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Correspondence

'A Message of Thanks'

from Mr Vandeleur Robinson

Sir,

I shall be grateful if you will publish this letter, as it is the only means by which I can express my thanks to the Associates who have so very generously contributed to my "going away present". I do not have a list of their names, and if I did, I am not sure that I could manage to write to them all individually.

That such a large number of people should have thought so kindly of me, and of what I have been able to do, is very heart-warming, and arouses in me deep feelings both of gratitude and of humility. How immensely rewarding to have acquired, in the course of six or seven years, so many kind friends! I have greatly enjoyed my time as Secretary, which added a new dimension to my life; but the most valuable treasure I have found during this period is this great number of new friendships.

Through the medium of the Croquet Gazette, I send to all of you my warm thanks, to which I add an affectionate greeting and good wishes.

Datchet, Berkshire

Yours sincerely,
Vandeleur Robinson

from 'Guess Who'

Darling Sir,

I must write as 'Sufferer' is on to a good thing, I mean people really shouldn't, I know as I had it happen to me . . . Oh dear, I suppose I should try to start at the beginning.

I'd just been powdering my nose on that Wednesday morning when up he came to me with this grand looking man (I won't tell you his name as he's such a know-all like all Managers). Would I partner the Colonel, he demands, introducing me. I didn't get his name, but he acted awfully posh and came from a double-barrelled club on the coast, he was minus ever so many, young too, not a day over fifty, I'm sure. Well at the start he was gallantry itself, Dear Lady this and Dear Lady that, what colour would suit my dress best and all that carry on, but it turned out he only wanted me to choose the balls — still I was glad he'd noticed my clothes. Cooing away he went on 'That's right Dear Lady, *konk* it in the *middle* of the bat', 'Don't forget to keep your *eye* on the ball', and a number of other encouragements. The best of these was, looking me straight in the face, he exclaimed I'd really hit it with a *devilled* edge, but it didn't count as he hadn't hampered me. I rather wish he had, he looked such a toff.

Quite soon I got in front of the first hoop. Then this toff said I ought to be watched. I am certain I'm not as good as all that, but as obviously it was giving him pleasure why spoil his fun? So up rushed this young man, everything streaming, hair shirt the lot. Simon Something they call him, staying with his aunt that nice Margaret Brown who does the teas so well but is so dreadfully plain. 'I'm ready when you are', he lisps, taking all the clips off, thus exposing the shoes I'm rather ashamed of. It was my hat he ought to have been looking at.

The early part of the game was quite fun. I made lots of hoops, though he poor lamb had no luck at all, couldn't get anywhere near in front of any of them, so he followed me round, to encourage himself I suppose. Then suddenly everything was spoiled.

I *heard* her before he saw her and I suspected the worst. Sure enough, she marched straight up to him at once, holding out her hand as brazen as you like, waggling her hips in their too tight trousers and sticking out the chest in its too tight blouse, making loud-mouthed disgusting welcoming noises. He succumbed at once. As for me, it was simply "You play partner — just make your hoop". Then from 10 yards at least, "Roquet Yellow — Don't forget your clip" (as if I hadn't been playing for years — what cheek!). Then, and this an octave higher and twice as loud, as I'd got to the 6th hoop, "Don't try that, join me". Some hope of that, with her repelling boarders at every gesture.

After that it was me to play on, and presently there was a great shouting. "What do you think you are doing? Don't you know the way round the lawn? Why don't you concentrate on the game?" Me, why don't I concentrate on the game? What about him and that painted Felicity Grant? What my nephew Charlie sees in her I can't think. There should be more like her in Croquet, he says. Why she's not even got down to 13.

Well there's one thing I can tell you, I'll never again partner a shouter, be he minus, Colonel, or whatever double-barrelled thing it may be — and that's a fact.

Yours frantically,
Put Out

'Sporting or Not?'

from Revd W.E. Gladstone

Sir,

It is not the custom to print an account of weekend American Tournaments, but I wonder if, under the guise of a question "Sporting or Not?", mention could be made of one game in the Cheltenham Silver Jubilee Holiday American Tournament.

The Tournament lasted four days, and was divided into two tournaments 'A' and 'B' of two days each, each player in seven blocks of five getting four games in each series. The first series 'A' was played in the more or less standard blocks of mixed handicaps, and the results are to be found elsewhere in this issue. The second series 'B' was played in seeded blocks, Aspinall leading the top block and winning comfortably, as it was played under conditions of Advanced Play.

In the first series Hope had come into Aspinall's block in place of a +2½ player who had dropped out at the last moment, and the Aspinall/Hope game provided the spectators with what one of them described as an epic game. Giving 2½ bisques to Hope, with the conventional opening Aspinall hit his "tice" and went to 4-back. Hope, facing the most difficult leave that Aspinall could devise, used 1½ bisques to set up a break, triple peeled his opponent and pegged him out. Aspinall had already been beaten twice by 26 by two strong middle bisquers, and Hope eventually decided to make this an interesting and sporting game by not using his other bisque. By the usual tactics Hope got to Penult, and later

into the jaws of Rover, having pegged out his forward ball himself, while Aspinall had got in but broken down uncharacteristically at Hoop 6. Aspinall then had an amazing long shot at the fraction of Hope's ball available in Rover, and went on to win the game, to tremendous applause for victor and loser.

The last comparable game but even more "epic" (if one can use that expression) was in the Chairman's Salver in 1972 when Will Prichard pegged out Paul Hands and himself with a 7-hoop lead, but Hands won the game.

Purists might say that it made a travesty of the handicap game for Hope not to use his bisque, but it was a splendid Silver Jubilee gesture!

Yours sincerely,
W.E.Gladstone

Cheltenham, Glos.

'Buxton Tournament 1909'

from Mr R.H.James

Sir,

I don't know whether it would be of interest, but I am fairly certain the figure in the photo of the Buxton prize-giving 1909 who is wearing a light grey suit and grey Homburg hat and standing behind the prize table set back between the two ladies giving and receiving the Cup is my uncle — R. Percy James of Gresford, Wrexham, who played regularly at Buxton in the years prior to World War I. He was, I believe, a very good player (possibly scratch) and won the North of England Championship at Harrogate about this time — so I was told by my father. He retired from Croquet in 1914. However, I can't be certain; I was a youngster at that time.

Yours sincerely,
R.H.James

Somerset West,
South Africa

'Who gains from a bad lawn?'

from Mr K.S.Schofield

Sir,

It is generally supposed that, in a competitive handicap game, long bisquers and scratch players alike would all, if given the choice, opt for the good lawn in preference to the poor lawn. In terms of tactics or judgement it cannot be best for both.

The long bisquer may well feel that the sensitive touch of the scratch player may be upset by the imperfections of the lawn, but there is another approach to the problem. A minus player once told me that he would always play a long bisquer on a bad lawn because it gave him an advantage!

I tried to reason this out. Suppose we have a scratch player giving a 16 bisquer 16 bisques in a game of about 70 turns, no doubt it is easier for the former than giving 16 bisques in a game of about 50 turns on a good lawn. But whose judgement is right — that of the novice or the expert?

Yours sincerely,
K.S.Schofield

Budleigh Salterton, Devon.

P.S. I wonder whether Managers will find any bad lawns more popular after this.

Croquet Nationwide

Miss E.I.Wood of Ipswich recently spotted an article in "The East Anglian Magazine" about pre-war Felixstowe. Reference is made to tennis tournaments at Bath Road, and then we are told "Perhaps the most bizarre happening in the 30s was the floodlit croquet tournaments arranged at the Felix Hotel". This must indeed have been in advance of the times. Miss Wood adds that she has heard that at the Bath Road Gardens at the end of the tennis season the courts were adapted to make up to seven croquet lawns.

To the Ex-President from the Ex-Secretary, as Maurice approaches his ninetieth birthday

To oracles and giants of old time
If aught were said, it must be said in rhyme.
Now with this rule I seek to be compliant,
Since you, Sir, are both oracle and giant.
And, knowing you've a penchant for such verse,
I hope mine's not too dismally the worse.

When first I entered Hurlingham's main gate,
I was a lad — still short of sixty-eight.
Then you, Sir, gave me much encouragement,
For you, Sir, at that time were President.

You spoke the wish I'd stay two years and ten.
I thought "My goodness! I'll be eighty then!"
Remembering that you were more than that,
I kept this thought, unsaid, beneath my hat.

I called you "Mr President" one day.
"That makes me feel", you said, "like U.S.A."
("Comparisons are odorous", Dogberry thinks;
Since Watergate, no doubt that this one stinks!)

I've heard you speak at many an A.G.M.,
And then to winners, handing cups to them.
Also to dinner guests antipodean,
Versification hyper-elysian.
Your moving pen writes on — and can't be read;
But when it's printed, ah! What light is shed!

I did not know you in your mighty prime,
Or on the way to summit so sublime.
Great with the mallet, speech and print, and growing great in age,
I found you well-established, the authentic Croquet Sage.

They tell me you are eighty-nine, or something thereabout.
This is a venerable age, no shadow of a doubt;
But very old for one old man is less so for another;
I cite you the example of my very aged mother,
Active and lucid till she died, one hundred years and one.
I hope I'm here to celebrate when you have done your ton!

V.R.

The Hidden Words — Solution

Horizontal: Thank you; Sides; Umpire
Back: Hurlingham; Yard Line; Fault; Open Tournament;
Tournament
Up: Roquet; Hot Shot; Player; Wired
Down: Four Bisquer; Bisque; Miss Hit; Manager; Baulk; Break
Diag. Up to Right: Crush
Up to Left: Peg Out
Down to Left: Handicap; Captain
Down to Right: Mallet; Third Corner; Penultimate; Striker; Strike;
Rover

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The Secretary and The Editor

The Secretary of The Croquet Association is 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).

Reprinted from the Scottish Croquet Association Bulletin

Demonstration of 1876 and 1976 Croquet at Glasgow

No one is quite sure how such a suggestion first germinated but most of the credit for pushing for implementation must go to Mrs Campbell-Smith. Tentatively put forward, I was amazed at the response and from this point on suggestions, offers and help came from all sides. The Art Galleries were delighted that a suitable venue would be the two lawns on the terrace on front of Pollock House, thus allowing us to give a separate demonstration on each lawn; one for the 1976 players in modern dress and the other for the 1876 players in period costume. The Parks Department offered all assistance, mowing both lawns every day for a week before the event. Meanwhile, the originators, now numbering eight members, got together to plan dress, equipment, and the number of members taking part. For the 1976 demonstrators there was no problem; the equipment was immediately to hand, dress of T-shirts and denim jeans readily available, and refreshments of coca-cola easily obtained. The 1876 part of the demonstration, however, required a much greater effort. Fortunately, it was remembered that the Auchinruive Club had part of an old set which included the "cage" that had been used in croquet at Eglinton Castle 100 years ago. This, plus a plundering of the Glasgow Club stores, produced eight wooden balls, light mallets, and several more hoops. Now the difficulty was to enlist eight victims. Four had already indicated interest, but could we raise four more? Here again it was the unexpected that solved our problem and at the same time presented us with another. Those asked to take part in the modern day show declared their preference for going back a century. Even more difficult was that, the news having percolated through the club, applications to join Queen Victoria came flooding in. By the practice night twelve members arrived declaring their intention of playing. Inevitably, the overspill had to be sacrificed to the 1976 lawn, and some were disbanded to play in the Glasgow versus Auchinruive inter-club match. The rest made up a very effective crowd scene in period costume.

To the delight of all, the day was wonderfully warm with a light breeze. Lastly, I am very grateful to Lady Katherine de Trevelyan for allowing me to copy these extracts from her diary.

1st August

Dear Diary,

No one was more delighted than I to receive such a kind invitation from dear Vere Lady Marchmount to her Croquet Garden Party on the 21st August. I hear she has obtained a new Croquet set with all sorts of exciting innovations.

21st August

Dear Diary,

What a wonderful afternoon. Dear Vere Lady Marchmount's Croquet Party was quite the most delightful afternoon I have spent this entire season. We were divided into two teams of four. How splendid it was to find that one of our foursome was to be my dear friend Mr James Shearer, the noted Glasgow merchant. We were partnered by Mr Gerald Warner-Pickwick who, I have reason to believe, is a scholar of some note, and the Hon. Eleanor Hanlon whose family are well known traders and merchants in the city. She was most charming and wore the most exquisite dress of brown and green that I was almost turned to jealousy.

Against us Sir John McCaskill of Cardonald led a formidable team of Dr Thorpe from the University, the Hon. Mrs Campbell-Smith, and, always most welcome, Moira Countess Carstairs.

The game was to be refereed by the very good Reverend Dr Swearer of the Cathedral and he kept us up to the point in our play. Our team started so well that we never really looked back, partially due, I am sure, to an excellent fortification of the most exquisite Madeira Wine from Mr Shearer's cellars.

With some excellent play by Dr Thorpe, we were rather worried by our opponents' gains, and so a tea-break ordered by My Lady

was most welcome. My Lady's companion, Mrs Hamilton, served our tea as Dr Swearer, truly a hard taskmaster in such heat, declared that he wished the play to continue without too much interruption. (Myself and the Hon. Miss Hanlon did fear for our skins so in such heat but said nothing to the party.)

When time was called I was relieved to see that our team had widened the gap in points thus allowing us to win the coveted Victory Trophy. Dr Swearer delivered a splendid speech in which he thanked our most kind hostess for allowing the use of her grounds for the Garden Party. How wonderful, he continued, that so many of Glasgow society were in attendance, and his only regret was that so few could take part in the game.

After the presentation I met the Hon. Miss Cooper, Lady McCaskill, and Dorothy Lady Robertson. Unfortunately I could only call a greeting to Sir Ronald Forbes who arrived late in the afternoon, having been shooting on the estate.

It has been suggested that Lady Marchmount will be holding a similar Croquet Garden Party next season. Such an event I must not indeed miss.

A Prayer for All Players

May the sun shine upon you and the weather be good,
May you belt the ball with your faithful old wood.
May the colour you play do the right thing,
Just as though you had it on string!
And, if you can't keep your head down when striking the ball,
Tie your nose to your navel, and mind you don't fall!
Then, when you hit too hard, and you're on the way out,
May your ball pull up short like a man with the gout.
May you make your hoops clean and go through the middle,
Not just stand there, like a fool with a fiddle!
May your splits and your rolls go just where they're told,
And if you aim a short roquet and miss it a bit,
Just think of the long ones you sometimes have hit!
May the 'breaks' that you make be many and clever,
Don't just leave your clip on one hoop forever.
And when the bell rings, your score that you reckon,
If you haven't come first, then you've sure come second!

(reprinted from the Australian Croquet Gazette)

Sad Story

If Sheila were my Croquet girl,
I'd dance a triple peel.
I'd run a hoop from thirty yards
And play like Bernard Neal.
I'd hit the post from Corner IV
And win by twenty-two . . .
But Sheila's not my Croquet girl —
And there, I've missed the Blue.

S.

New Zealand Senior Invitation Event

This was held at Waikato at Hamilton in good weather. Mrs Hight, President of the N.Z. Croquet Council, opened the tournament and presented the trophy at the end. Several triple peels were carried out, and there were many close games. R.V.Jackson was the winner.

R.V.Jackson (12 wins); G.Rowling (10 wins); J.Hogan (10 wins); P.Skinley (8 wins); D.J.Bulloch (6 wins); Miss J.Clarke (5 wins); C.Jones (3 wins); Mrs V.Boyes (2 wins).

In the Australian Croquet Gazette it is recorded that in the recent N.Z. Open Championship Paul Skinley, aged 18, achieved three triples and a sextuple, only the second time the latter has been achieved in N.Z. tournaments.

Statistics of Shooting

Dr G.B.Grundy, who died in 1949 aged 88, was not only a distinguished Oxford don, but an ardent student of croquet theory. Nor was he merely a theorist, playing in the President's Cup in 1924. His shooting was said to be simply heart-breaking to his opponents, and he maintained this standard up till his death.

For two separate periods, 1922-23 and 1934-38 (seven years in all), he devoted most of his time at tournaments meticulously recording statistics of shooting. Practice and friendly games he disregarded, because, when the pressure is not on, results are misleading. He only recorded results of his own observation, ignoring reports from other people, because:

(a) Few people apart from himself had imprinted on their minds the precise geometry of the court, and were therefore unreliable when estimating distances.

(b) There is a tendency to notice sensational long hits and to forget misses.

His observations embraced all classes of players, although he admits that he had a natural tendency to watch the better players. This, however, often enabled him to record results from neighbouring courts. His detailed results may be seen in the appropriate Croquet Gazettes, with some useful tips about shooting, but he never completed the task of amalgamating all his annual results in one table. This I have now done, including summarising his conclusions, keeping my own comments to a minimum. There are inevitably a few apparent inconsistencies in his percentages. Grundy attributed these to some freak results in certain years, but they are within the permissible limits of statistical probability.

COMBINED STATISTICS FOR THE SEVEN YEARS
1922-23 and 1934-38

Yds	Shots	Hits	%
6	2202	1279	64
7	1459	787	54
8	1524	742	48.5
9	1245	544	43.5
10	1227	496	40.5
11	1065	363	34
12	1181	409	34.5
13	1635	555	34
14	1513	501	33
15	1389	425	30.5
16	1285	384	30
17	1334	365	27
18	1275	315	25
19	1231	325	26.5
20	1389	337	24
21	1178	299	25
22	935	215	23
23	833	179	21
24	801	185	23
25	811	140	17
26	796	154	19.5
27	703	127	18
28	488	88	18
29-34	1570	281	18
35-42	208	24	11.5

I have not tabulated the two years 1922-23 separately from the five years 1934-38, as they show no significant difference. This rather surprised Dr Grundy himself, as his impression was that in these later years the standard had improved, but he had a possible explanation. Apparently, beginning in 1934 and becoming widespread by 1935, there was a craze for shaving the grass. This, combined with hot summers, had a bad effect on shooting, 1935 showing the worst results on record. By 1936 many clubs rescinded this policy of close mowing, and shooting showed a great improvement.

Grundy says there are three hazards to good shooting. First, no court is mathematically level, and this factor is always present. The other hazards are, secondly, small dents or depressions and, thirdly, small pellets of earth (such as remnants of worm casts). The effects of these vary. A certain depth of grass is necessary for

the ball to hold its line, cushioning it over small irregularities; in wet weather the effect of earth pellets, softened by rain, is negligible. Thus, contrary to popular belief, fast dry courts are bad for shooting as they accentuate the irregularities, whilst slow wet courts minimise them. Some of Grundy's best shooting results were recorded at Devonshire Park on slow courts cut up by heel marks.

Dr Grundy points out another fallacy, that the superiority of minus players is largely due to their shooting. It is true that the most consistent good shots are all in the minus class, but the following table shows that in shooting pure and simple the ½ to 5 bisquers are as a class little, if at all, inferior to the minus players, whose superiority lies not in their shooting but in other departments of the game. In the class of 6 bisques and over there are naturally some beginners who have not learnt how to shoot, and hence their average is lower (but note results at 10-15 yards). Grundy did not keep consistent records differentiating between the various handicaps and unfortunately he does not give the total number of shots observed, but the following table illustrates his point:

YDS	HCP — 5½ TO 0 % Hits	HCP ½ TO 5 % Hits	HCP 6 AND OVER % Hits
6-9	53	52.5	45
10-15	35	30	31
16-19	31	32	24
20-28	24	22	15
28-42	18	19	4

Grundy attempted to find a simple formula by which a player could quickly work out in his head the percentage chance of a shot being hit. He suggested 400 divided by the distance of the shot in yards. This formula is remarkably accurate up to about 12 yards, but over this distance, although still a rough guide, it progressively underestimates the chance. I suggest that the following is more accurate:

6-12 yards	400 divided by distance in yards
13-18 yards	450 divided by distance in yards
19 and over	500 divided by distance in yards

To put this to practical application, the approximate chances of the following common shots being hit are:—

Short lift shot	13-14 yards	33% (1 hit in 3)
Lift shot from baulk at ball near peg	(say) 18-22 yards	25% (1 hit in 4)
Medium length tice	(say) 10 yards	40% (2 hits in 5)

All these chances, however, can be affected by psychological factors. For instance, there is a rather worse chance of hitting when taking a suicide shot, when the player is tense, than in a relaxed free shot of equivalent distance when a miss takes the ball to the comparative safety of a distant boundary.

For the year 1934 Grundy quotes the following results for 6-10 yard shots:

HCP -4½ to 0:	Shots 430	Hits 50%;
HCP ½ to 5:	Shots 345	Hits 51%.

He suggests that this result is influenced by the fact that, while all players are more anxious when taking a short shot than a long one, the good players are especially so, as they have, or think they have, more reputation at stake.

Finally, an anecdote illustrating the unreliability of the memory. At the Open Championships in 1938 Dr Grundy heard a player remark: "I cannot hit a ball today. In my last game yesterday I hit every shot". Grundy happened to have recorded all the shots in that game. In fact, the player had hit only 3 shots out of 7, but these were the last three shots which won him the game. Hence the hallucination.

We have no evidence to show whether the players of today are better or worse shots than their predecessors. One suspects that there is little difference, but until some dedicated person emulates Dr Grundy this cannot be proved.

D.M.C.Prichard

Federation of West Midlands Croquet Clubs

Himley Tournaments 1977

The Handicap Doubles Tournament at Himley Hall is now a well-established annual fixture in the West Midlands Federation Calendar. From the proceeds of an enjoyable Barn Dance, Des Willetts of Stourbridge has presented a handsome silver Rose Bowl to the Federation for annual Doubles Competition. For the first year, 1977-8, the Willetts Bowl stays in the West Midlands with Peter Barnes & David Arthur of Walsall, who convincingly quelled their Scottish opponents in the final, Frank Norton & Jim White, who had taken the Himley Championship title in the two previous years. Visitors were welcomed to this Doubles Tournament from Ellesmere, Maidenhead and Nottingham, as well as from Scotland, and, with a strong entry from local Clubs, made up a full capacity entry of 18 pairs playing on 6 lawns.

For the Handicap Singles in June, an extra lawn was provided to cater for a full entry of 28, including welcome visitors from Nottingham and Southport. (The Scots were, alas, doing battle with the English at Cheltenham this same weekend!) This event was arranged in two groups, with four games for each player, and provided two shield winners, Harry Hawkins of Wolverhampton and Roger Wheeler of Nottingham.

Acknowledgements are gratefully recorded to Dr F.V.X.Norton and to Mr G.Henshaw for the admirable discharge of their official duties as Tournament Referee/Handicapper at the Doubles and Singles respectively, and also to Ken Townsend and his helpers who spent many hours measuring out the lawns and setting out all equipment and accessories, including innumerable "bumper bars". Special thanks are due to the Park Warden at Himley, Mr Riches, and his staff, for starting a project of work to improve the lawns especially for Croquet Tournament play. This work was unfortunately delayed and hampered by very difficult weather conditions, but it is hoped that the longer-term benefits will be appreciated at future tournaments.

During the weekend of October 1-2 1977 a Match is to be held at Himley between Scotland and the West Midlands Federation, whilst other local players relax with a Golf Croquet Event.

Results

Handicap Doubles: May 21-22 (18 Pairs)

Semi-Final: P.J.Barnes & D.Arthur (15) bt. Miss J.Assheton & Mrs A. Ward (24) +1 (T); F.V.X.Norton & J.White (4½) bt. P.Trafford & R.Titchener (19½) +5 (T).

Final: Barnes & Arthur bt. Norton & White +18.

Handicap Singles: June 18-19 (28 Entries)

Semi-Final: L.H.Hawkins (11) bt. L.Flutter (10) +25; H.Bottomley (3½) bt. P.Trafford (7½) +11; J.Meads (3) bt. D.de Q. Lenfestey (4) +12; Dr R.F.Wheeler (6) bt. Mrs D.Willetts (8) +7 (T).

Final: Hawkins bt. Bottomley +17; Wheeler bt. Meads +1 (T).

N.B. This event was played in two divisions.

Apps Bowl and Steel Bowl Awards

In order to assist the Handicap Co-ordination Committee in selecting the most improved man player and the most improved woman player for this year (leading to the award of the Apps Bowl and the Steel Bowl) clubs are asked to consider whether they have any players whom they consider to be worthy of consideration for either of these awards. If they have any players who have made outstanding improvement this year, will they please be so kind as to submit detailed particulars of their play not later than October 10th to the C.A. Office, so that the Committee can include the players in their deliberations.

The conditions of the award require that a candidate should be an Associate, and that, in determining the award, account is taken both of Club play and play in tournaments.

Walsall Croquet Club

Stout oaks grow from small acorns, and the little Croquet Club started in the Walsall Arboretum by half a dozen keen young men should flourish if enthusiasm and determination are anything to go by. The Club has secured an option on an expanse of lawn — sufficient for 2 full courts — in nearby Aldridge. This lawn fronts a Georgian mansion now being used by the Council as a Teachers' Conference Centre, with Squash, Table-Tennis etc. laid on, and the use of it as their Pavilion has been offered to the Walsall Club — for the moment at no cost.

On my visit to the Club I heard discussion about the new acquisition (for I gathered the option was to be taken up), and it seemed that offers of equipment, materials, machinery and labour were being made unstintingly by one and all. As a fund-raising effort for the benefit of the Club, David Arthur and his wife (doubtless helped by friends) have just organised a "Strawberry Fayre" held in their spacious garden. This was done on a scale more ambitious than the usual garden party and attracted a crowd of some 200 people who contributed a net return of £100. The members (all young enough to be my grandsons!) are already playing in tournaments and bid fair to being players to be reckoned with.

Good luck Walsall!

W.H.A.

Birnam Wood Club Championship: February 12-20

The Tournament was played with the temperature in the upper seventies every day. It should be mentioned that our whole Pacific Coast weather is just about as it was in England last summer. A parody on 'The Ancient Mariner' is appropriate — "Sunshine, Sunshine everywhere and not a drop of rain". However, in spite of our serious drought, the play went as scheduled with much enthusiasm from contestants and spectators. As the results show, Charles Webber dominated the games throughout. We are hoping he will join Captain Tucker in one or two tournaments in England during the summer. It is believed our players, as a group, would give a creditable performance with some of the best in England.

Results

OPEN SINGLES (Best of three, advanced play, 8 Entries)

First Round: G.Thede bt. R.Groat +19 +15; C.Webber bt. L.Storrs +20 +19; F.Tucker bt. R.Straus +10 +5; H.Cameron bt. B.Greiff +15 +14.

Semi-Final: Webber bt. Thede +24 +15; Cameron bt. Tucker +10 +14.

Final: Webber bt. Cameron +10 +14.

Croquet Worldwide

My thanks to Mr C.W.I.Gillespie of South Africa, who spotted a travel advertisement in 'The Economist' of 26th March this year where reference is made to croquet being available at the Cervo Tennis Club on the Costa Smeralda in Sardinia. Any further reports on the croquet available there would be welcome.

Note from Western Province Croquet Association, South Africa

Some of you may wish to make a note in your diaries of the dates of the next Western Province Tournament. These are March 13-18 1978. The events will be as usual, Open Singles, Open Doubles, Handicap Singles (X,Y,Z) and a 'C' Handicap. The Tournament will be played at the Rondebosch Croquet Club in Cape Town. Anyone wishing to enter should write to:

Mrs D.J.Martin, P.O. Box 93, Observatory 7935, Cape Town, South Africa, regarding entry and accommodation. Mrs Martin and Mr Cunningham very kindly send us good wishes for a happy and successful 1977 season.

Obituaries

C.W.Haworth

The Nottingham Club has again suffered the loss of a very well liked and respected President in the passing of Christopher Haworth. Christopher had been President for only one year but had enjoyed that year so much. Previously he had been a most enthusiastic tournament secretary and committee member. His great love of croquet was shown in the number of tournaments he attended and the many countries where he had spent winter holidays and played croquet. We shall always treasure the Album of photographs of tournaments at home and abroad which he presented to the Club. During the last two years his health had deteriorated, causing his game to slow up, but even to the end he was looking forward to the coming season and hoping to play again. His death is a great loss to the Nottingham Club. We offer our sincere sympathy to Joan and the family.

E.C.B.

The deaths are also announced of David W.H.Owen, H.T.Stepto (New Zealand), Mrs R. Whitham, and H.C.S.Perry.

Weekend Tournaments

Cheltenham I: April 9-11

BLOCK A. Professor B.G.Weitz (0) beat C.H.L.Prichard (-3) +11, J.McLaren (2) +12, Col. G.T.Wheeler (4) +11, Mrs D. de Q. Lenfestey (8) +18, and Mrs W.J.Sturdy (10) +4.

BLOCK B. S.N.Mulliner (0) beat J.H.J.Soutter (-1½) +6, Col. E.L.L.Vulliamy (2) +6, Mrs D.C.Willetts (8) +8, Captain P.H.S.Reid (10) +13, and lost to S.J.Garrett (9) -8.

BLOCK C. Miss E.H.Arkell (2½) beat G.E.P.Jackson (-1½) +17, J.A.Wheeler (0) +12, A.Blenkin (8) +25, E.L.Gardiner (12) +12, and lost to N.J.C.Gooch (5) -12.

BLOCK D. Dr C.B.Snowdon (5) beat Mrs K.M.O.Wheeler (-1) +13, J.Haigh (½) +25, W.J.Sturdy (3) +8, Lady Bazley (10) +15, and lost to Mrs D.Exell (12) -2.

BLOCK E. M.J.Evans (1) beat Lt-Col D.M.C.Prichard (0) +20, Mrs B.G.Weitz (3) +1, D.C.Willetts (6) +13, J.A.Ross (10) +7, and W.F.Morton (12) +12.

BLOCK F. T.I.Wood (1½) beat Mrs D.M.C.Prichard (-½) +16, D. de Q. Lenfestey (5½) +4, Mrs D.Brown (9) +12, Mrs R.F.A.Crane (14) +17, and lost to G.Henshaw (3) -7.

BLOCK G. T.W.Anderson (7) beat Dr G.K.Taylor (-½) +2, R.D.C. Prichard (1½) +11, R.F.A.Crane (4) +9, M.W.W.Clotworthy (10) +25, and Mrs W.F.Morton (16) +23.

Compton: April 20-24

BLOCK A. E.J.Tucker (-1) beat R.P.Chappell (13) +15, Cdr G. Borrett (-1) +14, D.A.Harris (0) +17, and Mrs N.A.C.McMillan (2) +10.

BLOCK B. C.E.Knight (4½) beat W.Grant (6) +1 (T), F.W.Carpenter (5) +5 (T), Mrs H.J.Devitt (5½) +10, and Lt-Col D.F.T.Brown (8) +4 (T).

BLOCK C. Dr D.A.Parker (5½) beat R.E.Wallis (5) +4 (T), Mrs E.M.Temple (4½) +23, Mrs H.F.Chittenden (2½) +22, and lost to B.D. Yallop (6) -10.

BLOCK D. J.Haigh (½) beat C.A.Parker (2) +1 (T), H.J.Devitt (5) +22, and W.Nicholson (7) +10.

BLOCK E. J.S.Maude (7) beat J.H.T.Griffiths (8) +7 (T), G.A. Hutcheson (8) +12, and Mrs G.F.H.Elvey (2½) +23.

BLOCK F. F.G.French (13) beat Miss P.E.Parker (13) +4 (T), R.H.C. Evans (14) +2 (T), Mrs D.G.Waterhouse (10) +2 (T), and Mrs A.E.Millns (12) +8 (T).

PLAY-OFF

First Round: E.J.Tucker (-1) bt. C.E.Knight (4½) +10; Dr D.A.Parker (5½) bt. J.S.Maude (7) +2.

Semi-Final: Tucker bt. J.Haigh (½) +1 (T); D.Parker bt. F.G.French (13) +1 (T).

Final: Tucker bt. D.Parker +9.

Roehampton: April 21-24

SWISS HANDICAP SINGLES (7 Rounds and 24 Entries)

Six Wins: D.K.Openshaw, C.H.J.Cousins and S.N.Mulliner.

Five Wins: A.F.Coleman and P.Stoker.

Four Wins: R.A.Godby, M.G.Pearson, Mrs E.E.Bressey, S.S.Townsend, Mrs D.J.Crocker, D.J.Crocker and L.Wharrad.

Three Wins: Mrs B.G.Weitz, Mrs B.Mansfield, Dr E.W.Solomon, Dr J.N.Robinson, Mrs T.Wills, Mrs W.Longman, and Miss D.E.Rogers.

Two Wins: M.J.Stevens, Mrs W.Jones, and G.L.Frost.

One Win: Mrs N.Adlam.

No Wins: Mrs S.S.Townsend.

Wrest Park I: May 20-22

BLOCK A. E.Bell (1) beat J.Wheeler (0) +17, A.Dumont (4) +1 (T), D.Turner (4) +17, Miss J.Wraith (12) +16, Mrs M.Grout (11) +20, and lost to T.Anderson (6½) -18 (T).

BLOCK B. H.C.Green (1) beat D.Openshaw (-½) +14, G.Richardson (3) +14, C.Snowdon (5) +9, Dr R.Wheeler (7) +24, B.Harral (12) +14, and lost to J.Gosden (8) -2 (T).

BLOCK C. E.Audsley (5) beat J.Soutter (-1½) +14, N.Davren (0) +16, P.Stoker (2) +16, Mrs R.Wheeler (6) +13, R.Newnham (9) +9 (T), and C.Grout (11) +18.

Nottingham I: June 3-5

BLOCK A. J.Meads (5) beat M.Bushnell (0) +14, P.Death (6) +10, Mrs R.F.Wheeler (6) +10, Mrs C.Chamberlain (7½) +20, K.F.W.Townsend (10) +15, and lost to G.Henshaw (3) -4.

BLOCK B. G.Birch (½) beat T.W.Smith (5) +15, A.J.Bucknell (5½) +18, Dr M.Haslam (6) +14, Mrs D. de Q. Lenfestey (8) +5, Mrs K.F.W. Townsend (10) +5, and lost to Dr R.F.Wheeler (7) -10.

BLOCK C. D. de Q. Lenfestey (5½) beat G.Noble (2½) +7, P.Cozens (5) +1 (T), C.Chamberlain (6) +1 (T), R.H.Fletcher (7) +1 (T), M.Kolbuszewski (8) +10 (T), and Mrs A.J.Bucknell (9) +20.

Colchester I: June 4-7

BLOCK A. Miss S.G.Hampson (2½) beat E.A.Locke (5) +3 (T), Mrs G.Kimber (13) +12, J.Haigh (½) +8, Mrs G.F.Hallett (9) +8, and lost to Mrs F.Stanley-Smith (9) -2.

BLOCK B. R.S.Alford (3½) beat Dr W.Dean (10) +17, A.Lindley (7½) +8, J.Wilson (5) +1 (T), E.C.Avery (10) +8, G.F.Hallett (1) +13, and lost to G.S.Digby (3) -1 (T).

BLOCK C. P.W.Alvey (5½) beat Mrs E.A.Locke (14) +12, Mrs G.S. Digby (3) +17, H.A.Cross (8) +5 (T), J.C.Ruddock (1½) +3, and G.Kimber (10) +10.

PLAY-OFF

Semi-Final: Alford bt. Alvey +1 (T).

Final: Miss Hampson bt. Alford +3 (T).

HANDICAP DOUBLES (7 Entries)

Semi-Final: Lt-Col D.W.Nicholls & Mrs F.Stanley-Smith (20) bt. Mr & Mrs G.S.Digby (6) +2 (T); G.F.Hallett & K.H.Paterson (4) bt. R.S.Alford & Dr W.Dean (13½) +4 (T).

Final: Hallett & Paterson bt. Nicholls & Mrs Stanley-Smith +3.

Cheltenham II: June 4-7

'A' SERIES

BLOCK A. A.J.Girling (5) beat P.W.Hands (-3) +26, D.H.Moorcraft (½) +10, Mrs B.G.Weitz (3) +6, and Mrs M.L.Shackleton (16) +22.

BLOCK B. Mrs E.Asa-Thomas (4½) beat G.N.Aspinall (-5) +26, A.B.Hope (-2½) +26, Miss J.E.Assheton (10) +5, and lost to G.F.Blumer (6) -13.

BLOCK C. J.H.J.Soutter (-1½) beat Col. G.T.Wheeler (4) +16, Miss I.M.Roe (6) +7, Lady Bazley (10) +21, and lost to C.H.J.Cousins (½) -12.

BLOCK D. B.A.Meadows (5) beat Mrs K.M.O.Wheeler (-1) +14, R.E.Adlard (1½) +21, J.G.Warwick (4) +15, and Mrs D.Exell (12) +8.

BLOCK E. Dr R.C.Jones (13) beat Dr G.K.Taylor (-½) +13, G.H.Betts (2) +18, L.G.Ayliffe (4½) +4 (T), and Miss M.J.Lodge (6) +17.

BLOCK F. Revd W.E.Gladstone (-½) beat Mrs J.N.Rolfe (1½) +14, Mrs H.G.Handley (5) +23, E.Asa-Thomas (8) +7, and Mrs A.F.Adlam (9) +12.

BLOCK G. Professor B.G.Weitz (0) beat Miss E.H.Arkell (2½) +5, F.E.Pearson (2) +11, Mrs D.H.Moorcraft (9) +10, and Mrs M.A.L. Warren (14) +25.

'B' SERIES

BLOCK 1. G.N.Aspinall beat G.E.P.Jackson +11, J.H.J.Soutter +26, Mrs K.M.O.Wheeler +26, and Revd W.E.Gladstone +25.

BLOCK 2. M.J.Evans beat R.O.B.Whittington +12, D.H.Moorcraft +11, C.H.J.Cousins +22, and lost to Mrs J.N.Rolfe -15.

BLOCK 3. Miss E.H.Arkell beat Mrs E.M.Lightfoot +18, G.H.Betts +4, Mrs R.M.Allen +11, and lost to W.J.Sturdy -10.

BLOCK 4. Col. G.T.Wheeler beat J.G.Warwick +18, A.J.Girling +12, Mrs H.G.Handley +18, and B.A.Meadows +5.

BLOCK 5. Mrs R.F.Wheeler beat Miss M.J.Lodge +5, G.F.Blumer +13, R.F.Wheeler +1 (T), and lost to Miss I.M.Roe -6.

BLOCK 6. Miss J.E.Assheton beat Mrs A.F.Adlam +9, Mrs D.H.Moorcraft +9, Mrs W.J.Sturdy +6, and Lady Bazley +2 (T).

BLOCK 7. Mrs M.A.L.Warren (14) beat A.Warren (12) +7, W.F.Morton (12) +6 (T), Dr R.C.Jones (12) +5, and Mrs W.F.Morton (16) +10.

Note: Blocks 1 and 2 were played under the conditions of Advanced Play; Blocks 3 and 4 ordinary level play; Blocks 5 and 6 ordinary level play with shortened games; Block 7 handicap play with shortened games.

Southport & Birkdale: June 4-7

ADVANCED PLAY BLOCK. D.K.Openshaw beat E.Bell +17 (with TP.) +3, J.Rose +8 +22, P.Stoker +1 +26, B.Slater +14 +3 (T), and drew with D.G.Richardson +17 -3.

SWISS HANDICAP

Five Wins: Mrs N.Tyldesley (5), P.Bowler (7).

Four Wins: E.L.Gardiner (12).

Three Wins: Miss I.M.Hawkins (9), A.Bennet (10).

Two Wins: Mrs E.Cocker (8), E.Halliwell (8).

One Win: Dr B.R.Sandiford (5).

HANDICAP DOUBLES

Final: Mrs E.Cocker & A.Bennet (18) bt. P.Bowler & E.Halliwell (15) +13.

Hunstanton: June 10-13

BLOCK A. (OPEN) H.C.Green beat D.H.Moorcraft +9, Mrs J.N.Rolfe +3, D.K.Openshaw +13, J.A.Wheeler +20, H.B.H.Carlisle +24, and J.Haigh +26.

BLOCK B. Mrs H.B.H.Carlisle (4) beat Miss S.G.Hampson (2½) +5, R.Forth (8) +6, L.Batchelor (13) +12, Miss E.I.Wood (11) +15, and Miss C.M.Sinclair (15) +15.

BLOCK C. W.H.Carlisle (6½) beat D.Turner (4) +1 (T), Mrs D.H.Moorcraft (10) +18, Mrs L.Batchelor +1 (T), C.R.Palmer (11) +20, and w.o. Mrs H.A.Zinn (8) opp. scr.

In this tournament David Openshaw achieved a triple in one of his games, while Jane Neville Rolfe achieved the first two peels of a straight triple against Denis Moorcraft. After being pegged out by Hugh Carlisle, John Wheeler made up a deficit of several hoops and only lost by one after making a valiant attempt to jump the peg to roquet Hugh's ball. John, however, achieved success in a 2-ball Swiss competition organised for the Monday afternoon and won himself a Jubilee mug. The Tournament was ably planned and managed by Jane Neville Rolfe.

Southwick: June 17-19

BLOCK A. S.Tapp (-1) beat C.Hudson (6) +9, D.M.Bull (5) +14, Miss P.Shine (14) +19, R.W.Newnham (9) +20, and Mrs A.E.Millns (12) +22.

BLOCK B. A.Lindley (6½) beat Mrs C.W.Marshall (12) +6, Mrs N.W.T.Cox (2) +12, Mrs G.C.Day (9) +17, Mrs E.H.P.Mallinson (4½) +14, and lost to G.T.Coates (5½) -3.

BLOCK C. A.J.Betts (7½) beat Dr C.W.Marshall (10) +22, Mrs A.F. Adlam (9) +19, Mrs R.Brumfield (12) +16, Mrs W.Naylor (7) +19, and lost to N.W.T.Cox (-1) -4.

BLOCK D. T.F.Owen (-½) beat H.A.Sheppard (3) +23, Mrs M.Rankin (12) +20, Mrs R.E.Tucker (4½) +14, Mrs E.Lewis (10) +8, and lost to D.C.Caporn (2½) -12.

Woking: June 23-26

BLOCK A. J.S.Maude (7) beat C.Southern (½) +9, D.Crocker (4) +13, C.Hudson (6) +22, Mrs Y.E.Rentoul (9) +16, Mrs C.A.Grout (11) +13, and lost to G.Cuttle (11) -5.

BLOCK B. A.Mozley (8) beat B.A.Keen (1) +21, D.C.Caporn (2½) +25, Mrs L.M.Bishop (9) +2 (T), Mrs K.F.W.Townsend (10) +23, C.A.Grout (11) +17, Mrs D.Crocker (12) +8, and P.L.Avery (5) +11.

BLOCK C. J.Rose (½) beat A.Lindley (5½) +18, L.Wharrad (7) +13, J.H.T.Griffiths (8) +9, Mrs D.H.Moorcraft (9) +14, K.F.W.Townsend (9) +13, Dr C.W.Marshall (10) +7, Mrs C.W.Marshall (10) +12, and lost to J.S.H.Battison (6½) -4.

Roehampton April Weekend

April last saw a new tournament in the Calendar. The Roehampton Club, which runs several tournaments throughout the year for Club members, opened the first one to all-comers and extended it to 4 days to make one of the Season's first long weekend events.

Twenty-four competitors, largely from Clubs in and around London, braved the cold Roehampton winds. It was pleasing so early in the season to see many old friends and to make several new ones. It was also interesting to see some players demonstrating their enviable ability to play as if they had never stopped during the Winter, while others were not so fortunate. The Club's practice putting green was converted to make a fourth lawn and, with the exception of the "rough" north of hoops 2 and 3, all four lawns were in good shape and showed little of the effects of last Summer.

The Tournament was extremely competently and graphically managed by Nigel Aspinall. It was a 6-round Swiss Handicap Event. To fit the necessary three games per lawn into each Spring day, Nigel had to start the games at the 5th Hoop. This was generally popular, and produced many interesting opening manoeuvres, varying from the standard to the suicidal! When the main contenders for first place showed themselves, the battle hotted up with an exciting game between David Openshaw and Stephen Mulliner, which could have made Mulliner the overall winner if he won, or given the Manager a headache if he lost. In the event, after peeling through the last two hoops, young Mulliner had an unfortunate encounter with Rover on the way back to the peg, and lost by one point. As Openshaw had lost an earlier game, and Chris Cousins was in a similar position, all three were declared joint winners, there being insufficient time for a play-off.

Our thanks go to the Roehampton Club, to Nigel, and to Robin Godby who stepped in at the last minute as Tournament Referee, for a very enjoyable tournament, which must be welcomed to the C.A. Fixtures List for future years.

(Would Club Officials please note that space is not normally available for reports on Weekend Tournaments. An exception is made when the tournament is being held for the first time, but in other cases it is suggested that the matter be discussed with the Editor in advance if the printing of a brief report is desired. — Ed.)

The Longman Cup 1977

Results in Order

First Round

Cheltenham beat Edgbaston 3-2
Stourbridge beat Walsall 4-1

Second Round

Bowdon beat Southport & Birkdale 3-2
Ellesmere beat Cheltenham 4-1
Stourbridge beat Trawscod 4-1
Bath beat Wolverhampton 4-1
Wrest Park beat Bentley 5-0
Bretby beat Nottingham 5-0
Roehampton beat Hurlingham 5-0
Harrow Oak beat Parsons Green 3-2
Phyllis Court beat Silver Wing 4-1
Herstmonceux beat Compton 4-1
Southwick beat Reigate Priory 4-1

Third Round

Bowdon beat Ellesmere 3-2
Bath beat Stourbridge 3-2
Wrest Park beat Colchester 4-1
Bretby beat Colworth 3-2
Roehampton beat Harrow Oak 3-2
A.E.R.E. Harwell beat Phyllis Court 3-2
Herstmonceux beat Ryde 3-2
Woking beat Southwick 3-2

Budleigh Salterton May Tournament: May 9-14

For many years now, Croquet has been played throughout the winter at Budleigh, and this year it seems that Nature was determined to have her revenge for such cavalier treatment. Winter had continued for far longer than usual, with the result that many of the lawns were only brought into use a few days before the tournament opened. Hardly anyone had had much opportunity for practice, and felt very rusty, a situation that was evidenced by the amount of grumbling about missing short roquets. This complaint seemed to be contagious: one player would miss a roquet of a yard or so, and leave a dolly rush for his opponent — which he went and missed also.

The wintry conditions with much rain lasted for most of the first four days, but finals day, Saturday, was a glorious day, and there was quite a crowd enjoying the rare treat of sitting out in the sunshine. There were 17 visitors, some old friends, and some newcomers, several of whom made their mark in the longer handicap blocks.

Unfortunately, John Cooper had to withdraw through illness, and this made Bill Perry's task a bit easier in Block 'A'. He won all 5 of his games, the only close one being against Ray Stevens who, after a long struggle, managed to peg out one of Perry's balls. He then crept round with his second ball, until he reached the peg, with Perry's ball for Rover. Time was called during this turn. Ray missed the peg-out with his forward ball, but pegged out the second. This left Perry his final turn, his ball being to the side of Rover, and Stevens' near Hoop 2. Perry hit in, and with an incredible roll back, laid his ball dead in front of Rover, with the other ball just beyond it. Perry made no mistake in finishing off the game to win by 1, but never was victory snatched so late from the jaws of defeat.

In his other games Bill Perry played immaculately, and no one else came anywhere near to beating him. Other items worth recording from Block 'A' are Reg Simpson's glow of pride when he managed to beat Betty Prichard by 23, and the dour struggle that Betty and David Prichard had, when either could have won and Betty did.

Another notable performer was Bill Ovens, who only lost one game in Block 'C', and that by only 1 on time. But if only he could learn to reduce the time that elapses between his walking on to the court and his actual hitting of the ball!

The Doubles produced some real struggles, and there was deep admiration for Mrs "Babs" Bolton's efforts on the wet lawns, especially her pluck at tackling long roll shots. Peter Devitt and she had some hard battles, notably that against David Prichard and Christine Bagnall in the 3rd Round, which they only won by 1. The Doubles Final, between two home pairs, was a close and tense affair, which reached the point where there were three clips on the Peg and one on Rover (the latter belonging to Charles Waller, a very much improved local player). Somewhat unwisely, their opponents tried to hit in, instead of joining on the boundary, but they missed. Charles Waller kept his head, rolled up to Rover quite calmly, and completed the course.

Results

AMERICAN HANDICAP SINGLES

BLOCK A. **B.G.Perry** (-2) beat Mrs D.M.C.Prichard (-½) +16, Lt-Col D.M.C.Prichard (0) +12, H.G.T.Bolton (0) +12, R.S.Stevens (1) +1, and R.A.Simpson (1½) +18.

BLOCK B. **Mrs R.A.Simpson** (2) beat Lt-Col G.E.Cave (1½) +1 (T), Dr W.R.Bucknall (1½) +13, Mrs N.A.C.McMillan (2) +19, C.Edwards (2½) +6, and lost to Mrs E.M.Lightfoot (1½) -3.

BLOCK C. **H.E.Ovens** (6½) beat J.G.Warwick (4) +17, P.K.Devitt (4) +11, Mrs C.Bagnall (4½) +12, Mrs P.A.Tunmer (4½) +9, Dr H.A.Pim (5) +20, and lost to K.S.Schofield (3½) -1 (T).

BLOCK D. **R.Forth** (8) beat Mrs S.S.Cruden (7) +13, Mrs H.A.Pim (7) +20, J.H.T.Griffiths (8) +8 (T), Mrs L.M.Bishop (9) +1 (T), and lost to C.J.Waller (7) -23.

BLOCK E. **L.Wharrad** (10) beat Mrs P.K.Devitt (10) +22, Dr C.W.Marshall (10) +22, Mrs J.Goode (10) +3 (T), Mrs R.S.Stevens (12) +1 (T), and Mrs E.Pursey (12) +4 (T).

BLOCK F. **Judge B.H.Gerrard** (14) beat Mrs C.W.Marshall (12) +3 (T), A.Ormerod (13) +8 (T), Miss P.G.Hampson (14) +13, Mrs L.Wharrad (16) +23, and lost to Mrs P.A.Dwerryhouse (14) -2 (T).

PLAY-OFF FOR THE GODFREY TURNER CHALLENGE CUP

B.G.Perry (A) bt. Mrs R.A.Simpson (B) +10.

PLAY-OFF FOR THE J.K.BROWN MEMORIAL CUP

H.E.Ovens (C) bt. R.Forth (D) +15.

PLAY-OFF FOR THE L.G.WALTERS LONG HANDICAP TROPHY

L.Wharrad (E) bt. Judge B.H.Gerrard (F) +12.

HANDICAP DOUBLES (18 Pairs)

Semi-Final: **R.S.Stevens & B.Hancock** (7) bt. P.K.Devitt & Mrs H.G.T.Bolton (16) +3; **C.Edwards & C.J.Waller** (9½) bt. Mrs R.A.Simpson & Judge B.H.Gerrard (16) +5.

Final: **Edwards & Waller** bt. Stevens & Hancock +2.

The Peel Memorials: May 16-21

The lawns at Cheltenham had been closed for the winter for the first time for at least ten years; under Mr Whittington's care, after last year's drought, eight lawns had made a very good recovery, and the worst two played better than they looked. A good entry started on a cold May morning with the Draw of the Men's and Women's events, and the holder of the Women's Bowl, the Arkell, as she is affectionately called, had a typically swift win over Mrs Carlisle, to provide the first vacant lawn in one hour. In the Men's, Johnson, whose handicap of 8 was thought by some to be suspect, had two wins, but by no such margin as would justify any reduction "During Play". He beat Scarr by only one point in the first game, and in the second Col. Prichard should have beaten him, for he was lined up for a single peel when he stuck in the fifth hoop, which cost him the game. On Tuesday, however, Johnson won 3 games in the Big Handicap, so he was reduced to 6½ for the Doubles and the Process.

The Doubles took place on Wednesday, and after two rounds, when Col. Wheeler and Mrs Handley had soundly beaten the redoubtable Johnson and Gladstone, it looked as if the winners of that game might meet Mulliner and Lady Bazley in the Final, which proved to be so.

By Thursday the weather was a little warmer, but a nasty north-east wind started, which reached almost gale force on the Saturday, and took a good deal of pleasure away from the Finals.

Johnson met Mulliner in the Men's Process off his new handicap, and the latter administered a beating by 7; in the Big Handicap Mrs Asa-Thomas beat Johnson by the same amount, so there was nothing very wrong with his starting handicap!

The Tournament was notable, as a glance at the results will show, for the number of close games, and only a few were timed. Gooch did well, and was unlucky in one of his games, when on Rover and Peg he wired himself in one turn, and then in the next turn on a take-off hit the hoop and was hampered and unable to hit his opponent; he lost by 3, having in that game made two very good 3-ball breaks.

By this time Miss Arkell, Mrs Asa-Thomas, Mrs Carlisle, Miss Lodge, Mrs Povey and Mrs Prichard were all running neck and neck for the Women's Bowl. Mrs Povey pegged out one ball, but not the other, with a big lead over Miss Lodge, and the latter got to Penult with both balls; she tried a hoop that was too difficult when, shooting well as she was, it might have been better to shoot at her opponent, who had trickled to a position between the peg and Penult.

Perhaps the most notable game was in the semi-final of the Men's Draw. Mulliner got to the Peg with both balls, missed with one and pegged out the other, with Gladstone's two clips on Hoop 6. Gladstone hit in, and went round on 2-ball breaks in four or five turns to win. In the Process Gladstone, not having learnt the lesson, pegged out one ball against Scarr, who went on to win by one!

Blumer (who should quicken up his game) seemed to play better when his bisques were gone; he beat Jackson and Whittington, and lost only narrowly to Gladstone.

On Friday Mrs Asa-Thomas beat Mrs Elvey at 7 p.m. to put herself in the Final of the Women's Process, and was then rightly called upon by the Manager to play her fourth game of the day, against Mulliner in the semi-final of the Big Handicap. She gave him a splendid game, but lost by 5.

The scheduled Event 5 (instead of the 'Y') was played as a 6-to-a-Block American, the eight most successful competitors taking part in a 3-round knock-out. This provided play for those less successful in the other events right up to Saturday, and Edgar Jackson is to be congratulated on this idea and on his management. The Prize Giving was at 5.45 p.m., with all events finished except for the play-off of the Men's event between Johnson and Blumer; this was a great struggle, not helped by the fiendish wind, and ended a happy tournament at 6.45 p.m.

Results

Event 1: Peel Memorial Silver Challenge Bowl (Men) (17 Entries)

DRAW

First Round: **Captain P.H.S.Reid** (10) bt. E.Asa-Thomas (9) +3 (T).

Second Round: **G.F.Blumer** (7) bt. H.J.Devitt (5) +15; **Revd W.E.Gladstone** (-½) bt. D.S.Jones (9) +6; **S.N.Mulliner** (0) bt. R.O.B.Whittington (0) +16; **Reid** bt. Col. G.T.Wheeler (4) +5; **N.J.C.Gooch** (5) bt. G.E.P.Jackson (-1½) +3; **E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake** (-1) bt. F.E.Pearson (2) +14; **P.M.Johnson** (8) bt. W.A.Scarr (9) +1; **Lt-Col D.M.C.Prichard** (0) bt. W.J.Sturdy (3) +12.

Third Round: **Gladstone** bt. Blumer +6; **Mulliner** bt. Reid +11; **Gooch** bt. Tyrwhitt Drake +26; **Johnson** bt. Prichard +11.

Semi-Final: **Gladstone** bt. Mulliner +1; **Johnson** bt. Gooch +10.

Final: **Johnson** bt. Gladstone +16.

PROCESS

First Round: **Blumer** bt. Prichard +23.

Second Round: **Blumer** bt. Reid +1 (T); **Whittington** bt. Tyrwhitt Drake +1; **Gladstone** bt. Gooch +2; **Scarr** bt. Wheeler +1; **Jackson** bt. Devitt +16; **Mulliner** bt. Johnson (6½) +7; **Pearson** bt. Jones +17; **Asa-Thomas** bt. Sturdy +1 (T).

Third Round: **Blumer** bt. Whittington +2; **Scarr** bt. Gladstone +1; **Jackson** bt. Mulliner +8; **Pearson** bt. Asa-Thomas +10.

Semi-Final: **Blumer** bt. Scarr +3 (T); **Jackson** bt. Pearson +7.

Final: **Blumer** bt. Jackson +22.

PLAY-OFF

Johnson bt. Blumer +9.

Event 2: Peel Memorial Silver Challenge Cup (Women) (22 Entries)

DRAW

First Round: **Mrs J.Povey** (3½) bt. Mrs H.J.Devitt (5½) +11; **Mrs W.A.Scarr** (11) bt. Mrs G.F.H.Elvey (2½) +5; **Mrs F.E.Pearson** (12) bt. Mrs D.S.Jones (5) +6; **Lady Bazley** (10) bt. Mrs A.E.Millns (12) +6; **Mrs E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake** (8) bt. Miss I.M.Roe (6) +12; **Mrs M.A.L.Warren** (14) bt. Mrs G.W.Solomon (4) +4.

Second Round: **Miss M.J.Lodge** (6) bt. Mrs D.M.C.Prichard (-½) +1; **Mrs B.G.Neal** (4½) bt. Mrs H.G.Handley (5) +4 (T); **Mrs Povey** bt. Mrs Scarr +15; **Mrs Pearson** bt. Lady Bazley +6; **Mrs Warren** bt. Mrs Tyrwhitt Drake +5; **Mrs W.J.Sturdy** (10) bt. Miss F.I.Joly (-½) +13; **Miss E.H.Arkell** (2½) bt. Mrs H.B.H.Carlisle (4) +22; **Mrs E.Asa-Thomas** (5) bt. Mrs K.M.O.Wheeler (-1) +26.

Third Round: **Miss Lodge** bt. Mrs Neal +13; **Mrs Povey** bt. Mrs Pearson +11; **Mrs Sturdy** bt. Mrs Warren +10; **Miss Arkell** bt. Mrs Asa-Thomas +7.

Semi-Final: **Mrs Povey** bt. Miss Lodge +6; **Mrs Sturdy** bt. Miss Arkell +11.

Final: **Mrs Povey** bt. Mrs Sturdy +9.

PROCESS

First Round: **Miss Lodge** bt. Mrs Sturdy +11; **Mrs Asa-Thomas** bt. Mrs Povey +6; **Miss Arkell** bt. Mrs Handley +21; **Mrs Prichard** bt. Miss Joly +7 (T); **Mrs Devitt** bt. Mrs Wheeler +10; **Mrs Carlisle** bt. Mrs Neal +19.

Second Round: **Miss Lodge** bt. Mrs Pearson +17; **Mrs Asa-Thomas** bt. Miss Roe +19; **Miss Arkell** bt. Lady Bazley +14; **Mrs Elvey** bt. Mrs

Warren +3 (T); **Mrs Prichard** bt. Mrs Jones +1 (T); **Mrs Devitt** bt. Mrs Tyrwhitt Drake +13; **Mrs Carlisle** bt. Mrs Millns +18; **Mrs Scarr** bt. Mrs Solomon +8.

Third Round: **Mrs Asa-Thomas** bt. Miss Lodge +3; **Mrs Elvey** bt. Miss Arkell +13; **Mrs Prichard** bt. Mrs Devitt +4; **Mrs Carlisle** bt. Mrs Scarr +15.

Semi-Final: **Mrs Asa-Thomas** bt. Mrs Elvey +23; **Mrs Carlisle** bt. Mrs Prichard +10.

Final: **Mrs Carlisle** bt. Mrs Asa-Thomas +13.

PLAY-OFF

Mrs Carlisle bt. Mrs Povey +8.

Event 3: The Lady Murray Memorial Silver Challenge Cups (17 Pairs)

First Round: **Revd W.E.Gladstone & P.M.Johnson** (6) bt. Mrs D.M.C.Prichard & Mrs M.A.L.Warren (11½) +8.

Second Round: **Mr & Mrs E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake** (6) bt. Mr & Mrs F.E.Pearson (14) +16; **Miss E.H.Arkell & Miss R.M.Allen** (6) bt. Mrs B.G.Neal & Mrs A.E.Millns (14½) +10; **Mrs H.B.H.Carlisle & Mrs E.Asa-Thomas** (9) bt. Mr & Mrs W.A.Scarr (18) +1 (T); **Col. G.T.Wheeler & Mrs H.G.Handley** (9) bt. Gladstone & Johnson +2; **R.O.B.Whittington & Miss M.J.Lodge** (6) bt. Mr & Mrs D.S.Jones (14) +14; **G.F.Blumer & Mrs J.Povey** (10½) bt. E.Asa-Thomas & Mrs G.W.Solomon (13) +13; **S.N.Mulliner & Lady Bazley** (9) bt. Captain P.H.S.Reid & Mrs K.M.O.Wheeler (9) +9 (T); **Mr & Mrs H.J.Devitt** bt. Mr & Mrs W.J.Sturdy (13) +1 (T).

Third Round: **Miss Arkell & Miss Allen** bt. Mr & Mrs Tyrwhitt Drake +3; **Wheeler & Mrs Handley** bt. Mrs Carlisle & Mrs Asa-Thomas +3 (T); **Blumer & Mrs Povey** bt. Whittington & Miss Lodge +13; **Mulliner & Lady Bazley** bt. Mr & Mrs Devitt +11.

Semi-Final: **Wheeler & Mrs Handley** bt. Miss Arkell & Miss Allen +2; **Mulliner & Lady Bazley** bt. Blumer & Mrs Povey +5.

Final: **Mulliner & Lady Bazley** bt. Wheeler & Mrs Handley +6.

Event 4: Open Handicap Singles (36 Entries)

First Round: **Mrs J.Povey** (3½) bt. Mrs A.E.Millns (12) +2; **Revd W.E.Gladstone** (-½) bt. Mrs D.S.Jones (5) +21; **W.A.Scarr** (9) bt. Miss M.J.Lodge (6) +9; **Lt-Col D.M.C.Prichard** (0) bt. G.E.P.Jackson (-1½) +7.

Second Round: **E.Asa-Thomas** (9) bt. Mrs B.G.Neal (4½) +22; **Mrs H.B.H.Carlisle** (4) bt. Mrs K.M.O.Wheeler (-1) +12; **Miss F.I.Joly** (-½) bt. Captain P.H.S.Reid (10) +3; **Mrs H.G.Handley** (5) bt. Mrs W.A.Scarr (11) +10; **N.J.C.Gooch** (5) bt. Lady Bazley (10) +8; **Mrs H.J.Devitt** (5½) bt. F.E.Pearson (2) +10; **Mrs M.A.L.Warren** (14) bt. Mrs G.W.Solomon (4) +20; **Gladstone** bt. Mrs Povey +5; **Prichard** bt. Scarr +6; **H.J.Devitt** (5) bt. Mrs W.J.Sturdy (10) +11; **Mrs D.M.C.Prichard** (-½) bt. R.O.B.Whittington (0) +17; **S.N.Mulliner** (0) bt. D.S.Jones (9) +17; **P.M.Johnson** (8) bt. Mrs E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake (8) +21; **G.F.Blumer** (7) bt. Mrs G.F.H.Elvey (2½) +17; **Mrs E.Asa-Thomas** (5) bt. Col. G.T.Wheeler (4) +11; **Miss E.H.Arkell** (2½) bt. E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake (-1) +15.

Third Round: **Asa-Thomas** bt. Mrs Carlisle +4; **Miss Joly** bt. Mrs Handley +16; **Gooch** bt. Mrs Devitt +3; **Gladstone** bt. Mrs Warren +18; **Prichard** bt. Devitt +1; **Mulliner** bt. Mrs Prichard +22; **Johnson** bt. Blumer +11; **Mrs Asa-Thomas** bt. Miss Arkell +19.

Fourth Round: **Asa-Thomas** bt. Miss Joly +7; **Gladstone** bt. Gooch +3; **Mulliner** w.o. Prichard opp. scr.; **Mrs Asa-Thomas** bt. Johnson +7.

Semi-Final: **Gladstone** bt. Asa-Thomas +7; **Mulliner** bt. Mrs Asa-Thomas +5.

Final: **Mulliner** bt. Gladstone +23.

Event 5: Extra Handicap Singles

Final: **E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake** (-1) bt. D.S.Jones (10) +13.

Inter-Club Championship 1977

Results in Order

First Round

Rochampton beat Phyllis Court 6-1

Canute beat Hunstanton 6-1

Harrow Oak w.o. Trawscoed opp. scr.

Colworth beat Southwick 4-3

Wrest Park beat Colchester 4-0 (1 unfinished)

Hurlingham beat The Heley Club 4-3

Southwick May Tournament: May 23-28

"Earth has not anything to show more fair" (Wordsworth's Ode on Westminster Bridge) than Southwick with the Sun shining on immaculate lawns, but with a cool breeze blowing. The wind persisted, although easing during the latter part of the week. One small threat of rain, but a perfect day on the Saturday.

Tristram Owen performed a superb multiple act of Manager, Referee and Competitor (taking the place of a last minute drop out), Block Winner, and we suspect Bridge in the intervals — all at the double.

Outstanding amongst outstanding matches was the defeat of Dudley Hamilton-Miller by Mrs Edna Cox, after Hamilton-Miller had pegged out her red ball whilst yellow was still for Hoop 2. Creeping carefully forward, Mrs Cox eventually made 4-back off Black, took off and made Penult, stopping beyond the peg. Hamilton-Miller sent Black to join Blue on the South boundary. Mrs Cox hit it and took position for Rover. Hamilton-Miller missed. Mrs Cox ran Rover, hit Blue and pegged out.

Hamilton-Miller met Owen in top form, and was only given three chances of a hit-in when Owen stuck in hoops after two otherwise faultless rounds. A grim struggle between Tucker and octogenarian Sheppard ended when Tucker failed to peg out his second ball and Sheppard hit the peg from 15 yards.

In the semi-finals another keen game developed between Tucker and Moore. Towards the end Tucker (who had pegged out Blue) in his break with Yellow from 3-back accidentally left Black in front of its Rover hoop, but had his balls fairly adjacent to the boundary behind Penult. Moore missed the Rover but his ball remained in position. Tucker was then able to make Yellow's remaining hoops and achieved a peg-out of about 12 feet to win.

It was nice to see Bob Everest on the lawns again. In the Doubles with Tucker against Moore & Miss Anderson he saved the day for his side with a long hit-in to the peg.

Mrs Mallinson, who played well throughout, lost one game by 10, but had a one point advantage over the Block Winner, Moore, who however suffered no defeat.

In the Play-Off Owen beat Coates by 8, and Tucker beat Moore by 2. Owen was the winner in the Final by 6. In the Doubles Final, Mr and Mrs D.S.Jones from Australia, with a combined handicap of 18, demolished the opposition and survived a strong challenge from Carder and Griffiths in the semi-final which they won by 3. Tucker and Everest won their nail-biter with Moore & Miss Anderson by 2 in the other semi-final. In the Final, despite conceding the difference of 16 bisques, they beat the Jones' by 14.

The arrangements for our comfort were, as always, impeccable, with Mrs Wells in charge of the food, whilst the serving hatch without Mrs Finch would be unthinkable. It was sad not to find Miss Pirie behind the Bar, but Edna and Norman Cox undertook this duty most efficiently. It is understood that Miss Pirie tends the shrubs and flower borders and the lovely roses near Court 3, amongst her many unsung jobs. Mr Finch, the groundsman, had done noble work on the lawns.

Results

AMERICAN HANDICAP SINGLES

BLOCK A. **E.J.Tucker** (-1) beat R.H.C.Carder (6) +23, Miss H.D.Parker (5½) +20, D.S.Jones (9*) +13, Mrs G.F.H.Elvey (2½) +20, and lost to H.A.Sheppard (3) -1.

BLOCK B. **T.F.Owen** (-½) beat J.H.T.Griffiths (8) +8, G.F.Paxon (5) +23, Mrs E.Staddon (5) +20, C.E.Knight (4½) +10, D.J.V.Hamilton-Miller (-½) +24, Mrs D.S.Jones (5*) +16, and lost to Mrs N.W.T.Cox (2) -21.

BLOCK C. **G.T.Coates** (6½) beat Mrs N.A.C.McMillan (2) +5, L.M.Bromfield (10) +13, Mrs G.C.Day (9) +13, Mrs S.J.Turner (4½) +17, Mrs A.E.Millns (12) +12, and lot to C.G.Pountney (0) -12.

BLOCK D. **W.E.Moore** (-1½) beat Mrs E.Lewis (10) +13, Mrs E.H.P.Mallinson (4½) +10, Mrs M.Rankin (12) +17, Mrs I.B.Tucker (8) +11, E.B.T.Tanner (6) +11, and Miss D.E.Rogers (11) +3.

PLAY-OFF

Semi-Final: **T.F.Owen** (-½) bt. G.T.Coates (6) +8; **E.J.Tucker** (-1) bt. W.E.Moore (-1½) +2.

Final: **Owen** bt. Tucker +6.

'X' HANDICAP DOUBLES (16 Pairs)

Semi-Final: **Mr & Mrs D.S.Jones** (18) bt. R.H.C.Carder & J.H.T.Griffiths (14) +3; **E.J.Tucker & R.L.Everest** (2) bt. W.E.Moore & Miss M.G.Anderson (3½) +2.

Final: **Tucker & Everest** bt. Mr & Mrs Jones +14.

'Y' HANDICAP DOUBLES (8 Pairs)

Semi-Final: **H.A.Sheppard & Mrs E.Lewis** (13) bt. G.F.Paxon & Miss D.E.Rogers (14) +1 (T); **C.E.Knight & G.A.Hutcheson** (12½) bt. Lt-Col & Mrs E.H.P.Mallinson (11½) +1 (T).

Final: **Knight & Hutcheson** bt. Sheppard & Mrs Lewis +7 (T).

Inter-County Championship: May 31-June 3

Just a week before the start of the Inter-County Championship, the Hurlingham Club announced that the three lawns on the Cricket Field would not be available, as they had been forced to take them out of use to carry out remedial work necessary after last summer's drought.

With eight counties having entered (the same as in 1976) there were two possible ways of dealing with the problem. The programme already circulated could be followed with all the cricket field matches being transferred to lawns 4, 5 and 6, where there would be double-banking; or, alternatively, the contest could be extended into Friday afternoon and adjusted so that each county only played six of the others.

Bearing in mind the problems of travelling out of London late on the Friday afternoon before the long Jubilee weekend and the unsatisfactory possibility that the best two counties might not have met, the Chairman of the Council and the Tournament Committee decided that the first alternative would be implemented, that double-banking would be introduced. Although there were some players dead against double-banking, the vast majority agreed with the decision taken. The Manager's ruling that the 3½ hour time limit would not be extended to the double-banked games was not quite so readily accepted.

By Wednesday evening, after four rounds, Berkshire & Oxfordshire were leading with 4 wins, followed by Bedfordshire, Surrey and Midlands in hot pursuit with 3 wins apiece. Middlesex had recorded 2 wins, Devon 1, and Sussex and Eastern Counties were each without a victory.

By Thursday evening there had been a change about. Berkshire & Oxfordshire had lost to both Bedfordshire and Surrey, and Midlands had also lost to both these counties. With one round to go on the Friday morning, Bedfordshire and Surrey each had 5 wins (out of 6), followed by Berkshire & Oxfordshire with 4 wins, Middlesex also with 4, Midlands with 3, Sussex with 1, and Eastern Counties still trailing without a win.

There could not now be a tie as last year, when Midlands and Bedfordshire divided as joint winners, because the two leading counties, Bedfordshire and Surrey, had to play each other at Roehampton, and none of the others could catch them. The writer was playing at Hurlingham on the Friday morning, and so did not see the deciding match, but from all accounts it was a nail-biter which was won by Bedfordshire with the minimum time to spare. Congratulations to Bedfordshire for winning 6 matches out of the 7 they played.

During the week the cameras of the Columbia Broadcasting System had been quietly filming the play in some of the games, and also the presentation of the cup at Roehampton. They intend using this material in a film on Association Croquet to be shown in America later in the year. It appears that croquet players in America feel, when they have played it, that our version of the game is superior to the two other variations played in America, and maybe the film will do something to convert American players to Association Croquet. The Americans for the MacRobertson Trophy in a decade or two maybe?

Final Order (games won in brackets): Bedfordshire 6 wins (13 games); Surrey 5 (15); Middlesex 5 (14); Berkshire & Oxfordshire 5 (13); Midlands 3 (9); Sussex 2 (9); Devon 2 (8); Eastern Counties 0 (3).

Bedfordshire beat Sussex 2-1, Eastern Counties 2-1, Devon 2-1, Berkshire & Oxfordshire 2-1, Midlands 2-1, Surrey 2-1, and lost to Middlesex 1-2.

Compton: June 6-11

Visitors and Members assembled to compete together in no usual week in June this year, because on the Tuesday of this week the Queen's Silver Jubilee would be celebrated. The Club was spick and span in readiness, with clubhouse and chairs newly painted in gleaming white, and pink and red flowering plants providing colour both inside and out.

Four young male members of Compton had banded together to form "The Management". Competitors found useful information on a news-sheet on the notice board, where they learned that the Manager of the Day would wear a red sash, and his Deputy a black one, and we saw that these sashes bore their insignia in white — hand embroidered, we were told later, by one of themselves! Those who wished for leave of absence to watch the Jubilee television programme on Tuesday morning were asked to apply on Monday, but as there were quite a number who preferred to play croquet, play was not interrupted. Various players sported the National Colours on Jubilee Day, wearing all sorts of trimmings and garments, which added gaiety to the occasion. Eastbourne "en fete" had to endure during the week the poor weather which was general throughout the country. The members very kindly gave a champagne party for the visitors early on Tuesday evening, when Ed Strickland proposed the toast of "Her Majesty The Queen". At least one player found her opponent far more formidable on her return to the lawn after the party.

Stephen Hemsted, a President's Cup player, and his wife Marian were playing at Compton for the first time. Both were in good form, and Stephen did a triple and several double peels, whilst demonstrating his first-class play throughout. Marian played smoothly and accurately all the week, and it seemed at one time that she would win Event 2; luckily, however, for the Management, this did not materialise, and S.G.Kent played a very determined game to win this class on his first visit.

On Friday evening full use was made of "the long twilight" — so much the envy of our Australian croquet friends — when there was a prolonged struggle between the Hemsteds and Wood & Yallop for the peg with all the clips on the peg, but the Hemsteds won the game at last as a bitter chill swept the lawns.

Tucker played very good croquet throughout the week, and was the outstanding player among the Club Members. He had to play Mrs Hemsted in the final of the Handicap after the Doubles final, and then meet Stephen Hemsted for the Club Championship. Unfortunately, the final of the Doubles was a very long drawn-out affair, and by the time it was over the spectators, if not the players, were cold and exhausted. It was a pity that the game had not been started at the fifth hoop, or set to a time limit, for it proved too late to play off the Championship, and Hemsted and Tucker agreed to a draw and a six month sharing of the Trophy.

In Event 3 Chappell, a beginner at the Club, was delighted both to win in his first tournament, and to find himself peeling his balls at Rover, something he had never attempted to do before. To quote Mrs Elvey, he came off the lawn victorious as a man "full of the joys of croquet". Mrs Dell did well to reach the final of this Event, and competed strongly in the final. She comes from a club at Tunbridge Wells, where the membership is tiny, so she gets little variety of play for practice.

The Competitors fully appreciated the catering arrangements, which were of an excellent standard, and thanked all the ladies on the catering committee. All were sorry that Dr Wiggins could not take part as hoped, and also that Mike Perry, that tireless supporter and former player at Compton, should have died just before the Tournament was due to start.

Results

Event 1: Open Singles (11 Entries)

DRAW

First Round: **D.A.Harris** bt. C.G.Pountney +10; **N.W.T.Cox** bt. Cdr G.Borrett +7; **S.R.Hemsted** bt. E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake +4.

Second Round: **Dr R.Wood** bt. H.O.Hicks +7; **Harris** bt. Cox +8; **Hemsted** bt. E.J.Tucker +26; **R.L.Everest** w.o. Dr W.R.D.Wiggins opp. scr.

Semi-Final: **Wood** bt. Harris +21; **Hemsted** bt. Everest +25.

Final: **Hemsted** bt. Wood +14.

PROCESS

First Round: **Tucker** bt. Wood +16; **Pountney** bt. Everest +20; **Hicks** w.o. Wiggins opp. scr.

Second Round: **Tucker** bt. Borrett +5; **Tyrwhitt Drake** bt. Pountney +10; **Hicks** bt. Cox +6; **Hemsted** bt. Harris +24.

Semi-Final: **Tucker** bt. Tyrwhitt Drake +9; **Hemsted** bt. Hicks +10.

Final: **Tucker** bt. Hemsted +14.

Hemsted and Tucker divided.

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

DRAW

First Round: **Mrs S.R.Hemsted** bt. Dr B.D.Yallop +13; **Dr S.R.C.Malin** bt. Mrs H.J.Devitt +4; **Mrs H.F.Chittenden** bt. Miss H.D.Parker +12; **S.G.Kent** bt. R.E.Wallis +14; **C.E.Knight** bt. Mrs G.F.H.Elvey +4; **H.J.Devitt** bt. P.H.Mann +8.

Second Round: **Mrs Hemsted** bt. Malin +3; **Kent** bt. Mrs Chittenden +6; **Knight** bt. Devitt +13; **Mrs E.E.Bressey** bt. Mrs E.M.Temple +7.

PROCESS

First Round: **Mrs Hemsted** bt. Mrs Elvey +7; **Mrs Bressey** bt. Miss Parker +15; **Malin** bt. Mann +18; **Knight** bt. Yallop +2; **Mrs Temple** w.o. Mrs Chittenden opp. ret'd.; **Devitt** bt. Mrs Devitt +8.

Second Round: **Mrs Hemsted** bt. Mrs Bressey +19; **Malin** bt. Kent +1; **Knight** bt. Mrs Temple +5; **Wallis** bt. Devitt +6.

SEMI-FINALISTS RE-DRAWN FOR FINAL STAGES

First Round: **Kent** bt. Malin +8; **Wallis** bt. Mrs Bressey +8.

Semi-Final: **Kent** bt. Knight +13; **Wallis** bt. Mrs Hemsted +7.

Final: **Kent** bt. Wallis +7.

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

First Round: **Mrs A.E.Millns** (12) bt. Miss P.Shine (13) +10; **Mrs D.G.Waterhouse** (10) bt. Miss M.Bryan (8) +12; **Lt-Col R.Chappell** (11) bt. Mrs E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake (8) +14; **Mrs I.B.Tucker** (8) bt. Mrs P.H.Mann (8) +4; **Mrs E.F.Dell** bt. H.A.C.Evans (14) +9.

Second Round: **G.A.Hutcheson** (11) bt. Mrs Millns +18; **Chappell** bt. Mrs Waterhouse +15; **Mrs Dell** bt. Mrs Tucker +13; **H.G.B.Wagnell** (9) bt. Lt-Col D.F.T.Brown (8) +8.

Semi-Final: **Chappell** bt. Hutcheson +5; **Mrs Dell** bt. Wagnell +16.

Final: **Chappell** bt. Mrs Dell +18.

Event 4: Open Handicap Singles (34 Entries)

First Round: **S.R.Hemsted** (-2) bt. Mrs A.E.Millns (12) +15; **Mrs I.B.Tucker** (8) bt. H.A.C.Evans (14) +6.

Second Round: **Miss P.Shine** (13) bt. Mrs H.J.Devitt (5½) +4; **Mrs S.R.Hemsted** (4½) bt. H.J.Devitt (5) +21; **R.E.Wallis** (5) bt. Miss H.D.Parker (5½) +15; **Mrs G.F.H.Elvey** (2½) bt. Mrs D.G.Waterhouse (10) +9; **H.O.Hicks** (-1) bt. Mrs E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake (8) +11; **Lt-Col D.F.T.Brown** (8) bt. C.G.Pountney (0) +22; **Dr R.Wood** (1) bt. E.Strickland (6½) +11; **Hemsted** bt. Mrs Tucker +16; **Dr S.R.C.Malin** (4) bt. Mrs H.F.Chittenden (2½) +15; **P.H.Mann** (5) bt. D.A.Harris (0) +22; **Lt-Col R.Chappell** (11) bt. Miss M.Bryan (8) +10; **C.E.Knight** (4½) bt. Mrs E.E.Bressey (4) +15; **E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake** (-1) bt. Mrs E.M.Temple (4½) +12; **Dr B.D.Yallop** (6) bt. Mrs P.H.Mann (8) +19; **E.J.Tucker** (-1) bt. S.G.Kent (3) +15; **Cdr G.Borrett** (-1) bt. H.G.B.Wagnell (9) +19.

Third Round: **Mrs Hemsted** bt. Miss Shine +19; **Wallis** bt. Mrs Elvey +25; **Hicks** bt. Brown +15; **Hemsted** bt. Wood +2; **Malin** bt. Mann +9; **Knight** bt. Chappell +8; **Tyrwhitt Drake** bt. Yallop +3; **Tucker** bt. Borrett +23.

Fourth Round: **Mrs Hemsted** bt. Wallis +14; **Hemsted** bt. Hicks +8; **Knight** bt. Malin +12; **Tucker** bt. Tyrwhitt Drake +19.

Semi-Final: Mrs Hemsted bt. Hemsted +25; Tucker bt. Knight +21.

Final: Mrs Hemsted bt. Tucker +26.

Event 5: Handicap Doubles (17 Pairs)

First Round: C.G.Pountney & Mrs I.B.Tucker (8) bt. H.G.B.Wagnell & Mrs A.E.Mills (19) +7.

Second Round: Mr & Mrs E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake (7) bt. E.Strickland & Lt-Col D.F.T.Brown (13½) +6; Cdr G.Borrett & G.A.Hutcheson (7) bt. Mrs D.G.Waterhouse & Miss P.Shine (22) +15; E.J.Tucker & Mrs E.E.Bressey (3) bt. Miss M.Bryan & H.A.C.Evans (22) +8; Pountney & Mrs Tucker bt. S.G.Kent & C.E.Knight (7½) +6; H.O.Hicks & R.L.Everest (2) bt. D.A.Harris & H.N.D.Meyer (6½) +10; Mr & Mrs S.R.Hemsted (2½) bt. Mr & Mrs P.H.Mann (13) +16; Dr R.Wood & Dr S.R.C.Malin (5) bt. Mrs H.F.Chittenden & Mrs G.F.H.Elvey (5) +8; R.E.Wallis & Dr B.D.Yallop (11) bt. Mr & Mrs H.J.Devitt (10½) +7.

Third Round: Borrett & Hutcheson bt. Mr & Mrs Tyrwhitt Drake +11; Tucker & Mrs Bressey bt. Pountney & Mrs Tucker +12; Mr & Mrs Hemsted bt. Hicks & Everest +4; Wood & Malin bt. Wallis & Yallop +2.

Semi-Final: Borrett & Hutcheson bt. Tucker & Mrs Bressey +6; Mr & Mrs Hemsted bt. Wood & Malin +10.

Final: Mr & Mrs Hemsted bt. Borrett & Hutcheson +1.

Parkstone: June 6–11

For the presentation of any major event one requires a good stage, a leading feature, a full supporting cast, a first class director and a choreographer.

All of this was to be found at the Parkstone June Tournament. The stage was, of course, the lawns so painstakingly prepared by John Piggott; the supporting cast who provided meals par excellence for the inner man virtually stole the "show" and set the scene in jubilee mood of table decorations backed by superb floral display; and there was a superb Jubilee cake with croquet decorations made by Sheila Cosh. This was duly raffled and was won by Air Commodore Greswell without using a single bisque. The first class director was Pat Newton; the choreographer, who put in so much preparatory work, was of course Margaret McMordie, and finally the leading feature was the croquet. Perhaps, on second thoughts, the leading feature was the weather.

Day 1 would have been ideal for a re-write of Shakespeare's Tempest, the only unmoved feature being the solidity of Lionel Wharrad! In fact the weather did relent in the late afternoon when Revd Hallett was playing, but this may just have been a coincidence! Notwithstanding, the day's programme was completed with only one game "on time", and the honour of the first hoop of the week fell to Ralph Bucknall at precisely 10 a.m. It was in fact not until Wednesday that players emerged from a great variety of protective clothing and became recognisable. This state of affairs was, however, short-lived, and on Thursday the tournament was perforce re-styled The Pools, resulting in a number of games being "anchored" down.

In spite of all this, the week produced some splendid and exciting croquet. The 'A' Opens and the Big Handicap proved to be something of a Mulliner benefit. He achieved the only triple of the week — against your author to ensure its being reported — but had a close call against Pat Newton after having one ball pegged out. However, he survived and was a worthy winner of the Dorset Salver. Against Allen Parker in the final of the Open Handicap he brought fitting excitement with a one-ball game which, but for one vital miss, Allen Parker, who played so competitively, might have won.

In the 'B' Opens Bob Carder in command and saved the Manager one game by winning both the Draw and the Process. The 'C' Handicap Singles produced some encouraging progress on the part of the finalists, Lionel Wharrad and John McMordie. The former ran out the winner, but will not be able to compete in this event again after suitable adjustment to his handicap.

Humphrey Griffiths and Alec Coleman produced some nail-biting games in their progress through the Handicap Doubles, and eventually met Bob Carder and Alec Rushbrooke in the final, where they beat them for once — without competing additionally with "Father Time".

Added interest was given to Finals Day with an exhibition friendly between Dr William Ormerod and the 'A' Opens winner Stephen Mulliner. Suffice it to say that the latter was dealt with as befits the medical profession — clinically!

All in all a memorable and happy tournament, the reporting of which would not be complete without renewed thanks to everyone who helped to make it so, and kindest remembrances of our favourite spectator — Joan Knowles.

Results

Event 1: Open Singles (12 Entries)

DRAW

First Round: S.N.Mulliner bt. Air Cdre J.H.Greswell +17; Revd P.D.Hallett w.o. Mrs E.Rotherham opp. retcd.; Dr W.R.Bucknall bt. L.S.Butler +10; J.G.C.Phillips bt. Mrs N.A.C.McMillan +2.

Second Round: P.Newton bt. Col. E.L.L.Vulliamy +24; Mulliner bt. Hallett +4; Phillips bt. Bucknall +14; A.F.Coleman bt. Dr C.A.Parker +14.

Semi-Final: Mulliner bt. Newton +3; Coleman bt. Phillips +10.

Final: Mulliner w.o. Coleman opp. scr.

PROCESS

First Round: Phillips bt. Vulliamy +6; Mulliner bt. Coleman +19; Newton bt. Mrs McMillan +10; Greswell bt. Parker +9.

Second Round: Phillips bt. Mrs Rotherham +21; Mulliner bt. Bucknall +22; Hallett bt. Newton +9; Butler bt. Greswell +11.

Semi-Final: Mulliner bt. Phillips +6; Butler bt. Hallett +14.

Final: Mulliner bt. Butler +22.

Event 2: 'B' Level Singles (5 Entries)

DRAW

First Round: Dr E.L.Knowles bt. Mrs S.S.Cruden +6.

Semi-Final: Mrs E.Asa-Thomas bt. Knowles +9; R.H.C.Carder bt. J.H.T.Griffiths +21.

Final: Carder bt. Mrs Asa-Thomas +19.

PROCESS

First Round: Mrs Asa-Thomas bt. Griffiths +20.

Semi-Final: Mrs Asa-Thomas bt. Knowles +12; Carder bt. Mrs Cruden +12.

Final: Carder bt. Mrs Asa-Thomas +8.

Event 3: 'C' Handicap Singles (12 Entries)

First Round: Miss A.M.Ryan (12) bt. Mrs L.Wharrad (16) +18; W.A.Scarr (9) bt. A.Rushbrooke (11) +4; Mrs L.M.Bishop (9) bt. Miss A.R.Robertson (14) +10; J.A.McMordie (14) bt. Miss P.E.Parker (13) +14.

Second Round: L.Wharrad (9) bt. Mrs S.A.Cosh (9) +21; Miss Ryan bt. Scarr +14; McMordie bt. Mrs Bishop +18; Mrs G.L.Ormerod (9) bt. Mrs D.Mitchell (14) +6 (T).

Semi-Final: Wharrad bt. Miss Ryan +5 (T); McMordie bt. Mrs Ormerod +8 (T).

Final: Wharrad bt. McMordie +2 (T).

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

First Round: S.N.Mulliner (-½) bt. J.A.McMordie (12) +8; Dr E.L.Knowles (6) bt. Mrs S.A.Cosh (9) +1; J.G.C.Phillips (1½) bt. Miss A.M.Ryan (12) +18; L.Wharrad (9) bt. J.H.T.Griffiths (8) +14; Mrs L.M.Bishop (9) bt. Mrs G.L.Ormerod (9) +5 (T); L.S.Butler (1) bt. Mrs E.Asa-Thomas (4½) +1 (T); A.F.Coleman (1½) bt. A.Rushbrooke (11) +5; Mrs S.S.Cruden (7) bt. W.A.Scarr (9) +6; Col.E.L.L.Vulliamy (2) bt. Mrs D.Mitchell (14) +16; R.H.C.Carder (6) bt. Mrs E.Rotherham (0) +23; Miss A.R.Robertson (14) bt. Miss P.E.Parker (13) +11 (T); Dr W.R.Bucknall (1½) bt. Mrs N.A.C.McMillan (2) +10.

Second Round: Air Cdre J.H.Greswell (4) bt. Mrs N.W.T.Cox (2) +18; Mulliner bt. Knowles +9; Wharrad bt. Phillips +26; Butler bt. Mrs Bishop +10; Coleman bt. Mrs Cruden +18; Vulliamy bt. Carder +7 (T); Bucknall bt. Miss Robertson +10; Dr C.A.Parker (2) bt. Mrs L.Wharrad (16) +21.

Third Round: Mulliner bt. Greswell +13; Wharrad bt. Butler +22; Coleman bt. Vulliamy +4; Parker bt. Bucknall +16.

Semi-Final: Mulliner bt. Wharrad +3; Parker bt. Coleman +12.

Final: Mulliner bt. Parker +5.

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

Final: A.Rushbrooke (11) bt. J.A.McMordie (12) +10.

Event 5: Handicap Doubles (13 Pairs)

First Round: Mrs E.Asa-Thomas & Mrs L.M.Bishop (13½) bt. Mrs N.A.C.McMillan & Dr E.L.Knowles (8) +1 (T); A.F.Coleman & J.H.T.Griffiths (9½) bt. Dr W.R.Bucknall & Mrs S.S.Cruden (8½) +1 (T); L.S.Butler & Miss A.R.Robertson (13) bt. Dr C.A.Parker & Miss P.E.Parker (14) +4 (T); R.H.C.Carder & A.Rushbrooke (17) bt. Mrs N.W.T.Cox & Mrs D.Mitchell (15) +3 (T); J.G.C.Phillips & Mrs G.L.Ormerod (10½) bt. S.N.Mulliner & Mrs S.A.Cosh (8½) +7.

Second Round: Mr & Mrs L.Wharrad (23) bt. Mrs Asa-Thomas & Mrs Bishop +3 (T); Coleman & Griffiths bt. Butler & Miss Robertson +3; Carder & Rushbrooke bt. Phillips & Mrs Ormerod +1; Air Cdre J.H.Greswell & Miss A.M.Ryan (16) bt. Mr & Mrs W.A.Scarr (18) +5.

Semi-Final: Carder & Rushbrooke bt. Greswell & Miss Ryan +6; Coleman & Griffiths bt. Mr & Mrs Wharrad +1 (T).

Final: Coleman & Griffiths bt. Carder & Rushbrooke +8.

The Veterans' Championship, played at Nottingham, June 13–18

The moving of this Tournament from Budleigh Salterton to Nottingham this year had an adverse effect on the entry, which reached only 17. No doubt some South Coast senior citizens thought Nottingham rather far to travel, but it was disappointing to find no support from the Midlands Clubs, apart from the host Club.

The weather was very unkind, bitterly cold nearly all the week, with rain on the first day and never a sight of the sun except for an hour or two on Thursday. The courts were, on the whole, very good, with only a few re-turfed patches as a legacy from last year's drought. What a beautiful setting the Nottingham Club has in the University Park, especially in June with the rhododendrons flanking the courts ablaze with colour, and a few hundred yards away a staggering collection of azaleas in bloom.

In the Open Singles (The Veterans' Championship) there were only two entries, Kitty Wheeler and 'Tiny' Tyrwhitt Drake, so the Manager, Cecily Brumpton, made the event the best of three games in both Draw and Process. Tyrwhitt Drake won both sets, so there was no play-off, but most games were close and there was one of outstanding interest. Mrs Wheeler attempted a straight triple peel and had peeled 4-back and Penult with all the balls well set up, when she unaccountably roqueted a ball she had already used, leaving Tyrwhitt Drake with four balls in the middle. He took full advantage of this, and although Kitty did have another chance, she lost the game by two points. The marathon between the diminutive Kitty and the enormous 'Tiny' provided amusement, as well as great interest for all the lesser mortals who watched.

In the Open Handicap Singles R.F.A.Crane (4) came through to beat A.J.Bucknell in the final, his best game being a +25 win over Tyrwhitt Drake in the semi-final. Crane also retained the Felixstowe Cup for 'B' Handicap Singles; he beat Mrs Tyrwhitt Drake in the Draw and Col. G.T.Wheeler in the Process. Mrs Kitty Wheeler won the 'Y' and L.Robinson the 'Z'.

In the Handicap Doubles, for the attractive pair of silver trugs presented by Mrs W.Longman, Mr & Mrs Tyrwhitt Drake and Col. & Mrs G.T.Wheeler came through to the final, the latter pair winning after a hard-fought game.

Cecily Brumpton managed the tournament with great skill and tact, and the Nottingham ladies, led by Mrs R.Wheeler, not only provided the most delicious food, but also brought morning coffee and tea round the courts, a service much appreciated by the visitors. Altogether a most enjoyable week, in spite of the weather, and let us hope that next year more veterans will come and do battle.

Ryde: June 20–25

This year marks the 70th Anniversary of the formation of the Club, and Gerald Birch, the Manager, celebrated the fact that it was 25 years ago when he first entered for the Ryde Tournament. The warm weather and friendliness at the Club draws players back year after year, and also new visitors, among whom this year were Mr & Mrs Crane, Miss J.Wraith, Mr & Mrs Elkan (two of the four people from Hove), and Gordon Drake paying his second visit in 4 years.

The weather started rather on the cool side but greatly improved as the week progressed, and we witnessed a number of close, exciting games. One in particular was between Gerald Birch and Gordon Drake (whose standard of play has greatly improved) in the Opens. The battle swayed to and fro until Gerald pegged out one of Gordon's balls, but Gordon finally won with a very long shot to the peg with his remaining ball.

Another close and exciting game was the final of the 'B' Levels between E.A.Locke and Mrs Gwynneth Mann, who was so far behind her opponent that defeat seemed inevitable. However, after hitting in, she made a tremendous long diagonal shot which brought her ball right in front of 4-back, which she made and went to the peg. Bob Locke had peeled both his balls through Rover, and had laid up waiting to peg out. Gwynneth obligingly pegged out one for him, laid up, and then got her other ball round to win by one.

Once again the opportunity was taken to play amidst beautiful surroundings on the croquet lawn at Osborne House, the favourite residence of Queen Victoria.

High praise is due to the Club President and Secretary and to their band of willing helpers who provided most marvellous lunches and afternoon teas. Altogether a most enjoyable and carefree week, culminating with a strawberry and cream tea on finals day at the invitation of the President.

Results

Event 1: Isle of Wight Championship (5 Entries)

DRAW

First Round: C.G.Pountney bt. R.F.A.Crane +24.

Semi-Final: Pountney bt. Mrs E.E.Bressey +9; H.G.Drake bt. G.Birch +3.

Final: Pountney bt. Drake +17.

PROCESS

First Round: Birch bt. Mrs Bressey +13.

Semi-Final: Birch bt. Crane +5; Pountney bt. Drake +15.

Final: Birch bt. Pountney +7.

PLAY-OFF

Birch bt. Pountney +5.

Event 2: 'B' Level Singles (5 Entries)

DRAW

First Round: Mrs P.H.Mann bt. E.A.Locke +20.

Semi-Final: Mrs Mann w.o. Mrs F.E.M.Puxon opp. scr.; P.H.Mann w.o. F.E.M.Puxon opp. scr.

Final: Mrs Mann bt. Mann +2.

PROCESS

First Round: Mann w.o. Mrs Puxon opp. scr.

Semi-Final: Locke bt. Mann +19; Mrs Mann w.o. Puxon opp. scr.

Final: Locke bt. Mrs Mann +14.

PLAY-OFF

Mrs Mann bt. Locke +1.

Event 3: 'C' Handicap Singles (11 Entries)

First Round: Miss J.Wraith (12) bt. Mrs R.F.A.Crane (14) +8; R.W.Newnham (9) bt. S.Elkan (12*) +17; Mrs E.A.Locke (14) bt. Mrs S.Elkan (14*) +1 (T).

Second Round: Miss D.E.Rogers (11) bt. Mrs E.G.Brown (12) +18; Newnham bt. Miss Wraith +11; H.G.B.Wagnell (9) bt. Mrs Locke +18; R.L.George (15) bt. Mrs E.D.Osborn (10) +15.

Semi-Final: Newnham bt. Miss Rogers +1; George bt. Wagnell +8.

Final: Newnham bt. George +4.

Event 4a: 'X' Handicap Singles (21 Entries)

First Round: G.Birch (½) bt. Mrs P.H.Mann (8) +4; E.A.Locke (5) bt. Mrs S.Elkan (14*) +21; P.H.Mann (5) bt. Mrs E.D.Osborn (10) +5; S.Elkan (12*) bt. Mrs E.A.Locke (14) +5 (T); R.L.George (15) bt. Mrs E.E.Bressey (4) +11.

Second Round: R.W.Newnham (9) bt. R.F.A.Crane (3½) +12; Mrs R.F.A.Crane (14) bt. Mrs E.G.Brown (12) +10; Birch w.o. F.E.M.Puxon (7) opp. scr.; Locke bt. Mann +14; George bt. Elkan +17; Miss D.E.Rogers (11) w.o. Mrs F.E.M.Puxon (4½) opp. scr.; C.G.Pountney (0) bt. Miss J.Wraith (12) +17; H.G.Drake (2½) bt. H.G.B.Wagnell (9) +6.

The Men's and Women's Championships: June 20-25

The Fixture List said that the Du Pre Cup and the Mixed Doubles would be single games, and the Manager took it to mean what it said and had planned his week accordingly; he proposed to give the customers their fun by making a big thing of the Golf Croquet. However, there was such an outcry of protest from the customers on arrival, and with a number of C.A. officials at Cheltenham for the England v. Scotland match who could be consulted, the Manager was persuaded to play the Du Pre as Draw and Process, but it was impossible for him so to alter his programme as to play the Doubles also as Draw and Process, as players had already been called for the first two days.

Monday saw the beginning of the Men's and the Women's matches, best of three. Openshaw was the first to win a game, in an hour and a quarter, quickly to be followed by an immaculate triple peel from the holder, Murray. Both of them went on to win their matches, the former clearly showing the improved form which was forecast by the writer last year.

Soutter should have won his first game against Haigh, but in attempting to peg out his opponent, he missed and inadvertently pegged himself out, with a consequent deficit of 5 hoops at that stage; this proved too much for him to overcome, and Haigh confidently won the second game and the match.

Miss Arkell had one of her speedy victories in two games over Mrs Longman. A match which was likely to affect the Final, between Mrs Prichard and Mrs Sundius-Smith, went to the latter after a long hard struggle.

On Tuesday the Women's holder, Mrs Meachem, had her first match, against Mrs Wheeler, and won convincingly in two games. But undoubtedly the highlight of Tuesday's play was the game in the Men's between Murray and Mulliner. It would be boring to report the match in minute detail, but every minute of it was enthralling to watch. Murray won the first game with a perfect triple, and in the second went to 4-back with his first ball. Nothing daunted, Mulliner hit his lift shot, picked up his break, and triple peeled and pegged out his opponent. When he had a lead of seven hoops with his second ball he pegged out his first ball, and so it was one game all. Murray was well on the way to winning the third and vital game when he stuck with his first ball in Penult, circumstances having made him run 4-back with it. Mulliner then started his break, peeled Murray's ball through Penult and subsequently Rover, and pegged him out, thus giving contact. Murray failed to get a 3-ball break going, and although he had one more chance, when Mulliner — unwisely — unnecessarily shot for him on the boundary and missed from about 6 or 7 yards, that essential break eluded Murray, and Mulliner went on to win one of the best matches seen at the 'Caskets' since they have been held at Cheltenham from 1973.

In the meantime the Golf Croquet Singles had been held each

Third Round: Mrs Crane bt. Newnham +2 (T); Birch bt. Locke +15; George bt. Miss Rogers +14; Drake bt. Pountney +2.

Semi-Final: Birch bt. Mrs Crane +13; Drake bt. George +11.

Final: Birch and Drake divided.

Event 4b: 'Y' Handicap Singles (9 Entries)

Final: R.F.A.Crane (3½) bt. H.G.B.Wagnell (9) +6.

Event 5: Handicap Doubles (9 Entries)

First Round: P.H.Mann & Miss J.Wraith (17) bt. Mrs E.D.Osborn & Mrs E.G.Brown (22) +10.

Second Round: G.Birch & Mrs P.H.Mann (8½) bt. Mr & Mrs E.A.Locke (19) +4 (T); H.G.Drake & R.L.George (17½) bt. Mann & Miss Wraith +9; Mr & Mrs R.F.A.Crane (15½) bt. C.G.Pountney & R.W.Newnham +16 (T); Mrs E.E.Bressey & H.G.B.Wagnell (13) bt. Mr & Mrs S.Elkan (26) +9 (T).

Semi-Final: Drake & George w.o. Birch & Mrs Mann opp. ret.; Mr & Mrs Crane bt. Mrs Bressey & Wagnell +18.

Final: Drake & George bt. Mr & Mrs Crane +1 (T).

day more or less after tea, with a splendid entry divided into three American blocks of 6, 6 and 7, and this was continued after the Mixed Doubles and some of the Du Pre Draw on Wednesday.

On Thursday the big events were the semi-finals of the Men's and Women's. Miss Joly accounted for Mrs Elvey in two games before lunch, to become a finalist for the second year running. In one of her games, on the fifth turn she went to 4-back, with a first hoop peel for her other ball, having had to get her opponent out of the second corner, and making the first hoop off a long tice. This augured well for her final success. In the other Women's semi-final, played on the "centre court" as it were, there was a terrific in-and-out struggle between the holder, Mrs Meachem, and Mrs Sundius-Smith, the latter winning the third and vital game.

Jackson was in one of his flowing moods and beat Haigh in two games. The other Men's semi-final, between Mulliner and Openshaw, was another 3-game match. Mulliner won the first by 26, but then play somehow became tense and not so good, and Openshaw won the next two, although Mulliner was first to 4-back in both.

By this time the Block winners of the Golf Croquet Singles had emerged as Mrs Wheeler, Mrs Sundius-Smith, and McLaren, the play-off to be an American block of three! — and the Golf Croquet Doubles event was started as a conventional knock-out. One or two Du Pre matches were interrupted for the participants to play in the Golf Croquet; not for some time can such a big thing have been made of the Golf Croquet.

The winners and losers of various events worked out very well for the Manager, and it became desirable to play the Men's and Women's Finals on Friday, and the semi-finals and finals of the Mixed Doubles on Saturday. On Friday Openshaw started with a good win against Jackson, and in his second game had completed the first two peels of a quadruple with everything set, when he failed a simple 2-back hoop. Jackson was in and won, and won again to become the 1977 Champion. How he does it and manages as well, so well, none of us really knows, we can only appreciate it.

The Women's Final finished only a few minutes before the Men's, with a 2-game victory for Miss Joly over Mrs Sundius-Smith, which I'm sure was a great compensation for Miss Joly, who had had to retire at 1-all in the 1976 Final owing to the heat. The Golf Croquet Doubles Final was also completed on Friday evening.

In the meantime Murray had progressed to the Final in both sides of the Du Pre. As Mrs Meachem was in the Mixed Doubles, with possibly two games on Saturday, they played the Process Final, with Murray the winner with a triple peel, at approximately 9 o'clock.

On Saturday the Doubles semi-final between Godby & Mrs Meachem and Jackson & Mrs Povey proved to be a game of wonderful spectator value. Mrs Povey got to 4-back in a couple of good turns, and then the innings changed hands for a couple of hours until the final situation emerged as follows: Godby and Jackson pegged out, with Mrs Povey say 14 yards from the peg in

the direction of Penult, and Mrs Meachem for Rover with a 2-yard approach, a hoop she would have run easily in a relaxed situation. She put her ball one foot from Rover, and Mrs Povey trickled to within a foot of the peg. In running Rover, Mrs Meachem failed to get the diversion necessary to get a sight of the peg and her opponent, so she tried to hit the peg back through Rover and just failed. So, with a win for Whittington & Miss Arkell on the other court — not quite so breathtaking — it became an All-Cheltenham Doubles Final.

In the Final Mrs Povey got to 3-back, with Whittington and Miss Arkell both on 1-back, when Jackson got in and just flowed from Hoop 1 to Rover, peeling his partner through 3-back. Disaster overtook the opponents at 1-back, and Jackson & Mrs Povey ran out the winners. Very good efforts on the ladies' parts, with Mrs Povey's handicap 3½ and Miss Arkell's 2½.

In the Golf Croquet Singles Mrs Wheeler and then McLaren both beat Mrs Sundius-Smith, so it all depended on the remaining match, which went to Mrs Wheeler, who becomes the new holder.

The Draw Final of the Du Pre went to Murray, with yet another triple peel against Mrs Prichard, which meant that he had won both sides, and incidentally had done at least one triple peel each day of the tournament.

Chairman (repeat ChairMAN) George Blumer provided excellent lunches, and Miss Allardyce her usual efficient administration.

P.S. An apology from the writer for a mistake in last year's report, which said that Godby had pegged out with his other ball on 2-back. This should have read that his other ball was on Rover.

Results**Event 1: The Men's Championship** (15 Entries)

First Round: Lt-Col D.M.C.Prichard bt. I.C.Baillieu +7 +3; D.K. Openshaw bt. J.McLaren +26 +23; S.N.Mulliner bt. T.F.Owen -6 +16 +13; Dr M.Murray bt. R.A.Godby +17 +12; J.Haigh bt. J.H.J.Soutter +10 +2; J.C.Ruddock bt. R.O.B.Whittington +20 -20 +2; P.W.Hands bt. Revd W.E.Gladstone +26 +25.

Second Round: Openshaw bt. Prichard +11 +26; Mulliner bt. Murray -6 +13 +9; Haigh bt. Ruddock +25 +23; G.E.P.Jackson bt. Hands -9 +26 +17.

Semi-Final: Openshaw bt. Mulliner -26 +16 +6; Jackson bt. Haigh +7 +11.

Final: Jackson bt. Openshaw -9 +9 +20.

Event 2: The Women's Championship (12 Entries)

First Round: Miss F.I.Joly bt. Miss B.Duthie -1 +21 +13; Mrs E.M.Lightfoot bt. Mrs J.Povey +3 +1; Mrs B.L.Sundius-Smith bt. Mrs D.M.C.Prichard +6 -5 +15; Miss E.H.Arkell bt. Mrs W.Longman +24 +24.

Second Round: Mrs G.F.H.Elvey bt. Mrs G.W.Solomon +4 -13 +10; Miss Joly bt. Mrs Lightfoot +19 +21; Mrs Sundius-Smith bt. Miss Arkell +7 -5 +19; Mrs B.M.Meachem bt. Mrs K.M.O.Wheeler +11 +20.

Semi-Final: Miss Joly bt. Mrs Elvey +18 +20; Mrs Sundius-Smith bt. Mrs Meachem +10 +10.

Final: Miss Joly bt. Mrs Sundius-Smith +11 +8.

Event 3: The Mixed Doubles Championship (11 Pairs)

First Round: T.F.Owen & Miss F.I.Joly bt. J.Haigh & Mrs G.W.Solomon +11; J.C.Ruddock & Mrs B.L.Sundius-Smith bt. S.N.Mulliner & Mrs D.M.C.Prichard +3; G.E.P.Jackson & Mrs J.Povey bt. J.McLaren & Mrs W.Longman +12.

Second Round: R.O.B.Whittington & Miss E.H.Arkell bt. Lt-Col D.M.C.Prichard & Mrs E.M.Lightfoot +9; Owen & Miss Joly bt. Ruddock & Mrs Sundius-Smith +15; Jackson & Mrs Povey bt. I.C.Baillieu & Miss B.Duthie +11; R.A.Godby & Mrs B.M.Meachem bt. Revd W.E.Gladstone & Mrs K.M.O.Wheeler +4.

Semi-Final: Whittington & Miss Arkell bt. Owen & Miss Joly +9; Jackson & Mrs Povey bt. Godby & Mrs Meachem +1.

Final: Jackson & Mrs Povey bt. Whittington & Miss Arkell +13.

Event 4: The Du Pre Cup (19 Entries)

DRAW

First Round: J.H.J.Soutter bt. R.A.Godby +13; Mrs G.F.H.Elvey bt. Mrs K.M.O.Wheeler +17; T.F.Owen bt. Mrs E.M.Lightfoot +16.

Second Round: J.McLaren bt. Mrs J.Povey +8; R.O.B.Whittington bt. I.C.Baillieu +19; Mrs D.M.C.Prichard bt. Mrs W.Longman +24; Revd W.E.Gladstone bt. Soutter +22; Owen bt. Mrs Elvey +16; J.C.Ruddock bt. Miss B.Duthie +3; Miss E.H.Arkell bt. Mrs G.W.Solomon +11; Dr M.Murray bt. Lt-Col D.M.C.Prichard +24.

Third Round: McLaren bt. Whittington +23; Mrs Prichard bt. Gladstone +4; Ruddock bt. Owen +11; Murray bt. Miss Arkell +22.

Semi-Final: Mrs Prichard bt. McLaren +12; Murray bt. Ruddock +6.

Final: Murray bt. Mrs Prichard +26.

PROCESS

First Round: McLaren bt. Mrs Solomon +18; Miss Arkell bt. Mrs Povey +5; Murray bt. Whittington +26.

Second Round: Soutter bt. McLaren +17; Mrs Lightfoot bt. Mrs Longman +17; Baillieu bt. Mrs Wheeler +1; Mrs Meachem bt. Miss Arkell +10; Miss Duthie bt. Godby +22; Owen bt. Mrs Prichard +19; Murray bt. Mrs Elvey +19; Ruddock bt. Gladstone +8.

Third Round: Soutter bt. Mrs Lightfoot +23; Mrs Meachem bt. Baillieu +13; Owen bt. Miss Duthie +11; Murray bt. Ruddock +4.

Semi-Final: Mrs Meachem bt. Soutter +13; Murray bt. Owen +17.

Final: Murray bt. Mrs Meachem +16.

Mrs Prichard won the play-off for second place.

Event 5: The Ascot Challenge Cup (Golf Croquet Singles)

BLOCK WINNERS: Mrs K.M.O.Wheeler, J.McLaren and Mrs B.L.Sundius-Smith. Mrs Wheeler bt. McLaren by 2 games to 1 and Mrs Sundius-Smith by 2 games to 1; McLaren bt. Mrs Sundius-Smith by 2 games to 1.

Event 6: The Delves Broughton Challenge Cup (Golf Croquet Doubles)

Semi-Final: J.McLaren & Mrs K.M.O.Wheeler bt. I.C.Baillieu & Mrs B.L.Sundius-Smith 1 up; G.E.P.Jackson & Dr M.Murray bt. T.F.Owen & Mrs B.M.Meachem 5 & 4.

Final: Jackson & Murray bt. McLaren & Mrs Wheeler 3 & 2.

Proposed Alteration to Regulation 10

At the meeting of the Council on 30th May a resolution was passed that the following New Regulation 10 be introduced. It is therefore published below in accordance with normal practice.

Regulation 10

- A person who receives payment in money or in kind as a fee or as an allowance for his services or activities as a player shall not be eligible to compete in Tournaments or C.A. Competitions until authorised by the Council.
- Nothing in this Regulation shall prohibit a player receiving an allowance for expenses for:—
 - Coaching
 - Being a member of a team or participating in an exhibition either of which are authorised by the C.A. Council.
 - Proceeding overseas at the official invitation of a recognised Croquet Association.

Other alterations in Laws and Regulations

The following alterations, proposed by the Council at their meeting on 12 March 1977 and published in the issue of the Gazette for Spring 1977, were ratified at the Council meeting on 30 May 1977 and became law forthwith:

Law 54 (b) (iv) to read as follows: "This variation is only for singles. The game is started with all clips on the first hoop, but as soon as a player's first ball scores that hoop his other clip is removed to 3-back."

Regulation 22 (b). Delete the sentence "This book is revised up to the week before a tournament is held and is sent to the Manager in time for the draw."

Croquet Association v. Scotland: June 18-19

Writing as I am during the Wimbledon fortnight about this event, I am inclined to record 'Game and Set to Scotland 6-3'. This is the third year this event has been played, and after visiting Scotland for the two previous matches we were delighted to welcome our opponents on home territory. The venue this year was the Cheltenham Club, the charming setting, warmth of friendship and hospitality of which seem to grow with every gathering, and it is, I think, right and proper to give priority, on behalf of both teams, to recording thanks to the Cheltenham Club for their stage management.

The elements of course once again played their part, with semi-arctic conditions which even Jack Norton (F.V.X.Norton) had to acknowledge on Sunday by surmounting his shorts with a quilted anorak!

We played the Singles Matches, best of three games, on the Saturday. At the end of these Scotland were in the comfortable position of leading by 4 wins to 2, in spite of attempted distractions such as bagpipes at an adjacent function. Coleman and Wood produced the two wins, and our hopes of a Draw rose when Geoffrey Taylor's match against Ian Wright went into a third game. Michael Heap, playing as Scotland's number one, had a fairly easy victory over Paul Hands in which he executed perfect triple peels in each game, while Robin Godby, playing a rapidly improving Stephen Wright, suffered much the same fate from phenomenal shooting and excellent peeling.

With a view to rectifying the situation in the Doubles Matches on Sunday, hospitality was intensified on Saturday evening, when the Scottish team and their generous hosts, Lady Bazley and Mr &

Mrs Johnson, with referee Barbara Meachem, entertained a *la Basque*, and some members of the Scottish team were subjected to midnight badminton at the home of Lady Bazley. All, however, was to no avail, as Scotland added two more wins in the Doubles to reach final triumph by 6 matches to 3.

Terry Wood again figured (with Richard Rothwell) in the sole Doubles victory against Bob Maclean & Rod Williams. Alec Coleman, in partnership with Robin Godby, took Ian Wright and Jack Norton to 3 games before succumbing. The Scottish No. 1 Pair proved too much for Hands and Taylor, but it was a good fight, and our hopes rose in the second game.

Results (Scottish names on left hand side)

SINGLES

M.E.W.Heap bt. P.Hands +17 +23
S.J.H.Wright bt. R.A.Godby +11 +25
I.H.Wright bt. Dr G.K.Taylor +12 -2 +25
F.V.X.Norton bt. R.F.Rothwell +5 +25
 R.N.Maclean lost to **A.F.Coleman** -11 -23
 R.Williams lost to **T.I.Wood** -2 -14

DOUBLES

Heap & S.Wright bt. Hands & Taylor +24 +15
I.Wright & Norton bt. Godby & Coleman +12 -20 +12
 Maclean & Williams lost to **Rothwell & Wood** -7 -12

Scotland thus have, overall, 2 wins to the C.A.'s 1, and we must now await 1978 with pleasant anticipation to attempt to level the score and renew happy friendships, when we hope to go north again to that beautiful setting at Gleneagles.

Budleigh Salterton I: June 27-July 2

After 6 years of staging the Challenge & Gilbey Tournament and 2 years of the Veterans' Tournament, Budleigh reverted this year to having a third domestic tournament. Instead of an American Tournament, as in earlier years, it was decided to experiment with a Handicap Singles on the Swiss system. For those who preferred an alternative, there was also an ordinary knock-out event. Whether the Centenary Wimbledon had any effect or not, entries were somewhat below capacity. To fill up the week, the opportunity was taken of having 6 rounds in the Swiss event, extending the knock-out event to an X, Y and Z, and running the Doubles on a Draw & Process basis.

There were quite a few visitors, among whom was Captain Forrest Tucker from Santa Barbara, California, who came to Budleigh for the third year running. This time we were privileged to meet his charming wife, who very kindly distributed the prizes.

The Swiss event proved to be very enjoyable and successful, and Ken Schofield, who managed the tournament, was able to show that the intricacies of this system were not so very difficult after all. The event finished with great excitement, as 3 players had 5 wins out of 6 games; the winner therefore had to be decided on points, W.A.Scarr taking first place with a net 65 points.

In the knock-out event one of the highlights was the defeat of Bill Perry by Myrtle Stevens, one of our rapidly improving members, who won by 23 with 6 bisques to spare. In the 'X' final, the dour, methodical play of Charles Waller overcame the graceful rhythm of Christine Bagnall. In the 'Y' final were two famous names, Bill Perry beating Hope Rotherham, while in the 'Z' final Ralph Bucknall narrowly beat fellow secretary Colin Edwards.

The Draw & Process Doubles proved to be very popular, even though some of the contestants had to play two Doubles games in one day. The final was aptly described as a "typical mixed doubles epic", as the eventual winners, Ken Schofield and Myrtle Stevens, always ahead of Mr & Mrs Scarr, seemed to be coasting easily to victory, when Blue rolled Black into the jaws of Rover. Efforts to jump or scatter failed, and Yellow came through to run Rover and peg Black out. Unfortunately for them, Yellow also rolled on to

brush the peg. Blue had only one hoop to make, whilst Red had three, and Blue managed to win the race in a nail-biting finish.

On the Saturday before this tournament, with a second tournament in the following week, the groundsman walked out! However, the Budleigh spirit prevailed, and in no time male and female members (not all so young) were busy mowing (some with their own mowers), marking out, watering and tidying up, so that the tournament would be a success. We were blessed with sunshine, and all went well.

Results

Event 1: Swiss Handicap Singles (17 Entries)

Five Wins: **W.A.Scarr** (9), winner with 65 net points; H.G.T.Bolton (0) with 42 net points; Mrs M.J.Goode (10) with 31 net points.

Four Wins: Mrs W.A.Scarr (11), A.J.Cooper (-1), A.Ormerod (12), Miss M.J.Lodge (6).

Three Wins: Mrs C.W.Marshall (10), Mrs P.A.Tunmer (4½), Captain F.Tucker (9), Mrs E.F.Dell (9).

Two Wins: Mrs E.Pursey (11), Mrs P.A.Dwerryhouse (14), Miss F.I.Joly (-½), Mrs S.S.Cruden (7), Major G.B.Horridge (6).

One Win: Mrs D.G.Waterhouse (10).

Event 2a: 'X' Handicap Singles (14 Entries)

First Round: **Dr C.W.Marshall** (10) bt. Mrs E.Rotherham (0) +14; **C.J.Waller** (6) bt. Dr C.W.Evans (9) +4 (T); **J.G.Warwick** (4) bt. C.Edwards (2½) +6; **Miss D.Lockes Latham** (9) bt. Mrs R.S.Leach (12) +2 (T); **Mrs C.Bagnall** (4½) bt. H.A.Cross (8) +24; **R.H.Lee** (3½) bt. Dr W.R.Bucknall (1½) +7.

Second Round: **Waller** bt. Marshall +16; **Miss Lockes Latham** bt. Warwick +6; **Mrs Bagnall** bt. Lee +9; **Mrs R.S.Stevens** (12) bt. B.G.Perry (-2) +23.

Semi-Final: **Waller** bt. Miss Lockes Latham +19; **Mrs Bagnall** bt. Mrs Stevens +4.

Final: **Waller** bt. Mrs Bagnall +19.

Event 2b: 'Y' Handicap Singles (7 Entries)

Final: **B.G.Perry** (-2) bt. Mrs E.Rotherham (0) +25.

Event 2c: 'Z' Handicap Singles (6 Entries)

Final: **Dr W.R.Bucknall** (1½) bt. C.Edwards (2½) +2.

Event 3: Handicap Doubles (12 Entries)

DRAW

First Round: **Mr & Mrs H.G.T.Bolton** (12) bt. Mrs C.W.Marshall & Mrs E.F.Dell (19) +13; **P.K.Devitt & G.H.Mapstone** (16) bt. Dr C.W.Marshall & Mrs D.G.Waterhouse (19) +1 (T); **Major G.B.Horridge & Captain F.Tucker** (15) bt. Mr & Mrs W.A.Scarr (18) +2; **K.S.Schofield & Mrs R.S.Stevens** (16½) bt. Mrs S.S.Cruden & Mrs P.A.Dwerryhouse (20) +13.

Second Round: **C.Edwards & Mrs C.Bagnall** (7) bt. A.J.Cooper & Mrs M.J.Goode (7) +4; **Devitt & Mapstone** w.o. Mr & Mrs Bolton opp. scr.; **Schofield & Mrs Stevens** bt. Horridge & Tucker +19; **J.G.Warwick & Miss M.J.Lodge** (10) w.o. Dr W.R.Bucknall & Mrs E.M.Pursey (12½) opp. scr.

Semi-Final: **Devitt & Mapstone** bt. Edwards & Mrs Bagnall +9; **Schofield & Mrs Stevens** bt. Warwick & Miss Lodge +13.

Final: **Schofield & Mrs Stevens** bt. Devitt & Mapstone +9.

PROCESS

First Round: **Cooper & Mrs Goode** bt. Mrs Cruden & Mrs Dwerryhouse +5; **Mr & Mrs Bolton** bt. Warwick & Miss Lodge +4; **Schofield & Mrs Stevens** bt. Edwards & Mrs Bagnall +3; **Bucknall & Mrs Pursey** bt. Mrs Marshall & Mrs Dell +11.

Second Round: **Cooper & Mrs Goode** bt. Devitt & Mapstone +6; **Mr & Mrs Scarr** bt. Mr & Mrs Bolton +8; **Schofield & Mrs Stevens** bt. Marshall & Mrs Waterhouse +15; **Bucknall & Mrs Pursey** bt. Horridge & Tucker +6.

Semi-Final: **Mr & Mrs Scarr** bt. Cooper & Mrs Goode +3; **Bucknall & Mrs Pursey** bt. Schofield & Mrs Stevens +2.

Final: **Mr & Mrs Scarr** bt. Bucknall & Mrs Pursey +6.

PLAY-OFF

Schofield & Mrs Stevens bt. Mr & Mrs Scarr +4.

The Challenge and the Gilbey Cups, played at Southwick, July 4-9

The members of the Sussex County Croquet Club at Southwick are rightly famed for their friendliness and courtesy, and at this tournament they were at their friendliest best. The Tournament itself, under the firm but kindly management of Edgar Jackson, was, in its new and improved form, a great success. Entry for three events produced a minimum of six games, and the majority of players had nine or more. By shortening the games in the three lower Divisions of the Challenge Cups and making the Doubles matches 22 points only, Edgar gave all the Challenge Divisions a 'Process' and the Gilbey a 'Z'. Consequently everyone had a full quiver of games (greatly appreciated by the visitors), and no games, except the Doubles, were played on time.

Intending visitors, however, should be warned that all lawns at Southwick start in 'Hurlingham' Corner Three. "Something to do with the Southwick sun", confusingly explained Alan Sheppard, a gallant finalist in Division 2 at the age of 86.

The arrival of sunshine after weeks of cold, cloudy weather was a joy, but, as Kay Longman said when so charmingly presenting the prizes, "even the sun only works a five day week", so finals day began with heavy rain and only improved around noon.

Three people who had never been to a major tournament before were winners of an event, Michael Phelps, Sheila Cosh and Rose Bromfield (who, incidentally, gained the cup her husband won the year before). Undoubtedly the outstanding up and coming player was Michael Phelps ('I have only played serious croquet for a month') who met another quickly improving player, Lionel Wharrad (a veteran of at least a year) in the finals of both Division 3 and the Gilbey. Michael proved himself to be the stronger player on both occasions.

Certainly the best performance in the finals was that of 'Tiny' Tyrwhitt Drake against our hard-working Manager Edgar Jackson. Jackson was for Rover and Peg, Tyrwhitt Drake for Rover

and 2-back. Jackson pegged out Tyrwhitt Drake's forward ball and laid up. Tyrwhitt Drake hit in and made 2-back, put one of Jackson's balls in the corner and then proceeded, with the help of the other, to run the next four hoops and peg out! Not the way to repay an efficient and respected Manager, but then that's Croquet! Smoky Eades had a close match with Lionel Wharrad in the semi-finals of the Gilbey and showed, yet again, that if you're for Rover and Peg and you make a poor, but possible, approach to Rover using your opponent's ball, you should go for the hoop. Don't lay up; your opponent is bound to hit in. Wharrad did and won.

Of course the 'big' names, Norman Cox, Bill Moore, Ted Tucker, Tristram Owen and Arthur Tapp, were all in evidence. So too were the very efficient staff behind the scenes, Edith Tucker, Tristram Owen, Hilda Wells (first-class catering as usual), Edna and Norman Cox, Leslie Bromfield and so many others — without whom no play would have been possible. All thanks are due to them and to Edgar Jackson for a most delightful tournament.

Results

Event 1: The Roehampton Challenge Cup (7 Entries)

DRAW

First Round: **G.E.P.Jackson** bt. A.Tapp +12; **E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake** bt. N.W.T.Cox +7; **T.F.Owen** bt. E.J.Tucker +14.

Semi-Final: **Tyrwhitt Drake** bt. Jackson +12; **Owen** bt. W.E.Moore +20.

Final: **Owen** bt. Tyrwhitt Drake +9.

PROCESS

First Round: **Tapp** bt. Owen +15; **Moore** w.o. Cox opp. scr.; **Jackson** bt. Tucker +2.

Semi-Final: **Moore** bt. Tapp +5; **Tyrwhitt Drake** bt. Jackson +9.

Final: **Tyrwhitt Drake** bt. Moore +4.

PLAY-OFF

Tyrwhitt Drake bt. Owen +7.

Event 2: The Council Challenge Cup (14 Entries)

DRAW

First Round: **Mrs E.H.P.Mallinson** bt. Miss H.D.Parker +21; **R.S.Eades** bt. Professor A.S.C.Rosss +8; **H.A.Sheppard** bt. R.L.Everest +13; **Mrs F.F.W.Staddon** bt. G.F.Paxon +10; **Mrs R.E.Tucker** bt. Mrs W.Longman +12; **G.T.Coates** bt. C.E.Knight +13.

Second Round: **Eades** bt. Mrs Mallinson +3; **Sheppard** bt. Mrs Staddon +14; **Coates** bt. Mrs R.Tucker +2; **Miss M.G.Anderson** bt. Mrs S.J.Turner +11.

PROCESS

First Round: **Mrs Longman** bt. Miss Parker +13; **Sheppard** bt. Miss Anderson +19; **Coates** bt. Ross +2; **Mrs R.Turner** bt. Mrs Mallinson +11; **Everest** bt. Mrs Turner +7; **Eades** bt. Knight +9.

Second Round: **Sheppard** bt. Mrs Longman +22; **Coates** bt. Mrs Staddon +19; **Everest** bt. Mrs R.Tucker +15; **Eades** bt. Paxon +11.

SEMI-FINALISTS RE-DRAWN FOR FINAL STAGES

First Round: **Miss Anderson** w.o. Everest opp. retd.

Semi-Final: **Eades** bt. Coates +10; **Sheppard** bt. Miss Anderson +17.

Final: **Eades** bt. Sheppard +7.

Event 3: The Reckitt Challenge Cup (9 Entries)

DRAW

First Round: **M.Phelps** bt. Mrs S.A.Cosh +12.

Second Round: **Phelps** bt. Mrs G.C.Day +9; **Mrs E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake** bt. Lt-Col E.H.P.Mallinson +5; **L.Wharrad** bt. Mrs W.Naylor +14; **Mrs I.B.Tucker** bt. Mrs D.Linstead +6.

Semi-Final: **Phelps** bt. Mrs Tyrwhitt Drake +17; **Wharrad** bt. Mrs I.Tucker +16.

Final: **Phelps** bt. Wharrad +14.

PROCESS

First Round: Phelps bt. Mrs Linstead +9.

Second Round: Wharrad bt. Mrs Cosh +6; Mrs Tyrwhitt Drake bt. Mrs I. Tucker +3; Mrs Day bt. Mrs Naylor +5; Phelps bt. Mallinson +8.

Semi-Final: Wharrad bt. Mrs Tyrwhitt Drake +12; Phelps bt. Mrs Day +12.

Final: Phelps bt. Wharrad +14.

Event 4: The Stevenson Cup (6 Entries)

DRAW

First Round: Mrs R.E.Bromfield bt. Mrs L.Wharrad +16; Mrs E.Lewis bt. Mrs A.E.Millns +2.

Semi-Final: Mrs Bromfield bt. Mrs Lewis +16; Mrs M.Rankin bt. Miss P.Shine +2.

Final: Mrs Bromfield bt. Mrs Rankin +8.

PROCESS

First Round: Mrs Bromfield bt. Mrs Rankin +16; Miss Shine bt. Mrs Lewis +11.

Semi-Final: Mrs Bromfield bt. Miss Shine +9; Mrs Millns bt. Mrs Wharrad +7.

Final: Mrs Bromfield bt. Mrs Millns +7.

Event 5: Handicap Doubles (17 Pairs)

First Round: W.E.Moore & Mrs S.A.Cosh (7½) bt. R.L.Everest & Mrs R.E.Tucker (7½) +1.

Second Round: R.S.Eades & H.A.Sheppard (6) bt. T.F.Owen & Mrs W.Naylor (6) +3 (T); E.J.Tucker & Mrs G.C.Day (8) bt. Mrs R.Bromfield & E.E.Rees (6) +13; Mrs A.E.Millns & G.E.P.Jackson (8) bt. N.W.T.Cox & Mrs I.B.Tucker (7) +13; Mrs S.J.Turner & Mrs F.F.W.Staddon (9½) bt. Lt.Col & Mrs E.H.P.Mallinson (11½) +2 (T); Professor A.S.C.Ross & G.T.Coates (8) bt. A.Tapp & Mrs M.Rankin (12½) +7; M.Phelps & Mrs D.Linstead (16) bt. Mr & Mrs E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake (6) +5; Mr & Mrs L.Wharrad (22) bt. G.F.Paxon & Mrs E.Lewis (15) +3 (T); Moore & Mrs Cosh bt. C.E.Knight & Mrs W.Longman (8) +4.

Third Round: Tucker & Mrs Day bt. Eades & Sheppard +13; Mrs Millns & Jackson bt. Mrs Turner & Mrs Staddon +4; Phelps & Mrs Linstead bt. Ross & Coates +9; Moore & Mrs Cosh bt. Mr & Mrs Wharrad +7.

Semi-Final: Tucker & Mrs Day bt. Mrs Millns & Jackson +14; Moore & Mrs Cosh bt. Phelps & Mrs Linstead +4.

Final: Moore & Mrs Cosh bt. Tucker & Mrs Day +4.

Event 6a: The Gilbey Cup (29 Entries)

First Round: H.A.Sheppard (3) bt. Mrs M.Rankin (12) +20; G.E.P.Jackson (-1½) bt. Mrs A.E.Millns (12) +7; G.T.Coates (5½) bt. Mrs E.Lewis (10) +12; Professor A.S.C.Ross (2½) bt. Mrs W.Longman (3½) +20; Mrs R.Bromfield (10) bt. Mrs I.B.Tucker (8) +3 (T); A.Tapp (½) bt. N.W.T.Cox (-1) +18; Mrs G.C.Day (9) bt. Mrs L.Wharrad (15) +14; Mrs S.J.Turner (4½) bt. Mrs S.A.Cosh (9) +3 (T); E.J.Tucker (-1) bt. Mrs W.Naylor (7) +22; R.S.Eades (3) bt. W.E.Moore (-1½) +16; E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake (-1) bt. G.F.Paxon (5) +6; L.Wharrad (7) bt. T.F.Owen (-1) +6; Miss M.G.Anderson (5) bt. C.E.Knight (4½) +2 (T).

Second Round: M.Phelps (10*) bt. Sheppard +19; Coates bt. Jackson +12; Mrs Bromfield bt. Ross +5 (T); Tapp bt. Mrs Day +7; Tucker bt. Mrs Turner +21; Eades bt. Tyrwhitt Drake +22; Wharrad bt. Miss Anderson +8; Mrs N.W.T.Cox (2) bt. Mrs E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake (8) +13.

Third Round: Phelps bt. Coates +12; Tapp bt. Mrs Bromfield +12; Eades bt. Tucker +11; Wharrad bt. Mrs Cox +26.

Semi-Final: Phelps bt. Tapp +17; Wharrad bt. Eades +2.

Final: Phelps bt. Wharrad +18.

Event 6b: 'Y' Handicap Singles (14 Entries)

Final: T.F.Owen (-1) bt. N.W.T.Cox (-1) +15.

Event 6c: 'Z' Handicap Singles (15 Entries)

Final: Mrs E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake (8) bt. G.E.P.Jackson (-1½) +1.

Budleigh Salterton II: July 4-9

Glorious summer weather, with blue skies and hot sunshine, favoured this Tournament, which had attracted a capacity entry of 55, including 25 visitors. It had been hoped that 10 lawns would be available this year, but the sudden departure of the groundsman only a few days before the previous week's tournament made it impossible to convert the tennis courts into the tenth croquet lawn. Great credit must be given to those Club members who kept the lawns in such good condition during the Tournament. Although the surfaces became very fast and, in some places, a little uneven, with the dry, hot weather, croquet of the highest standard was produced, with five triples and five singles games finished within an hour.

How fortunate we were in having Betty Prichard as Manager. Under her firm, wise and ever tactful guidance, the programme was completed with a minimum use of time-limits. She also managed to run her ever-popular Extra, which attracted a dozen entries, and which was played "double-banked". The awards were presented by Mrs George Horridge, whose husband has been attending Budleigh tournaments regularly for 27 years. It was pleasing to see the present C.A. Secretary and the previous one playing in the Doubles together, and to have Maurice Reckitt as a visitor once again.

So many matches are worthy of record, but space is limited. We especially remember the game on Tuesday between the two young men, Stephen Mulliner and Mark Ormerod, now both minus players. Mark went to 4-back after hitting the tice with Red. Stephen took his lift shot at Mark's two balls near the 4th corner and missed, Mark then started on his triple, of which the highlight occurred when he only just managed to peel his Red through Rover, and played a superbly executed hoop shot off the wire, so as just to miss what appeared to be an inevitable roquet on Red. He then hit the Blue, took off right behind Red and rushed it straight back through Rover and pegged out. It was a superb exhibition of ball control.

These two met again in an even more enthralling encounter. Mark Ormerod took his first ball to 4-back. Mulliner missed the lift shot, and Mark was off again with his other ball, but broke down at Hoop 3. It was then that Mulliner provided the highlight of the Tournament by hitting in, going right round to the peg, triple-peeling and pegging out his opponent's forward ball in the process. Then there was a lot of cagey positional play by both players, until Mulliner failed to wire his balls completely. Mark hit in and executed a fine 3-ball break to win the game. It was thrilling, exciting master play.

Mulliner's game against Robin Godby, who played so well all the week, was also one to remember. Stephen had reached the peg, and pegged out his forward ball, but returned to the side-line with his other ball. Robin, for Rover and Hoop 3, hit in the length of the lawn, and in his next three turns progressed gradually forwards. But, after two near-misses, Mulliner pegged out with a wonderful long shot from Corner 3.

John Cooper, after a somewhat shaky start to the week, played some first-class croquet, and had some quick, decisive wins. His game against Pat Newton in the Process semi-final was very exciting. The early part of the game was all Newton, who had reached Peg and 4-back before Cooper had really started. Then, with Red on Hoop 2, John played an immaculate break with Yellow, and took it right round to peg out Blue, which he did so vigorously that the Peg was knocked clean out of the ground. Pat Newton, with contact off Red near the 1st corner, took off to Yellow on the East Boundary, and rolled both balls up to 4-back. Although he was very short with Black, he ran the hoop magnificently but only just got through and couldn't hit Yellow. He played off to the West boundary near Hoop 2, and John played his Yellow down to the 1st corner. Pat shot at this and hit, got a perfect rush on Red to Penult, whilst Yellow was croqueted to Rover, and won a very exciting game by 13.

In the final of the Process Godby was winning easily against Pat Newton, but owing to pressure of time had to retire on the peg, leaving Pat to play again against John Cooper, who had beaten Mark Ormerod in the final of the Draw. It was in this game that

John found his finest form, winning by 24 and doing a triple peel on the way.

Also to be remembered was the "three hour plus" game between Guy Warwick and George Horridge, who between them totalled 167 years; this game in Event 2 produced splendid tactical croquet with a final margin of only 2. Guy and David Prichard showed what experience can count for when they won the Doubles against tough opposition.

It was a truly memorable week, thoroughly enjoyed by all, with some very high class croquet; indeed, it was Budleigh at its best.

Results**Event 1: Open Singles** (20 Entries)

DRAW

First Round: M.Ormerod bt. L.S.Butler +3 (T); R.S.Stevens bt. Mrs D.M.C.Prichard +13; Lt.Col D.M.C.Prichard bt. H.G.T.Bolton +24; B.G.Perry bt. R.F.Rothwell +26.

Second Round: R.A.Godby bt. Professor B.G.Weitz +11; S.N.Mulliner bt. Mrs E.Rotherham +19; Mrs E.M.Lightfoot bt. Dr W.R.Bucknall +7; Ormerod bt. Stevens +19; Perry bt. Prichard +24; A.J.Cooper bt. Mrs N.A.C.McMillan +12; P.Newton bt. Dr C.A.Parker +26; Miss F.I.Joly bt. G.H.Betts +26.

Third Round: Mulliner bt. Godby +16; Ormerod bt. Mrs Lightfoot +19; Cooper bt. Perry +20; Miss Joly bt. Newton +11.

Semi-Final: Ormerod bt. Mulliner +12; Cooper bt. Miss Joly +22.

Final: Cooper bt. Ormerod +16.

PROCESS

First Round: Newton bt. Weitz +7; Betts bt. Mrs Rotherham +16; Godby bt. Parker +14; Mulliner bt. Miss Joly +17.

Second Round: Newton bt. Stevens +5; Mrs Lightfoot bt. Perry +8; Prichard bt. Betts +14; Cooper bt. Butler +8; Godby bt. Mrs Prichard +6; Rothwell bt. Bucknall +13; Mulliner bt. Bolton +18; Ormerod bt. Mrs McMillan +20.

Third Round: Newton bt. Mrs Lightfoot +13; Cooper bt. Prichard +25; Godby bt. Rothwell +12; Ormerod bt. Mulliner +26.

Semi-Final: Newton bt. Cooper +13; Godby bt. Ormerod +20.

Final: Newton w.o. Godby opp. ret'd.

PLAY-OFF

Cooper bt. Newton +24.

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

DRAW

First Round: C.J.Waller bt. L.D.Adams +1 (T); Mrs B.G.Weitz bt. P.K.Devitt +24; Major G.B.Horridge bt. J.G.Warwick +2 (T); K.S.Schofield bt. Mrs S.S.Cruden +20; C.Edwards bt. R.S.Alford +4; Lt.Col G.E.Cave bt. Mrs P.Newton +7.

Second Round: Mrs Weitz bt. Waller +9; Schofield bt. Horridge +20; Edwards bt. Cave +8; R.H.C.Carder bt. Mrs C.Bagnall +7.

Semi-Final: Mrs Weitz bt. Schofield +12; Edwards bt. Carder +18.

Final: Mrs Weitz bt. Edwards +22.

PROCESS

First Round: Adams bt. Alford +6; Mrs Bagnall bt. Warwick +15; Mrs Weitz bt. Mrs Newton +1 (T); Waller bt. Edwards +15; Horridge bt. Carder +5 (T); Devitt bt. Cave +16.

Second Round: Adams bt. Mrs Bagnall +3; Mrs Weitz bt. Schofield +13; Horridge bt. Waller +1 (T); Devitt bt. Mrs Cruden +15.

Semi-Final: Adams bt. Mrs Weitz +4; Devitt bt. Horridge +11.

Final: Adams bt. Devitt +10.

PLAY-OFF

Adams bt. Mrs Weitz +9.

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

First Round: Mrs D.G.Waterhouse (10) bt. Dr C.W.Evans (9) +6; Mrs R.S.Stevens (10) bt. Mrs P.K.Devitt (10) +2 (T); Miss P.E.Parker (13) bt. Miss D.Locks Latham (9) +3; J.H.T.Griffiths (8) bt. Revd D.Anderson (8) +5 (T); Mrs M.J.Goode (10) bt. V.Robinson (13) +7.

Second Round: Mrs C.W.Marshall (10) bt. Mrs Waterhouse +12; Mrs Stevens bt. Miss Parker +6; Mrs Goode bt. Griffiths +6; Mrs C.A.Parker (15) bt. Dr C.W.Marshall (10) +2.

Semi-Final: Mrs Marshall bt. Mrs Stevens +16; Mrs Goode bt. Mrs Parker +6.

Final: Mrs Marshall bt. Mrs Goode +3.

Event 4a: 'X' Handicap Singles (42 Entries)

First Round: Lt.Col D.M.C.Prichard (0) bt. Mrs P.Newton (5½) +15; H.G.T.Bolton (0) bt. R.A.Godby (-1½) +26; Mrs E.M.Lightfoot (1½) bt. Lt.Col G.E.Cave (2½) +12; J.H.T.Griffiths (8) w.o. Mrs B.G.Weitz (3) opp. scr.; Miss P.E.Parker (13) bt. Major G.B.Horridge (6) +14; Dr W.R.Bucknall (1½) bt. Revd D.Anderson (8) +16; Dr C.A.Parker (1½) bt. Mrs S.S.Cruden (7) +12; Mrs C.W.Marshall (10) bt. Mrs C.Bagnall (4½) +9; Miss F.I.Joly (-½) bt. J.G.Warwick (4) +3; L.S.Butler (1) bt. A.Ormerod (11) +15.

Second Round: R.F.Rothwell (½) bt. R.H.C.Carder (5½) +9; L.D.Adams (2½) bt. M.Ormerod (½) +7; Miss D.Locks Latham (9) w.o. Mrs E.Pursey (11) opp. scr.; R.S.Stevens (1) w.o. Mrs E.Rotherham (0) opp. scr.; B.G.Perry (-2) bt. R.S.Alford (3) +4; Bolton bt. Prichard +15; Mrs Lightfoot bt. Griffiths +2; Miss Parker bt. Bucknall +7; Parker bt. Mrs Marshall +9; Miss Joly bt. Butler +6; S.N.Mulliner (-1) bt. K.S.Schofield (4½) +19; A.J.Cooper (-1) bt. Mrs N.A.C.McMillan (2) +2; Professor B.G.Weitz (0) bt. C.Edwards (2½) +14; Mrs R.S.Stevens (10) bt. Mrs D.G.Waterhouse (10) +12; G.H.Betts (2) bt. Dr C.W.Marshall (10) +10; Mrs P.A.Tunmer (4½) bt. P.Newton (-1) +7.

Third Round: Rothwell bt. Adams +7; Stevens bt. Miss Locks Latham +10; Perry bt. Bolton +7; Mrs Lightfoot bt. Miss Parker +2; Miss Joly bt. Parker +14; Mulliner bt. Cooper +24; Weitz bt. Mrs Stevens +15; Mrs Tunmer bt. Betts +2.

Fourth Round: Stevens bt. Rothwell +21; Mrs Lightfoot bt. Perry +5; Mulliner bt. Miss Joly +26; Weitz bt. Mrs Tunmer +23.

Semi-Final: Mrs Lightfoot bt. Stevens +12; Mulliner bt. Weitz +17.

Final: Mulliner bt. Mrs Lightfoot +24.

Event 4b: 'Y' Handicap Singles (22 Entries)

Final: R.S.Alford (3) bt. K.S.Schofield (4½) +22.

Event 5: Handicap Doubles (22 Pairs)

First Round: Dr C.W.Evans & Dr C.W.Marshall (19) bt. L.D.Adams & K.S.Schofield (7) +8; Mrs N.A.C.McMillan & Miss P.E.Parker (14) bt. R.F.Rothwell & V.Robinson (11½) +7; Dr W.R.Bucknall & B.Hancock (7) bt. Mrs D.M.C.Prichard & Mrs G.E.Cave (4½) +7; Lt.Col D.M.C.Prichard & J.G.Warwick (4) bt. C.Edwards & R.H.Lee (6) +8; Mr & Mrs R.S.Stevens (11) bt. Mr & Mrs P.Newton (4½) +5; Professor & Mrs B.G.Weitz (3) bt. Lt.Col G.E.Cave & Mrs M.J.Goode (10) +11.

Second Round: G.H.Betts & Revd D.Anderson (9) bt. Mr & Mrs H.G.T. Bolton (12) +5; L.S.Butler & G.H.Mapstone (13) bt. S.N.Mulliner & Mrs C.W.Marshall (9) +3; Evans & Marshall bt. Mrs McMillan & Miss Parker +6; Prichard & Warwick bt. Bucknall & Hancock +5; Prof. & Mrs Weitz bt. Mr & Mrs Stevens +8; R.A.Godby & Mrs C.Bagnall (3) bt. Dr & Mrs C.A.Parker (14½) +8; A.J.Cooper & Mrs P.K.Devitt (9) bt. Mrs E.M.Lightfoot & Mrs S.S.Cruden (8½) +4; M.Ormerod & R.S.Alford (3½) bt. R.H.C.Carder & J.H.T.Griffiths (13½) +3 (T).

Third Round: Betts & Anderson bt. Butler & Mapstone +1 (T); Prichard & Warwick bt. Evans & Marshall +12; Godby & Mrs Bagnall bt. Prof. & Mrs Weitz +9; Ormerod & Alford bt. Cooper & Mrs Devitt +16.

Semi-Final: Prichard & Warwick bt. Betts & Anderson +15; Godby & Mrs Bagnall bt. Ormerod & Alford +1 (T).

Final: Prichard & Warwick bt. Godby & Mrs Bagnall +14.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Hurlingham Club on Monday 30 May 1977

The President, Mr E.P.Duffield, took the Chair. There were present Mr J.W.Solomon, Vice-President, and 24 Associates.

1. The Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting, as published in the August 1976 issue of The Croquet Gazette, were approved.
2. The President in his address referred to the death of Miss Daisy Lintern, Vice-President and former Chairman of the Council. He also thanked Mrs Neal for her work as Development Administrator for over six years, and Mr Vandeleur Robinson for his work as Secretary. He then presented Mr Vandeleur Robinson with a record player and a cheque for £210 which had been subscribed for by many Associates.
3. The report of the Chairman, Mr D.C.Caporn, as printed in the Spring 1977 issue of The Croquet Gazette, was approved.
4. The report of the Treasurer, Mr A.J.Oldham, as printed in the Spring 1977 issue of The Croquet Gazette, was approved. He was thanked for all his work.
5. On a motion proposed by Mrs B.L.Sundius-Smith and seconded by Mr I.C.Baillieu, it was unanimously approved that Mr A.J.Oldham be re-appointed as Treasurer.
6. The Secretary reported that as there were only nine candidates for nine vacancies, the following were deemed to have been elected to the Council: D.C.Caporn, D.J.V.Hamilton-Miller, G.B.Martin, Mrs B.Meachem, D.H.Moorcraft, Lt-Col D.M.C.Prichard, Dr G.K.Taylor, Mrs N.Tyldesley, and Dr W.R.D.Wiggins.
7. Messrs Nicholass, Ames & Co, were unanimously re-elected as Auditors.
8. The President presented D.J.Crocker (Phyllis Court Club) with the Apps Memorial Bowl for being the most improved man Associate of 1976, and the Secretary reported that the Steel Bowl for the most improved woman Associate had been awarded to Mrs P.A.Tunmer (Budleigh Salterton), and the Apps/Heley Award for 1976 to the Bath Club.
9. The Chairman of the Council proposed a vote of thanks to the President for his taking the Chair at the meeting.

Extracts from Proceedings at Council Meetings

MARCH 16, 1977

1. *Council Vacancy.* D.J.V.Hamilton-Miller was co-opted to fill the vacancy caused by Mr R.F.Rothwell becoming the Secretary.
2. *Alterations to Law 2c and 4c and Regulation 15 (a) and (b)* were approved unanimously. Regulation 10 was referred back to the Laws Committee. On Regulation 22 (b) it was resolved unanimously after discussion to retain the first sentence and delete only the second sentence.
3. *Reports of Committees*
 - (a) *Laws Committee.* It was agreed not to recommend at this stage any changes in the Law in regard to specifications for croquet balls, and that Professor Neal be asked to negotiate with the A.C.C. in general terms to get their reaction to our proposals for ball specification.
 - (b) *Publicity & Development Committee.* A big recruiting drive at Woking had been very successful. The Bath Club was approved for the Apps/Heley Award (£10). It was stressed that one of the Sports Council's conditions for Grant is the participation of women, also the advantage of Clubs contacting their local Regional Council who were there to assist. It seemed unlikely that Harper & Queen Golf Croquet Competition would take place in 1977. The Council considered a suggestion of running such a competition at Woburn but decided against this. Training Schemes for Middle Bisquers, Referees and Coaching Courses were approved. The pilot film

intended for B.B.C. Television was not suitable, in the B.B.C.'s opinion, for public showing. Mrs Carlisle reported that 6 matches were played in 1976 by C.A. teams against local Clubs and expressed the hope that there would be more in 1977. Any Club who would like a match next year should contact her. The Committee are interested in promoting Croquet in schools if there is a staff member interested. Publicity can be gained from playing games in places open to the public, and all Clubs should try to arrange these wherever possible.

- (c) *Finance & General Purposes Committee.* It was resolved to retain both the Inter-Counties and Cripps Cups in view of the low price that they would be likely to realise if sold at auction. The Middlesex Union Cake Basket had recently been found in the vaults of the Hurlingham Club. It was proposed that this be retained, and this was carried by 13 votes to 6. The Council agreed that it be used as a replacement for the two stolen Ladies Field Candlesticks by 13 votes to 3. It was agreed that a reasonable sized plinth for the Basket be purchased on which would be inscribed the names of the winners, and that the original names on the face of the Basket be removed but the inscription round the rim (indicating that it was the gift of Mrs Henry Franc) be retained. The proposed £20 payment to the Cheltenham Club to stage the match v. Scotland on June 18-19 was approved without creating a precedent. Mr Godby was appointed to make arrangements and pick a suitable England team. The list of C.A. Winners had been updated from 1970 to 1976, and a copy would soon be available to any Associate who wanted it. The Council agreed to insure all trophies at sale and not replacement value. Mr Robinson would act as Membership Secretary until May 30th. The negotiations with the Hurlingham Club regarding our office (only the rear room) had been completed with the offer of a new Lease for 4 years at £750 per annum inclusive.
4. *Secretary's Report.* The Secretary reported with regret the death of 11 members. Of the returns from Registered Clubs received to date (42 out of 72) the number of Associates was 404 compared with 828 Non-Associates. It was reported that The Palace, Wells Club had been registered and that the following new Clubs were likely to register in the near future: Charing Cross Hospital Medical School; Ingatestone (Essex); Mamorbey Park, Sidcup (Bexley Borough Adult Centre).
5. *The Club Conference* was agreed for Saturday 6th December at Hurlingham. (It was subsequently discovered that accommodation was not available, and so the date was changed to November 26th.)
6. *Alteration in Handicaps.* After discussion it was agreed in principle that some form of sliding scale should be adopted for general increase in handicap in 1978. This was referred back to the Handicap Co-ordination Committee to consider and report.
7. *Any Other Business.* A possible visit of croquet players from Egypt was reported. The winners of the 1976 C.A. Medals in New Zealand were Mrs F.W.Peters of Dunedin (Silver) and J.W.McNab of Christchurch (Bronze). It was agreed that there would be no objection to the name of Rothmans being added to the Programmes of Tests in New Zealand. On the subject of "Sport for All" to be held in Hyde Park on July 23-24 it was agreed that the C.A. should participate in some form (possibly a stand with Literature etc.). It was reported that in the coming reprint of "Know the Game" it was necessary to cut out the green backgrounds to the illustrations in the text to keep down costs. Mr Birch had in the past supplied plaques for the All-England Handicap at cost and would continue to do so. The Council were very grateful to him for this.

The Test Tour Fund for the 1979 Series would be launched shortly.

A Loyal Address was being sent to our Patron.

The Secretary reported the gift of two silver sweet dishes presented by Mrs A. Milns in October 1975 for the Handicap

Doubles event in the second week of the Devonshire Park Tournament. Mrs Millns had been thanked in a letter from Mr Robinson, but the gift had regrettably not been mentioned in the report of the tournament in the gazette, nor had it been reported previously to the Council.

The intended resignation of Peter Hallett as Editor of the Croquet Gazette after nearly seven years was received by the whole Council with very much regret. Several members spoke in high praise of the excellent work and long hours he had put in and the excellent results that he had achieved. It was agreed that as we have only four issues of the gazette each year we should revert to a former practice and title them "Spring", "Summer", "Autumn" and "Winter".

MAY 30 1977

1. *The Middlesex Union Cake Stand*, which replaces one of the pair of Ladies Field Candlesticks which were stolen, is insured for £275, the amount offered for it by Aspreys. It is not practicable to erase the inscription.
2. *Golf Croquet Competition.* Harper & Queen had to cancel this owing to the lack of a sponsor.
3. *Croquet Gazette.* The Chairman reported that Mrs D.M.C. Prichard had offered to take over from Revd P.D.Hallett as Editor of the *Croquet Gazette* at the end of 1977. This offer was accepted with acclaim. The Chairman referred to the excellent work put in by Peter Hallett over a period of seven years as Editor, and the Council unanimously voted to make him an Honorary Life Associate.
4. *The Council.* It was resolved that Mrs Tyldesley would serve for a two year term as member. She was welcomed to the meeting by the Chairman.
5. *Chairmen.* D.C.Caporn was elected as Chairman for the ensuing year, and likewise Dr R.W.Bray as Vice-Chairman.
6. *Standing Committees.* The list was tabled by the Chairman.
7. *Selection Committee.* It was unanimously resolved that the following be elected for the ensuing year: G.N.Aspinall, I.C.Baillieu, D.J.V.Hamilton-Miller, Lt-Col D.M.C. Prichard and S.S.Townsend. The Chairman thanked Professor B.G.Neal and R.F.Rothwell for their past services.
8. *Notice of Motion* by I.C.Baillieu: "No Club be permitted to enter the Inter-Club Competition unless it can provide bona-fide lawns for playing croquet".
9. *Alteration to Law 54 (b) (iv) and Regulation 22 (b)*, as previously published in the gazette, were passed unanimously and so become Law.
10. *Reports of Committees*
 - (a) *MacRobertson Shield Committee*
The following proposals were all approved: the itinerary from January 4th to February 16th 1979, that each visiting Nation must pay for its own international travel and accommodation, that teams will be of 6 players plus a non-playing Manager, subject to availability of players and adequate funds being available.
 - (b) *Handicap Co-Ordination Committee on Handicap Revisions*
I.C.Baillieu considered that the proposal to introduce an alteration in the structure of handicap alterations on a differential scale was not constitutional. After discussion it was resolved that the Handicap Co-ordination Committee should consider necessary amendments to Regulations 22, 23 and 24 and report back to the Council. The Chairman, in the meantime, ruled that the Council had power to alter the structure of handicaps.
 - (c) *Handicap Co-Ordination Committee on Procedure for Raising Handicaps*
 - (i) After discussion it was passed by 18 votes to 2 that handicaps be raised: Scratch or under — an increase of 1½ bisques; ½ to 4 — an increase of 1; 4½ to 7½ bisques an increase of ½, these to be effective for the 1978 season.
 - (ii) The recommendation that the lower handicap limit be altered from -5 to -4 was lost by 10 votes to 7.

(d) *Laws Committee*

Regulation 10 was amended. This appears elsewhere in this issue of the gazette, and will be reconsidered by the Council at a subsequent meeting.

11. *Secretary's Report.* The Secretary reported the number of paid-up Associates as on 30th May 1977 was as follows:

Standard Rate	431
Reduced Rate	120
Junior Rate	15
Life Members	47
	613
Overseas	60
	673

plus a possible 85 who had not yet paid.

Resulting from the proformas sent to all Registered Clubs, of which 61 had replied, there are 532 Associates and 1199 non-Associates.

The deaths of the following Associates were reported with deep regret: Christopher Haworth, David Owen, Miss M.S.Tyrrell.

12. *Devonshire Park.* It is now hoped that 7 or 8 lawns will be available for the 1977 Tournament. The Tournament Committee were asked to sound the Southwick Club as a possible venue for the South of England Championships for 1978, and to consider the possibility of holding them at Devonshire Park in May before the Eastbourne Corporation's Lawn Tennis season gets under way. This possibility had been suggested by the Corporation's ground staff.
13. *Silver Jubilee Fund.* The Chairman proposed that the contribution to the Silver Jubilee Fund by the C.A. should be made up to £100, if necessary, out of C.A. Funds. This was agreed unanimously.
14. *Club Conference.* The date for this was changed to Saturday 26th November 1977.

Secretary's Notes

1. NEW ASSOCIATES

- P.H.B.Boddington, 20 Walney Lane, Hereford HR1 1JD.
 Ian D. Bond, Nuffield College, Oxford OX1 1NF.
 W.L.Browne, 197 Leamington Road, Styvechale, Coventry CV3 6LZ.
 Paul Campion, 7 Cervantes Court, Inverness Terrace, London W.2 (Tel: (01) 727 6906)
 S.P.Clipston, 36 Heathfield Road, Keston, Kent.
 Mrs K.L.Copley, 4 Sharrow Vale, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire HP12 3HB. (Tel: (0494) 20155)
 C.L.Dinwoodie, 75 East Trinity Road, Edinburgh EH5 3EL.
 H.A.C.Evans, Hunters Moon, Howards Crescent, Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex TN39 4QH.
 Miss Marlain Fielding, 18 Hamilton Terrace, London N.W.8.
 Sir Frank Figgures, The Cottage, 31 South View, Uppingham, Rutland, Leicester.
 D.R.Foulser, 17 Moorend Road, Leckhampton, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. (Tel: (office) (0242) 21391 ext. 219)
 Lt-Col C.M.Fox, M.B.E., T.D., 33 Rivermead Court, London SW6 3RU.
 L.H.Hawkins, 6 Moor Lane, Puttingham, Staffordshire.
 Mr & Mrs D.H.Jones, 6 Acrefield Drive, Cambridge CB4 1JP (Permanent Address: 110 Blues Point Tower, McMahon's Point, New South Wales 2060, Australia)
 J.F.Kot, 108 Hazelville Road, London N19 3NA.
 Miss P.M.H.Lewis, 6 Belgrave Road, Birkdale, Southport, Merseyside.
 John S. Maude, 40 Osborne Road, Reading, Berkshire (Tel: (0734) 587503)
 M.F.Phelps, Flat 7, Cliveden Court, London Road, Brighton BN1 6UB.

Mrs A.L.Rentoul, c/o The Hurlingham Club, London S.W.6
(Permanent Address: 97 Dare Street, Ocean Grove, Victoria,
Australia.)

Miss Marie Scott, The Lofthouse, Lower Redland Road, Bristol
BS6 6SP.

Matthew Tapp, 3 Gundreda Road, Lewes, Sussex.
D.B.Wilson, Corpus Christi College, Cambridge CB2 1RM.

2. NEW ASSOCIATES FROM ARIZONA

Gerald A. Bassford (New Secretary of Arizona Club), 4719
McAllister Avenue, Tempe, Arizona 85282.

Eric Bron, 5055 North 6th Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85012.

Patrick Cooper, 4820 North 74th Street, Scottsdale, Arizona 85215.

David Kimball, 5709 East Monterosa, Phoenix, Arizona 85013.

Andre Lugo, 8626 North Morning Glory Road, Paradise Valley,
Arizona 85253.

Michael Stevens, 524 West Brown, Tempe, Arizona 85281.

3. NEW TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS

New Referees: C.H.J.Cousins, A.J.Girling, J.Haigh, Miss S.G.
Hampson, S.Mulliner, G.W.Noble, D.B.O'Connor, D.K.
Openshaw, Dr C.A.Parker, W.A.Scarr, Dr E.Solomon, M.J.
Stevens, S.S.Townsend, Dr R.F.Wheeler, Mrs R.F.Wheeler,
T.I.Wood.

New Examining Referee: Dr W.P.Ormerod.

New Handicappers: R.A.Godby, P.Stoker, Mrs N.Tyldesley.

New Manager: Dr W.P.Ormerod.

4. CHANGES IN THE CLUBS

Australian Croquet Council. The Hon. Secretary, Mrs D.Johnstone,
has moved to 17 Osbourne Esplanade, Kingston Beach,
Tasmania 7151, Australia.

Bath Croquet Club. A R 2, Recreation Ground, Bath. Chairman, Mrs
M.J.Brash-Smith, 9 Marlborough Buildings, Bath BA1 2LX
(Tel: (0225) 25365). Hon. Sec. Miss Eveleen Windsor-Aubrey,
2 Darlington Place, Bath (Tel: (0225) 61955).

Colworth Croquet Club. Mrs J.M.Anderson has succeeded
N.J.Davren as Hon. Secretary.

Grays Inn C.C. Hon. Sec. A.J.Cantley, 35 Methley Street,
Kennington, London SE11 4AL.

Ingatestone C.C. A R 1, Recreation Ground, Ingatestone, Essex.
Hon. Sec. Lt-Col A.W.D.Nicholls, O.B.E., M.C., 40 Willow
Green, Ingatestone, Essex (Tel: (027 75) 3527).

Federation of Northern Croquet Clubs. The Title has been changed to
this from 'Federation of North-West Croquet Clubs'.

Parkstone. The Croquet Sec., Miss M.D.McMordie, has moved to
10 Castle Hill Court, 72 Bournemouth Road, Parkstone, Poole,
Dorset BH14 OEY. (Tel: Parkstone (0202) 740402).

Silver Wing C.C. New Title: *British Airways Club* (Croquet Section).
Hon. Sec. R.Pluton, Flying Staff Scheduling Department,
British Airways, Bealine House, Ruislip, Middlesex HA4 6QL.
(Tel: (01) 845 1234)

Stalham Secondary School C.C. A R 1, Brumstead Road, Stalham,
Norwich NR12 9DG. Hon. Sec. C.J.Webb, Staithe Barn, Great
Yarmouth, Norfolk. (Tel: Stalham (069 28) 392)

Southwick C.C. should read *Sussex County Croquet and Lawn Tennis
Club.* W.H.Austin has been succeeded as Croquet Secretary by
Mrs E.A.Jackson, 23 Ashcroft Close, Shoreham-by-Sea, Sussex.
(Tel: Brighton (0273) 591874)

Tasmanian C.C. Hon. Sec. Mrs Elizabeth Henry, 21 Lady Clark
Estate, Claremont, Tasmania 7011, Australia.

Walsall C.C. Match Sec. P.J.Barnes, West Pines, Comberfield Hall,
Tamworth, Staffordshire B79 9BA. (Tel: Tamworth (0827)
3948)

Wells Palace C.C. A R 1, The Bishop's Palace, Wells, Somerset.
Hon. Sec. W.R.Norton, Aspen Cottage, Milking Lane,
Draycott, Cheddar, Somerset. (Tel: Cheddar (0934) 742604).

5. TIES AND BROOCHES

C.A. Ties are now priced at £2.10; brooches remain at £1. Both are
available from the C.A. Office. Postage on each is 9p.

6. CLUB CONFERENCE

The 1977 Club Conference will be held at The Hurlingham Club
on Saturday 26th November. Clubs may send as many representa-
tives as they wish. Mr Christopher Jaques has agreed to talk on
croquet equipment etc. Any suggestions from Clubs for inclusion in
the Agenda will be welcomed.

R.F.Rothwell,
Secretary

July 1977

Handicap Alterations

Cheltenham Weekend I: April 9-11

T.W.Anderson 7 to 6½; M.J.Evans 1 to ½.

Budleigh Salterton: May 9-14

Lt-Col G.E.Cave 1½ to 2½ (increase at own request); R.Forth 8 to
7½; B.Hancock 6 to 5; A.Ormerod 13 to 12; H.E.Ovens 7 to 6; Mrs
E.Pursey 12 to 11; K.S.Schofield 3½ to 4½ (increase at own
request); C.J.Waller 7 to 6; Judge B.H.Gerrard 12.

The Peels: May 16-21

E.Asa-Thomas 9 to 8; Mrs E.Asa-Thomas 5 to 4½; Lady Bazley 12
to 10 D8; G.F.Blumer 7 to 6; Mrs H.B.H.Carlisle 4 to 3½;
P.M.Johnson 8 to 6; D.S.Jones 11; Mrs D.S.Jones 7; S.N.Mulliner
0 to -½.

Wrest Park Weekend I: May 20-22

E.Audsley 5 to 4; E.Bell 1 to ½; T.W.Anderson 6½ to 6; H.C.
Green 1 to ½; P.Stoker 2 to 1½.

Southwick Weekend: May 23-28

G.Coates 6½ to 5½.

Nottingham Weekend I: June 3-5

P.Cozens 5 to 3; P.Death 6 to 5½; Dr M.T.Haslam 6 to 5½; D. de
Q. Lenfestey 5 to 4; Mrs D. de Q. Lenfestey 8 to 7; Dr T.W.Smith 4;
K.F.W.Townsend 10 to 9; Dr R.F.Wheeler 7 to 6; Mrs
R.F.Wheeler 6 to 5; M.Kolbuszewski 6; J.Meads 3.

Colchester Weekend I: June 4-7

R.S.Alford 3½ to 3; P.L.Alvey 5; E.C.Avery 10; Miss
S.G.Hampson 3 to 2; A.Lindley 7½ to 6½; Lt-Col A.W.D.
Nicholls 9 D8; Mrs F.Stanley-Smith 10 to 9.

Cheltenham Weekend II: June 4-7

Miss J.Assheton 10 to 9; A.J.Girling 5 to 4½; Dr R.C.Jones 12;
Mrs M.A.L.Warren 12 D10.

Southport Weekend: June 4-7

E.L.Gardiner 12 to 11; Mrs N.Tyldesley 5 to 4½; A.Bennet 9;
P.G.Bowler 6.

Parkstone: June 6-11

R.H.C.Carder 6 to 5½; A.F.Coleman 1½ to 1; Mrs S.A.Cosh 11 to
9; S.N.Mulliner -½ to -1; Dr C.A.Parker 2 to 1½; L.Wharrad 10
to 7; J.A.McMordie 11; A.Rushbrooke 10.

Compton: June 6-11

Lt-Col R.Chappell 10 D9; Mrs E.F.Dell 11 to 9; Mrs S.R.Hemsted
5 to 3½; E.J.Tucker -1 to -1½.

Veterans' Championship: June 13-18

R.F.A.Crane 4 to 3½.

Southwick Weekend: June 17-19

A.J.Betts 8 to 6; Mrs R.Bromfield 10; A.Lindley 6½ to 5½; Mrs
C.W.Marshall 11 to 10; T.F.Owen -½ to -1; S.Tapp 0 to -1.

Himley Hall: June 18-19

D.Willetts 6 to 5; L.H.Hawkins 9.

Miscellaneous Club Recommendations

D.G.Richardson 3 to 2½; Mrs G.H.Mapstone 15 D13 to 13.

Budleigh Salterton: June 27 - July 2

A.Ormerod 12 to 11 D10; W.A.Scarr 9 to 7; Mrs W.A.Scarr 11 D9
to 10 D9; Mrs R.S.Stevens 13 to 10; C.J.Waller 7 to 5.

Budleigh Salterton: July 4-9

G.H.Betts 2½ to 3 (increase at own request); Mrs M.J.Goode 10
D8 to 9 D8; Mrs E.M.Lightfoot 1½ to 1; G.H.Mapstone 12; Mrs
C.W.Marshall 10 to 9; S.N.Mulliner -1 to -1½; M.Ormerod 1 to
-½; Mrs C.A.Parker 15 D13; Mrs B.G.Weitz 2½.

Miscellaneous Alterations and Corrections

C.Aberhalden 10 to 9; Mrs C.Aberhalden 15 to 14; Dr
C.A.Boucher 2 to 3½ (increase at own request); M.W.W.
Clotworthy 12; N.J.Davren ½ to 0; Mrs D.Exell 12 D10; D.Foulser
15 D13 to 14 D12; S.J.Garrett 9; C.W.I.Gillespie (S.A.) 2½; J.D.
Gosden 8; F.G.French 8; J.S.Maude 7; Madame O'Morchoe 11 D9
(increase at own request); Lt-Col D.M.C.Prichard -1 to 0
(increase at own request); V.Robinson 13 to 13 D11; Miss C.M.
Sinclair 12.



CROKEY

CROKEY is an indoor game for 2 or 4 players based on
Croquet, played on a checkerboard fitted with hoops and
centre-peg. Counters, representing balls, are moved in a
chess-like manner.

CROKEY has three variants: *Sequence Crokey*, a game of
pure skill modelled on Golf Croquet; *Crokey*, a game of
pure skill based on Association Croquet; and *Error Crokey*
which is Crokey with an element of luck, requiring the use
of two packs of playing cards (not provided with
CROKEY). Sequence Crokey is suitable for younger
children; Crokey and Error Crokey for older children and
adults.

The essential feature of CROKEY is the 'break', i.e. a
turn of one move extended to several moves, achieved by
skilful positioning of the counters. In this respect the
simulation of Croquet is so close that aspiring Croquet
players will find *Crokey* of great value in visualising and
practising the ingenious tactics of the outdoor game.

ERROR CROKEY introduces moves to represent poor
shots in Croquet. Situations which can now be simulated
include: a misjudged approach to a hoop, a ball rebound-
ing from or sticking in a hoop, and a missed roquet. These
misfortunes, coming unawares and at random, are fun,
but they also play an essential role in balancing a game
between experts. Moreover, players can allot any desired
degree of chance to a game to bias it towards skill or luck.

CROKEY is played on a veneered board base, with plated
steel hoops and other quality components. An illustrated
leaflet giving examples of Crokey play may be obtained
upon receipt of a S.A.E.

CROKEY £5.95 including postage and packing in UK.

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