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THE CROQUET GAZETTE

Number 142 December 1976

The Official Organ of the Croquet Association

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

Calendar 1977

May 9-14	Budleigh Salterton
May 16-21	The Peels—at Cheltenham
May 23-28	Southwick
May 31-June 3	Inter-Counties Championship—at Hurlingham
June 6-11	Parkstone
June 6-11	Compton
June 13-18	Carrickmines: Championship of County Dublin
June 13-18	Veterans' Championship—at Nottingham
June 20-25	Ryde
June 20-25	Men's and Women's Championships and the Golf Croquet Championships—at Cheltenham
June 27-July 2	Budleigh Salterton I
July 4-9	Budleigh Salterton II
July 4-9	The Challenge and Gilbey Cups—at Southwick
July 11-16	Colchester
July 18-23	The Open Championships—at Hurlingham
July 18-23	Southwick I
July 25-30	Cheltenham
August 4-13	Hurlingham
August 15-20	Carrickmines: Irish Open Championships
August 15-20	Nottingham
August 22-27	Southwick II
August 22-27	Edinburgh
August 29-September 3	Hunstanton I
September 5-9	The Chairman's Salver—at Colchester
September 5-9	The Spencer Ell Cup—at Nottingham
September 5-10	Hunstanton II
September 6-10	The President's Cup—at Hurlingham
September 12-17	Parkstone
September 19-24	Roehampton
September 26-October 1	Devonshire Park (first week)
October 1-2	All-England Handicap Finals—at Roehampton
October 3-8	Devonshire Park (second week)

Weekends

April 9-11	Cheltenham I (Easter)
April 21-24	Compton; Roehampton
May 14-15	Scottish Croquet Association I
May 20-22	Wrest Park I
June 3-5	Nottingham I
June 4-7	Colchester I (Spring Bank Holiday)
June 4-7	Cheltenham II; Southport & Birkdale
June 10-13	Hunstanton
June 17-19	Southwick
June 23-26	Woking
July 8-10	Wrest Park II
August 26-29	Bowdon (Late Summer Holiday)
August 27-29	Cheltenham III; Colchester II
September 16-18	Cheltenham IV; Ryde
September 17-18	Scottish Croquet Association II
September 23-25	Budleigh Salterton
September 23-25	Nottingham II; Wrest Park III
October 14-16	Cheltenham V

Croquet Crossword

1	C	R	O	Q	U	E	T				6	G	A	M	E	8			
	A	N		G									H			X			
9	P	E	N	U	L	T	I	M	A	T	E	H	O	O	P				
	T	O		Y									O			E			
10	A	D	A	M		11	G	R	E	E		12	S	P	A	R			
	I		C		13	S						14	C		A	T			
15	N	I	C	E		Z	Y					16	P	L	A	N	T	S	
			O			A							I			D			
17	F	A	U	L		T						18	S	P	R	A	N	G	19
	O		N			E		20	D			21	A	S		R		O	
22	R	A	T	E			23	E				L			24	D	O	N	T
	W		M			S		L				26				Q			O
27	A	S	I	X	T	E	E	N		B	I	S	Q	U	E	R			
	R		S		A		T			U					E				E
28	D	I	S	A	B	L	E			29	T	E	M	P	T	E	D		

ACROSS

- 1. What it's all about (7)
- 5. A foxy pastime? (3, 4)
- 9. Not last (11, 4)
- 10. or the first who bit red? (or perhaps green) (4)
- 11. See 20 down (5)
- 12. Clasp a red ball or engage in a tournament (4)
- 15. Appropriate adverb when well played (6)
- 16. Probably in the border beyond the boundary (6)
- 17. Subject of Section 2 D of Laws (6)
- 18. What the hoop did when stretched (6)
- 22. Tear around speed of competition (4)
- 23. See 4 down (5)
- 24. What the opponent might say (but shouldn't) if a player is about to strike the wrong ball (4)
- 27. A beginner (1, 7, 7)
- 28. Hit opponent too hard (to prevent losing game perhaps) (7)
- 29. What the player did to opponent when he laid a tice (7)

DOWN

- 1. Leader of the team (7)
- 2. Appropriate comment made by husband to his wife playing a crucial hoop (2, 2, 7, 4)
- 3. resultant situation when she hits the wire (4)
- 4 and 23 across. Plays Prokofiev's *Love of Three Oranges*, or (6, 5)
- 5. Stiffen (4)
- 6. Friend of mon uncle, perhaps? (4)
- 7. Rule subject of first class squared set of balls (1, 4, 3, 1, 6)
- 8. Minus bisquers (7)
- 13. Least way of not paying for drinks after a win (5)
- 14. Four springers (5)
- 17. The ball in front (7)
- 18. What yellow might do (2, 2, 3)
- 20. Rub out (6)
- 21 and 11 across. Red yellow and blue are through the first hoop (3, 3, 5)
- 25. Bats a shot (4)
- 26. Born red (and hairy) (4)

B.G.Bucknall

Farewell to Our Secretary and Our Development Officer

Early in the New Year our Secretary, Mr Vandeleur Robinson, informed the Chairman and Treasurer that he was finding it difficult to cope with the office work with a part-time assistant and requested more secretarial help. This was not surprising at his age of 74 years, but unfortunately on financial grounds we were unable to accede to his request.

An unexpected development occurred in late March 1976 when Mrs B.G.Neal, our dedicated and hard-working Development Officer, decided she would like to retire at the end of the year, if a successor could be found. We all would like to thank her for her devotion to this job; without her Croquet would never have expanded so much. Mrs Neal's resignation led to a review of the administration of the Association, from which it became clear that it would be desirable to combine the jobs. I was pessimistic of finding anyone to take it on, and clearly only a person dedicated to Croquet would be likely even to contemplate it.

I then heard that the Company employing our Chairman, Mr Rothwell, was moving from the Reading area where he lived and that he did not want to move and was contemplating looking for alternative employment. Therefore, without much hope of success, I made some enquiries and found to my delight that he was prepared to consider the job.

As obviously Mr Robinson couldn't take the combined job, he was sounded by Mr Oldham, our Treasurer and an old friend of his, as to his views and he readily agreed that it was in the interests of the Association that a younger man be appointed. Mr Robinson, therefore, will be retiring as Secretary at the end of the current year, having served in that capacity for nearly seven years.

This period has seen a considerable growth in the volume and complexity of the work at the office, arising particularly as a result of the activity generated by the development scheme, for which again we thank Mrs Neal. Mr Robinson has employed his talents most successfully in fostering our increasing membership and in facilitating our dealings with the Sports Council. Although a comparative newcomer to the world of Croquet, he has worked with great enthusiasm at our affairs and for longer hours than might have been expected of him these past seven years. It is the wish of the Council, therefore, to mark the occasion of his retirement with an appropriate presentation.

Many Associates who have come to know Mr Robinson personally, or through their dealings with the office over the years, may welcome an opportunity to be associated with this presentation. All Clubs have been circulated, but some Associates may not have heard about it, so now you all know!

Contributions may be sent to your Club Secretary or direct to the Hon. Treasurer, A.J.Oldham Esq., at Terriers Green, Terriers, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, to reach him not later than 30th April 1977—but please act now, as otherwise you may forget!

Derek Caporn,
Chairman of the Council.

The Secretary and the Editor

As from 1st January 1977, the Secretary of the Croquet Association will be Mr R.F.Rothwell, 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).

Deadline

Copy for the April issue of the Croquet Gazette must reach the Editor at the above address not later than Friday 11 March 1977.

H.M. Queen Elizabeth II's Silver Jubilee

As all Associates know, Her Majesty has honoured us by being our Patron throughout her reign. 1977 is her Silver Jubilee and I want to invite all of you to enter the All England Handicap, the entry fee for which will be raised from 50p to 75p, the extra sum of 25p being paid to Her Majesty's Silver Jubilee Fund. The Council unanimously agreed to this as being the best way of giving all of us an opportunity to contribute to this Fund and of showing our appreciation to Her Majesty for her unstinting service to her country. Many will remember her visit to the Hurlingham Club when we celebrated 100 years of tournament play.

Any of you who are unable to enter the All England Handicap, or who would like to make a more substantial contribution, can send it to our Treasurer, Mr A.J.Oldham. I am sure you will all want to support this Appeal.

Derek Caporn,
Chairman of the Council.

The Editor Writes:

Croquet Association — Robinson

Such is Our Secretary's gambit in answering the telephone, his introduction to dealing with a great variety of business. Whether it has been a small matter or a great one, Our Secretary has always treated the caller or the correspondent, and his business, as being important. To many people their first contact with the C.A. has been through Vandeleur Robinson, and most of their dealings with the C.A. have continued to be through him. Hence his manner of answering the telephone seems to have a certain symbolic meaning.

As one among those who have had most dealings with Our Secretary, I felt I would like to write a few words of appreciation to mark his imminent retirement. I receive a letter from him on some item of business or other almost every day during the summer. We all forget things sometimes, but Vandeleur has the aimable fault of remembering things twice, more often than he omits something. But, far more important than this, he has always made those who had dealings with him feel that their business was important, whether it really was or not. There must have been many who have first been put in touch with their nearest club through him, and, although the Development Scheme and its officers must take the main credit for the expansion of the C.A. membership these last five years, much credit is also due to Our Secretary for his energy and conscientiousness in pursuing what he calls "membership matters". Vandeleur had little acquaintance with croquet before he came to us, but he has really shown great energy and keenness in furthering the interests of the game both from the office and beyond the call of duty.

Vandeleur greatly enjoyed his Worldmark Tour to Australia and New Zealand in 1973, and always paid particular attention to seeing that overseas visitors to this country were well looked after. He greatly values the many friendships he has made through croquet. Vandeleur has led a very varied and interesting life. It is not widely known that he is an expert on pre-communist Albania, and published a book on the subject some years ago. He also has family connections with that country, and a number of colourful mementoes from that country decorate his rooms.

I should like on behalf of us all to thank Vandeleur for working so hard for us, for doing much to further the interests of croquet, and for making so many of us feel that we matter. I know that he will not find it easy to retire, but will readily find something to engage his energies. We hope we shall continue to see a lot of him, both on croquetical and other occasions.

P.D.H.

Photographs and Portuguese Translation needed

I always like to publish 4 pages of photographs in the April issue of the Croquet Gazette. I have some that readers have kindly sent me, but there is space for a few more, so please, if you have some photographs of croquet interest, send them to me, if possible with names and explanations, where these are appropriate.

I have in my possession some documents about croquet in the Azores. These are written in Portuguese and may have something of importance to tell us about the history of the game. If any reader is competent in Portuguese and would like to give his services in this matter, I will send the documents to him.

A Croquet Quiz for Christmas

1. Which Club in the United Kingdom has the largest number of courts?
2. In which year did the C.A. celebrate the Centenary of the first recorded croquet tournament?
3. What are the external dimensions of a croquet court of regulation size?
4. Where the alternative colour balls are used, which colours play together?
5. In a croquet hoop of regulation size, how much clearance should there be either side of a ball placed exactly in the centre?
6. What is the longest 2-ball break ever recorded? By whom was it made?
7. How many Laws of Croquet are there?
8. Who is eligible to play in a 'Z' Handicap?
9. In what circumstances can a jump shot never be attempted?
10. By what name was the President's Cup formerly known, and how many players used to compete?
11. Who was C.A. Secretary before Mr Robinson?
12. What historical connections has croquet with "Wimbledon"?
13. What 'disaster' in the last century benefited the courts at Hurlingham?
14. What is the largest possible number of bisques that a pair could now receive in a Handicap Doubles match?
15. Where was the C.A. Office before it was at Hurlingham?
16. What is the fastest Doubles match recorded in a tournament, and who were the victors?
17. How many possibilities are there of making a fault during the striking?
18. In which of the following countries is there no record of croquet being played: Sweden, the Azores, Spain and Thailand?
19. Which national magazine was particularly active in patronising croquet in the last century?
20. Which famous writer was also President of the Croquet Association?

(The Answers may be found on page 16)

Correspondence

'Handicap Doubles'

from E.J. Tucker

Sir,

In many cases bisques are received by one side, and sometimes quite a number. I well remember watching a doubles match between a +9 and -1 pair receiving 3½ bisques, the opponents' joint handicaps being +1. The minus player took every possible occasion to give his partner a short rush to his hoop and then separated the opponents. The long bisquer then made the hoop and again separated the opponents, and in due course, using 1½ bisques, he reached 3-back. The minus player then used the remaining 2 bisques to go round from hoop 1 peeling his partner through the 4 hoops and peg-out. Could any game be duller, except for the minus player!

I presume Law 43 (b), limiting the peeling to not more than 4 hoops, was intended to prevent a good player from having all the game to himself. Would it not be a better game for all if in a Handicap Doubles the player with the longest handicap were to be the only one entitled to take bisques?

27 Saffrons Court,
Compton Place Road,
Eastbourne, Sussex.

Yours sincerely,
E.J. Tucker

(Any comments?—Ed.)

'Detailed results for the Longman and Inter-Club?'

Dear Sir,

Would it be possible for you to include the names of the players and the results of the matches in each round of the Longman and Inter-Club Cups? The 20 clubs in the Longman Cup produced many unsung heroes, while the 11 Inter-Club teams in 1976 featured all our finest players, yet the matches in both Cups go quite unrecorded except for the finals. To many of the Clubs which enter, these are the most important events in the Calendar.

Congratulations on the new layout of results. They are so clear I can read them all without glasses.

Yours sincerely,
Over Sixty

(The Editorial Board will consider at its next meeting whether space can be found for this deserving matter. — Ed.)

'An Historical Note'

from Major E.R.B. Hudson

Sir,

I have come across a reference to croquet being played in Bangkok at an early date. Unfortunately I am unable to verify the particular year when it was first played there, but I send details as a matter of interest for your records, vague as they are.

On p.25 of *Historical Sketch of Protestant Missions in Siam 1828-1928*, edited by G.B. McFarland (Bangkok, 1928), there appears the following:

"For years the Bradley compound was the rendezvous of all the missionaries and of most of the foreigners in Bangkok. In those days there were no clubs where they could foregather, so, weekly, the young people and their elders would meet for tennis and croquet at either the Bradley home, or at that of the McFarlands nearby at Suan Anan".

On p.14 of *History of Protestant Work in Thailand 1828-1958*, by Kenneth E. Wells (Bangkok, 1958), the following appears:

"The young people of the community gathered on his (Bradley's) lawn for tennis and croquet, especially during the sunny years when his children were growing up".

In order to try and establish some dates, I have followed up the clues contained above. It appears that the Bradley home was built in 1852, but that the McFarlands did not become neighbours until 1878, when G.B. McFarland himself, the youngest of three sons, would have been 12. The McFarlands left Bangkok in 1894. Dr B— died in 1873, and Mrs B— in 1893, and their youngest daughter died in the home she was born in, in 1941. Without going into a lot of detail about the children's ages, and other pointers, I would be inclined to believe that croquet may have been played in Bangkok between 1878 and 1894. But supporting evidence would be needed to confirm these dates.

P.O. Box 1146,
Chiang Mai,
Thailand.

Yours sincerely,
Roy Hudson

As Others See Us

I refer to "Aggrieved"'s delightfully satirical article in the August number of the Croquet Gazette. He was rather concentrating on the matter of the alternative coloured balls, but how many people can we recognise from his narrative—people who really are a sore trial to the Manager of a tournament, be it in Blankshire or Loamshire.

"Aggrieved" arrived at two minutes to ten, punctually, he says! There are many people who do this, which means they have got to get out of their car, collect their gear, often have to change, and have a few words with another "punctual" arrival, before looking at the Tournament sheet to see whom they are playing. His opponent, to whom he is giving bisques, has already gone up to a distant court, to get away from the Manager's eagle eye. So off he goes, with or without mallet, and on being reminded that he has bisques to give, has to come back to get the 2½ or 12½, as the case may be, oblivious of course of the Manager's eye.

Should it be obviously going to rain in the next quarter of an hour, nothing on earth would make him think of taking his wet weather clothing with him, so another return to the pavilion, or car park (were he has locked his car, and the key is in his jacket in the pavilion), and so the time goes on. The Manager wonders whether he will ever get two games off that court, let alone three in the day.

However, the game finishes at 1.15, and in come the players for a drink and brush-up, and at 1.30, regardless of the fact that lunches have been on from 12.30 and the catering ladies want to get them over and washed up, in order to hand the kitchen over to the tea squad, the players stroll past the Manager's table to take their leisurely lunch. A patient voice is heard, "Did anybody win?" "Oh yes, me." "Score?" "Oh, what was it, old boy?" And so we go on.

But I really did not mean to write all this, only "Aggrieved"'s article diverted me. What I really wanted to say was that the section in the Laws Book entitled "Laws relating to Customs of the Game" could very well be expanded into a small booklet all to itself. One section would undoubtedly need to be on the subject of Handicap Doubles and decency of behaviour—in particular the senior partner shouting instructions across the court to the junior partner. Those who offend in this way—and alas there are far too many—do not seem to realise how disturbing it is to players on other courts. I well remember when my junior partner had gone round to Penult, and I had started, with my ball for the second hoop, 9 inches dead straight in front, and in the middle of my swing, a stentorian voice, 8 or 9 yards away, yelled to its partner "Yes, roquet it and make your hoop". I was so startled that, far from running an easy hoop, I nearly missed the outside wire! The "voice"'s partner was over at 2-back, "voice" at the 3rd corner of the court. All this shouting of instructions to the junior partner should be heavily discouraged by authority.

It might be embarrassing to the junior partner, it can even be embarrassing to spectators, who perhaps know that he or she is quite capable of knowing what to do. If the junior partner is really a long bisquer, surely it is much kinder to follow him (or her) round the court, and quietly encourage or give advice in tones that only the partner can hear.

It is a most extraordinary thing that the "chatterers" always have penetrating and carrying voices, and they really are disturbing to many other players—not all, of course; there are those whose concentration is such that nothing perturbs them, and they are very fortunate. To lesser mortals, it is very trying to be on the next court to a player who comments on almost every stroke that is made, not only his or her own, but the opponent's as well.

Then there is the chap (it nearly always is a chap, very often a minus player) who when he is off the court always watches somebody on another court, and seldom has the politeness to watch his opponent play. His opponent often has to call out that he is taking a bisque (being an honest chap) and sometimes has sat down at the end of his turn and waited an appreciable time for his opponent to realise that it is his turn.

Then, of course, we all know the player who, shooting from near the first corner at a ball in the third corner, is rooted to the spot from which he has played until the roquet is made, or not made. Only then does he begin that 40 to 45 yard walk, briskly if he has hit, slowly and despondently if he has missed. How refreshing it is to see somebody following a long shot without waiting for the result, and still more refreshing to see, when he has missed, that he shows no sign of emotion whatsoever.

Nor must we forget that man who, having a two yard roquet to make, shall we say, stalks his ball by some 12 or 15 yards, preceded by going down on his haunches (it's a wonder that he does not lie prostrate), and then proceeds slowly yard by yard, extending his mallet like an elephant's trunk at each step, finally reaches the striker's ball, looks up several times as though he can hardly believe his own eyes—and finally just nicks the outside of the ball he is aiming at!

But I must stop. This all arises out of the idea that Tournament Time is Manager's Time, all the minutes lost amount to hours, and he does like to know the result of the game. And I've probably wasted my own time, the Editor will not be amused by this article, and will refuse to print it.

Sufferer

(No comment from the Editor, except to say that it is time someone stuck up for the Manager and his time. Any defence for these alleged malpractices? And any additions to this "little list" of croquet misdemeanours?)

Rover Notes

Basic Laws of Croquet

The Laws of Croquet mirror the development of the game through more than 100 years. When Ian Baillieu went two better than Caesar and divided the Law Book into five parts, each law being placed in its logical sequence, it simplified them for the student of the Laws, but the beginner all too often found them bewildering.

To the rescue of these newcomers came Professor Bernard Neal. The need had long been admitted, but the task of winnowing out the complications and of leaving simple answers to basic questions, of cutting neither too little nor too much and of being concise as well as precise, had proved too daunting. Yet Professor Neal has achieved exactly that. In ten pages he has set out all the elements a beginner needs to know, and this includes a summary which dispels many misconceptions. Jaques will include a copy in every Croquet set, which should help to spread the true game. Clubs, new and old, should encourage their beginners to study this new booklet, which is well worth the outlay of 25p. Professor Neal has broken the bone and sucked out the marrow and if, to quote Rabelais, "appetite comes with eating", those who digest this lean green book will soon progress to the fatter red one.

'A Funny Thing Happened . . .'

It was about five minutes after the start of play on the first day of the tournament. A knowledgeable spectator was wandering around deciding where to settle. Suddenly he noticed a game where Black was already approaching the 3rd hoop off Blue, but neither the Red nor the Yellow ball was on the court. The Blue, Red and Yellow clips were on the first hoop, and the Black clip on the striker. "What on earth has happened?" he whispered to an experienced referee. "Something must be wrong." "No," came the reply, "I have seen it all from the start and I can assure you that no irregularity is taking place."

Can you work out how the situation arose? (Answer on p. 9)

No Comment

"Croquet was so popular a hundred years ago that wickets came equipped with candle sockets for playing at night, reports the National Geographic Society book, 'We Americans'."

from Bangkok World
24 August 1976

Development Scheme Report

Practically the same number of courses was given this year as last, and although there were not so many conventional demonstrations, we gave several rather different ones. At the request of the Regional Sports Council for London and the South East, we manned an area of incredible bumpiness in North London to show croquet to the disabled. A similar event in South London was manned by the Dulwich Sports Club. Two demonstrations were given to St. Thomas' Hospital at different venues. St. Thomas' have a liking for mixing conviviality with croquet, and the demonstrations blended nicely with friendliness and hospitality. Equally so did another demonstration with a difference at Wrest Park, and I seriously wonder if this is not a better way to introduce the game to the uncommitted.

Throughout the year people write in asking where their nearest club is, or for literature and similar requests, and I have kept their names in geographical order. This year it struck me there were a great many enquiries from the Beds., Herts., Bucks. area, so I arranged with Wrest Park to hold an "Introduction to Croquet" Day. I sent a circular letter to all these enquirers, inviting them to come to Wrest Park, bringing with them a picnic lunch and £1 in payment for watching a demonstration and trying their hand at actually playing with instruction. Some who came were friends who wanted to start croquet at their place of work, others were families, or people on their own. In all, there were about 30, and, judging by their reluctance to go home, they must have enjoyed themselves. Wrest Park certainly did, and would like to do it again. This type of demonstration with a much more personal approach might be tried to advantage in other places where the circumstances are similar.

In December of each year I try to forecast, for the purpose of estimating our Grant requirement, what our programme will be during the next year. The only place that I knew would definitely have a demonstration, and probably start a club, was Bath. I'm sure Bath will be mentioned again in future gazettes, but I would like to enlarge here on the forming of the new club because it was such an exemplary one.

The ground was quite reasonable, with good grass, and space for one and a half courts. The Parks Department were helpful and understanding, so that the basic situation was favourable. The idea, organisation and hard work came from Mrs Brash-Smith, who sent the word round to her friends and bridge club that she would like to start a croquet club. A demonstration was arranged for a weekend in May, and the Mayor, Mayor-elect and some Councillors were invited to a luncheon, together with the demonstrators and her committee. Before the day was over 30 or more people had said they would like to join the club. Money was required, of course, so they ran a sherry party cum bring-and-buy, and in an hour and a half had raised £65. Later on, they applied to their local Sports Council for money to buy equipment, and so impressed were the Sports Council by their drive and enthusiasm that they gave them the full amount they had asked for. They needed a hut in which to keep chairs and things; they hunted round the Sports Ground, found something tucked away in a far corner not in use, and, with a word in the right ear, it was theirs. The playing side was helped enormously by Bill Scarr, who came time and again for a full day to coach, whilst Martin Murray backed it up by evening coaching. Their membership, now with a waiting list, is up to 50, and they are promised a second lawn next year.

I think this really illustrates how much one person with the right qualities, backed up by equipment, a demonstration and coaching, can achieve. I could give opposite illustrations where croquet has not succeeded, not because there were not plenty of people who wanted to play, but because the right person to do all the work and lead the enterprise was not there at the right time.

We are fortunate to have real enthusiasts in the West Midlands. With no more than a couple of days' notice the B.B.C. asked them if they could put on a show for Pebble Mill. They rose to the

occasion, and had about 6 minutes of the mid-day programme showing shots and an interview.

Other new clubs have been formed at Bromsgrove, East Riding (Hull) and Sandwell. Southgate and Wells in Norfolk have been "discovered". A golf club at Luton has started croquet for the wives of golfers, and a group at Harpenden who went to Wrest Park's "Day" have started a club. I.C.I. Paint Division at Slough had a demonstration, and Rowntree-MacIntosh (York) have had equipment. A young man from Hurlingham has gone to Durham University and his college consequently has registered as a club, and the Staff at Stalham School, Yarmouth, have been to Hunstanton and Ipswich.

Since this is the last report I shall be giving, I thought it might be interesting to see what had broadly happened since Barbara Meachem and I started the Development Scheme. This table is a summary.

	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976
<i>Associate Members</i>	591	661	766	798	837	figures not yet available
<i>New Clubs</i>	6	9	7	14	19	12
<i>Ceased Clubs</i>	0	0	2	3	4	2
<i>Total Clubs, including unregistered Clubs</i>	75	84	89	100	115	125
<i>Coaches' Courses —</i>						
Nos. taking part	26	34	13	—	—	4
<i>Beginners' Courses —</i>						
Nos. taking part	52	111	73	62	51	85
<i>Non-beginners' Courses —</i>						
Nos. taking part	—	—	—	5	41	4
<i>Referees' Courses —</i>						
Nos. taking part	—	15	18	12	13	20
<i>Demonstrations</i>	14	6	6	4	5	12

It must be remembered that before 1971 unregistered clubs were not really known officially, and to this day we still discover the odd club that has been playing for years completely cut off from the rest of the croquet world. These are included as "new" clubs, for it is to be hoped that now the net of clubs is widening, they will become involved and play with others nearby. At the beginning we needed coaches who were prepared to coach away from their own club. A seemingly enormous number came on coaches' courses, but there are by no means too many. This is because coaches have to be as local as possible to the people wanting to learn the game, and should not be exploited too much. I have tried to use as many different people as possible, but I am all too aware that it is often the kind few who are always ready to help that get asked again and again. This applies to demonstrators and commentators too. I can't thank them enough for the support they have given me, for without them the Development Scheme would be nothing. I hope my successor, Richard Rothwell, will get as much pleasure as I have from making so many croquet friends.

E.A.Neal

Courses in 1977

Course	Venue	Date
1. Beginners	Lilleshall	May 20-22
2. Beginners	Lilleshall	May 27-29
3. Beginners	Bisham Abbey	May 20-22
4. Middle Bisquers —		
Tips and tactics	To be decided	May
5. Laws	Southwick	April 1-3
6. Referees	London	Spring
7. Coaches	To be decided	Winter

Those interested in any of these courses please let me or Mr Rothwell know as soon as possible. Write to The Croquet Association, The Hurlingham Club, London S.W.6. This applies especially to courses with venues and dates still undecided.

1976 In Retrospect

NO ROOM AT THE TOP

In March 1975 an article by a meteorologist caught my eye. In this he developed an interesting theory, based on a factual study of English summers from past records, which showed that at regular intervals of 12 or 13 years there came a recurring cycle of three consecutive fine summers. A new cycle was due to begin in 1975. We may certainly agree that the writer stands currently two up with one to play! Our readers will, I think, be interested—and indeed surprised—to learn from an extract in "The Olympic Games" (Barrie and Jenkins) that in the 1900 Olympiad, held in Paris, "cricket, croquet and golf were official events". How unfortunate and tantalising it is to be compelled to state that "owing to a complete muddle of the various sporting events, causing constant confusion among the public and the reporters", there exists no record either of the proceedings or the winners. Much better reading, however, is contained in "The Oxford Companion to Sports and Games", edited by John Arlott, where no less than 8 pages are devoted to a short description and history of croquet, together with excellent photographs of Keith Wylie and Bryan Loyd-Pratt in action.

But now to turn to the 1976 season. From a good entry in the Peel Memorials two Cheltenham members emerged the winners, L.V.Latham (in all three events) and Miss E.H.Arkell, with Captain P.H.Reid, R.N., and Mrs Neal the losing finalists. An enjoyable and exciting Counties' meeting ended in a tie between Bedford and the Midlands. Three new players who deserve mention were T.W.Anderson for Bedfordshire, Simon Tapp for Sussex, and Terry Wood for Berkshire & Oxfordshire.

Temperatures were in the high 80s for the Men's and Women's Championships, in which Martin Murray, hard pressed by J.Haigh in an earlier round, defeated Colin Prichard in a 3-game final. Frances Joly, exhausted by a long and hard match with Kitty Wheeler, was unfortunately compelled to withdraw against Barbara Meachem in the final, when the score stood at one game all—a disappointment to both contestants. Mrs Prichard and Colin, the holders, retained the Mixed Doubles Championship, in which Godby and Mrs Meachem challenged strongly, and Edgar Jackson took the Du Pre Cup in his stride.

The Open Championship, together with the President's Cup, held no surprises in forecasting the name of the winner. Nigel Aspinall gained his third consecutive victory in the Championship and set up a new record by a fourth consecutive success in the President's Cup, where Colin Prichard had the distinction of inflicting upon him his solitary defeat in the series after a run of 24 winning games. In an exciting semi-final of the Championship, William Ormerod—in excellent form this year—was all set to win a close deciding third game with a 4-ball break in progress and a single peel ahead, when he unaccountably missed a very short roquet at 2-back—an exact replica of the third game between John Solomon and Magor in the Roehampton Test Match against Australia! Aspinall, gaining the innings, pegged out his opponent's forward ball and, a few turns later, won the match. The final was, in essence, a repetition of last year. Murray had played well up to this point but now made some mistakes, which on the day he could not afford, and Aspinall won unchallenged.

Michael Heap and Neil Robinson, having defeated Bernard Neal and Murray, came through to challenge the holders in the final of the Championship Doubles, where, after a close, if patchy, first game in which the honours went to Neil Robinson, Aspinall & Ormerod asserted their authority to retain the Championship. N.J.Davren and D.K.Openshaw played good croquet to reach the Final of Draw and Process respectively in the Association Plate,

but here their progress was firmly halted by Colin Prichard. Colin enjoyed a greatly-extended playing season this year, which proved undoubtedly beneficial to his health and his croquet, gaining him his Silver Medal and his "First Eight" Colours. And so once more we salute Nigel Aspinall with our congratulations and, harking back to the Nursery Rhyme of "Ring-a-Ring-a-Roses", add that from the view-point of his opponents the story is contained in the last four words—"We all fall down"!

August brought the 10-day Hurlingham Tournament, one of the most popular in our Calendar. Among the winners here were Eric Solomon in the Opens, Wylie & Miss Hampson in the Hurlingham Doubles, Michael Stride & M.J.Stevens in the Men's Handicap Doubles, Mrs Meachem & Lady Bazley in the Candlesticks, and John Parr in the Silver Jubilee Cup. Mrs Sundius-Smith finished the season strongly, taking the Ladies' Field Cup and also the Women's Singles Championship at Devonshire Park. Mrs K.Wheeler on each occasion was the runner-up.

Congratulations to Eric Solomon upon winning the Chairman's Salver, especially after losing all three games on the Tuesday. This reverse appeared to strengthen his determination and his play, so that he finally caught and passed the leaders to win by a clear margin of 2 games. Eight new players were selected for the Spencer Ell Cup, in which Stephen Wright worthily upheld the honour of Scotland, leading the field from start to finish.

Excluding the "Best Eight", who were certainly the best available players of the season, 1976 was a vintage year for Eric Solomon; a good year for Mrs Sundius-Smith, Mrs Meachem, E.J.Tucker, Giles Borrett, E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake, D.K.Openshaw, Stephen Wright, John Phillips, and, among up-and-coming players, John Parr, M.J.Stevens, S.Mulliner, P.Alvey and Lady Bazley.

In the final of the Inter-Club Championship Cheltenham defeated Hurlingham, and Stourbridge achieved a notable victory over Southwick in the Longman Cup Final. John Parr, by accurate and consistent play, defeated his five rivals to take the All-England Handicap. A team from South Africa, comprising Tom Barlow, D.G.Cunningham, L.Sullivan and C.W.Gillespie (Captain) visited us for a 3-week tour at the end of August, playing matches in Scotland and against various clubs in England. The long drought was still with us at this time, and so they had to contend with a wide variety of tricky playing surfaces. Despite this, Tom Barlow was playing as well, if not better, than on his previous visit, and L.Sullivan was reduced at Cheltenham from +1 to -1. Mr Gillespie, I think, will have found this venture doubly rewarding, as he looks back, because of the manifest enjoyment not only of his team but also of ourselves as hosts at our respective clubs.

One would have to look back some 25 years, I think, to find a "Review of the Season" which failed to mention the name of John Solomon. And while it is true that he is taking a 2-year "sabbatical" from tournament play, his first two occasional appearances this year are worthy of mention. In his initial game of the season since the previous October—the first round of the Inter-Club Championship—he made an all-round break and triple-peeled an opponent. A few weeks later, in the second round of the same event, he defeated Nigel Aspinall in a single game. An impressive performance, I would say, even if brief!

And so ends our long, uninterrupted and happy season of croquet. A few fortunate associates will perhaps be presently enjoying the amenities of summer in the environs of Cape Town or playing, some warm night, on the two flood-lit lawns of Richard Carte in Durban. As we think of them on a winter evening, we may echo in a moment of wistful dreaming those lines of R.L.S.

"How many miles to Babylon?"
 "Three-score miles and ten."
 "Can I get there by candle-light?"
 "Yes, and back again."

D.J.V.H.M.

Tour of Britain

We went to Britain to learn, to renew old friendships and hopefully to make new friends. In the light of these objectives there is no doubt that our tour of Britain was most successful. Of course we also hoped to beat Scotland — and we did not! That perhaps we can write down as part of the learning process.

The South African Croquet Association has been affiliated to and has received help and encouragement from the Croquet Association in the United Kingdom throughout the 40 years of our existence. It was natural, therefore, that when we planned our first overseas tour we should think in terms of a visit to Britain. Indeed, John Solomon, on his coaching visit to South Africa, had given his opinion that South African croquet would benefit from a short tour of Britain. Translating this idea into reality was, however, no easy task.

Before we set off there were a number of hitches for reasons quite beyond anyone's control, but with great goodwill these were finally overcome and it was agreed that we would make an informal tour of England and in addition would play an international against Scotland.

The tourists were originally to have been Tom Barlow, David Cunningham, Bryan Lloyd-Pratt and Lester Sullivan, with Ian Gillespie managing. Unfortunately, Bryan Lloyd-Pratt's commitments did not permit him to join the tour, and Ian Gillespie filled his place. In the event, the decision to limit numbers to four proved a most practical one, because everybody was able to travel in one car, which facilitated arrangements and brought us all together in every sense!

After a rather exhausting flight, enlivened by being approached at 3 a.m. in the airport lounge of Ilha da Sol by a fellow passenger who had a query on the Laws of Croquet (!), we arrived at Heathrow at 9 a.m. to be welcomed by the Brays, who had no doubt achieved this by leaving Colchester at an unholy hour. Shortly afterwards, armed with an invaluable and most meticulously compiled itinerary, we set off in a hired car for Phyllis Court at Henley-on-Thames.

The British are sometimes depicted as a rather reserved race, but we found that at each Club that we visited we received the friendliest of welcomes and enjoyed most generous hospitality. We felt at home wherever we went and realised how a shared love of the game immediately places hosts and visitors on the same wavelength.

The main match of the tour was of course the Test against Scotland, but we also played six matches in England, winning two, losing two and drawing two, as well as taking part in a weekend handicap singles tournament at Cheltenham.

Results were:

1. At Phyllis Court against a team which included John Solomon as guest player, John Soutter, Richard Rothwell and Guy Betts, the tourists won by 4 games to 2 (points 122-115)
2. At Cheltenham against a team consisting of G. Jackson, Mrs K. Wheeler, Revd W. Gladstone, R. Whittington, P. Hands, A. Hope, M. Bushnell and G. Taylor, there was a draw at 10 games all (points 365-396)
3. At Wrest Park against V. Rees, J. Wheeler, N. Davren and H. Green, the tourists lost by 3 games to 5 (points 161-179)
4. At Roehampton against N. Aspinall, D. Openshaw, D. Hamilton-Miller and Mrs E. Bressey, the tourists lost by 2 games to 4 (points 102-141)
5. At Hurlingham against B. Neal, R. Godby, Mrs J. Sundius-Smith and B. Sanford, the tourists won by 8 games to 1 (points 221-125)
6. At Colchester against M. Heap, R. Bray, E. Solomon and G. Digby, the match was drawn at 3 games all (points 125-121)
7. In the Cheltenham Weekend Tournament Lester Sullivan won his block, beating all five opponents (and having his handicap reduced from +1 to Scratch).

From South Africa's point of view, Sullivan (whose handicap had fallen by that time to -1) was the main scorer in the Test Match, winning his Singles against Jack Norton and, together with Ian Gillespie, drawing the Doubles against Norton and Spalding. For the rest it must be reported that the Scots were too good for us! Scotland won 4½-1½. The results were as follows:

Singles: S. Wright bt. T. Barlow +11 +4; I. Wright bt. D. Cunningham +3 +7; F. V. X. Norton lost to L. Sullivan +9 -7 -10; W. Spalding bt. I. Gillespie +16 +20.

Doubles: S. & I. Wright bt. Barlow & Cunningham +13 -16 +5; Norton & Spalding drew with Sullivan & Gillespie +1 (T) -1 (T).

For the benefit of those who might wonder why no decider was played in the drawn doubles, the explanation is that the first game was decided on time after 5 hours play, and the second on time after 4 hours play, at 8.30 p.m.!

Surveying the tour as a whole, it should be mentioned that owing to the prolonged drought in Britain at the time, playing conditions were very difficult to adjust to, varying quite considerably from one location to another. Even the lawns at Hurlingham had suffered from the drought but still, as one tourist remarked, "so true that one could take croquet from a yard-line ball on the East boundary to a yard-line ball 30 feet away on the same boundary and obtain a position giving a 12-inch roquet to a hoop with regular ease!"

Perhaps one of the most exciting moments was in Tom Barlow's game against Nigel Aspinall when it looked as if nothing could stop Barlow, and then, in typical croquet fashion, one wrong stroke by Barlow and Aspinall was in, winning +8.

This general account cannot conclude without saying how impressed the team were with the general standard of British Croquet and, as a result, how determined we all are to raise our own standards. We are very grateful for the help and support provided by well-wishers and for all those in Britain who looked after us so well, and in particular for Roger Bray's superb organisation. We look forward to welcoming Scotland — possibly in November 1977 — and the many British players who expressed an interest in visiting our country. We hope they will be joined by Australians, New Zealanders, the Irish and the Americans.

C.W.I. Gillespie

Obituaries

Mrs I.H. Turkentine

Mrs Turkentine, who died earlier this year, took up croquet in the mid 1930s, and played about eight times in the Ladies Field Cup, with varying success. She was formerly a member of the Berrylands (Surbiton) Club, and subsequently of the Roehampton Club, where she was known as an active and helpful member. She served on the Council for a number of years in the 1950s, and was Chairman of the Publicity Committee for a time. She was also known as a first-class Manager of Tournaments held at Roehampton prior to her move to Hove some 15 years ago.

S. Joseph Tankoos

Mr Tankoos, who died in late September at the age of 55, was President of the New York Croquet Club. He served during the War and was awarded a British Empire Medal. He was active in encouraging the American form of croquet at New York and Palm Beach, but he also enrolled all the members of both clubs as individual Overseas Members of the Croquet Association in this country, paid their subscriptions and sent up-to-date information on changes in the membership. He will be much missed by American croquet players. Our sympathies go to his wife, family and friends.

The death is also announced of Miss M.J. Daldy.

Questions and Answers on the Laws

The following three questions are often heard, and to answer them requires an understanding of Law 14 (Hoop Points) and 16A (Special case of hoop and roquet in same stroke). For beginners there is a diagram on page 11 of 'Basic Laws of Croquet' which shows when a ball has started to run a hoop and when it has completed the running. Assume that Hoop 2 is Blue's hoop in order in each case.

Question 1. Red is on the non-playing side of Hoop 2. In order to take position for the hoop, Blue takes off backwards through the hoop, and part of it comes to rest within the jaws of the hoop. May Blue run Hoop 2 in its continuation stroke?

Answer 1. If Blue does not touch a straight edge raised vertically against the hoop on the non-playing side, it may now run the hoop. If it is obvious, the opponent should concede this, but, if doubtful, a referee should be called.

Question 2. Blue rushes Red so near to Hoop 2 on the non-playing side that it is within the jaws of Hoop 2, or very nearly so. With Blue in hand, the striker calls in a Referee and asks if he may run the hoop in the croquet stroke. What is the Referee's criterion?

Answer 2. The Referee will ask the striker to place his Blue ball in position for the croquet stroke. If the Referee cannot judge by eye, there are two common methods by which he can make a decision.

(a) He marks and carefully removes the Red ball and raises a straight edge on the non-playing side. If Blue does not touch it, Red is then replaced and Blue may run the hoop in the croquet stroke (or start to run it). If Blue does touch the straight edge, no matter how slightly, then of course it cannot start to run the hoop in which to get to the playing side of the hoop. The danger in this method of judging is that Blue may move when Red is removed.

(b) The Referee stretches a £1 note, or some similar light object, across the non-playing side of the hoop and slides it down. If it touches Blue first, Blue is protruding and therefore may not run the hoop from that position. If the striker adjusts Blue after judgement has been given in his favour, the Referee must give a fresh ruling on the new position. The criterion is not whether part of the croqueted ball is within the jaws of the hoop, but whether the Blue ball protrudes on to the non-playing side in the position from which it is to be played.

Question 3. Blue has taken off, from another ball, to Red which is close to Hoop 2 on the non-playing side. On arrival, Blue finds that he is wired from Red but is in position to run the hoop. He asks his opponent whether the hoop will count if he runs it, because he is bound to have hit Red (which he has not yet had) before he completes the running.

Answer 3. Because of the provisions of Law 16A (Special case of hoop and roquet in same stroke), the only criterion here is whether Red is completely on the non-playing side of the hoop. If it is, and if Blue finally runs the hoop in that stroke, then the hoop is scored and the roquet made in that order — irrespective of whether he has had Red or not.

Question on Time Limits. At a recent tournament a time limit of 2½ hours was introduced for all the Big Handicap games, most of which were double-banked. What can a player who objects to this do?

Answer. In week-long Calendar Tournaments the time limit must not be less than 3 hours for an advertised event. 2½ hours has been allowed for weekend tournaments, but a proposal that there should be a similar concession for shortened games was not passed by the Council in May 1975. A player objecting should appeal to the Club Tournament Committee, and if he is not satisfied by the explanation he can take the matter up with the Council.

Cheltenham Weekend: October 15-17

Usually we refrain from writing up accounts of our American Tournaments, but the October Tournament with which we ended our 1976 season calls for a special mention, not so much for the programmed play on the lawns as the extra-curricula activities that went on off them. The first day of the tournament proceeded according to plan, but when we arrived for play on the Saturday morning we found a scene of utter chaos, caused by vandals who had broken into the Club during the night. They had broken a window and climbed into the tea-room, where they found the food for the lunches for the following two days. They scattered the food all over the floor — including emptying the fridge — and trod broken bottles into it. A rapid tour of inspection revealed that the intruders had been to all the shelters and had ripped the seats of all the canvas chairs, had smashed the old photographs and a mirror and scattered glass over the lawns, had pulled up the wire surrounds and pulled out a set of hoops and thrown them over the hedge!

After the initial shock everyone rallied round and got stuck into it to ensure that the show went on. The mess in the kitchen was left until the police had been to make an examination, but meanwhile working parties swept the lawns of broken glass and replaced the wire surrounds, and a spare set of hoops was found. In effect the morning's play was delayed by only a quarter of an hour or so. Then we set to on cleaning up the tea-room. Lunch for everyone was ready by one o'clock and normal service was resumed.

The Cheltenham Club would like to pay a special tribute to the visiting players from other Clubs who were unsparing in their assistance.

Altogether an unpleasant occurrence, but it could have been a lot worse. They might well have broken into and pillaged the bar and the changing rooms. The mess was spectacular but no lasting harm was done. All the damage could easily and quickly be put right. In particular, no damage was done to the lawns and there was no interference with play. Indeed, the vandalism may well have contributed to the success of the Tournament by stirring everyone up. It even seemed to improve some people's play! Several visitors remarked that the Tournament was one of the most enjoyable that they had experienced. Indeed, there has even been a suggestion that in order to ensure the success of future tournaments similar activities should be arranged for next year, but this proposal has not been accepted by the Committee.

G.F. Blumer,
Chairman.

Answer to 'A Funny Thing Happened . . .'

Blue, a low bisquer, played first, and, hoping to disconcert his high bisquer opponent, he placed Blue on the 1st corner spot. The high bisquer stood dumbfounded, transfixed in thought. Finally, in his confusion, he played the Blue ball. "Wrong ball," cried the low bisquer exultantly. As Blue had already been in play, the striker was not exonerated under Law 30 (a) as he would have been if he had picked up and played with Black, which had not yet been played into the game. Blue was therefore replaced on the 1st corner spot and, it now being Black's turn, he took croquet from Blue, rolled up to the 1st hoop and started on a 2-ball break.

Alterations in Laws and Regulations

At their meeting on 23 October 1976 the Council passed resolutions, which are published in accordance with C.A. Rule XIV, that the Laws and Regulations be altered as follows:

1. Regulation 10: delete the whole of this regulation.
2. Regulation 15 (a): first sentence — alter "October" to "July"
15 (b): after "Secretary C.A." insert "by 30th September".

The Corpus Christi College Cambridge Croquet Club Song

Preamble: This song was originally written in the first year of the Club's existence (1972-3) to help persuade many beginners to avoid Aunt Emma. The college croquet court is in the grounds of Leckampton House, now a Graduate Hostel, where once lived a Mr P.Sheldrake, who had a mysterious effect on croquet. He had only to appear in the distance and, whether the player was aware of his presence or not, any stroke being played would go disastrously wrong. In the early days of the Club two memorable sentences from the "Know the Game" book became catch-phrases: "Applause for a hoop well run is often preceded by silent censure for a bad approach", and "Let your mallet follow the ball through the hoop, says M.B.Reckitt". The song is centred especially on the latter, which led us to investigate Maurice Reckitt's book "Croquet Today", to which our Club owes a great debt.

(Tune: Wir Pflügen—"We plough the fields and scatter")

*We go out to Leckhampton
The great game for to play,
Observe the dreaded Sheldrake,
Wait till he goes away.
We roquet and we croquet,
Construct a four-ball break
And, after silent censure,
Our first hoop then we make.*

Chorus:
*In honour of the great man
We reverently stoop
Who let his mallet follow
The ball right through the hoop.*

*Once through we hit, then croquet
The ball right down to three.
A take-off from the pivot ball
Along the rush-line see.
A bad approach draws censure,
The silence then it breaks,
As, following M.B.Reckitt,
Our player the next hoop makes. (Chorus)*

*He sends Red up to fourth hoop,
The pivot's hit again.
He's made two hoops, and seems set up
To make another ten.
A take-off, roquet, then approach;
Applause dispels his woes
When Black, from thirty-two degrees,
Through third hoop spinning goes. (Chorus)*

*His next shot nears disaster:
Blue right by Yellow lands.
He needs the skill that hours of play
Should bring into his hands.
He hits the Yellow hard enough
To send it way past five,
Takes off, and makes hoop four off Red,
His break once more alive. (Chorus)*

*Red down to six, and meanwhile
A rush on Blue is got.
He roquets it to near the line
To get an easier shot.
He rushes Yellow up to five,
The croquet silence draws:
The hoop is run, and silence
Gives way to loud applause. (Chorus)*

*A thick take-off leaves Yellow
By two-back for a while.
(Too many balls for these two hoops
Do cramp one in one's style.)
Blue down to one-back now goes,
Black has a rush on Red;
A good approach makes sixth hoop
As easy done as said. (Chorus)*

*Red now goes up as pivot
While one-back's made off Blue.
Though silence marked a bad approach
His Reckitt pulls him through.
And Blue goes up to three-back,
From pivot up goes Black
To roquet waiting Yellow,
Approach, and make two-back. (Chorus)*

*With Yellow down to four-back
Continues now the break
To take off from the pivot ball
To Blue, and three-back make.
Penult is now where Blue waits,
While from the pivot ball
Black takes off down to Yellow,
Four-back no trouble at all. (Chorus)*

*With Yellow up to Rover
He goes via Red to Blue.
A bad approach, but M.B.R.
Can bring Black spinning through.
So many balls to Rover!
He feels a glow of pride—
Eleven hoops so far this turn,
And he hasn't really tried. (Chorus)*

*Off Yellow he makes Rover
With gentle tap but firm.
Cross-wiring his opponents, he
Sets Blue up for next turn.
So listen here, Aunt Emma,
Whose play is dull and tame,
You play like M.B.Reckitt, and
Make Croquet a great game. (Chorus)*

A.J.Bennet

Note from Wrest Park

On September 7th Wrest Park entertained a quartet from South Africa who, despite driving from Scotland on the previous day, were in good form, a state of affairs no doubt helped by the superb setting at Wrest Park. The weather was delightful, and in a keen match the home side ran out the winners by 5 games to 3, the result depending on the final game where Cunningham lost to Res by one.

MIDLANDS v. BEDFORDSHIRE

A friendly match between these two sides, that just happened to have tied for top place in the Counties this year, was held on a cold, wet, windy Saturday October 2nd. The Midlands, who included in their team a guest player from Lancashire, David Openshaw, beat Bedfordshire by 4 games to 2. Players were joined by wives and lady friends for a dinner party at the Dog & Badger, where the losers paid for the wine. Bedfordshire were probably overcome by Derek Caporn's generous treat of Champagne at lunch time. It should be noted that we found it was possible to peg out a champagne cork from about 10 yards outside the West boundary.

The teams were as follows:

Midlands: D.Caporn (Captain), D.Archer, J.McLaren, Dr J.N. Robinson, P.E.Elmes and D.Openshaw.

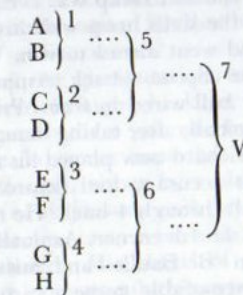
Bedfordshire: V.Rees (Captain), J.A.Wheeler, N.Davren, E.Audsley, A.G.Dumont, B.A.Keen and T.Anderson.

All games were Advanced Doubles.

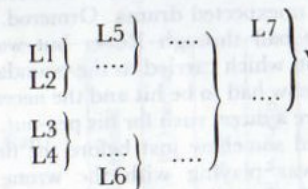
Double Elimination

Double Elimination is a method of competition which, to English readers at least, may seem a little obscure and unlike our present systems. As the name implies, it is a two-life system. This means that a player has to lose twice to be out of the competition. There are two cards, or draw sheets, the original draw being called the first life, the second life being processed among the losers of any particular game in the first life. The basic principle for constructing the second life is this: the first and second round losers of the draw are put into the first and second rounds of the second life, and the later on you lose in the draw the later you are inserted into the second life; eventually the winner of the second life challenges the winner of the first life, but must beat him twice to win the event. Here is a simple example with eight players (A to H).

FIRST LIFE



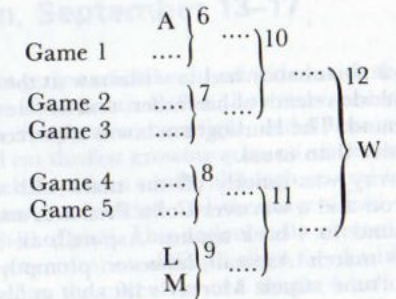
SECOND LIFE



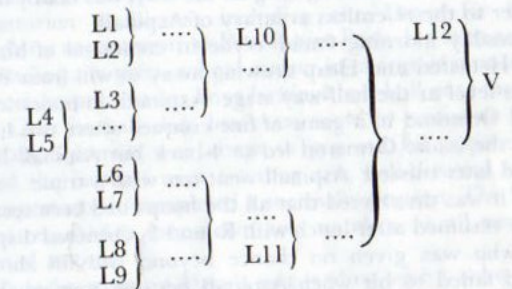
The winner of the second life, labelled V, challenges W, the winner of the first life. Compared with Draw and Process, the great advantage this method has is that the player who loses in the final of the Draw does not have to fight his way all through the Process, usually producing blocking problems for the Manager, but slips into the second life at its final stage. A player who loses his first game but then wins the second life has a maximum of seven games, which is no more than the maximum he could have had in Draw and Process. However, for the Manager who likes to preserve interest for each player late in the week, this method has the snag that the early rounds of the second life must be started as soon as possible.

Here is a second example with thirteen players (A to M). To save space, players B to K are simply addressed as game numbers.

FIRST LIFE



SECOND LIFE



I have numbered all the games as in the first example. Whenever there are byes (which is most of the time), one constructs the second life very simply by looking at the number of the bracket at the bottom of the second round of the first life, in this case 9, and then using this number for the Bagnall-Wild draw. Nine players means 7 byes, 3 at the top, 4 at the bottom. So they are placed in the second life with the loser of game 1 at the top and the loser of game 9 at the bottom.

It is quite possible to mix up the losers 1 to 9 in a clever way which tries as far as possible to ensure that those who have byes in the first life do not have byes in the second, but I suspect that not only the players but also the Manager would be bewildered. The straightforward method (above) of producing the second life does also mean that loser 1 can get straight on to play loser 2, whereas if loser 1 were drawn against, say, loser 8, that match would have to wait until loser 8 had been determined, which would be long after loser 2 had been determined.

I look forward to receiving comments on the double elimination system. Confidently, the Roehampton Club has backed its use in internal competitions for 1977.

G.N.Aspinall

(It was originally planned that this article would be published with some written replies alongside it. But owing to space considerations in the gazette it was deemed expedient to publish now. Written replies will be published in the next issue, and comments are invited. — Ed.)

Corrigenda

In the Obituary of Miss Lintern (gazette no. 141, October 1976, p.4) in paragraph 2 line 5, for 'World War I' read 'World War II', and in the last paragraph line 1 for 1976 read 1975.

In Mr Vincent's article on p. 3 of the October gazette, in section (c) of the proposed new law after "a greater number of wins" add "or the same number of wins"; in column 2 lines 11-12 for "when he was for Rover . . . points behind" read "when he was 3 points behind his opponent B, who was for Rover and 3-back".

The President's Cup: September 14-18

Bernard Neal unfortunately had to withdraw at the last moment owing to the sudden death of his father, and so one player had a bye in every round. The Hurlingham lawns after recent rain were slower and easier than usual.

Martin Murray was quickly off the mark with a triple peel against Ormerod and a win over Colin Prichard, and when after tea he was round to 4-back against Aspinall, all eyes became focused on this match. Aspinall, however, promptly drew level, and then misfortune struck. Murray's lift shot at his own centre ball hit the peg firmly and lay nearby, enabling Aspinall to go round and out with a triple.

Michael Heap had an unhappy morning against Hemsted, a series of long shots failing to connect with monotonous regularity, and since he was a bye in the next round, he faced Wylie after tea without having taken croquet as yet. But this omission was soon rectified, for after gaining the first break he pressed home his advantage to win with a triple peel. Wylie had defeated Colin Prichard after a close match and then staged a fine recovery against Ormerod. He had made only one point when Ormerod was for peg and Rover, but it was not until all four clips were on the peg that Ormerod hit and snatched victory from imminent defeat. Colin Prichard opened his account with a win against Hemsted, and Hemsted, fighting all the way, was finally forced to surrender to the relentless accuracy of Aspinall.

Wednesday morning found Wylie in command of his match against Hemsted and Heap drawing away to win from Prichard who was level at the half-way stage. Aspinall, in majestic mood, defeated Ormerod in a game of fine croquet where two lift shots decided the issue. Ormerod led to 4-back but Aspinall hit, and Ormerod later missed. Aspinall went out with a triple.

After it was discovered that all the hoops had been incorrectly set, play resumed after lunch with Round 5. Ormerod disposed of Heap, who was given no chance beyond two lift shots, and Prichard failed to hit when Aspinall became stymied from his partner ball during his first break. Murray and Hemsted were level when they broke off for a late lunch, each player having one ball at 4-back. After lunch Murray immediately hit in with his backward ball and played an excellent turn to finish the game with a triple. In Round 6 Ormerod maintained his challenge with another faultless display against Hemsted. Wylie took the lead against Aspinall, who promptly hit and levelled the score. Wylie missed the lift shot and Aspinall looked set to finish in the next turn but stuck in 4-back. Wylie shot at this ball from the centre of the court but missed, and Aspinall went out with a single peel. Murray, in spite of several blunders early on, should still have won his match against Heap, when the latter missed a short roquet in the later stages of the game. Murray was now given an easy opportunity of going round with his backward ball, but made a poor approach to the first hoop and failed to get position. Heap then played with great care and accuracy to score the remaining 9 points which he needed.

Thursday. Round 7. Wylie began the day with a splendid display of precision-croquet plus triple peel against Murray. Ormerod followed with a third consecutive "twenty-six" against Prichard, who had one chance but missed the first hoop. The match between Aspinall and Heap proved exciting, especially as Aspinall failed to make the second hoop no less than three times in the middle part of the game. When Heap's clips were on 4-back and 3-back, Aspinall obtained the innings but failed at the second hoop, with his backward ball. Heap now advanced from 4-back to Rover, but unluckily roqueted an opponent ball into the jaws of 4-back at the end of his turn. Aspinall set up his break but missed a short cut-rush to the second hoop. Heap's next shot proved to be the decisive one. Aiming at his partner ball, close to the fourth hoop, he struck hard against the hoop and Aspinall went round and out with a triple peel. The positions at the half-way stage were: Aspinall 6, Ormerod 4, Murray 3, Heap 3, Wylie 3, Hemsted 1, Prichard 1.

Round 8. Ormerod quickly established the ascendancy over Murray, who was able to get one ball round to 4-back late in the game when Ormerod missed a short roquet but could make no further progress. Prichard, hitting his long shots, kept on level terms with Wylie until he broke down at the first hoop when he was starting his second break. Wylie then achieved his second triple peel of the day. Heap's clips were on Penult and the first against Hemsted, who was now laid up in the 4th corner with a direct rush to the peg to win this match. But Heap hit the last long shot and played a masterly turn to go round and out with a double peel. Hemsted was certainly an unlucky loser, for he had played with great accuracy throughout this game.

Round 9. Two clean-cut victories by 26 were recorded by Aspinall against Murray and Hemsted against Prichard. Meanwhile Ormerod and Heap were locked in a tense struggle to obtain positional advantage for their backward ball, the innings frequently changing hands as a result of fine hitting-in by both players. The deadlock was finally resolved in dramatic fashion, when Heap ran gently through the third hoop only to see his ball roll back into a distinct "cup". Ormerod hit a 12-yard shot with his backward ball and established a winning lead which he kept to the end.

Friday. Round 10. Hemsted appeared to have his game against Murray decisively won, but failed with a single peel at the Rover, leaving all four balls round the hoop. Murray, who had not been in his best form, now pulled out all the stops and went round in the next turn from the first hoop and out with a triple peel. A close encounter between Wylie and Heap was eventually settled when Wylie broke down at the sixth hoop with his second ball. Heap gained the innings and went ahead to win. When Aspinall and Prichard each had one clip on 4-back, Aspinall missed the first hoop with his partner ball wired in front. Prichard joined up in the 4th corner and Aspinall, after taking thought, played one ball into the 2nd corner. Prichard now played his supreme best of the series, and with great accuracy and control went to the peg, peeling his partner ball through 4-back. He then laid a straight rush to Penult outside the 4th corner. Aspinall took the long shot at this "double" from 'B' Baulk—and missed! Prichard then smoothly finished a memorable game to score a well-deserved victory which he will always remember. This defeat for Aspinall came after 24 consecutive wins in the President's Cup, a record which will surely stand for many years to come.

Round 11. Heap and Prichard were on level terms when Heap gained the second break and went ahead to win. Aspinall and Wylie had a close match. When Aspinall failed at 1-back, Wylie looked the probable winner with a triple peel now in progress, but a hampered roquet after Penult reversed the situation and Aspinall won by 4 points. The game between Ormerod and Hemsted ended in unexpected drama. Ormerod, about to finish, peeled his partner ball through Rover but was compelled to execute a jump shot, which carried to the boundary of 'A' Baulk. The return roquet now had to be hit and the necessary cannoning to be made to ensure a direct rush for his peg-out. His play at this point was slow, and somehow just before the final rush he discovered that he was playing with the wrong ball! Nemesis followed quickly. Hemsted with a 4-ball break went round and out with a single peel in the next turn.

Round 12. Ormerod made only one mistake against Aspinall, missing the fourth hoop in his second break, but this was sufficient to give Aspinall the victory. A similar fate was experienced by Hemsted against Wylie. Murray, here in his most brilliant form, defeated Heap. After an unorthodox but successful first break he brought off an amazing split-shot from the 4th corner, driving the pilot ball to the second hoop and landing in perfect position for the first hoop with his own ball. He then went round to the peg!

Saturday. Round 13. Aspinall on this occasion went straight round to the Rover and gave Hemsted contact. But his leave proved singularly unsuccessful, for Hemsted promptly went round to 4-back after a good approach to hoop 2 from the 2nd corner. Later, however, a missed short roquet cost him the match. Prichard, playing well against Murray, broke down with a Rover peel. Murray, at 4-back and 1-back, was going out with a triple

peel when he failed at 4-back, and Prichard finished. An exciting struggle between Ormerod and Wylie concluded with "cat-and-mouse" play, Ormerod being for Rover with his only ball and Wylie for peg and 1-back. Wylie reached 4-back, where he gave his opponent the first chance of an open long shot. Ormerod hit in to win not only the match but the final honour of runner-up in the competition.

Round 14. Prichard, maintaining his good form, defeated Ormerod after being pegged out when his remaining ball was at 4-back. Murray lost to Wylie who triple peeled his opponent with his first break, and Aspinall, winning comfortably against Heap, brought his final score to 11 victories, thereby setting a new record in winning the President's Cup for the fourth year in succession. His play as always was a delight to watch.

The curious incident of "The Ball in the Fourth Hoop" during the match between Wylie and Hemsted aroused lively discussion. At the end of Wylie's first break the position was as follows: Hemsted against the wires of the 5th and 6th hoops and Wylie somewhat distantly in front of the 4th hoop and in the jaws of the 4th hoop. Hemsted from 'A' Baulk aimed at the one open ball, which he hit with an inaccurate shot cannoning off the wire of the 4th hoop. Having despatched his opponent ball to the 3rd hoop, he then played into baulk, waiting to lift his other ball in the next turn. Wylie inspected the 4th hoop, noted the soft ground and rapped the upright smoothly with his hand. Observing that the ball in the hoop shook, he asked his opponent to repeat this same procedure. Once again the ball shook and Wylie, arguing that this circumstantial evidence was sufficient to prove his case, claimed a lift! Hemsted, after deliberation, felt that he had no option except to agree. Was this verdict correct?

The Jaques Cup for presentation to the runner-up had, regrettably, not been brought back for William Ormerod to receive. And last month there was no Hurlingham Cup for Eric Solomon to receive. We must hope that there will be no further instances of such default, either by a player or a Club. Gerald Cave, making light of his journey each day to and from Guildford, presided over the meeting once more with his customary geniality, efficiency and authority. His sheets of coloured paper on the blackboard, set out in immaculate handwriting, embodied most admirably the declaration of that recent advertising poster of "The Times"—"Future, Past, Present and Correct". Thank you, Gerald Cave and you seven stars for a most enjoyable week.

President's Cup	G.N.Aspinall	Dr W.P.Ormerod	K.F.Wylie	M.E.W.Heap	Dr M.Murray	C.H.L.Prichard	S.R.Hemsted	WINS
G.N.Aspinall		+17*	+17	+26	+17*	+26	+13	11
Dr W.P.Ormerod	-17		+2	+26	-22	+26	+26	7
K.F.Wylie	-13	+7		+15	+17	-14	-2	6
M.E.W.Heap	-17	-2	-24	+26*	+4	+23		6
Dr M.Murray	-4	-7	-12	+12*	+15*	+16		6
C.H.L.Prichard	-26	-26	+24*		+18	+16	-26	5
S.R.Hemsted	-22	-15	+12		-26	+17	+3	5
	-17	+22*	-26	-18		+16	+15	4
	-26	-17	-12	+26		-7	+3*	4
	-26	-26	-4	-16	-16		+12	4
	+17	+14	-15	-17	+7		-26	3
	-13	-26	-23	+26	-15	-12		3
	-17	+2	-16	-3	-3	+26		3

* denotes Triple Peel.

The Chairman's Salver, played at Compton, September 13-17

Compton's eagerly awaited rain coincided with the arrival of the Eight for the Chairman's Salver. Boundary lines, marked out in anticipation, disappeared overnight, and it became impossible to re-mark and cut the fast growing grass on all the lawns in the time available each day. As a result, although several triple peels were attempted, none succeeded and the players had to adopt a less exalted method of play. This undoubtedly affected Andrew Hope, who found concentration difficult when faced with nothing more stimulating than the execution of a simple 4-ball break.

The Salver was of a slightly higher standard than in 1975, as it included last year's runner-up in the President's Cup, Andrew Hope, and two other President's Cup players, Edgar Jackson and Paul Hands. Rees unfortunately had to scratch, and Davren was accordingly promoted from the Spencer Ell, for which he was first choice. After a shaky start with only one win in two days, he found his true form and finished with a total of 6 wins.

From such a distinguished field the Salver was eventually won by a player who had never competed in any of the Eights previously. Eric Solomon (no relation of his famous namesake) finished a comfortable and popular winner with 11 victories to his credit.

Edmund Strickland managed with his customary competence and efficiency, in spite of having to find time to deal with administration problems, including the Draw for the fast approaching tournament at Devonshire Park. He even succeeded in persuading the prep. school master in charge of a nearby football match to prevent his boys kicking their ball onto the croquet courts! One football did, however, come to rest near the stick when Eric Solomon was about to peg out his opponent. Eric returned the football with a strong and well-directed kick and, quite unperturbed, completed a successful peg-out. The Manager was not required to peg down any matches, as all games were completed to time.

By Tuesday evening Hands was leading with 6 wins and was followed by Hope, Robinson and Jackson with 4 wins each.

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
Imploping 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.

Crokey: £5.50 post free in U.K. to Croquet Associates
TACTICAL GAMES, 19 Northwold, Ely, Cambs.

Solomon had won all his three games on Monday but, for some unaccountable reason, had lost all his games on Tuesday. By Thursday evening Solomon had moved into first place with 9 wins, and was closely followed by Hands and Hope with 8 wins each and by Jackson and Robinson with 7 wins each. Solomon won both his games on the final day, giving him a total of 11 wins. Hands lost to Hope and they both finished equal second with 9 wins; Jackson and Robinson tied with 8 wins.

Eric Solomon, apart from his lapse on Tuesday, played consistently good croquet, and his long shooting was the most accurate of all the players. He appears to like going to the peg on all possible occasions, and in his first game with Hands he was duly pegged out, with both the remaining balls still for hoop 3. Although Solomon shot in several times, Hands emerged as winner by 5 points. Had the former's long shot at Hands' balls by 2-back, which was the next hoop for both players, not turned off line, the game would probably have gone to Solomon. Against Hope on Thursday evening Solomon appeared to have a fairly simple double peel laid on when he reached hoop 6, but it failed to materialise and he eventually finished with a much harder and most efficiently executed straight double peel.

Robin Godby and Vincent Camroux never struck their normal form. The latter had an unlucky start, losing his three games on the first day by only 1, 2 and 3. His game was the last to finish on eight occasions, and he proved himself a dour fighter who never surrendered.

The Three Musketeers from Cheltenham were originally favoured to provide the winner. Jackson seemed to suffer from the weight of his voluminous wet-weather clothing, but his play improved with the weather and also perhaps because he discovered that the hut containing the Club's canvas chairs had a door which could be locked and so provide him with some needed relaxation in the afternoons. Andrew Hope spoilt any chance Paul Hands had of winning the Salver by beating him in both their games, but he himself rather unexpectedly lost by a large margin to Norman Davren, who won quickly with two good breaks. Paul Hands played his normal excellent croquet throughout but, though he attempted more triples than the others, he never quite succeeded and he rather faded out in his last few games.

Neil Robinson, winner of last year's Spencer Ell Cup, figured in several exciting and close-run games and was perhaps unlucky not to finish higher than he did. His last game against Solomon,

before a thrilled audience, was lost by only 3 points and might easily have gone in his favour.

Dorothy Devitt and her band of willing helpers produced a series of excellent meals and, with the catering manager Betty Tucker, well deserved the thanks and appreciation she received from players and spectators alike.

Hunstanton (Second Week): September 6-11

AMERICAN HANDICAP SINGLES

BLOCK A. D.S.Turner (5) bt. S.S.Townsend (½) +21, Mrs H.A.Zinn (8) +13, K.F.W.Townsend (11) +9, Mrs A.Solomon (14) +12, Mrs P.Sheldon (14) +1 (T), and Mrs E.A.Locke (14) +13.

BLOCK B. Mrs A.N.Rolfe (1½) bt. E.A.Locke (5) +11, Dr R.F.Wheeler (7) +10, Miss E.I.Wood (11) +8, L.Batchelor (12) +5, Miss P.Hampson (15) +14, and G.S.Solomon (16) +9.

BLOCK C. W.H.Carlisle (5) bt. Mrs R.F.Wheeler (6) +8, H.A.Cross (8) +4 (T), Mrs K.F.W.Townsend (10) +14, Mrs L.Batchelor (12) +10, C.R.Palmer (11) +17, and Mrs S.S.Townsend (16) +15.

PLAY-OFF

Semi-Final: Carlisle bt. Mrs Rolfe +5 (T).

Final: Turner bt. Carlisle +19.

HANDICAP DOUBLES (11 Pairs)

First Round: Mrs R.F.Wheeler & G.S.Solomon (20) bt. Mr & Mrs K.F.W.Townsend (21) +4 (T); Dr R.F.Wheeler & Mrs L.Batchelor (18) bt. Mr & Mrs S.S.Townsend (14½) +12 (T); D.S.Turner & Miss P.Hampson (19) bt. Mr & Mrs H.A.Cross (22) +12.

Second Round: Mr & Mrs E.A.Locke (19) bt. W.H.Carlisle & Miss E.I.Wood (16) +10 (T); Mrs Wheeler & G.Solomon bt. Wheeler & Mrs Batchelor +3 (T); Turner & Miss P.Hampson bt. L.Batchelor & Mrs H.A.Zinn (20) +10 (T); Mrs A.N.Rolfe & Mrs P.Sheldon (15½) bt. C.R.Palmer & Mrs A.Solomon (22) +7 (T).

Semi-Final: Mrs Wheeler & G.Solomon bt. Mr & Mrs Locke +1 (T); Turner & Miss P.Hampson bt. Mrs Rolfe & Mrs Sheldon +3 (T).

Final: Mrs Wheeler & G.Solomon bt. Turner & Miss P.Hampson +1 (T).

Chairman's Salver	Dr E.Solomon	A.B.Hope	P.W.Hands	Dr J.N.Robinson	G.E.P.Jackson	N.J.Davren	R.A.Godby	A.V.Camroux	WINS
Dr E.Solomon		+15	+24	+3	+12	+13	+2	+25	11
	-15	-5	+9	-1	+19	+17	+3		
A.B.Hope			+3	+12	-3	-22	+17	+24	9
	+15	+25	-22	+5	+16	+8	-5		
P.W.Hands				-24	+15	-19	+20	+11	9
	-24	-3	+26	+7	+7	+20	+2		
Dr J.N.Robinson					+10	+19	-7	+12	8
	-3	-12	+24	-24	+15	+26	+1		
G.E.P.Jackson						+14	-5	+15	8
	-12	+3	-15	-10	+3	+12	+22		
N.J.Davren							+21	+2	6
	-13	+22	+19	-19	-14	+16	+14		
R.A.Godby								-13	3
	-2	-17	-20	+7	+5	-21	+1		
A.V.Camroux									2
	-25	-24	-11	-12	-15	-2	+13		
	-3	+5	-2	-1	-22	-14	-1		

The Spencer Ell Cup, played at Colchester, September 13-17

From cold, chilly Colchester, the scene of one brave lady's success*, I accepted the challenge to comment on the men's eight of the Spencer Ell. With different styles in play, stance and head-gear, they played through the rain on what must be in this drought-ridden land the four grassiest courts in England. Breaks to 4-back were made by all players, and most did an all-round break with the second ball: it was all very serious. The battle between Stephen Wright and David Openshaw for the first place was keenly fought, with Stephen winning the Cup on the penultimate match. David in 3 games found himself with a clip on the peg and the other on the first hoop, while his opponent was for 4-back and the peg, and in two games did a lovely controlled all-round break to win the match, and in the third only failed after making Penult.

John Wheeler and Cyril Pountney started their first encounter in fine style with a break to 4-back in the 5th and 6th turns, but then their steam gave out. In the second series John Wheeler made the battle for second place an exciting contest right up to his and David Openshaw's last match, which David won.

One double peel was done to finish a match and one triple peel got as far as the Rover peel before breaking down. As the week progressed, the hoops seemed to get narrower as more balls came to rest firmly in the middle of the uprights; and the games took longer. One pegged-down marathon was played in failing light with handkerchiefs held over the balls to assist the unfortunate player to see what he was attempting to hit! But I am disappointed not to have seen a more adventurous and attacking attitude to match play, and surprised at the lack of determination to set up a triple peel, and more surprised at how quickly the enterprise was abandoned. But the Colchester Club's hospitality kept us all warm against the winter weather, and the inner man was excellently refreshed—so from the sidelines who am I to complain?

* Boadicea sacked Colchester c. A.D. 40.

Spencer-Ell Cup	S.J.H.Wright	D.K.Openshaw	J.A.Wheeler	Cdr G.Borrett	C.G.Pountney	D.C.Russell	J.Haigh	Revd P.D.Hallett	WINS
S.J.H.Wright		+24	+8	+23	+20	+18	+8	+12	12
	-24	-5	+12	-4	+14	+21	+7	+19	
D.K.Openshaw			+23	+14	+26	+17	+6	+6	10
	+5	-15	+23	-6	-4	+19	+18		
J.A.Wheeler				+9	+3	-18	+5	+12	9
	-8	-23	+16	+6	+17	+10	-15		
Cdr G.Borrett					+17	-16	+17	+23	6
	-23	-14	-9	-19	+26	-7	+5		
C.G.Pountney						+15	-7	+13	6
	-20	-26	-3	-17	+15	+20	-12		
D.C.Russell							+11	+23	5
	-18	-17	+18	+16	-15	-12	-24		
J.Haigh								+4	4
	-8	-6	-5	-17	+7	-11	-8		
Revd P.D.Hallett									4
	-12	-6	-12	-23	-13	-23	-4		
	-19	-18	+15	-5	+12	+24	+8		

Weekend Tournaments

Cheltenham IV: September 17-19

BLOCK A. G.F.Blumer (7½) bt. Mrs K.M.O.Wheeler (-1) +26; J.Haigh (½) +20; M.J.Duck (5) +6 (T), Mrs R.F.A.Crane (14) +14, and lost to R.E.Adlard (2) -5.

BLOCK B. J.A.Wheeler (0) bt. Revd W.E.Gladstone (-½) +26, R.F.A.Crane (4) +7, Miss I.M.Roe (6) +8, Mrs F.E.Pearson (12) +8, and lost to P.Stoker (2) -3.

BLOCK C. J.McLaren (3) bt. Dr. G.K.Taylor (-½) +8, D.H.Moorcraft (½) +18, C.B.Sanford (4½) +7, L.G.Ayliffe (5) +18, and Lady Bazley (10) +15.

BLOCK D. P.W.Elmes (-½) bt. F.E.Pearson (2) +13, W.J.Sturdy (3) +22, Col. G.T.Wheeler (4) +1, Mrs D.H.Moorcraft (9) +18, and Mrs D.Exell (13) +5.

BLOCK E. P.M.Johnson (10) bt. R.O.B.Whittington (0) +13, E.Bell (1) +15, D.G.Richardson (3½) +4, A.Blenkin (9) +15, and lost to Miss M.J.Lodge (6) -4.

BLOCK F. M.J.Evans (1) bt. M.J.Bushnell (0) +26, Miss R.M.Allen (3½) +19, Mrs S.Blenkin (13) +18, Sir Leonard Stone (14) +10, and lost to Dr. C.B.Snowdon (5) -7.

Ryde: September 17-19

BLOCK A. A.F.Coleman (2½) bt. N.W.T.Cox (-1) +4, Mrs P.H.Mann (8) +6, R.W.Newnham (11) +1, and Mrs D.J.Crocker (16) +10.

BLOCK B. A.A.Reed (½) bt. H.G.B.Wagnell (9) +16, Mrs E.G.Brown (12) +10, R.George (15*) +14, and lost to Mrs E.R.Cox (2) -5.

BLOCK C. D.J.Crocker (8*) bt. G.Birch (½) +26, P.H.Mann (6) +12, Mrs E.D.Osborn (10) +13, and Miss D.E.Rogers (11) +23.

PLAY-OFF

Semi-Final: Crocker bt. Coleman +20.

Final: Reed bt. Crocker +3.

Second Round: E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake & D.A.Harris bt. Mrs B.M.Meachem & Mrs R.A.Simpson +13; Hamilton-Miller & Miss Joly bt. Tucker & Pountney +16; Lt-Col D.M.C.Prichard & C.H.L.Prichard bt. Lt-Col G.E.Cave & Mrs B.L.Sundius-Smith +10; Cdr G.Borrett & R.Wood bt. R.A.Simpson & Mrs K.M.O.Wheeler +15.

Semi-Final: Hamilton-Miller & Miss Joly bt. Tyrwhitt Drake & Harris +6; D.Prichard & C.Prichard bt. Borrett & Wood +5.

Final: D.Prichard & C.Prichard bt. Hamilton-Miller & Miss Joly +11.

Event 6: Handicap Doubles (11 Pairs)

First Round: Dr S.R.C.Malin & R.Wallis (11½) bt. Mrs J.Povey & Mrs A.E.Millns (13½) +6; Col. G.T.Wheeler & W.Nicholson (12) bt. Lt-Col D.F.T.Brown & Mrs H.J.Devitt (14) +5; Professor A.S.C.Ross & Mrs D.G.Waterhouse (11½) bt. Mrs I.B.Tucker & Mrs E.C. Tyrwhitt Drake (15) +4.

Second Round: K.S.Schofield & E.Strickland (10) bt. Miss M.Bryan & H.A.C.Evans (22) +13; Malin & Wallis bt. Wheeler & Nicholson +1 (T); F.G.French & F.W.Carpenter (20) bt. Ross & Mrs Waterhouse +14; C.E.Knight & G.A.Hutcheson (12½) bt. Mrs G.E.Cave & Lady Bazley (14) +18.

Semi-Final: Malin & Wallis bt. Schofield & Strickland +21; French & Carpenter bt. Knight & Hutcheson +14.

Final: Malin & Wallis bt. French & Carpenter +7.

Inter-Club Championship 1976

As in 1975 eleven clubs entered this competition, and once again two of the strongest clubs, Cheltenham and Hurlingham, were drawn in opposite halves of the draw. In 1975 these clubs met in the final at Cheltenham, and Hurlingham were the winners by 6 games to 1. In 1976 they again met in the final. To get there Cheltenham beat Phyllis Court 5-2, Harrow Oak 7-0 and The Heley Club 6-1. Hurlingham beat Southwick 6-3, Roehampton 6-1 and West Park 4-3 (having been 3-0 down after the morning's play). The final was played at Hurlingham on September 11, and despite Hurlingham fielding a strong team, Cheltenham won the Cup for the first time by the convincing margin of 5-2. Results of the final are as follows (in each match Cheltenham names appearing first):

W. de B.Prichard bt. J.W.Solomon +9; P.W.Hands lost to Professor B.G.Neal -14; Dr M.Murray bt. S.R.Hemsted +23; A.B.Hope bt. Mrs B.L.Sundius-Smith +5; Prichard & Hands bt. Solomon & Neal +4; Murray bt. Mrs Sundius-Smith +21; Hope lost to Hemsted -10.

Extracts From Proceedings at Council Meetings

OCTOBER 23RD 1976

- The Council approved by 16 votes to 4 the action taken by its Officers regarding the retirement of Mr Vandeleur Robinson.
- The Council unanimously approved the appointment of Mr R.F.Rothwell as Secretary with effect from 1st January 1977.
- The Chairman warmly thanked for their services Mr Robinson and Mrs B.G.Neal who, at her own request, is resigning as Administrator of the Development Scheme at 31st December 1976.
- Mr Rothwell offered his resignation from the Council from 31st December 1976; this was accepted, and the Chairman thanked him for his services and wished him well in his new post of Secretary.
- The Chairman paid tribute to the late Miss Daisy Lintern, and the Council stood in silence in her memory.
- Robin Hood Trophy.** The President confirmed that following discussions with the Committee of the Nottingham Club they had agreed that if the Nottingham Club ceased to exist the trophy would revert to the C.A.

7. The Tournament Committee report and the Calendar of Fixtures were approved with minor amendments and additions. It was agreed that the Ladies' Field Cup would be played in 1977. On the subject of the All England Handicap, fixed dates for Area Finals were agreed by 16 votes to 2; it was also agreed that the entry fee would be raised by 25p, such sum being paid to H.M. The Queen's Silver Jubilee Fund as a contribution from the C.A. of which she is Patron.

8. It was agreed that Tribute should not be levied in the case of All England and Longman Cup events only.

9. Regulations 15 and 8 were amended, subject to approval by the Council at its first meeting after publication of the amendments in the gazette.

10. The Council expressed their appreciation of the services of Dr Bray in managing the Open Championship so efficiently for many years. Amendments were made to the regulations of some C.A. Tournaments. These will appear in the Fixtures Book.

11. An article on Double Elimination will appear in the gazette.

12. Mr G.N.Aspinall, Chairman of the Tournament Committee, notified the Council that he had appointed Mrs L.A. Coombs, Mr T.F.Owen, Mr G.S.Digby and himself as Official Managers.

13. Regulation 10 relating to Tournaments was discussed. The Laws Committee were unanimous in recommending that Messrs. Hope and Jackson be exonerated from the effects of the Regulation in connection with the recent visit to South Africa, which visit had been at the request of and had been beneficial to that country. The Council unanimously agreed. The Laws Committee were divided as to whether Regulation 10 any longer served any useful purpose, and after a lengthy discussion the Council agreed to its abolition by 18 votes to 3, subject to this being published in the gazette and ratified at the first meeting thereafter.

14. New Members were elected (see Secretary's Notes).

15. A report on the visit of Mr Gillespie's team to the U.K. was given by Dr Bray, who was warmly thanked for his organisation, as were the host clubs for their hospitality, all of which was greatly appreciated by our visitors.

16. The Treasurer reported that he had received the final payment from the estates of the late Mr and Mrs Spencer Ell which amounted to over £3,000, that he had been notified by the Solicitors dealing with the estate of the late Miss Daisy Lintern that she had given to us a legacy of £500, and that the Sports Council's Grant of over £5,000 for 1976 had been paid.

Secretary's Notes

1. NEW ASSOCIATES

Anthony G.Barbour, Bolesworth Castle, Tattenhall, Chester.
Miss Peggy-Anne Graham, 83 Minster Road, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1SR (Tel. Godalming (048-68) 21857).
Dr N.T.James, Park Holme, Endcliffe Hall Avenue, Sheffield 10.
Mr & Mrs Geoffrey H.Mapstone, 1 Otterbourne Court, Coastguard Road, Budleigh Salterton, Devon EX9 6HB.
Lester Sullivan, Box 4262, Durban, Natal, South Africa.
Richard Timmis, 38 Broxbourne Road, Orpington, Kent.
John Wilson, 12 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex (Tel. (0206) 5516).

2. CHANGE OF NAME

Michael Stride has changed his name to Simon Michael Ballard.
New Tel: (01) 764 7598.

3. CHANGES IN THE CLUBS

Bath Croquet Club (New Club). President, Dr Martin Murray. Chairman, Mrs M.J.Brash-Smith. Hon. Sec. Miss Eveleen Windsor-Aubrey, 2 Darlington Place, Bath (Tel: (0225) 61955).

Durham University C.C. Captain, G.E.J.A.Doughty. Hon. Sec. David E.Lyons, 51 The Avenue, Durham City.

St. Hilds & St. Bede's College C.C., Durham City DH1 1TA. Captain, G.E.J.A.Doughty. President, Dr Richard Lomas. Hon. Sec. Jackie Gladden.

4. TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS

Col. G.T.Wheeler has asked to be removed from the list of Referees.

New Managers: G.N.Aspinall, Mrs L.A.Coombs, G.S.Digby and T.F.Owen.

New Examining Referee: Dr W.P.Ormerod.

New Referees: H.J.Devitt, R.E.Wallis.

Vandeleur Robinson,
Secretary,
November 1976.

Handicap Alterations

The Chairman's Salver: September 13-17

Dr J.N.Robinson 0 to -½.

The Spencer Ell Cup: September 13-17

D.K.Openshaw 0 to -½; J.A.Wheeler ½ to 0.

Parkstone: September 13-18

W.A.Scarr 10 to 9; R.A.Carte 2 to 3 (at own request); Mrs S.A.Cosh 12 to 11; S.N.Mulliner 1 to ½.

Cheltenham Weekend IV: September 17-19

G.F.Blumer 7½ to 7; J.McLaren 3 to 2½; P.M.Johnson 10 to 8.

Ryde Weekend: September 17-19

D.J.Crocker 8* to 4; Mrs D.J.Crocker 16 to 12; A.F.Coleman 2½ to 2; R.W.Newnham 11 to 9.

West Park Weekend III: September 24-26

J.Coutts 2 to 1; T.Wood 2 to 1½; A.G.Dumont 5 to 4; B.A.Keen 2 to 1; T.Anderson 8 to 7; B.Harral 16 to 12.

Devonshire Park (first week): September 27 to October 2

S.N.Mulliner ½ to 0; Cdr G.Borrett -½ to -1; Mrs B.G.Neal 5½ to 4½; Lt-Col D.F.T.Brown 9 to 8 D7; E.L.Gardiner 14 to 12; S.G.Kent 4 to 3; Mrs R.A.Simpson 2½ to 2.

All-England Handicap Finals: October 2-3

E.Audsley 5½ to 5; J.Parr 4½ to 1½.

Budleigh Salterton: October 1-8

Mrs P.A.Tunmer 6 to 4½; P.K.Devitt 5 to 4; C.J.Waller 9 D7 to 7; F.Pilling 8 to 7; Mrs M.J.Goode 10 to 10 D8; M.Ormerod 1 to ½; Mrs P.K.Devitt 15 D13 to 11 D10; G.H.Mapstone 16* to 12; Mrs G.H.Mapstone 16* to 15 D13; Mrs A.Ormerod 16* to 15 D13; B.G.Bucknall 7½ to 7; P.H.Mann 6 to 5; Mrs C.Bagnall 5 to 4½; L.G.Ayliffe 5 to 4½; C.A.Grout 13 to 11; Miss J.Asheton 11 to 10.

Devonshire Park (second week): October 4-9

C.H.L.Prichard -2½ to -3; Mrs H.J.Devitt 6 to 5½; Dr S.R.C. Malin 5½ to 4; W.Nicholson 8 to 7; E.J.Tucker -½ to -1; R.E.Wallis 6 to 5; F.W.Carpenter 7 to 5; H.A.C.Evans 16 D14 to 14.

Cheltenham Weekend V: October 15-17

A.F.Coleman 2 to 1½; J.McLaren 2½ to 2; A.Blenkin 9 to 8; D.G.Richardson 3½ to 3; R.Adlard 2 to 1½.

Standing Committees of the Council for 1976

Laws Committee: I.C.Baillieu, A.B.Hope, G.B.Martin, Mrs B.Meachem, Professor B.G.Neal, Lt-Col D.M.C.Prichard, Dr G.K.Taylor, Dr W.R.D.Wiggins.

Publicity and Development Committee: Mrs E.E.Bressey, Mrs H.B.H. Carlisle, R.A.Godby, Mrs W.Longman, Mrs B.Meachem, Professor B.G.Neal, E.Strickland, N.Williams.

Tournaments Committee: G.N.Aspinall, Mrs H.B.H. Carlisle, G.B.Martin, D.H.Moorcraft, Lt-Col D.M.C.Prichard, R.F.Rothwell, E.Strickland, Mrs B.L.Sundius-Smith, Mrs R.E.Tucker.

Finance and General Purposes Committee: Mrs H.B.H. Carlisle, R.A.Godby, A.B.Hope, Mrs B.Meachem, R.F.Rothwell, C.B.Sanford, E.Strickland, S.S.Townsend.

Handicaps Co-ordination Committee: R.A.Godby, Professor B.G.Neal, Mrs B.L.Sundius-Smith, S.S.Townsend.

Handicap Appeals Committee: I.C.Baillieu, Lt-Col D.M.C.Prichard, Dr W.R.D.Wiggins.

Special Appeals Committee: G.N.Aspinall, I.C.Baillieu, Dr W.R.D. Wiggins.

Editorial Board: R.F.Rothwell, C.B.Sanford, Mrs B.L. Sundius-Smith.

Selection Committee: I.C.Baillieu, Professor B.G.Neal, Lt-Col D.M.C.Prichard, R.F.Rothwell, S.S.Townsend.

The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Treasurer are *ex officio* members of all the above committees, except Handicap Appeals, Special Appeals, Handicaps Co-ordination and Selection.



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