +13; **Tyrwhitt Drake** w.o. Carte opp. scr.; **Mrs Sundius-Smith** bt. Karmel +17; **Ruddock** bt. Havery +17.

Semi-Final: **Tyrwhitt Drake** bt. Green +13; **Ruddock** w.o. Mrs Sundius-Smith opp. scr.

Final: **Tyrwhitt Drake** bt. Ruddock +6.

PLAY-OFF

Tucker bt. Tyrwhitt Drake +15.

Event 2: 'B' Level Singles (8 Entries)

DRAW

First Round: **T.G.S.Colls** bt. Mrs R.F.Wheeler +12; **Miss S.G.Hampson** bt. Miss E.C.Brumpston +13; **S.G.Kent** bt. D.S.Turner +10; **W.H.Carlisle** bt. Mrs D.M.Aubrey +4.

PROCESS

First Round: **Turner** bt. Colls +13; **Mrs Aubrey** bt. Miss Brumpston +12; **Kent** bt. Mrs Wheeler +8 (T); **Miss Hampson** bt. Carlisle +5 (T).

SEMI-FINALISTS RE-DRAWN FOR FINAL STAGES

First Round: **Colls** bt. Carlisle +1 (T); **Turner** bt. Mrs Aubrey +15.

Semi-Final: **Colls** bt. Kent +10; **Miss Hampson** bt. Turner +9.

Final: **Miss Hampson** bt. Colls +5.

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

First Round: **Mrs E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake** (8) bt. L.Batchelor (12) +10; **Mrs I.B.Tucker** (8½) bt. Dr R.F.Wheeler (8) +5 (T); **A.Gordon** (6½) w.o. opp. scr.; **B.S.Coupe** (12*) bt. Mrs L.Batchelor (12) +7 (T).

Semi-Final: **Mrs Tucker** bt. Mrs Tyrwhitt Drake +14; **Gordon** bt. Coupe +8 (T).

Final: **Mrs Tucker** bt. Gordon +16.

Event 4a: 'X' Handicap Singles (25 Entries)

First Round: **Mrs J.N.Rolfe** (1½) bt. R.O.Havery (2) +7; **Mrs B.L.Sundius-Smith** (-1) bt. Miss S.G.Hampson (2½) +8; **Mrs I.B.Tucker** (8½) bt. A.Gordon (6½) +13; **I.C.Baillieu** (3) bt. D.S.Turner (6) +5 (T); **H.C.Green** (2) bt. Mrs E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake (8) +20; **E.J.Tucker** (-½) bt. Mrs D.M.Aubrey (4) +9; **E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake** (-1) bt. Miss E.C.Brumpston (5) +8; **W.H.Carlisle** (5½) bt. R.Bryden (12*) +23; **Judge A.D.Karmel** (½) bt. B.S.Coupe (12*) +11 (T).

Second Round: **R.A.Carte** (2) bt. Mrs A.D.Karmel (6) +14; **Mrs R.F.Wheeler** (6) bt. Mrs Rolfe +9; **Mrs Sundius-Smith** bt. Mrs Tucker +9; **Green** bt. Baillieu +15; **Tyrwhitt Drake** bt. Tucker +16; **Carlisle** bt. Karmel +11 (T); **J.C.Ruddock** (3) bt. Dr R.F.Wheeler (8) +3; **S.G.Kent** (4) bt. T.G.S.Colls (5) +7.

Third Round: **Mrs Wheeler** w.o. Carte opp. scr.; **Green** bt. Mrs Sundius-Smith +13; **Tyrwhitt Drake** bt. Carlisle +5 (T); **Ruddock** bt. Kent +12.

Semi-Final: **Green** bt. Mrs Wheeler +8; **Ruddock** bt. Tyrwhitt Drake +24.

Final: **Ruddock** bt. Green +8.

Event 4b: 'Y' Handicap Singles (11 Entries)

Final: **Dr R.F.Wheeler** (8) bt. D.S.Turner (6) +14.

Event 5: Handicap Doubles (12 Pairs)

First Round: A.Gordon & J.C.Ruddock (9½) bt. R.O.Havery & L.Batchelor (14) +10; Miss S.G.Hampson & S.G.Kent (6½) bt. R.A.Carte & Mrs D.M.Aubrey (6) +17; H.C.Green & Mrs L.Batchelor (13) bt. E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake & Mrs I.B.Tucker (7) +8; I.C.Baillieu & Mrs B.L.Sundius-Smith (2) bt. E.J.Tucker & Mrs E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake (6½) +13.

Second Round: Mrs J.N.Rolfe & D.S.Turner (7½) bt. T.G.S.Colls & B.S.Coupe (17) +10; Miss Hampson & Kent bt. Gordon & Ruddock +14; Baillieu & Mrs Sundius-Smith bt. Green & Mrs Batchelor +8; Dr & Mrs R.F.Wheeler (14) bt. Miss E.C.Brumpton & W.H.Carlisle (10½) +15.

Semi-Final: Miss Hampson & Kent bt. Mrs Rolfe & Turner +7; Dr & Mrs Wheeler bt. Baillieu & Mrs Sundius-Smith +7 (T).

Final: Dr & Mrs Wheeler bt. Miss Hampson & Kent +12.

Weekend Tournaments**Wrest Park II: July 9-11**

BLOCK A (Opens for handicaps of 2 and under): E.Bell beat H.O.Hicks +18, I.H.Wright +1 (T), J.Rose +1 (T), J.A.Wheeler +3 (T), N.Davren +14, B.A.Keen +23, and lost to M.Murray -1 (T) and D.Openshaw -21.

BLOCK B (Opens for handicaps of 2½ and over): H.C.Green beat P.Stoker +9, G.Henshaw +16, J.Coutts +14, D.G.Richardson +2 (T), W.Loynes +13, E.Audsley +24, A.G.Dumont +3, and lost to P.Young -4 (T).

Bowdon: August 27-30

This year our weekend tournament at Bowdon was notable for the high standard of play and the introduction of double banking for the first time. Play was in three blocks, with the winner of each block in doubt until almost the final game. The long dry spell before the tournament had made the lawns very fast, making hoop approaches difficult to control and hampering attempts at triple peels, but rain fell on the second day and made conditions a little easier. Paul Stoker played very steadily throughout the tournament to win the Reed Cup, winning the all-play-all play-off between the block winners.

BLOCK A: C.Hudson (7) beat B.Slater (2) +12, R.Faulkner (2) +25, B.R.Sandiford (5½) +21, P.Bowler (7) +3 and G.Binks (10) +5.

BLOCK B: P.Stoker (2) beat R.A.Simpson (1½) +21, M.Sandler (7) +7, D.G.Richardson (3½) +5, Mrs N.Tyldesley (5) +11, and lost to D.J.Iddon (13) -6.

BLOCK C: Mrs A.Fotiadi (3½) beat Mrs R.A.Simpson (2½) +11, Mrs E.Cocker (8) +15, E.L.Gardiner (14) +11, and lost to Major G.B.Horridge (6) -4.

REED CUP: P.Stoker beat Mrs Fotiadi +17 and C.Hudson +2.

Cheltenham III: August 28-30

BLOCK A: F.E.Pearson (2) beat T.Barlow (-2) +15, Revd W.E.Gladstone (-½) +9, Dr C.B.Snowdon (5) +18, Mrs R.S.Stevens (13) +1 (T), and lost to G.F.Blumer (7½) -13.

BLOCK B: H.G.T.Bolton (0) beat C.W.I.Gillespie (3) +22, L.G.Ayliffe (5) +4, Mrs D.H.Moorcraft (9) +9, Mrs F.E.Pearson (12) +7, and lost to P.W.Hands (-3) -9.

BLOCK C: Mrs W.J.Sturdy (11) beat D.G.Cunningham (-1½) +19, R.O.B.Whittington (0) +18, Miss E.H.Arkell (2½) +5 (T), Mrs R.F.A.Crane (14) +21, and lost to A.J.Girling (5½) -3 (T).

BLOCK D: M.J.Duck (6) beat J.H.J.Soutter (-1½) +9, R.S.Stevens (1) +22, W.J.Sturdy (3) +16, Captain P.H.S.Reid (10) +3, and Sir Leonard Stone (14) +10.

BLOCK E: L.Sullivan (1) beat D.H.Moorcraft (½) +23, Col. G.T.Wheeler (4) +16, Miss I.M.Roe (6) +19, Dr C.W.Marshall (10) +19, and Mrs H.G.T.Bolton (14) +14.

BLOCK F: P.W.Elmes (-½) beat Mrs K.M.O.Wheeler (-1) +26, R.F.A.Crane (4) +10, Mrs C.W.Marshall (12) +15, Mrs D.Exell (13) +17, and lost to Miss M.J.Lodge (6) -12.

Colchester II: August 28-30**SWISS HANDICAP SINGLES**

Five Wins: J.Wilson (8).

Four Wins: Mrs G.S.Digby (3), Mrs B.G.Neal (5½), R.S.Alford (3½) and A.Lindley (8).

Three Wins: E.A.Locke (5), K.H.Paterson (3½), H.A.Cross (8), G.S.Digby (3), and Professor B.G.Neal (-3½).

Two Wins: P.H.Mann (6), C.S.Ratcliffe (5), J.Haigh (½), Mrs P.H.Mann (8), Mrs F.E.M.Puxon (4½), P.Amey (12), Mrs H.A.Zinn (8) and F.E.M.Puxon (7).

One Win: Mrs I.R.Chadwick (15) and Miss E.I.Wood (11).

No Wins: C.R.Palmer (11).

HANDICAP DOUBLES (8 Pairs)

Semi-Final: R.S.Alford & G.Kimber (15½) bt. Mrs F.E.M.Puxon & Miss M.Day (15½) +16 (T); Mr & Mrs P.H.Mann (14) bt. Mr & Mrs E.A.Locke (19) +1 (T).

Final: Mr & Mrs Mann bt. Alford & Kimber +6 (T).

Secretary's Notes**1. NEW ASSOCIATES**

R.H.Fletcher, 10 Woodland Grove, Woodthorpe, Nottingham NG5 3FX (Tel: (0602) 601672) (Accidentally omitted from Directory).

Miss P.A.Howard, 63 Radbourne Road, London SW12 0ED (Tel: (01) 673 7523).

G.A.Hutcheson, 58 Saffrons Court, Compton Place Road, Eastbourne, Sussex BN21 1DY (Tel: (0323) 20975).

Mrs Anne Macintyre, 26 Coalecroft Road, Putney, London SW15 6LP (Tel: (01) 789 1181).

B.L.Mercer, 8 Barlow's Lane, Andover, Hampshire SP10 2HA. M.Ormerod, Nags Head, 16 Westbourne Terrace, Budleigh Salterton, Devon EX9 6SS.

Lady Porter, 12 Durdham Park, Bristol BS6 6XA (Tel: (0272) 36380).

Graeme Roberts, 59 Holywell Street, Oxford OX1 3SD. L.S.Thorsson, Grevgatan 31, 114 53 Stockholm, Sweden.

2. CHANGES IN THE CLUBS

Cambridge University C.C. New Secretary: David N. Ball, Christ's College, Cambridge CB2 3BU.

Inter-Varsity C.C. Secretary's Telephone Number: (01) 876 4143. **Oxford University Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club.** New Secretary: Dr N.J.Stone, Clarendon Laboratory, Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3PU.

Rowntree-Macintosh (York) (newly registered). Hon. Sec. A.C.D. Smith, 31 Walpole Street, Haxby Road, York.

Sidmouth Cricket, L.T. & Croquet Club. Secretary's Telephone Number: (039-55) 4289.

Stourbridge Croquet Club. Secretary's Telephone Number: Sedgley (090-73) 4829.

Trawscoed Croquet Club. New Secretary: Jon Hawkins, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food, ADAS, Trawscoed, Aberystwyth, Dyfed (Tel: Crosswood 255 ext. 267).

3. WATERING OF LAWNS

The following information comes from the Central Council of Physical Recreation (C.C.P.R.):

"As a result of C.C.P.R. enquiries, we have discovered that water is available at most sewage treatment works. This "purified" water is indistinguishable from clear river water and is not chlorinated. It is odourless and we have been assured that if used solely for the purpose of watering sports grounds, there would be no risk of a health hazard.

The water can be collected from sewage depots and in some cases the sewage authority may be willing to deliver it. In the Greater London area, there will be no charge for water collected by sports clubs.

Further enquiries should be made to your local public health authority."

September 1976

Vandeleur Robinson,
Secretary.

Handicap Alterations

Men's and Women's Championships: June 21-26

R.A.Godby -1 to -1½; Mrs J.Povey 4 to 3½; Mrs B.Meachem ½ to 0.

Roehampton Club Recommendations

J.G.C.Phillips 5 to 4½; Dr E.Solomon 0 to -½; M.J.Stevens 7 to 6.

Miscellaneous Alterations

D.K.Openshaw 1 to ½; Mrs P.A.Tunmer 7 to 6; L.G.Ayliffe 5; Mrs M.A.L.Warren 16 to 15 D13; J.G.Warwick 2 to 4 (at own request); J.A.Wheeler 1 to ½.

Colchester: July 12-17

A.W.Lee 15 to 14; Dr W.Dean 12 to 10; Mrs E.A.Locke 15 to 14; J.C.Ruddock 4 to 3; P.Stoker 2½ to 2; R.S.Alford 5 to 3½; Revd D.Anderson 9 to 8 D7; H.A.Cross 10 to 8; Mrs R.F.Wheeler 7 to 6½; Mrs G.F.Hallett 10 to 9.

Parkstone American: July 13-15

S.N.Mulliner 3 to 1.

Open Championships: July 19-24

C.H.J.Cousins 1 to ½; N.J.Davren 1 to ½; D.K.Openshaw ½ to 0; Dr E.Solomon -½ to -1.

West Midlands Federation

E.L.Gardiner 14 to 14 D12; M.Tompkinson 6 to 5.

Southwick I: July 19-24

W.E.Moore -1 to -1½; H.G.T.Bolton 1 to 0; Miss E.X.Hodgens 8 to 6; T.F.Owen ½ to -½; Miss P.E.Parker 15 D14 to 13 D12; Dr D.A.Parker 7 to 6½; E.E.Rees 3 to 2; M.Tapp 9 to 7; S.A.Tapp 0 to -½; Mrs I.B.Tucker 9 to 8½.

Cheltenham: July 26-31

Mrs W.J.Sturdy 12 D11 to 11; Mrs D.H.Moorcraft 10 to 9; J.McLaren 4 to 3.

Cheltenham Club Trophies Week: August 7-15

Miss M.J.Lodge 6½ to 6; J.H.J.Soutter -1 to -1½; L.V.Latham 2 to 1; P.Johnson 14 to 12 D10; D.Foulser 16 to 15 D13.

Hurlingham: August 5-14

Lady Bazley 12 to 10 D9; G.H.Betts 2½ to 2; B.H.Bliss 6 to 5; C.M.Fox 14 to 13; G.L.Frost 12 to 11; Miss S.G.Hampson 3 to 2½; Mrs S.R.Hemsted 6 to 5; J.Parr 6½ to 4½; D.V.H.Rees -1 to -1½; Mrs D.C.Russell 2½ to 2; C.T.J.Lindsay 7 to 5; Dr E.Solomon -1 to -1½; M.Stride -1 to -1½; M.J.Stevens 6 to 4; Mrs B.G.Weitz 3½ to 3; C.W.Haworth 6½ to 7 (at own request).

Carriekmines: August 16-21

D.Rooke 16 to 12; T.Garvey 12 to 9; R.J.Leonard 1½ to 2½ (at own request); C.M. von Schmieder 3½ to 3.

Nottingham: August 16-21

C.Chamberlain 7 to 6; Mrs C.Chamberlain 8 to 7½; P.Death 6½ to 6; P.W.Elmes 0 to -½; J.G.C.Phillips 4½ to 3; Dr G.K.Taylor 0 to -½; K.F.W.Townsend 12 to 11; Dr R.F.Wheeler 9 to 8; Mrs R.F.Wheeler 6½ to 6; I.H.Wright 0 to -½; S.J.H.Wright 0 to -1.

Ladies Field Cup: August 16-20

Mrs B.L.Sundius-Smith -½ to -1.

Edinburgh: August 23-28

J.E.Rowe 7 to 6; Mrs C.A.Rowe 6½ to 5½; Mrs M.Lauder 11 D10 to 10; Mrs V.M.Macpherson 7 to 6½; W.G.Masterton 9 to 8; Miss A.M.Murray 9 to 8; F.V.X.Norton 1 to ½; Mrs M.A.Scott 14 to 12 D11; A.Scott 12 to 11; R.Williams 3 to 2.

Southwick II: August 23-28

Professor B.G.Weitz ½ to 0; P.Newton -½ to -1; J.G.C.Phillips 3 to 1½; Mrs E.H.P.Mallinson 5 to 4½; Mrs P.Newton 6 to 5½; Revd C.H.Townshend 6½ to 6.

Cheltenham Weekend III: August 28-30

Mrs W.J.Sturdy 11 to 10; A.J.Girling 5½ to 5; M.J.Duck 6 to 5; Mrs R.S.Stevens 13 to 12; L.Sullivan (South Africa) 1 to 0 and later to -1.

Hunstanton I: August 30-September 4

B.S.Coupe 12; J.C.Ruddock 3 to 2; Dr R.F.Wheeler 8 to 7; H.C.Green 2 to 1; W.H.Carlisle 5½ to 5; D.S.Turner 6 to 5; T.G.S.Colls 5 to 4½; Mrs I.B.Tucker 8½ to 8.

Hunstanton II: September 6-11

G.D.P.Solomon 16 to 14 D12; Mrs S.S.Townsend 16 to 14; D.S.Turner 5 to 4.

CHRISTMAS WITH CROKEY

When the mallets are hung up, and Tournaments are memories to savour,

When the mince pies cease to charm, and Pudding has a less entrancing flavour

When the Bottle starts to pall, and conversation's turning trivial,

And it's getting too much effort to keep the company convivial,

When your nephews and your nieces around your feet are clustered

Implying to be entertained, which can get you somewhat flustered—

How nice to have a Crokey Game for creating a diversion,

A test of skill, and luck as well, in the Error version.

When farewells are done, and you settle down with massive tomes to ponder

The intricacies of Croquet, and your reeling mind begins to wander,

A Crokey Board will help you plan each cunning innovation

That will transform your play on Croquet Lawns

and build up your reputation.

Let a stimulating Board Game be someone's Christmas Treat,

Order Crokey by mail order, and rest those shopping feet.

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