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Printed by Cullingford & Co. Ltd., The Vineyard Press, Colchester

# THE CROQUET GAZETTE

Number 146

Winter 1977

The Official Organ of the Croquet Association

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

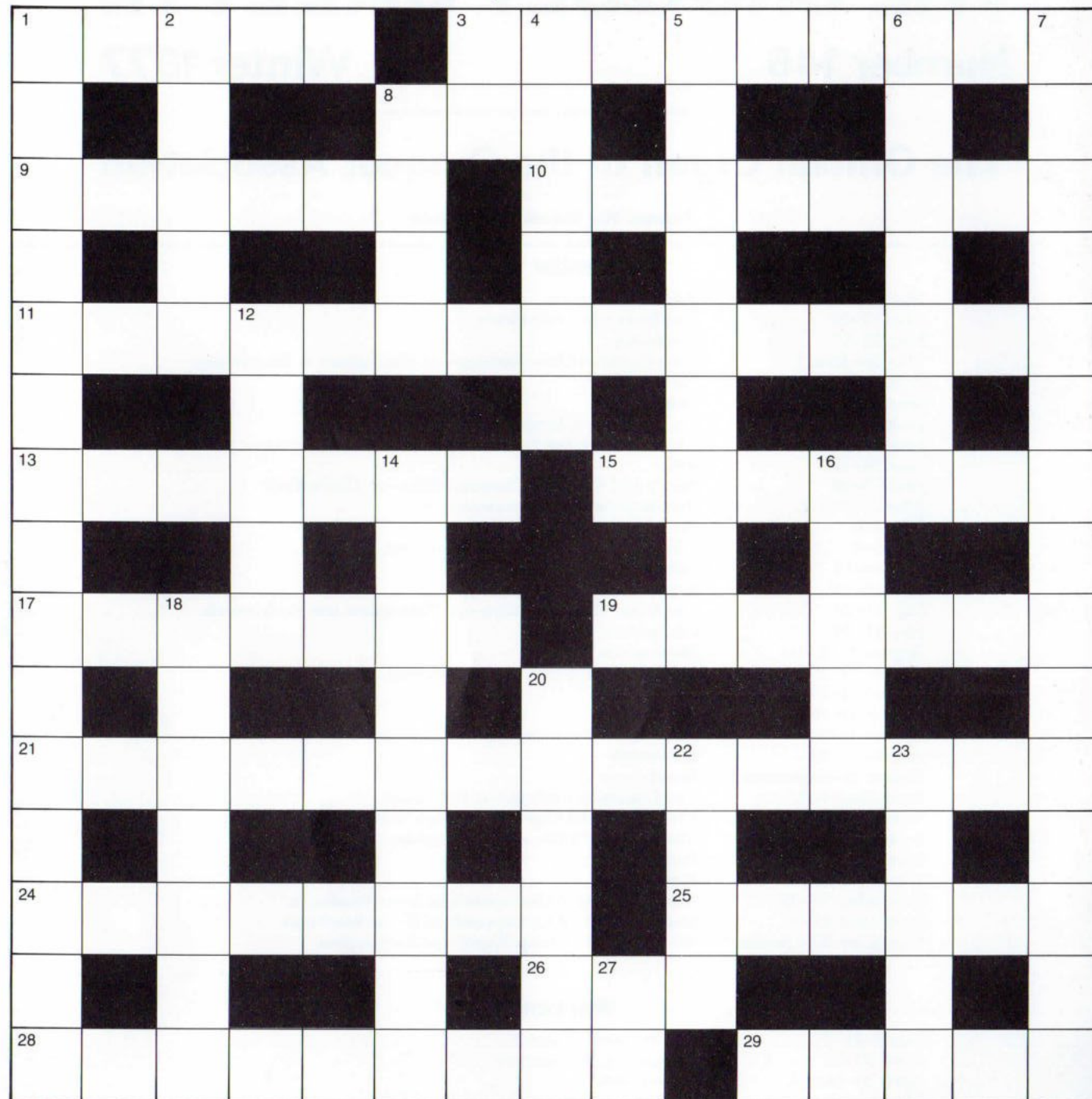
### Calendar 1978

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

### Weekends

March 25-27	Cheltenham I (Easter)
April 20-23	Compton I; Roehampton
April 29-May 1	Hunstanton I
May 13-14	Scottish Croquet Association I
May 19-21	Wrest Park I
May 27-29	Colchester I (Spring Bank Holiday)
May 27-29	Cheltenham II; Southport & Birkdale
June 2-4	Nottingham I
June 9-11	Hunstanton II
June 16-18	Southwick
June 22-25	Woking
July 7-9	Wrest Park II
July 29-30	Compton II
August 25-28	Bowdon (Late Summer Holiday)
August 26-28	Colchester II; Cheltenham III
September 15-17	Ryde; Cheltenham IV
September 16-17	Scottish Croquet Association II
September 22-24	Budleigh Salterton
September 22-24	Nottingham II; Wrest Park III
October 13-15	Cheltenham V

## Croquet Crossword



## ACROSS

- Alternative colour ball (5)
- Usually a fatal place for a ball to be (2, 3, 4)
- Pegged out? This is all you have left (3)
- Deceased jester (6)
- One who stirs up trouble (8)
- An old man remembers—the croquet revival? (6, 5, 4)
- Margin of victory in rowing (7)
- The tice must be laid by someone (2, 5)
- The effect of much slow play on the opponent (7)
- A job to be shared at the end of the game (5, 2)
- A Tournament Manager has it, and it applies to both players and lawns (8, 2, 5)
- Some say the clip does it, but I say it is the player (8)
- A country. One that plays croquet? (6)
- Deceived by the leave (3)
- Threefold exit (6, 3)
- Opposite of inner (5)

## DOWN

- Famous croquet player, now living in South Africa (5, 5-5)
- Feudal lord. Rowing man? (5)
- Having the innings (2)
- Your wish if your take-off is very short (6)
- Next in line of kings (4, 5)
- Expert on insurance background (7)
- The one who may advise from the sidelines (8, 7)
- Can be made to rhyme with croquet (4)
- Unit of work or energy (5)
- Do billiards and snooker help your line-up at croquet (4, 2, 3)
- Famous backwoods battle (5)
- American address with Roman number (4, 3)
- Japanese mainland—yes? (6)
- Lost ball? (4)
- Much needed for a long roll (5)
- Place where (2)

P.D.H.

## An Editor's Farewell

Jacob served a man called Laban for seven years; he got as his reward the wrong girl, and actually had the patience to serve another seven years for the right one. People had more patience years ago, very far from the marrying on the H.P. of today; they would even swallow their pride sometimes and let quite large acts of cheating pass.

But enough of sermonizing. You will pardon me, I'm sure, because I am used to it. Many a Saturday's croquet match have I spent as the out player wondering what I could find to say on the Sunday following. Here I am, seven years on, having served as your Editor (not always patiently, I confess); I have tried to give you an interesting magazine, as well as recording the results and the official information as fully and accurately as I could. Judging by the kind letters and remarks I have received, I have at least satisfied some of the people some of the time. I am luckier than Jacob, because at the end of seven years, having contracted for no reward, I have been lucky enough to be awarded Honorary Life Membership of the C.A., a rare honour. I feel very proud of this, and many of you have helped to make it possible, because the gazette can only be a good magazine if you help to make it so by putting your pen to paper on the croquetical thoughts that occur to your enquiring minds. I am sure I may rely on you to give equal support to my successor, by sending results and other material accurately and on time, and by continuing to write up and send in matters of interest. It really is mainly up to you to make the gazette a good magazine.

There were those among my clerical brethren who had reservations about my taking on the gazette seven years ago, but the truth of the matter is that an Assistant Curate can just about find the time, while a Vicar really can't. The Editorship is very demanding on the Editor's time, as our Chairman was surprised to find out in detail at a recent Editorial meeting. At the time of writing my time of life as a country vicar is likely to begin soon—not too far from a major club, I hope. One thing I do hope is that I shall have more time to play, and to get back to the standard I had 10 years ago when I won the Open Doubles with Dudley Hamilton-Miller. It is difficult to play well with many gazette matters on one's mind and a pile of typing at home or in the clubhouse.

It has been most encouraging during my seven years as Editor to see so many new clubs get off the ground, so many working people starting to play, the consequent expansion of weekend tournaments, and the rise of regional federations and local playing leagues. Croquet on the vicarage lawn is less common than it used to be, but it is more common in the local park or recreation ground. The face of croquet has changed quite a lot these last ten years. Much of the same framework remains, but there are now almost more weekend tournaments in the Calendar than full week tournaments. I remember someone writing some years ago (Was it Maurice Reckitt?): "Work is the curse of the croquet classes". Times have changed. A far higher proportion of croquet players now are working people, and many things have changed as a consequence. Perhaps Bryan rightly perceived in 1971 what was to come with the Development Scheme. Things have turned out much as he thought—the difference is that I welcome it. There is more social life around the clubs than there used to be, more imaginative fund-raising, things which we have perhaps learned from our American and Antipodean fellow-players. And that reminds me that we are now in touch with croquet players in far more countries than we used to be. One's main wish is for an Irish revival. Yet croquet is still full of "characters",—dare one say it—of eccentrics and individualists, and I thank God that it is so. There are so few genuine "characters" around in ordinary life these days. That to me is at least as important as the interest of the game itself.

But it is time to end. I have been happy to serve you these seven years, and I am sure you will give every support to my worthy successor, Mrs Prichard, just as you have done to me. As a last thought, but no less important for that, I must record my thanks

to Keith Wylie, who first talked me into the job, and who has given much help over the years, and to Pat Newton, who has also assisted me.

P.D.H.

## Egyptian Croquet

Up to 1939 the Gezira Club (Cairo) Tournament opened the season for the more wealthy in late February/early March. Those favoured few then went on to three weeks of tournaments on the French Riviera to arrive back in England just in time for the first C.A. meeting at Woking in April.

The Gezira Club has three beautiful croquet lawns. The Club is on a large island in the River Nile and in the good old days the lawns were flooded each evening with the rich silty Nile water so that they were in perfect condition for the next day's play. Champion of Egypt for the three years up to the War was Desmond Beamish, who later played in the President's Cup and retired to Budleigh, where he died some years ago.

During the War croquet of a very high class was played. For several years Robert Tingey, Albert Saalfeld and John Clarke were on the staff of G.H.Q. Cairo, and Charles Friend and Richard Rothwell played there occasionally on leave from the Western Desert. Robert taught the ball-boy Mohammed so efficiently that Mohammed soon played off scratch. He has apparently recently retired.

Recently Golf Croquet has become extremely popular in Egypt, and is played at a large number of clubs in Cairo and Alexandria particularly. In July a party of about 20 croquet players from Egypt came to England for a 10-day trip. They watched some of the play of the Open Championships at Hurlingham, and then travelled to Compton for a Golf Croquet match. The hosts were somewhat taken aback by the standard of play of the visitors and lost the match 8-1. A similar fate befell Hurlingham when that club entertained the visitors for another Golf Croquet match.

The Egyptian Croquet Association has invited an English team, offering free hospitality once in Egypt, to sightsee and play Golf Croquet matches some time before the end of March 1978, with the proviso that we entertain their team in similar fashion when they come to England again next summer. Our problem is to find sufficient players who can afford the fare to Egypt and back.

Nevertheless, we welcomed the opportunity to make contact with players from another country having a love for croquet in common, and maybe from small beginnings something larger will grow in the future.

## A Point of Law (?)

Here was an unusual situation. Petheridge and Valentine, both 'A' Class players, were playing in the final of the Wartling Bowl Open Singles. Petheridge hit his own blue tice and was round to 2-back in a break which involved double-checking each stroke from each end of the lawn. Valentine, whose patience was wearing thin, fetched a picnic basket from his car and began eating his lunch. After making 3-back by taking off from Red on the south boundary, Petheridge hit the pivot ball, took off to the south boundary to pick up Red, but failed to shake the pivot ball and finished with Black in contact with Valentine's basket, which happened(!) to be exactly on the boundary line. Valentine called that he would elect to have Black replaced on the yard line beside Red, but Petheridge objected that Black had not left the court and that, in any case, Valentine should not benefit from an outside agency deliberately introduced by himself. The ensuing argument became very heated, and Valentine had a heart attack and fell into the picnic basket. The question is—was this a hampered stroke?

WOL

## Correspondence

### 'Handicap Increases'

from Dr W.R. Bucknall

Sir,

So handicaps are to be raised once more, as from 1.1.78; at least, some of them will be. The last time this was done, *everybody's* handicap, except those on 15 or 16, was raised by 2 bisques, thus preserving all the differentials. This time the main benefit goes to the really good players. Are the minus players so afraid of the long bisquers that they must take 1½ bisques off the differentials?

The need for the general increase in handicaps presumably arises from two causes: (1) the over-enthusiasm of handicappers in reducing the handicaps of players who don't really deserve to come down, and (2) the reluctance of erstwhile top-class players, who have lost much of their former skill, to ask for their handicaps to be raised.

There are quite a number of sensible ex-top-class players who have already had their handicaps raised, but others cling to their low handicap like a status symbol in spite of hardly ever winning a game. I suggest that the time has come for a handicap increase to cease being dependent on a player's request, but to be arranged by a body of competent handicappers, either at Club level or nationally. If, as a start, the C.A. Handicaps Committee would consider the performance of all the present minus players at the end of each season, and raise the handicaps of those who no longer justify their existing level, the present somewhat clumsy method of dealing with the problem could be avoided.

The whole question of handicaps affects top-class players quite differently from the way it affects those with handicaps of, say, 8 and over. The really top-class players rarely play each other under handicap rules. Some of them certainly enter the Big Handicap events at various tournaments, where their performance can be judged against various opponents, but mostly they play in Advanced Play games. Thus the handicap difference between two top-class layers is mainly dependent on their relative abilities at Advanced Play games. On the other hand, for players of handicap 8 and over, handicap games are their life-blood, and they rarely play in anything else. Their biggest thrill is to be able to beat a top-class player in a handicap game, and if they are among those who are improving rapidly they will win, but then, of course, find that their handicaps are reduced, so that next time they have a harder struggle. But if they have reached a certain standard and are not improving, and their handicaps are correct, they will lose as often as they win. But it is possible to make a fair assessment of their handicap from their performance in handicap games. These new proposals will load the dice against them, and, whereas they may now have a close game against a minus player, in the future with 1½ bisques less they will have much less chance of a close game.

Whilst, in the absence of any other way of dealing with the problems outlined in paragraph 2 above, there may be a good case for raising *everyone's* handicap periodically by 2 bisques, as has been done on previous occasions, leaving all the existing differentials intact, the new proposals leave much to be desired from the standpoint of the long bisquers (and the intermediate ones). It would be nice to know what the justification is for adopting this new system in preference to the previous practice.

Budleigh Salterton,  
Devon.

Yours faithfully,  
W.R. Bucknall

The Editor passed this letter on to Mr R.A. Godby, Chairman of the Handicaps Co-ordination Committee, and he has made the following comments on the points raised in Dr Bucknall's letter:

"The raising of handicaps might well have been expected to produce some criticism from Associates, and Dr Bucknall raises almost all the points which apply.

The main reason, if not the only one, for adopting a sliding scale increase was out of consideration for the higher bisquers who work hard to achieve a reduction and would feel an increasing

sense of discouragement if, say, every time they got down from 10 to 8, they were put back to 10, as might be the case if handicaps were raised by 2 every other year.

As regards any advantage there may now be to the lower bisquers against the higher, this surely will correct itself in a relatively short time by the various means at the disposal of handicappers, while it is far easier for a higher bisquer to improve his game handicapwise than it is for the minus player.

The two points Dr Bucknall raises in his second paragraph may well be valid, and directions have been sent to handicappers covering both.

The question of a review of all handicaps at the end of each season by a committee has been put to me previously, but why should some committee know better what a player's handicap should be than the handicapper in the field?"

R.A. Godby

### 'Handicap Increases'

from Dr I.G. Vincent

Sir,

The sliding scale used for the latest handicap adjustments partly meets an objection to the previous, uniform increases by leaving beginners' handicaps unchanged: only more proficient players will find their handicaps receding from the targets they had set themselves. Unlike a uniform increase, however, the new scheme is no longer a purely cosmetic operation, as players receiving bisques will find to their *chagrin* at the start of the season. An elderly aunt may still have a handicap of 14, but she will receive 1½ fewer bisques from her once minus but still improving nephew.

It could be argued that this effect is unimportant as the young man would have won anyway, but further down the handicap scale each bisque is more valuable, though fewer are at stake. More importantly, this argument is discredited by its very plausibility, and it raises a general question about the handicap system: is it a fair one? Under an equitable system, each player should have an equal chance, and it should not be possible to predict the result of any game. The aunt has a right to as many bisques as are needed to give her an equal chance of winning, just as her nephew would be justly aggrieved if he was repeatedly overwhelmed by his over-confident younger brother, with a bisque or two to spare.

My subjective impression was that the likelihood of winning a game increased rapidly with the number of bisques conceded. This is confirmed by the figures given below, which were compiled from the results of 'Big Handicap' games published in the 1975-6 Gazettes. For each handicap range the number of wins by the lower handicapped player is given, and also expressed as a percentage of the number of games played. Under a fair system this figure would tend to 50% as the number of games played increased. To assess the significance of conclusions drawn from the limited number of results available, consider the experiment of tossing a fair coin once for each game recorded, and counting the number of heads. Of a large number of repetitions of this experiment, the fraction that would result in an equal or greater number of heads than the number of wins recorded is given in the last column. This is also the probability that a fair handicap system would give rise to as large a number of wins by the lower handicap player.

It can be seen from the table that, if five or less bisques are involved, both players stand a roughly equal chance of winning, but, if more bisques are conceded, the player giving them can expect to win more than 70% of the time; this deviation is highly significant. Over-all, 62% of the thousand or so games were won by the lower handicap player, which would be inconceivably improbable under a fair system.

The handicap system was thus unsatisfactory even before the latest change, but I do not think that the remedy lies in expanding the handicap scale: the problem lies deeper. The number of bisques to be given should not equal the difference in handicap, but should exceed it by an amount that should rise from zero at an

increasing rate, as the abilities of the players diverge. A table, similar to that in use for shortened games, should be used. Its construction would be somewhat arbitrary, at least initially, but a table based on the function of  $d + d/50$  looks reasonable. If it were adopted, a 4 playing a 7 would still give 3 bisques, but a 10 handicap would receive 12 from a scratch.

This may appear an unnecessarily complicated solution, but I believe that something must be done to remove the bias inherent in the present system. Part of the difficulty is that the problem is non-linear: a bisque is of intrinsically greater worth to a better player.

HCP. range	No. of games recorded	No. won by lower hcp.	% won	Probability
½—1	196	97	49.5	0.53
1½—2	164	87	53.0	0.24
2½—3	161	89	55.3	0.30
3½—4	133	70	52.6	0.40
4½—5	129	81	62.8	0.0023
5½—6	78	57	73.1	< 0.0001
6½—7	66	51	77.3	< 0.0001
7½—8	52	41	78.8	< 0.0001
8½—9	59	45	76.3	< 0.0001
9½—10	38	34	89.5	< 0.0001
10½—11	15	12	80.0	0.018
11½—12	23	19	82.6	0.0013
12½—13	14	10	71.4	0.090
13½—14	7	6	85.7	0.063
14½—15	9	8	88.9	0.020
> 15	5	5	100.0	0.030
All Games	1149	712	62.0	$2.3 \times 10^{-16}$

Yours sincerely,  
I.G. Vincent

Nottingham.

## Obituary

Captain Harold Nalder, R.N.

I first met Harold Nalder in the autumn of 1963 in response to a request from the Council of the C.A. to investigate the impending closure of the Croquet Section at the Woking Club. He assured me that the Club Committee did not want to close the one lawn remaining, but what were they to do with only 2 playing members? He and I worked out a plan together, and he assured me that if Croquet could be revived he would do his best to persuade the Committee to re-open a second lawn. We did revive Croquet and we got the second lawn *and*, most important of all, Harold took up the game and within a short time became a useful player. He made many friends in the world of Croquet and played at many clubs with his charming wife, Marion, who also took up the game and to whom we extend our sympathy.

It was Harold who revived the locally famous Tennis Club after the War, although he did not play Tennis. This was typical of the man, to devote his time and organising ability to a project from which he got no material advantage, though the local community did. Ultimately he benefited from Croquet—an unexpected dividend for him. I am delighted to have introduced him and his wife to this fascinating game. We shall miss him in the Croquet World, but none more so than those at Woking for whom he worked tirelessly. We have seen three large recruiting drives, of which he and Marion formed the spearhead, and now the result is 42 playing members compared with two 13 years ago! He planted a row of roses along the fence running the length of the two lawns; he was an enthusiastic gardener, a hobby which suffered from the time he spent playing croquet; and it was his pleasure that in this he gave pleasure to others. We at Woking are planting more roses as a token of our affection for him, so that all who come to play here, particularly in our June tournament, may enjoy them and remember his life of service to the Community in which he lived and which he served as a truly Christian Gentleman. "Service before self", he was the rock on which the Woking Club stands; we shall remember him with gratitude.

D.C.C.

## Rover Notes

### It all depends on You

We all have a fear of change, but a change of editor is perhaps most fearful to the new editor himself. The first three editors of the Croquet Gazette covered 50 years, but as the number of issues decreased the turnover in editors increased, to six in the past 24 years, and of these two, like Jacob, served seven years—Jim Townsend and Peter Hallett. Most tournament players keep their gazettes, and looking back they can see how well the Gazette has developed over the past seven years. A good editor senses change in public opinion and he tries to follow it, not to lead it. With only four issues a year it is not possible to carry on a lively dialogue, but your letters, your ideas, your forebodings, your photographs, your hints on tactics, your anecdotes and your jokes are the life-blood of the Gazette. The framework of Official Announcements and the results of tournaments is essential, but it would be lifeless without your contributions. March 1st 1978 is the deadline for material and photographs for the Spring Gazette; coming as it does before the start of the season, it is the ideal chance for you to air your opinions.

### Ceding A Game

In the Open Championship of 1977 a player, having broken down and handed his opponent the innings, ceded the game, although his opponent had still to run the Rover. A player can of course retire at any time, but if he does the result should be so recorded and not as +4 as in the above case. Many people think that to cede a game is both unwise and unethical. Moreover it is illegal. Let us take each of these points in turn.

First, it is unwise because no game is a certainty, especially if there is still a hoop to run. We recall the President's Cup of 1974. John Solomon had only to win his last game against R.J. Murfitt to win the Cup outright. Murfitt was only for 4-back and 5, while Solomon with his partner ball for the peg and the balls perfectly placed, unaccountably stuck in the easiest of rover hoops, lost the game and the subsequent play-off against Aspinall.

Secondly, it is discourteous to an opponent to deprive him of the satisfaction of a clear cut win.

Finally, it is illegal as a result of a long-forgotten incident in the semi-final of the C.A. Gold Medals in 1936 (E. Longland v. E.G. Heathcote). Longland had won the first game and in the second had one ball pegged out and the other for the peg. Heathcote broke down with both his balls close together in baulk, and, in the mistaken impression that his opponent had a lift, knocked his balls off the court, ceding the game. A referee ruled that the balls be replaced, and Heathcote won, going on to win the third game and the match. The Laws Committee subsequently ruled that the referee's decision was wrong, but issued an instruction that in future both balls must be pegged out and there was to be no ceding. This ruling, never having been rescinded, still stands.

There was a curious sequel. The council gave a special ruling that under the circumstances Longland was entitled to a C.A. Silver Medal as if he had won and become a finalist.

### 'Le Weekend'

Twenty years ago very little croquet was played on a Sunday; there was no morning play and nothing approaching a match or a tournament was allowed in the afternoon. But gradually the continental attitude to Sundays became more acceptable, and in 1956 Hunstanton started the trend for weekend tournaments. Three years later Cheltenham introduced their Whitsun tournament, which was such a success that by 1965 they were running five weekend tournaments, spanning the season from April till October, and all were so overbooked that entries closed in January. Woking, Nottingham, Colchester and Compton soon followed and by 1970 there were 10 and by 1977 23 weekend tournaments in the Fixtures List.

There is great variety in the conditions, but all clubs assume that entrants want the maximum amount of play. Wrest Park

offers seven games in three days (an Opens event), but most offer a minimum of five in three days with entry fees ranging from £1 to £2.50. Light suppers, hostel accommodation, leave for working players, play on a choice of days at 50p per day, are some of the inducements offered at different clubs. The weekend tournament is a growing industry and it is complementary to the 6 day tournament; the casual, lighthearted atmosphere of the weekend tournament can never be a substitute for the eyeball to eyeball confrontation of the traditional one. The established clubs have done a great service to croquet in attracting players who might otherwise never have had the chance of testing their skills, but if 7 games in 3 days for £2 is 'best buy' for the weekend, Michael Heap's 25 games in 7 days for £5 at the Open Championships in 1977 could hardly be bettered.

### Bisques in the Old Days

The Croquet Gazette of 1908 describes how in the Open Handicap at Winchester K.H. Izard, a brilliant and flamboyant young New Zealander, had a sensational win against Captain R.J.W. Arbuthnot, although the latter had been in play with 3 bisques in hand and both balls rovers. One's first reaction is to marvel at the ineptitude of Captain Arbuthnot. But on delving deeper we find that it was not ineptitude but the existing laws that defeated the gallant Captain.

In the days of the sequence game, if a ball was pegged out, its owner had only one turn to his opponent's two, as he had to wait till it was the turn of the next ball in sequence. Secondly, a player could not take two bisques consecutively (unless he had failed to make a hoop or roquet with his first bisque).

We can now reconstruct the game from the brief description given. Captain Arbuthnot with 3 bisques in hand is sailing to victory. Yellow is already a rover, and he runs the Rover with Red in a bisque turn with Yellow as pilot, Black and Blue being separated. Unfortunately he fails to get the rush to the peg. He cannot take another bisque by the laws, so the best he can do is to lay a rush for an easy peg-out for Yellow, with the aid of a bisque is necessary, in his next turn. But there is no next turn, nor even another shot. Izard for 2 with Black and 4-back with Blue, hits a long shot with Black, goes all round and (note the cumming) pegs out Yellow. He then lays up how and where he likes, secure in the knowledge that Red has no intermediary turn as it is not the next ball in sequence (Blue and Red at 4-back and Black at Penult would seem to be the easiest possible get-out from 4-back).

It was this kind of happening, which deprived the long bisquer of the full value of his bisques, that led to the abolition of all restrictions on the consecutive use of bisques in 1920.

### Accommodation

Finding somewhere to stay for a tournament is still a problem. Some players are too diffident to ask the Club or Tournament Secretary to arrange something for them, and indeed it might well be considered an unwelcome imposition. How do clubs deal with this dilemma? Mr E.J. Tucker of Compton has suggested that the name and address of an Accommodation Secretary should be included in the Fixtures List. He would be willing to help find accommodation in Eastbourne.

### A Croquet Player's Prayer

(with apologies to the Fisherman's Prayer)

*I thank thee, Lord, that in my life  
Croquet has played a lovely part:  
Has found me friends and kept me fit  
And warmed the cockles of my heart.*

*So when I play my final match,  
May I not have the smallest doubt  
That when I've run the Rover hoop  
Thou wilt be there to peg me out.*

G. Borrett

## 1977 In Restrospect

### WIND OF CHANGE

1977 in the Chinese Calendar was the year of the snake. In our Croquet Calendar we might perhaps look back on it, especially at top level, as the year of snakes-and-ladders. Among those who climbed, David Openshaw deserves a very honourable mention for his promotion to the First Eight, so well justified in performance. Michael Heap found a Midas touch with a flow of triple peels to win the Open Championship, and also the Doubles Championship with Stephen Wright; and Keith Wylie came back with a fine display of consistent precision and attack to win the President's Cup. The picture which emerges is this: there is so little difference in the standard and potentialities of our top dozen players that on the two important occasions when they meet one mistake or a failure to hit the lift shot may decide the issue of the match. On the reverse side, therefore, it would be true to say to say of Nigel Aspinall that while he did not win the Open Championship or the President's Cup, where his long shots were not connecting with their usual frequency, his mastery of the game in every sphere remains unimpaired when he is in play. William Prichard, with no opportunity for practice before his first appearance at Hurlingham in August, was quickly back in his best form to score an outstanding victory in a strong Chairman's Salver, where Martin Murray finished second, one place above Eric Solomon. Bernard Neal suffered a sharp and unexpected "snake bite" from N.J. Davren in the Championship, but made no mistake in proving himself the following month by winning the Hurlingham Opens without a defeat. Colin Prichard was not quite able to maintain the high standard which he reached last year, but Paul Hands in the unaccustomed company of the Spencer Ell contestants could do no more than win. This he did most convincingly.

The season opened with the Budleigh American tournament, which was attended by 19 visitors. The three winners of the various play-off matches between the block winners were B.G. Perry (playing "immaculately" according to the report), H.E. Ovens and L. Wharrad, while C. Edwards and C.J. Waller were successful in the Handicap Doubles. The Peel Memorials followed on at Cheltenham. Here P.M. Johnson, reduced from 8 to 6½ during play, defeated G.F. Blumer (7) in the Play-Off of the Men's Event, and Mrs Carlisle (4) was the winner of the Women's Challenge Bowl against Mrs Povey (3½). From the 36 entries in the Handicap Singles Steve Mulliner came through to win the final against Revd W.E. Gladstone, and in partnership with Lady Bazley gained a further success in the Handicap Doubles after a close game in the final with Col. Wheeler & Mrs Handley.

Bedfordshire and Surrey met in the final round of the Counties' meeting to decide the issue. Here Bedfordshire, who shared the honours with Midlands last year, were successful 2-1. Under the able leadership of Vic Rees they are a most enthusiastic team who seem able, in a remarkable manner, to play their own respective matches and at the same time keep a watchful and encouraging eye upon their colleagues on the adjoining courts!

First-time visitors from Hurlingham to the Compton tournament (fully booked as usual) were successful in no less than four of the five events. Stephen Hemsted shared the Open Singles with E.J. Tucker with the score at one game all, and won the Handicap Doubles with his wife by the narrow margin of 1 point against Giles Borrett & G.A. Hutcheson. Marion Hemsted took the Handicap Singles, giving Tucker no chance in the final, and S.G. Kent won the 'B' Levels. Tucker was in conspicuous evidence throughout the week. Some excellent matches were seen in the Men's and Women's Championships. Steve Mulliner, who in the interim had won the Open and Handicap Singles at Parkstone, defeated the holder, Martin Murray, in a 3-game match of high quality, but then lost in the semi-final against Openshaw. Edgar Jackson, having removed Paul Hands from his path after losing the first game, faced Openshaw in the final. The latter, with a clear chance of victory in two straight games, suddenly missed an

easy hoop and lost the second game. The third game went decisively in Jackson's favour. Playing with confidence and accuracy he became once again the Men's Champion. Frances Joly, favoured by the draw which set her four rivals to do battle in the other half, met Jocelyn Sundius-Smith, the winner of two close encounters against Betty Prichard and Barbara Meachem, in the final of the Women's Championship and won in two straight games. Jackson & Mrs Povey survived a tense finish against Godby & Mrs Meachem and went through to defeat Whittington & Miss Arkell in the final of the Mixed Doubles Championship. Martin Murray with a series of triple peels won both Draw and Process to take the Du Pre Cup, Betty Prichard being the runner-up after a Play-Off against Barbara Meachem.

Newcomers were prominent in the Challenge & Gilbey Cup meeting at Southwick, where M. Phelps (10\*) beat L. Wharrad (7) in the Gilbey final and was also the winner of Division 3 Challenge Cup against the same opponent. Mrs Bromfield was the winner in Division 4, and Mrs Cosh, partnered by W.E. Moore, won the Handicap Doubles. Tyrwhitt Drake, with two notable victories against Jackson, completed a highly satisfactory week by defeating T.F. Owen in the play-off for the Roehampton Challenge Cup, R.S. Eades being the winner in Division 2.

It was very pleasant to read of John Cooper's win at the Budleigh July tournament with a triple peel against P. Newton in the final. When he is in form, he is an exciting player to watch, reminiscent in style and approach to the game of another Devonian, Charles Coleman, who was Open Champion in 1937. Other winners at this meeting were L.D. Adams in the 'B' Levels, Mrs C.W. Marshall in the 'C' Handicap, S.N. Mulliner in the Handicap Singles, and Col. Prichard & Guy Warwick in the Handicap Doubles. Mrs E.M. Lightfoot not only reached the final of the Handicap Singles but also had the distinction of defeating B.G. Perry in the Process.

The Open Championship, fully and admirably reported elsewhere, marked a progression from the Leap year of 1976 to the "Heap year" of 1977. Heap, here as also in the President's Cup, was slow to get into his stride on the first day. But having played himself in, he went from strength to strength and reached the peak of his form in the final, where he played a beautiful second game to win the Championship. Ormerod, who has come so close to the title for two years now, may perhaps derive a measure of consolation and hope in the thought that it took Sir Gordon Richards more than 20 years to ride his first Derby winner. His turn will surely come in its appointed time. To win a Doubles match by 1 point in the third game is a real cliff-hanger, but to win it by one point on time was the nerve-racking experience of Heap and Stephen Wright, in their marathon first round match with Colin Prichard and Godby. This victory spurred both players to greater heights: having defeated the formidable alliance of Aspinall & Ormerod, they went on to win the final of the Doubles Championship against Neal & Hemsted, coming from behind in the second game which their opponents were winning all the way except at the final peg-out. From a first glance at the entry for the Association Plate, it would have been a reasonable guess to expect the winner to come from the quartet of Colin Prichard, Mulliner, Terence Read and Neil Robinson, but a different pattern emerged. E.J. Tucker had one of those inspired weeks in which he could do nothing wrong. Having taken the scalps of Mulliner and Colin Prichard in succession, he finished with a +25 victory against a bewildered Stephen Wright, who was unaccustomed to being given only one opportunity of taking croquet. In this event J.R.G. Solomon and J. Haigh deserve honourable mention. Other features of the week's play were Davren's win over Neal; Openshaw's two matches of quality against Wylie and Ormerod; and the very unexpected success of Southern and Haigh against Murray and Hope.

Further variations of "Snakes-and-Ladders" were seen in the Hurlingham Cup during the August tournament. Thus we read in the Process: "Mulliner beat W. Prichard, Rees beat Mulliner, Solomon beat Rees, Neal beat Solomon", and in the Draw, "Godby beat Mulliner, Neal beat Godby, Prichard beat Solomon, Neal

beat Prichard!" Neal in winning the Cup played better and more consistent croquet than any other competitor. John Wheeler also did well to become runner-up as the result of a win in the Play-Off against Eric Solomon. D.J. Croker won the Turner Cup, Professor Skempton the Younger Cup and Mrs Croker the Longworth Cup. In the Hurlingham Open Mixed Doubles Stephen and Marion Hemsted just out-paced Hope and Mrs Asa-Thomas in a race for the peg, while Mrs Skempton & Mrs Carlisle, after a close call against Mrs Weitz & Mrs Moorcraft, defeated Mrs Meachem & Lady Bazley, the holders, in the final of the Ladies Field Candlesticks. Haigh & Wharrad pegged back some more fancied pairs to score a well-deserved win in the Men's Handicap Doubles. From 52 entries in the Silver Jubilee Cup M.J. Stevens—a much improved player since the beginning of the season—made good use of his 3½ bisques to ensure that he stayed in a winning position against Barbara Meachem in the final round; he achieved an impressive victory without any undue difficulty.

The results in the Women's three Open C.A. events call to mind that well-worn phrase of Caesar, "Omnis Gallia in tres partes divisa est". This year the three winning "Galls" (if they will forgive my irreverent, though complimentary, delineation!) were Frances Joly (Women's Open), Barbara Meachem (Ladies' Field) and Betty Prichard (South of England), followed by Kitty Wheeler with two second places and Jocelyn Sundius-Smith with one. Their matches were always most enjoyable to watch and always unpredictable.

The names of Stephen Wright and of Mulliner must be joined with that of Openshaw as the most improved players of the season. It was unfortunate that Mulliner could not take part in the Chairman's Salver. Others who were also in the limelight on occasions were E.J. Tucker (frequently), Haigh, Roger Wood, Tyrwhitt Drake, Mrs Povey, Lady Bazley, Mrs Carlisle, M.J. Stevens, John Phillips, Terry Wood, Malin, Wallis, Mackenzie—Bowie and Wharrad.

An enjoyable match was played at Cheltenham between the C.A. and Scotland, the visitors winning 6-3. The final of the Inter-Club Championship, between Hurlingham and Harrow Oak, resulted in a narrow win for Hurlingham, Stephen Hemsted defeating John Phillips by 1 point in the decisive game. Congratulations to A.E.R.E. Harwell and Bretby who came through four rounds of the Longman Cup to meet in the final, which was won by Harwell 4-1. Twenty-nine clubs entered for this popular event, a post-war record. Congratulations also to Matthew Tapp of Southwick, undefeated in the final of the All-England Handicap and surely the youngest player ever likely to win this competition. The other finalists were N. Maclean, S.G. Garrett, M. Smith, I.G. Vincent and C.T.J. Lindsay.

And so, as we say goodbye to 1977, we may look forward with eager anticipation to the 1978 season, at the end of which our Test-Team-to-be will once again face the challenge of New Zealand and Australia, and on laws which will be a lot faster than Hurlingham. To them and to all Associates I send an advance Spring greeting, "May there be no Snakes on your Ladders during 1978", and, as a school-master friend used to say to me, "Good Hooping!"

D.J.V.H.M.

### Hidden Words II — Solution

*Across:* Chairman; Chair; Vandeleur; Member; Roehampton.  
*Back:* Cheltenham; South; Final; Yellow; Double; Double Bank; Totals; Umpire.  
*Down:* Coach; Her Off Day.  
*Up:* President; Entry; Cannon; Budleigh; Veteran; Associate.  
*Diag. Down to Right:* Shall I peel you?  
*Down to Left:* Corner; Put Clip On; Boundary; Jaques.  
*Up to Right:* Point.

**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 Mrs D.M.C.Prichard, Gobion Manor, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire (Tel. Gobion (087 385) 242).

**Deadline**

Copy for the Spring Issue of the Croquet Gazette must reach the Editor at the above address not later than 1st March 1978.

**The Imperfect Double — Where Should One Aim?**

With a perfect double, i.e. two balls separated by exactly one ball space (as in Figure 1 (b)), the angle subtended by the target is twice that subtended by a single ball at the same distance (as in Figure 1 (a)), and the best place to aim is of course the middle. If, however, the balls are separated by more than one ball diameter (as in Figure 1 (c)), it is possible to go between without touching, and if the striker is very close it is clearly not desirable to aim at the middle. The question that arises is — “Is it ever worth aiming at the middle, and if so, at what distance should one do so?”

This question can be answered if one makes the reasonable assumption that the deviations of shots from the true line of aim follow the so-called “Normal Distribution”, which can be expressed as the angle within which 68% of his shots will fall. If this standard deviation is known for a particular player, then the probability of hitting “doubles” having any stated separation of the pair of balls, at any distance, can be calculated by reference to statistical tables. The difficulty is, of course, that the standard deviation varies enormously from player to player, and for one player it will vary from day to day or from court to court.

This difficulty can be overcome by relating the probability of hitting “doubles” to the percentage of hits to be expected on a single ball at the same distance. The results can then be made to apply to all players, good and bad shots alike, by adjusting the distance from the target for each player so that all have an equal chance of hitting a single ball. This method of expressing the results is illustrated by the numbers given in the table, and by the graphs shown in Figure 2. For example, in the table, it will be seen that, for a particular player at a particular distance, if he hits a single ball in 64.8% of his shots, he will hit a perfect double in 93.7% of his shots (if he aims at the middle), or in 82.1% of his shots (if he aims at one of the balls). The table gives similar results for some other separations of the “double”. The significance of these results will be discussed later.

The complete set of results (i.e. the probability of hitting at all distances) is presented in the form of graphs, one pair for each chosen separation of the balls in the “double”, as shown in Figure 2, which gives the graphs for six separations ranging from a perfect double up to a separation of about 2 yards. Each of these graphs is a plot of the percentage of hits to be expected for the “double” on the vertical axis against the percentage of hits on a single ball on the horizontal axis. Thus, referring to the upper left diagram which applies to a perfect double, if a player is at such a distance that he would hit a single ball in 50% of the shots, graph M indicates that at that distance he would hit a perfect double in 82% of the shots if he aimed at the middle, and graph B indicates that he would hit in 73% of the shots if he aimed at one of the balls.

As expected, with a perfect double graph M never crosses below graph B, and this represents the fact that with a perfect double it is always better to shoot at the middle, whatever the distance of the target. For all spacings greater than one ball diameter, as represented by the remaining five diagrams in Figure 2, curve M crosses over and falls below curve B for high percentage hits on a

single ball, i.e. for short distances from the target. For very short distances all curves M (other than that for the perfect double) tend towards zero, in agreement with the fact that the chance of going through the middle is then 100%.

Notice that curves M and B tend to the same value at low percentage hits on a single ball and this value is twice that for a single ball. This is the same as saying that when the target is a long way away it makes little difference whether the striker aims at the middle or at one of the balls, his chance of hitting being twice that for a single ball in both cases. The question of interest is — “Over what range does curve M exceed curve B, and by how much?”. The areas where this occurs are shown hatched in the diagrams. They are comparatively small areas, and the gain is at best rather small. To illustrate how small this gain is, the position on each diagram at which the difference between curves M and B is greatest was located and the values at these positions are given in the table. It will be seen that even with a perfect double the difference is only 11.6% (i.e. 93.7 minus 82.1) and falls rapidly as the separation of the “double” increases (see last column in the table). Perhaps a fairer method of expressing the results would be as a percentage gain for aiming at the middle over the results achieved when aiming directly at one of the balls. At the distance giving the maximum advantage, it turns out that for every 100 hits aimed directly at one of the balls, aiming at the middle would give 114 hits, whatever the separation of the two balls in the “double”.

This maximum advantage of 14% is only available at one particular distance for a given separation of the “double”. For many players it will be very difficult to estimate whether a double is situated at or near this distance. It is considered therefore that the small advantage that can be gained by aiming at the middle at certain limited target ranges is more than outweighed by the danger of misjudging the optimum target range, so that it is always better to shoot at one of the balls if there is space enough for the striker’s ball to pass between.

There are other factors favouring the shot at one of the balls. There is the psychological effect of having a specific aiming point (i.e. a ball) which is more likely to persuade the striker to take careful aim than he would when aiming at a vague “middle”. The striker also has the choice of which ball to aim at, and frequently one ball is advantageous: for example, the other ball may be further away, or near a hoop, or near a boundary that is known to “run off”. It may be that the striker knows that he is tending to pull left on that particular day — in that case he aims at the right hand ball.

To sum up therefore, the striker need remember only one simple rule — always aim at a ball unless the space between is too small for a ball to pass through. Experienced players may say they knew that all the time, but it is reassuring to have the statistics to back up one’s opinion, particularly when taking a very critical shot!

C.A.Parker

PERCENTAGE HITS ON A SINGLE BALL, AND ON A “DOUBLE”, AT DISTANCE AT WHICH AIMING AT THE MIDDLE GIVES THE MAXIMUM ADVANTAGE

SINGLE BALL — % hits	“DOUBLE”			
	Number of ball spaces between balls	% hits aiming at the middle	% hits aiming at one of the balls	Advantage in aiming at the middle %
64.8	1 perfect double	93.7	82.1	11.6
50.4	1½	73.9	64.9	9.0
41.8	2	61.4	53.9	7.5
31.6	3	45.9	40.3	5.6
12.7	9 1 yard between centres	18.5	16.3	2.2
6.4	19	9.3	8.2	1.1

Figure 1

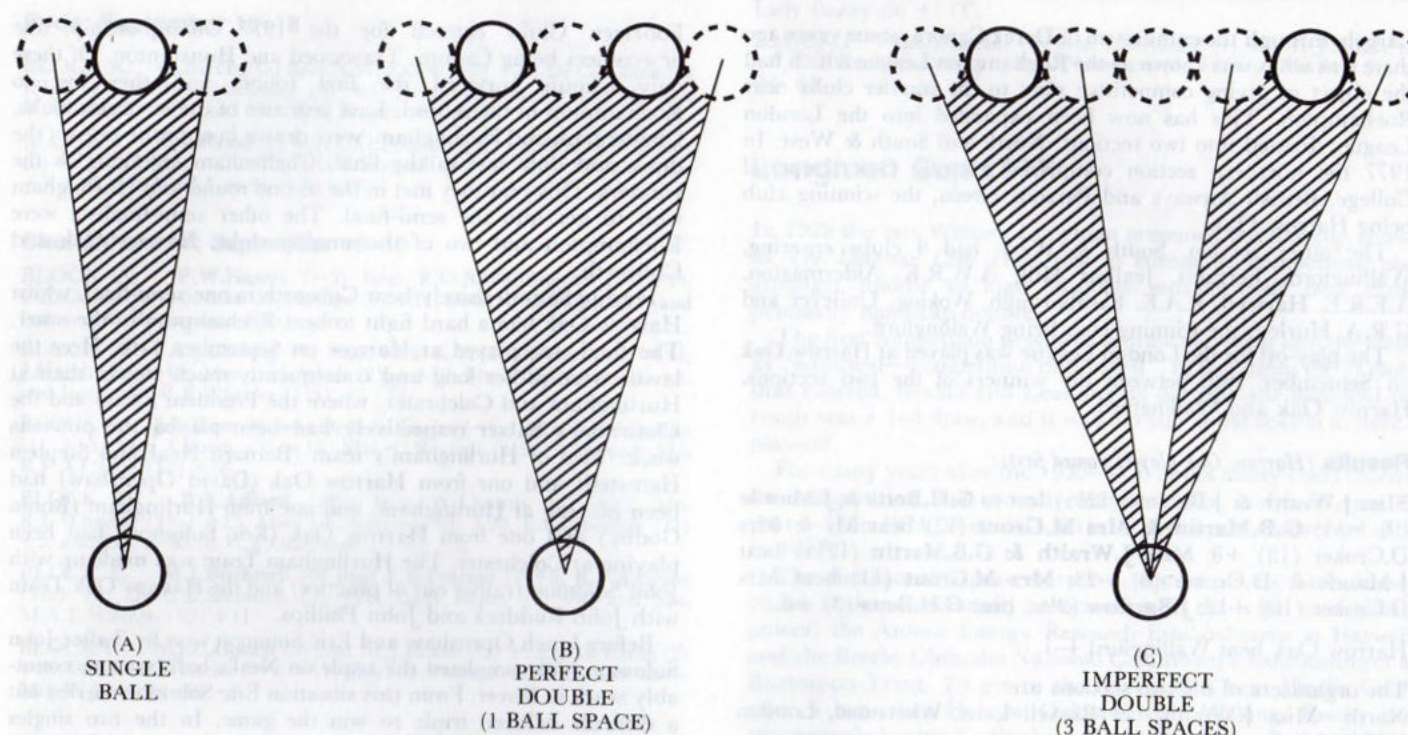
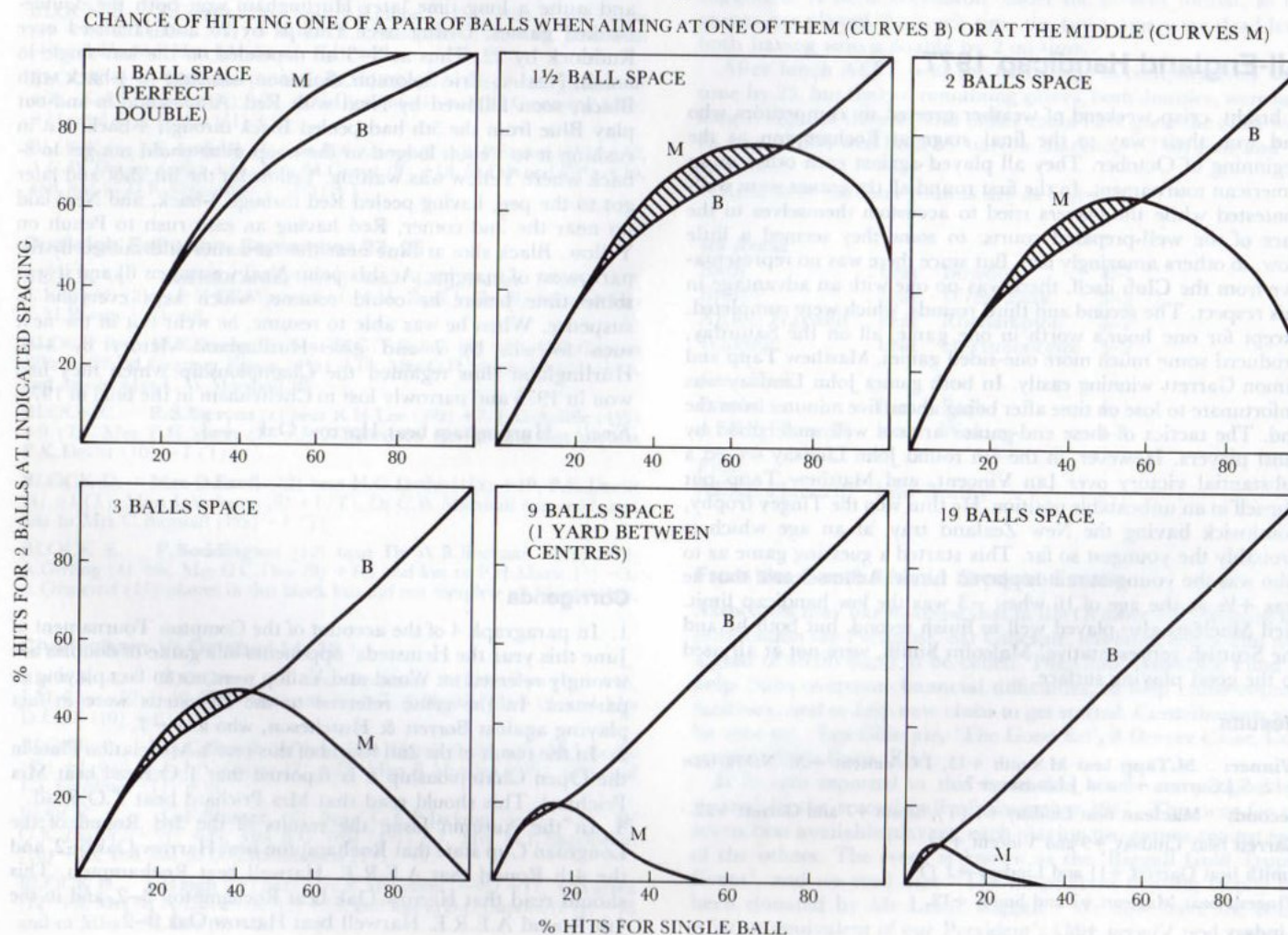


Figure 2





## The President's Cup: September 6-10

I was thinking for a moment at the half-way stage of this year's President's Cup how thankful any Selection Committee would have felt that they were not being asked, here and now, to produce an official Ranking List. For we were seeing Wylie, who had made no showing in the Open Championship, now leading the field with Aspinall, and the Open Champion trailing in 8th position! But—Fiat Justitia!—this picture was, at least in one respect, soon to be changed for the better.

The Hurlingham lawns, thanks to the careful and constant attention of Mr Ponton and his staff, had fully recovered from last year's severe drought and were in excellent condition, although they proved rather too easy for a competition of this nature. The pattern of play quickly diverged from that of last year and gradually developed into an exciting Hare-and-Hounds chase, with Wylie the nimble and ever-elusive Hare, closely pursued by Aspinall and Ormerod leading the pack. The first fluctuations occurred on Wednesday. Wylie fell to Aspinall and again to Neal in a game which he should have won. At the same time Aspinall was well and truly defeated by Hope. The half-way stage was reached with Wylie and Aspinall having scored 5 wins, Ormerod, Hope and Openshaw having 4 wins. Openshaw's four successive victories were especially notable, following, as they did, a blank Tuesday.

The issue was therefore extremely open when the Second Series began. Wylie at once edged again into the lead, as Openshaw with a grandstand finish defeated Aspinall by 1. But it was not until Round 11 that we saw the beginning of the final break-through, with Wylie winning against Ormerod and Aspinall losing to Heap. Wylie, now 2 up with 3 to play, faced the challenge of Aspinall in a vital match, where after early level exchanges he forged ahead to win both the game and the President's Cup for the second time, after an interval of 10 years. Always resilient and cool under pressure, he staved off every challenge by hitting the important long shots and indeed was going away from the field at the finish with a clear lead of 3 points. When he was being congratulated on his success, it was very characteristic, I thought, of him to add, in a serious tone of voice, "But I'm still a bit below my best"! Aspinall always looked like finishing in the first two and although he was not hitting in so frequently in the Second Series, the power and accuracy of his rushes were unequalled by any other player. Ormerod gave his customary consistent and polished display. When he has the innings, mistakes are a rarity and he excels in fighting an uphill battle. Openshaw, having received an unusual but well-deserved "Double Remove" from his Spencer Ell status of last year, created the surprise of the meeting. His shooting was a strong and valuable asset which, together with his accuracy of touch, finally brought him up level with Ormerod to share 3rd place—a result which would have been beyond his wildest dreams on Tuesday evening. Hope played two superb games without blemish and, considering that four out of his eight defeats were marginal ones, he was always well in the hunt. Only some periodic failures with his approaches and hoop-running prevented him from taking a higher place. Heap, for whom nothing went right in the First Series, suddenly blazed into dynamic activity like a volcano, winning 5 games of the Second Series, including a triple peel against Aspinall and a quadruple peel against Hemsted—a fine recovery most welcome to watch. Neal with 4 wins experienced hoop trouble, which too often proved expensive; and during the Second Series his opponents always seemed to be in their very best form! Yet his one win against Wylie with a triple peel was a model of accuracy and strong nerve. Hemsted with 3 wins finished in 8th position, but he was well in the fight in every game except one and scored a very creditable total of points, which would have placed him easily above Neal and only just below Heap. His two matches with Aspinall showed him to be an opponent against whom you can certainly not relax.

Richard Rothwell controlled operations during the week with assurance and efficiency. Only three games exceeded their allotted time limit.

**Round 1.** An unlucky take-off by Openshaw finished on the boundary line, giving Aspinall an easy second break, to which he added a triple. Neal, holding the initiative, established two separate breaks against Ormerod, but failure to carry them through turned a probable triple peel victory into ultimate defeat. Hope and Heap played undistinguished croquet, until Hope suddenly struck form and went round in two breaks to win with a triple. Wylie v. Hemsted: both players had chances. Finally, when Wylie accidentally pegged out his playing ball, Hemsted's quick progress looked threatening until Wylie scored the necessary direct hit.

**Round 2.** After level pegging to 4-back, Ormerod, facing Aspinall, was in play with his second ball but stuck in Hoop 5. Aspinall won in two more turns. Neal v. Openshaw: a level game. The turning point came when Openshaw was hoop-bound after making 1-back. Neal made an accurate 3-ball break to win. Hope v. Hemsted: another level game. Hope led in the later stages but twice failed to run Rover. Hemsted should now have won but over-rolled 2-back. Heap was triple-peeled by Wylie but hit and established a 3-ball break, only to fail at Hoop 5. Wylie won with a 3-ball break from Hoop 3.

**Round 3.** Heap gradually built up a long lead and when he broke down at Penult with his second ball, Neal missed from 5 yards. Hemsted reached peg and 4-back with Aspinall at 4-back and 2. A weak approach to Penult gave Aspinall a lift. Using his forward ball, he pegged out his opponent. Hemsted hit from baulk and won. With Aspinall on peg and 4-back, Wylie hit and advanced to Hoop 6, wiring Openshaw at Hoop 1. Then, going round with his backward ball, he pegged out his opponent and later, when Openshaw missed a long difficult Rover, he finished with a 3-ball break. Ormerod won a close and exciting game against Hope, which was enlivened by splendid hitting-in on both sides during the later stages.

**Round 4.** Aspinall v. Wylie: Aspinall was in command throughout, Wylie's only chances being to hit the two lift shots. Hope was on peg and 4-back but then failed to make Rover. Neal made one good break before the end came. Heap in his second break missed the first hoop, giving Ormerod the opportunity to complete the course in two turns and win. After long sparring, Openshaw, now at peg and 4-back, missed a rush, enabling Hemsted to progress but not avoid final defeat.

**Round 5.** A fine exhibition of croquet by Hope allowed Aspinall only 5 long shots, which missed. Neal v. Wylie: Neal's finest hour. Wylie, when finishing, under-hit a simple approach to Rover. Neal, from hoops 1 and 2, went round twice and finished with a triple. Heap v. Openshaw: Heap, coming from behind, had almost double-peeled his opponent when he rushed the ball into Rover. Openshaw then pegged out Heap and won. Ormerod gave Hemsted no quarter, winning in two breaks with a triple.

**Round 6.** Wylie, going round with his second break, stuck in Rover. Ormerod advanced to 4-back but Wylie had the last word. Aspinall was quickly at peg and Rover. Heap hit a long shot but could only make one hoop. Openshaw v. Hope: after level exchanges with some errors on both sides, Openshaw hit the lift shot with his backward ball and finished from Hoop 5. Neal held a commanding lead before Hemsted replied with a fine rally, pegging out his opponent. Neal hit the vital second lift and won.

**Round 7.** Neal reached 2-back before Aspinall, now at 4-back and 2-back, advanced to Rover by some splendid rushes. Neal hit but blundered at 2-back. Heap v. Hemsted: after level exchanges the game turned in Hemsted's favour when Heap became hoop-bound after making 1-back and had no further chance. Hope v. Wylie: Hope could have won this game, which alternated between good play and mistakes. Two successive failures at 2-back proved his undoing. Openshaw v. Ormerod: probably Openshaw's finest game. He was at peg and Rover before Ormerod gained the innings, which was, however, short-lived.

**Round 8.** Wylie v. Hemsted: after level exchanges to 4-back, Hemsted broke down at Hoop 5. Wylie finished with a fine triple. With Openshaw at 4-back and 1, Aspinall missed his peg-out and left one ball in. Openshaw hit and went round to the peg. After another narrow miss by Aspinall, Openshaw completed a splendid victory. Hope v. Heap: positions were level when Hope missed 1-back during the course of a triple. Heap took his backward ball round and pegged out his opponent, to win. Ormerod was quickly away. Neal hit the lift but became hoop-bound after Hoop 5. Ormerod finished with a double peel.

**Round 9.** Aspinall v. Hope: Aspinall in an invincible mood. Hope hit the lift but failed at Hoop 3. Aspinall covered the course in 47 minutes. With Neal at 4-back, Heap hit in and went round in two turns to peg and Rover, beginning his second break with an amazing pass-roll. Openshaw hit the final lift when Wylie was on peg and Rover, and went round until he was unluckily cross-peeled after running Penult. His shot at the only open ball finished in baulk, to give Wylie victory. Ormerod, in a needle finish, pegged out Hemsted with the remaining balls at 4-back. Hemsted from baulk lined up a triple target but missed! Ormerod wins +1.

**Round 10.** Wylie was quickly at 4-back. Neal had one good chance but missed Hoop 2. Wylie finished in two turns. Aspinall v. Hemsted: Hemsted attacked continuously until defeated by Penult. Later, he missed a vital medium-length roquet when Aspinall stuck in Hoop 4. Aspinall thenceforward called the tune. Openshaw, shooting at Heap's backward ball by Hoop 2, hit the wire. From this position Heap clinched victory with an accurate break. Ormerod, having made one hoop in two hours, nearly achieved a sensational victory against Hope by brilliant stonewalling tactics. Advancing slowly but surely, he finally pegged out his opponent, leaving the remaining balls at Penult. He made Rover and wired on the side boundary. Hope, with one quarter of a ball open, hit and won!

**Round 11.** Hope, playing smoothly and accurately, defeated Neal with a triple. Openshaw at peg and 4-back missed and Hemsted went round but was later hoop-bound after 1-back. He was given no further chance. Wylie v. Ormerod: Wylie gained the initiative in the 5th turn and did not relinquish it until an accident occurred at Rover during his second break. Ormerod, in play, over-rolled 1-back: Curtain. Aspinall v. Heap: Heap's finest game, finishing with a triple against Aspinall.

**Round 12.** Ormerod v. Heap: Ormerod was in control throughout. Heap hit in twice but could make little progress. Openshaw v. Hope: a close finish. Openshaw missed 3-back twice. Hope missed 4-back but reached the peg. Openshaw hit the lift and won. Neal v. Hemsted: Neal opened up a good lead with two breaks until he missed a roquet. Neal pegged out one ball, and Hemsted made good progress before Neal finally hit and won. Aspinall v. Wylie: an important match for both players. Aspinall, beginning his second break, failed to get position at Hoop 1 and Wylie hit. He now dictated the course of the game, with Aspinall unable to hit in.

**Round 13.** Neal v. Openshaw: little progress at first. Openshaw finally established a break from Hoop 6, followed by another from Hoop 1. Wylie v. Heap: Wylie was in play until he failed at Penult in his second break. Heap went round but Wylie hit the lift and won. Hope was on peg and 4-back when Hemsted hit and levelled the score. Pegging out his opponent, he took the game by careful play. Aspinall v. Ormerod: a level game with good croquet on both sides. An unsuccessful jump shot by Ormerod at 4-back turned the scale. Aspinall hit from 10 yards and finished.

**Round 14.** Wylie v. Hope: after some in-and-out play Wylie found his touch, winning with a straight triple. Heap at 3-back, Hemsted at 1-back. Heap now hit with his backward ball and went round and out with a quadruple peel. Ormerod v. Openshaw: a novel opening with Ormerod in 3rd corner and Openshaw in 1st! Ormerod took control. Openshaw made a late spurt but went off the boundary, trying for a rush. Aspinall, after

Hoop 3 with three balls in 2nd corner, arranged them in a straight line and stop-shotted the first ball hard to Hoop 4, thus cleverly continuing his break.

President's Cup	K.F. Wylie	G.N. Aspinall	Dr W.P. Ormerod	D.K. Openshaw	M.E.W. Heap	A.B. Hope	Prof. B.G. Neal	S.R. Hemsted	WINS
K.F. Wylie		-26	+14 TP	+2	+8 TPO	+10	-2	+8	12
G.N. Aspinall	+26		+20	+5	+17	+26 STP	+24	+10	9
Dr W.P. Ormerod	-17	+13		+20 TP	+25	-26	+19	-13	8
D.K. Openshaw	-14	-13	-25		+17	+5	+10	+25 TP	8
M.E.W. Heap	-20	-8	+11	+23		-2	+19	+1	8
A.B. Hope	-2	-20	+25	+9	+17		-9	+16	6
Prof. B.G. Neal	-5	+1	-11	-12	+4	+23		+18	6
S.R. Hemsted	-8	-25	-17	-9	-15	+21	-10		6
	-17	+25 STP	-23	+12 TP	+4	+17	+19 QP		6
	-10	+26	-5	-17	+15 TP	+16	+8		4
	-26	-24	+2	-4	-4	+26 TP	-3		4
	+2 TP	-19	-10	+9	-21	-16	+4		3
	-24	-26	-19	-23	-17	-26	+13		3
	-8	+13	-25	-16	+10	-8	-4		
	-10	-6	-1	-18	-19	+3	-13		

QP — Quadruple Peel; STP — Straight Triple;  
TPO — Triple Peel of Opponent; TP — Triple Peel of Partner Ball.

## The Chairman's Salver, played at Colchester, September 5-9

The standard of the 1977 Salver was undoubtedly high; as well as four competitors who took part in the previous year (including the winner, Dr Eric Solomon), there were two 1976 President's Cup contenders and the winner of the 1976 Spencer Ell. Add to this the fact that three other past winners were again competing (Martin Murray, Edgar Jackson and Colin Prichard) and it will be seen that the gathering was a formidable one.

It was to none of these, however, that the main honour fell, but to William Prichard, who had not been able to compete in an Invitation Event since 1974. He played confidently throughout and it was not until he had notched five successful wins that he found himself in any real trouble; Stephen Wright's clips were on Peg and 4-back without William having made contact. He put this right, however, by hitting in after Stephen had played for safety; although Stephen regained the innings and pegged one ball out with the other for Rover, after a long and nerve-tangling game William won by 2.

Colchester had had very heavy rain on the Friday before the Event, but none subsequently, and the courts were ideally suited for controlled breaks. No triple peels were achieved on the first day, but on Tuesday Martin Murray was the first to succeed, followed in a matter of minutes by William Prichard. Murray, in his next game, successfully completed his three peels but failed to run 3-back. Eric Solomon, who was for 4, went round and pegged Martin out, giving him contact. After an absorbing series of exchanges Martin hit in and won by 6.

Norman Davren was having trouble with his favourite mallet on Monday and failed to register a win; however, treatment by Dr Bray in his evening surgery was apparently successful, and Norman won 3 of his next 5 games. Edgar Jackson, after 2 good wins initially, was not flowing with his usual consistent elegance and finished joint 6th with Colin Prichard. Robin Godby was very much out of luck, starting from his first game (against the eventual Winner). He had laid up a rush to the first hoop, after wiring his opponent's balls from each other. William proceeded to jump Hoop 3 from 2 yards and hit his partner ball smartly in the middle 16 yards beyond. William won this game by 26 and gave an early hint of his current form. Of his first 10 games, Robin lost 5 by 7 or less.

By the end of the second day William Prichard was still unbeaten with 6 wins, and Martin Murray second with 5 wins, having been beaten by Stephen Wright. The most important match on Wednesday morning was obviously the clash between these two. The opening exchanges were slow and careful, with the players showing mutual respect and getting used to the speed of the newly cut courts. Eventually William set up a break to 4-back with his first ball, leaving Martin's balls 3 and 5 inches respectively from the peg, cosily wired. Martin failed to hit and lost by 24. Later in the day Martin was in excellent form, with a triple peel in the seventh turn, to beat Wright by 25 in 45 minutes.

Thursday's main interest was William's first defeat after 10 consecutive wins. Friday was a brilliantly sunny day, suitably capping a rain-free week, and the key match in the morning was between the brothers Prichard. Colin held the advantage for most of a long game, and the crucial point came when Colin was for Peg and 4-back, with William's clips both on 4-back. Colin had three balls near the 3rd corner, and, in attempting to stop-shot the enemy ball to Penult, he instead lodged it in the jaws of 4-back. Although Colin got position in front of 4-back off his partner ball, his jump shot hit a wire and left William with an easy roquet, which he gratefully accepted. William went on to win by 4. Although Murray won his game, William was now safe, with one to play.

According to the Edgarian chronometer the average time per match throughout the week was 1 hour 55 minutes; although play became slower later in the week (perhaps the fault of the catering committee), no games were pegged down, and all was ready for the presentation by 4 o'clock on Friday. Mr E.P.Duffield presented the Salver and referred to the high standard and extremely pleasant spirit throughout the week. William Prichard replied and thanked the Club and the Committee for what had been a most enjoyable week; he also thanked the Manager, George Digby, and presented him with a gift from all the players (which was much appreciated).

Apart from William, who thoroughly deserved his win, congratulations were also due to Martin Murray, who kept the result in doubt until Friday morning, to Eric Solomon for taking the only game off the Winner, and to Robin Godby for his magnificent game, in front of the biggest and most distinguished audience of the week.

Chairman's Salver	W. de B. Prichard	Dr M. Murray	Dr E.W. Solomon	S.J.H. Wright	N.J. Davren	G.E.P. Jackson	C.H.L. Prichard	R.A. Godby	WINS
W. de B. Prichard		+24	+17	+2	+14	+9	+21	+26	13
Dr M. Murray	-24		+3	-15	+13	+23	+16	+4	10
Dr E.W. Solomon	-17	-6		+6	-8	+26	+16	+7	9
S.J.H. Wright	-2	+8	+11		+5	-14	+23	+13	7
N.J. Davren	-13	-25	-5	-9		+3	+24	+7	6
G.E.P. Jackson	-9	-16	-13	+17	+20		+12	+2	5
C.H.L. Prichard	-21	-17	-6	-18	+16	+20		+21	5
R.A. Godby	-26	-7	-14	-6	-5	-2	-21		1

**The Spencer Ell Cup, played at Nottingham, September 5-9**

The Spencer Ell was stronger this year than it has been for some time, judging by the number of players who had recently been in higher Eights. Two had played in the President's and a further three in the Chairman's in the last four years. Paul Hands, one of the refugees from the President's, had a notable first day. He took three games by high scores, playing in excellent form and completing a triple peel against John Soutter. In spite of this, Soutter also made a good start, as did Camroux. Play on the part of the others was rather more erratic and Keen in particular, brought in at short notice to replace Rees who had unfortunately damaged his ankle, suffered from lack of practice. On the second day, however, Keen found the form he showed in the Opens and managed two good wins. Tucker put up a gallant and tenacious, but ultimately unsuccessful fight against Hands who finished the day with an increased lead of two games.

On the first two days the majority of the games were won by large margins. To a large extent this was probably a consequence of the consistent, medium paced lawns and rather generous hoops. Big rolls to hoops to start breaks and to correct mistakes were often successful and breakdowns, once four balls were under some control, were comparatively rare. The out player was thus often at a considerable disadvantage unless he was shooting well. On the third day, however, the games were commonly very close, providing some exciting finishes for the spectators. The most notable of these was in Owen's victory over Hands. Hands seemed to be winning easily when Owen fought magnificently from way behind, helped by Hands' failure to wire his remaining ball at Rover. For the first time it looked as though there might be

a real fight for the cup.

On Thursday afternoon Robinson beat Hands, which put him only one game behind. After tea Hands played Wheeler and Robinson played Soutter. Both Robinson and Wheeler gained a good lead and the tournament appeared open. However, both Hands and Soutter pegged out their opponents and went on to win by narrow margins. Thus Hands could only fail to win the cup by losing every game on Friday. In fact he clinched the tournament in commanding fashion on Friday morning by beating Soutter with a triple peel for the second time.

Hands' play made him a very worthy winner, by three games, over Robinson, the runner-up. It would certainly be no surprise to see him back in the President's next year. Soutter came third, playing very steadily and carefully. He would have done even better had he not succeeded in inspiring Hands to a triple in both series. Tenacious Tucker was well in contention after the first three days, but unfortunately began to tire after that and his play dropped off. Keen, on the other hand, after a disastrous first day, put up a very creditable performance to come equal fourth. If he had had more practice before the tournament, his position might well have been even better. Wheeler's game was somewhat erratic, depending on whether his fine long shooting and long hoops or his less fine short shooting and hoops were in the ascendancy. When the former dominated he was capable of beating anyone. Camroux also suffered from inconsistency. After playing well to a good start on the first day, he rather lost momentum. Long shooting let Owen down, but when he did get in with a chance of a break he was a fearsome opponent.

This account would be far from complete without a tribute to the ever friendly and tactful management of Miss E.C. Brumpton and to the hospitality of the Nottingham Club, which helped make

the week so enjoyable. Mrs Ward, in particular, must be mentioned for all her hard work in preparing the excellent lunches.

Spencer-Ell Cup	P.W.Hands	Dr J.N. Robinson	J.H.J.Soutter	B.A.Keen	E.J.Tucker	J.A.Wheeler	A.V.Camroux	T.F.Owen	WINS
P.W.Hands		+11	+25*	+21	+5	+16	+17	-2	12
Dr J.N. Robinson	-11		+13	+24	-16	+26	-1	+9	9
J.H.J.Soutter	-25	-13		+2	+15	-13	+26	+26	8
B.A.Keen	-21	-24	-2		+2	+4	+17	+25	6
E.J.Tucker	-5	+16	-15	+24		+12	-8	+24	6
J.A.Wheeler	-16	-26	+13	-17	-12		+6	+14	6
A.V.Camroux	-17	+1	-26	-17	+8	+6		-25	5
T.F.Owen	+2	-15	-26	+25	-24	-14	+25		4

\* Triple Peel.

**Parkstone: September 12-17**

Every tournament has an atmosphere of its own, created by the setting and the characters of those present. Here it was the beautifully kept lawns, the good fortune that summer took place in the middle of the week, the excellent genial management and catering of Pat and Eileen Newton respectively, ably aided by the secretary, Margaret McMordie, the long club-house with views which enable spectators to see most of the play and enjoy the successes and sympathise with the errors (which of course they never would have committed themselves); and there was good spirited croquet.

Stephen Mulliner was the outstanding player of the tournament, since he won both halves of the Opens, the Doubles and the Big Handicap. In the Opens he did 4 triple peels on his way to victory; one was highly delayed and ended with a straight double, and his last triple was a straight one. In his game against William Ormerod he went to 4-back in the 4th turn. William hit in on the 5th turn and went to 4-back leaving one of Stephen's balls in mid-court and one in the jaws of the 1st hoop. Stephen lifted the mid-court ball and hit the ball stuck in the 1st hoop. William went round but failed in an attempt to end with a straight triple. This gave Stephen all four balls and he went out with a beautifully controlled triple. Stephen Mulliner is now a really top-class player, rapidly adding experience to a faultless technique.

William Ormerod had earlier narrowly defeated John Soutter, who played very steadily all week. John had the consolation of playing probably the best two consecutive shots of the week; he was pegged out in the 'X' by John Phillips when his other ball was for Penult, and, with Phillips laid up and wired at Rover about to go out, he ran Penult at an angle from the boundary,

roqueted and won!

In the Doubles it was pleasing to see the good form of the lady players, with Sheila Cosh partnered by Stephen Mulliner defeating Pat Parker partnered by Air Commodore Greswell. Both ladies hit in well, though their form was nothing compared with that maintained all week by Col. Vulliamy, who, with his partner Mrs Marshall, narrowly lost in the semi-final, having earlier survived by twice hitting long shots when behind after time had been called.

The 'B' Final was a tense affair, with Bob Carder defeating Liz Neal on time. Liz finished her turn after time had been called; she was 3 hoops ahead and forgot the lift, leaving her ball south of 2-back, Carder's next hoop. Carder, however, elected not to take his lift, but hit a 25-yard shot instead and made 4 hoops with some interesting croquet to win by 1! The 'C' Event was dominated by the ladies. There was some excellent play, with Pat Parker defeating Netta Robinson in a final that was closer than the score might indicate. The 'X' was full of interesting games, though it seemed inevitable by the end that Stephen Mulliner would finish the week unbeaten, and so it turned out.

For the rest one can only say that the experience of the high-bisqued lady, who sat out for so long in her doubles that when she picked up her mallet to play there was a complete spider's web on it, was far from typical of a lively and enjoyable week.

**Results**

Event 1: Open Singles (12 Entries)

DRAW

First Round: Dr C.A.Parker bt. S.G.Kent +1; S.M.Mulliner bt. Mrs N.A.C.McMillan +9; J.H.J.Soutter bt. L.S.Butler +7; P.Newton bt. J.G.C.Phillips +19.







D.E.Rogers (11) +17; Mrs G.E.Cave (5) bt. Mrs G.F.H.Elvey (2½) +5; W.Nicholson (7) bt. H.A.C.Evans (12) +11; Lt-Col D.M.C.Prichard (0) bt. Cdr G.Borrett (-1) +3; R.F.Rothwell (-½) bt. D.A.Harris (0) +2; Miss F.I.Joly (-½) bt. Lady Bazley (9) +3.

Second Round: Mrs Povey bt. Mrs Sundius-Smith +7; Mrs Tyrwhitt Drake bt. Chappell +11; Malin bt. Cave +5; Mackenzie-Bowie bt. Wallis +21; Ruddock bt. Wood +25; Mrs Cave bt. Mrs Prichard +11; Nicholson bt. Prichard +20; Miss Joly w.o. Rothwell opp. scr.

Third Round: Mrs Povey + Mrs Tyrwhitt Drake +3; Malin bt. Mackenzie-Bowie +3 (T); Ruddock bt. Mrs Cave +9; Miss Joly bt. Nicholson +2

Semi-Final: Malin bt. Mrs Povey +15; Miss Joly bt. Ruddock +5.

Final: Malin bt. Miss Joly +24.

Event 5: The Victor Vases (9 Pairs)

First Round: Mrs K.M.O.Wheeler & Mrs B.Meachem bt. Mrs H.F.Chittenden & Mrs G.F.H.Elvey +24.

Second Round: J.C.Ruddock & Mrs J.Povey bt. Mrs B.L.Sundius-Smith & E.J.Tucker +10; D.A.Harris & E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake bt. Mrs Wheeler & Mrs Meachem +3; Lt-Col & Mrs D.M.C.Prichard bt. D.J.V.Hamilton-Miller & Miss F.I.Joly +6; Dr R.Wood & Cdr G.Borrett bt. R.F.Rothwell & Professor A.S.C.Ross +3.

Semi-Final: Harris & Tyrwhitt Drake bt. Ruddock & Mrs Povey +9; Wood & Borrett bt. Lt-Col & Mrs Prichard +13.

Final: Harris & Tyrwhitt Drake bt. Wood & Borrett +2.

Event 6: The Millns Trophies (10 Pairs)

First Round: Col. G.T.Wheeler & W.Nicholson (11) bt. Mrs E.M.Temple & Mrs A.E.Millns (13½) +8; R.E.Wallis & Dr S.R.C.Malin (8) bt. Lady Bazley & Miss D.E.Rogers (17) +5 (T).

Second Round: Lt-Col G.E.Cave & Mrs D.G.Waterhouse (11½) bt. F.G.French & F.W.Carpenter (13) +2 (T); Wallis & Malin bt. Wheeler & Nicholson +12; Mrs G.E.Cave & E.Mackenzie-Bowie (8½) bt. H.N.D.Meyer & R.P.Chappell (15½) +12; Mrs E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake & Lt-Col D.F.T.Brown (14) bt. Miss M.Bryan & H.A.C.Evans (20) +11.

Semi-Final: Wallis & Malin bt. Cave & Mrs Waterhouse +3; Mrs Cave & Mackenzie-Bowie bt. Mrs Tyrwhitt Drake & Brown +18.

Final: Wallis & Malin bt. Mrs Cave & Mackenzie-Bowie +15.

Extract from Proceedings at Council Meeting

OCTOBER 22nd 1977

- 1. Scottish C.A. Executive Committee: John Rose or Neil Williams are willing to attend meetings if requested by the C.A. Council.
2. N.P.F.A. Golf Croquet Competition: Enquiries were being made as to whether this was being contemplated for 1978.
3. Devonshire Park: E.Strickland reported that Eastbourne Corporation would be willing to stage the South of England Championships at Devonshire Park from 9th-14th and 16th-21st April 1979 and subsequently each Spring. The Council was pleased to hear of this and referred the matter to the Tournaments Committee.
4. Visit of Egyptians: The Secretary reported on the visit of about 20 Egyptian croquet players at the beginning of July. An invitation for a team from England to visit Egypt between 1st November 1977 and 30th April 1978 has been extended. The Egyptian C.A. offer full accommodation and sight-seeing arrangements for one week in Cairo and Alexandria with Golf Croquet matches included, provided there are reciprocal arrangements here in 1978. If anyone would like to take advantage of this offer, would they contact the C.A. Secretary.
5. Match v. Scotland: A successful match had been held at Cheltenham on June 18-19, although we had lost 6-3.
6. Questions: Lt-Col D.M.C.Prichard asked "Would Council like the existing Selection Committee to make recommendations as to the composition of a Test Selection Committee?" The Council agreed.
7. Motion: I.C.Baillieu moved (after the Council had accepted alterations to the wording from the Motion originally tabled) and G.B.Martin seconded that "No Club be permitted to enter the

Inter-Club Competition unless it provides reasonable facilities for playing croquet". After several members had spoken, the Motion was put to the Council and lost by 18 votes to 3 with 2 abstentions.

8. Report of Tournament Committee as to the Calendar for 1978 was approved. No venue had yet been found for the Golf Croquet Championships. Ipswich had declined. It was agreed to approach Littlehampton and Preston Park, but if they declined Colchester might take it over at the Spring Bank Holiday. The Mixed Doubles at Caskets would be Draw and Process, and the Du Pre Cup single games or Draw and Process at Manager's discretion. No changes were made to handicap levels for C.A. events in 1978.

9. Secretary's Report: 21 new Associates were elected. The death in July of Captain Harold Nalder of the Woking Club and an Associate of long standing was announced with regret. Three new Clubs have been registered, Chester, Lewes and West Bank (Wrekin Hospital, Wellington, Salop). A Middle Bisquers Course was held at Budleigh in July. It was hoped that it would be possible to give a list of proposed courses for 1978 at the next meeting of the Council.

10. New Directory: The Council confirmed that a new Directory would be published for 1978.

11. H.M. The Queen's Silver Jubilee: Mr S.S.Townsend has been awarded the Silver Jubilee Medal. The Council congratulated him. A letter has been received from Buckingham Palace in reply to our Loyal Greetings:

"Dear Mr Duffield, I am commanded to convey to you, the Vice-Presidents and Council of The Croquet Association the sincere thanks of The Queen, as your Patron, for your kind message of loyal greetings on her Silver Jubilee which Her Majesty much appreciates."

£100 has been sent as a donation from the C.A. to the Silver Jubilee Fund. Thanks were expressed to all who contributed.

The Exhibition of World Trophies staged by the C.C.P.R. in aid of the Jubilee Fund at Barkers from 10th May to 11th June, for which we had loaned the MacRobertson Shield and the President's Cup, had, according to the Press, been a big financial success.

12. Alterations to Regulation 10. After discussion this was passed by 14 votes to 3 and so is now law.

13. Correspondence: A number of letters were read, including one from John Tiffin of the C.B.S., who had paid to the C.A. £50 for help in making films at Hurlingham to be shown in America on Morley Safer's programme in November. He had promised to give the C.A. a copy of this film. A letter from Walter Winterbottom, Director of The Sports Council, dated 18th October, on the policy of Her Majesty's Government on sports events involving South Africa, was tabled.

14. Loss of Ladies Field Cup: The theft of the Ladies Field Cup from the house of Mrs Sundius-Smith on 5th July was reported. A claim had been submitted. It was hoped that the cup might be recovered. In the meantime the Council had agreed to present the Middlesex Union Rose Bowl to the winner Mrs B.Meachem, which the Chairman duly did to applause.

Inter-Counties 1978

Will any player eligible to play for Northern Counties and who would like to play in the 1978 competition please contact D.G.Richardson, 3 Truro Close, Woolston, Warrington WA1 4LR (Tel: 0925 813869) as soon as possible.

Secretary's Notes

1. NEW ASSOCIATES

Miss J.M.Anderson, 16 Wellpond Close, Sharnbrook, Bedford (Hon. Sec. Colworth C.C.) Tel: (0234) 781783.

H.J.Bottomley, 14 Hollyhedge Road, West Bromwich, West Midlands.

E.Mackenzie-Bowie, Taap Hall, 219 Ferry Road, Edinburgh EH6 4NN.

F.W.Carpenter, O.B.E., Little Sunbeams, Hastings Road, Starrs Green, Battle, Sussex (Tel: (042 46) 3544).

D.L.Godfree, 81 Temple Sheen Road, East Sheen, London S.W.14. Mr and Mrs R.A.Gosden, 18 Norman Avenue, Hanworth, Feltham, Middlesex TW13 5LN (Tel: (01) 894 3465).

Dr T.J.Haste, c/o C.E.Haste, 5 King Edward Road, Leiston, Suffolk IP16 4HQ (Tel: Leiston (0728) 830739).

Dr J.A.McMordie, 42 Woodlands Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire.

Mr and Mrs F.H.Newman, Quintons, 188 The Street, West Horsley, Leatherhead, Surrey KT24 6HS.

2. DEATHS

The deaths are announced of Dr W.F.W.Betenson and of Major G.Blackett.

3. CHANGES IN THE CLUBS

Chester C.C. (Newly Registered) AR 1. The Hermitage, Grosvenor Park, Chester. Hon. Sec. A.C.Mason, 12 Collingham Green, Little Sutton, South Wirral L66 4NX (Tel: (051 339) 4587).

Chase C.C. (Newly Registered) AR1. Chase Manhattan Bank, Woolgate House, Coleman Street, London E.C.2 (Tel: (01) 600 6141). Hon. Sec. Peter Keeble. Ground: Weigall Road, Kidbrooke, London S.E.12 (Tel: (01) 318 4736—not always manned).

British Airways (Croquet Section)—formerly known as Silver Wing Club. Hon. Sec. R.Platon, Flying Staff Scheduling Department, British Airways, Bealine House, Ruislip, Middlesex HA4 6OL (Tel: (01) 845 1234).

Harwell C.C.—formerly known as A.E.R.E. Harwell. Harwell Research Laboratory, Didcot, Oxfordshire.

Durham University. Hon. Sec. E.Lyons, 51 The Avenue, Durham City DH1 1TA (Tel: (0385) 62811).

Knighton. Hon. Sec. Mrs P.Vickary, Norton Manor Park, Presteigne, Powys (Chairman, S.Brookes).

Norton Hall. Hon. Sec. J.G.Chenoweth, 4 Lapwing Lane, Norton-on-Tees, Cleveland TS20 1LX.

Nottingham. Hon. Sec. I.G.Vincent, 43 West Crescent, Beeston, Ryelands, Nottingham NG9 1QF (Tel: (0602) 253664).

Office—Cripps Computer Centre, University Park, Nottingham NG7 2RD (Tel: (0602) 56101 (ext. 3323)).

4. NEW TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS

The following have been appointed Managers: R.E.Wallis, Dr R. Wood.

The following has been appointed a Handicapper: Mrs B.G.F.Weitz.

5. DIRECTORY 1978-9

The new C.A. Directory for 1978-9 will be published early in 1978 and will be sent free to Clubs holding C.A. Calendar Fixtures. Copies will be available to others at £1.25 (post free). A series of Amendment Sheets (probably 8) will be sent out in duplicated form by the Secretary during the currency of the Directory. Copies will be sent free to Clubs holding C.A. Calendar Fixtures and will be available to others for a further £1.25 (post free) for the series. Orders should be placed through the Secretary with the appropriate remittance. The new Directory will have all handicaps adjusted for 1978 in accordance with the Council's directions.

6. ALUMINIUM HOOPS

Further to the announcement on the availability of Aluminium Hoops from Mr K.F.W.Townsend (Secretary's Note No. 9 on

p.19 of the autumn gazette), there has been difficulty in finding a paint that will not flake off aluminium when struck by a ball. Under a new process these hoops can now be obtained with a white plastic coating at an additional cost of £3 per set. Whilst not yet fully tested for wear, it is hoped that these coated hoops will overcome the problem of paint flaking off.

7. SUBSCRIPTIONS

Enclosed with this issue of the Gazette is a note by the Treasurer about subscriptions. These are due on 1st January. It is hoped that all Associates will pay their subscriptions early to eliminate the expense and unnecessary work for the Secretary in having to send out reminders. Would those who pay by Bankers Order please ensure that their Order is made out for the correct amount.

8. FIXTURES BOOK 1978

The new Fixtures Book for 1978 will be available for sending out immediately after Christmas. It is sent out free to all Life Associates and Associates paying the Standard Rate (£5). It will be sent to those paying by Bankers Order immediately after Christmas. The Secretary has been instructed not to send out copies to others unless their subscription for 1978 has been received.

I am sure that some Associates forget about paying their subscriptions until they get a mallet in their hands at the beginning of the season. Perhaps by not sending the Fixtures Book until subscriptions are paid we will get the money rolling in earlier than in the past.

December 1977.

R.F.Rothwell, Secretary.

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.

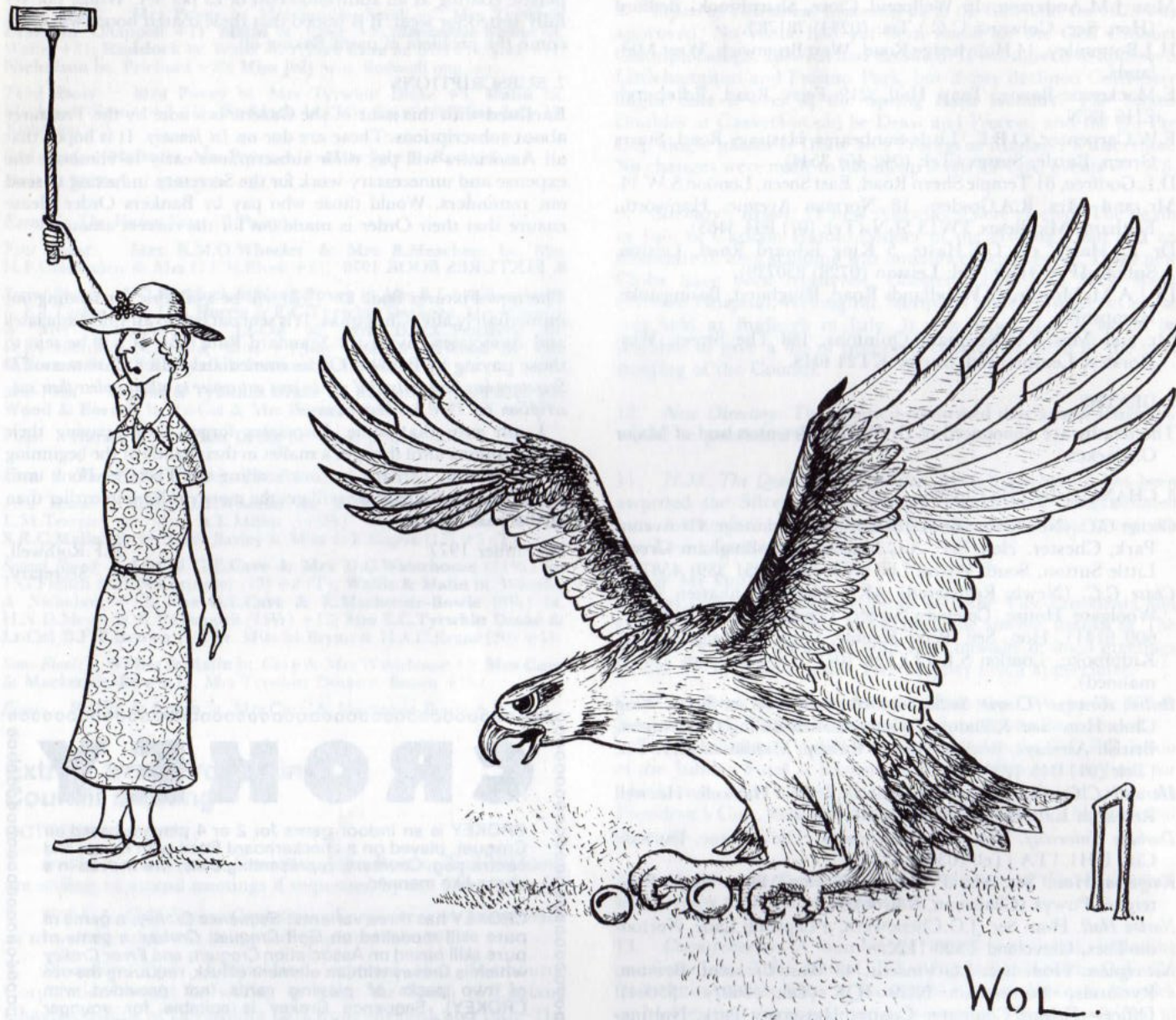
The essential feature of CROKEY is the 'break', i.e. a turn of one move extended to several moves, achieved by skilful positioning of the counters. In this respect the simulation of Croquet is so close that aspiring Croquet players will find Crokey of great value in visualising and practising the ingenious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

TACTICAL GAMES 19 NORTHWOLD ELY CAMBS CB6 1BG



### Alteration to Regulation 10

The following New Regulation 10, proposed by the Council at their meeting on 30th May 1977, was ratified at the Council meeting on October 22nd and has now become law.

#### Regulation 10

(a) 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.

(b) Nothing in this Regulation shall prohibit a player receiving an allowance for expenses for:

- (i) Coaching;
- (ii) Being a member of a team or participating in an exhibition either of which are authorised by the C.A. Council.
- (iii) Proceeding overseas at the official invitation of a recognised Croquet Association.

### Handicap Alterations

#### Edinburgh: August 22-27

A.J.Girling 4½ to 4; Mrs M.Lauder 9 to 8; R.C.Jones 11 to 9; Dr S.R.C.Malin 4 to 3½; J.C.Shearer 7½ to 7; R.Weyndling 11 to 10.

#### Cheltenham: August 27-29

Mrs W.F.Morton 16 D14; M.W.W.Clotworthy 12 to 10; S.J.Garrett 9 to 7; R.B.W.Gladstone 7 to 6; P.M.Johnson 6 to 5; W.F.Morton 12 to 11.

#### Hunstanton: August 29-September 3

R.S.Alford 3 to 2½; H.C.Green ½ to 0; Miss P.G.Hampson 14 to 14 D12; D.Turner 4 to 3½; Mrs R.F.Wheeler 4½ to 3½.

#### Hunstanton: September 5-10

Mrs P.Sheldon 12 to 10.

#### Spencer Ell Cup: September 5-9

Dr J.N.Robinson -½ to -1.

#### President's Cup: September 6-10

D.K.Openshaw -2 to -2½; K.F.Wylie -3 to -3½.

#### Compton Club Recommendation:

B.D.Yallop 6 to 4½; Lt-Col D.F.T.Brown 8 D7 to 7; R.Chappell 10 D9 to 9; A.Hutcheson 8 to 7; J. Van Berckel 16 to 14; Mrs A.I.Grant 11 to 10; H.A.C.Evans 14 to 12; R.E.Wallis 5 to 4½.

#### Cheltenham Club Recommendation

D.R.Foulser 9 to 7½.

#### Roehampton Club Recommendations

Mrs B.Mansfield 10 to 9; Miss J.Ingram 16 D14 to 15 D12.

#### Wrest Park Weekend II: July 8-10

T.I.Wood 1½ to 1.

#### All England Handicap, Phyllis Court: August 11

M.Maclean 12 to 10.

#### All England Handicap, Compton: August 20-21

J.S.H.Battison 5½ to 4½; B.J.Whitehouse 5½ to 4½.

#### Cheltenham IV: September 16-18

B.H.B.Boddington 12; J.E.Ross 8 to 6½; R.E.Adlard 1½ to 1.

#### Ryde Weekend: September 16-18

T.I.Wood 1 to ½; R.B.W.Gladstone 6 to 5½; H.G.B.Wagnell 9 to 8; R.W.Newnham 9 to 8.

#### Wrest Park Weekend III: September 23-25

B.Harral 10 to 8; E.Audsley 4 to 3½; J.S.Maude 6 to 4; J.Coutts 2½ to 1½; R.T.Smith 14\* to 15; D.E.Wood 9\* to 10.

#### Nottingham Weekend II: September 23-25

P.J.Barnes 5 to 4½; R.H.Fletcher 7 to 6½; G.Henshaw 3 to 2; J.Meads 2½ to 2; I.Smith 11 to 9; Mrs R.F.Wheeler 3½ to 3.

#### Budleigh Salterton Weekend: September 23-25

R.H.C.Carter 5 to 4½; H.E.Ovens 6 to 5; Mrs G.H.Mapstone 11 to 10; Mrs D.Exell 12 to 10; P.Boddington 12 to 10.

#### Devonshire Park (first week): September 26 to October 1

E.Mackenzie-Bowie 9 to 6; T.I.Wood ½ to -½; R.D.C.Prichard 1½ to 1; G.H.Betts 3 to 2½.

#### Roehampton: September 19-24

K.F.W.Townsend 9 to 8; Mrs T.Wills 9 to 8; Mrs B.Mansfield 8 to 7; A.Lindley 5 to 4.

#### Devonshire Park (second week): October 3-8

F.G.French 8\* to 8; E.Mackenzie-Bowie 6 to 4; Dr S.R.C.Malin 3½ to 3; R.E.Wallis 4½ to 4; Dr R.Wood 1 to -½; Mrs J.Povey 3 to 2.

#### Wrest Park Club recommendation

T.W.Anderson 6 to 5½.

#### Cheltenham V: October 14-16

N.J.C.Gooch 5 to 4.

#### Bowdon Club Recommendations

J.Bowman 14; M.Sandler 6 to 4½.

#### Bristol Club Recommendation

Miss M.Scott 9.

#### Budleigh Salterton Club Recommendations

C.J.Waller 5 to 4; B.Hancock 5½ to 5; Mrs J.Goode 9 to 8; G.H.Mapstone 12 to 10; Mrs G.H.Mapstone 10 to 9; Mrs F.Henshaw 7 to 8 (at own request).

#### Colchester Club Recommendations

Lt-Col A.W.D.Nicholls 9 to 7; A.W.Lee 14 to 13 D12; Mrs F.Stanley-Smith 9 to 7; H.A.Cross 6½ to 6; Mrs E.A.Locke 14 to 13.

#### Compton Club Recommendations

B.D.Yallop 4 to 3; G.A.Hutcheson 7 to 6.

#### Ellesmere Club Recommendations

Mrs A.Hadcroft 10; Mrs P.Hague 13; Mrs G.Gratrix 12.

#### Nottingham Club Recommendations

L.Robinson 9 to 7; G.Birch 1 to ½; Mrs L.H.Smith 6½ to 6.

#### Parkstone Club Recommendations

Mrs P.Newton 5½ to 5; Mrs D.Mitchell 14 D13 to 13 D12.

#### Parsons Green Club Recommendations

P.Campion 9; J.Greenwood 5.

#### Phyllis Court Club Recommendations

C.Alberhalden 9 to 7; Mrs. H.Aberhalden 14 to 13; Miss A.Searle 16 to 9.

#### Scottish C.A.

Dr R.F.O.Kemp 4 (correction); Dr R.Milne 2 to 1; Dr D.L.Nicholls 1½ to 1; C.L.Dinwoodie 6.

#### Southwick Club Recommendations

Miss M.G.Anderson 5 to 4; D.Bull 5 to 4½; Mrs G.C.Day 9 to 8; Mrs H.F.L.Jenking 10 to 9; Lt-Col E.H.P.Mallinson 7 to 6; J.A.Randle 5½ to 4½; Mrs M.Rankin 12 to 11; M.Phelps 6 to 4; Miss P.Shine 13 to 12; E.E.Rees 2 to 1.

#### Stourbridge Club Recommendations

G.E.P.Young 7 to 6; M.G.Tompkinson 5 to 4½.

#### Wolverhampton Club Recommendations

L.H.Hawkins 9 to 5; Miss H.Hewitson 7.

#### Hurlingham Club Recommendations

G.E.J.A.Doughty 6 to 4; J.R.G.Solomon 2 to ½; C.E.Wilkinson 8 to 7; Miss B.Duthie 1½ to 1.