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**THE CROQUET GAZETTE**

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**The Official Organ of the Croquet Association**

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

### Jubilee in Antigua

When Devonshire Park is over my niece Mary and I generally go away for a holiday and this year we decided to go to Antigua. First of all, how to pronounce it and who better to ask than Professor Ross. Was it An Tig you are, or was it An Tea gar? He said both were correct. So at 9 o'clock one morning we found ourselves at Heathrow waiting to take off at 10.30. When we boarded the plane it certainly was 10.30 but pm and not am.

We arrived about 2.30 in the morning, which is very deceptive as somewhere in the middle of the Atlantic one loses—or gains—a number of hours which I never understand and which one never catches up with again. We came out of the airport expecting to be met by our travel agents, but they had gone, so we got into a decrepit taxi with a smiling driver who said he knew our hotel. The taxi bumped its way along over pot-holes for about an hour, no lights showing anywhere, and after a while I suggested to Mary that we were being taken to some deserted place to be murdered for our travellers' cheques. 'Just what I was thinking', said Mary. However, eventually we arrived at the hotel. The reception desk appeared to be in the garden with a vivacious manager whose main interest was to find out who had recommended the hotel to us. Mary replied rather shortly, 'Cook's book'. This delighted the manager and for most of our stay greeted us with, 'Super Cooook's Boook'. A porter trundled our luggage down a long corridor with locked doors on one side and a barricade on the other, reminiscent of the prison scenes on TV. Finally we stopped, and we were in an extremely nice bedroom. Next morning from our window I saw a purple bougainvillea trailing over the balcony, beyond it a dark green tree with huge orange flowers and through the leaves a calm blue sea, a cloudless blue sky and what appeared to be autumn leaves falling all over the place. These turned out to be large yellow butterflies.

One day we asked the manager how to get into St John—the capital—in order to have our return tickets checked. He told us a bus would be leaving at 10 o'clock. When we reported at his desk at 10 o'clock he smilingly told us that the bus had gone but that Archie would take us. We were introduced to Archie who showed us a photograph of himself—pinned on his flowered shirt—with 'Archie Reliable Taxi Driver' written underneath. From then on Archie took charge of us. He had an enormous, ramshackle, American car which was falling to bits, but with his careful driving he showed us every corner of the island. He appeared to know every inhabitant and all were greeted with a tremendous wave of his enormous black arm. He took us to Clarence House, the Governor's Residence, where the Queen and Prince Philip were to have luncheon the following week. We were shown the dining-room where one of Archie's friends was busy polishing the table till you could see your face in it. Also the table in the passage where the food was to be tasted beforehand by detectives. One of our hotel guests later remarked, 'So that's why there are so few detectives left'.

The evening before *Britannia* arrived Archie came to the hotel with two Union Jacks and said he would call for us at 8.30 next

morning and that we would be in a stand in the recreation grounds by 9.30 where the Queen was to be welcomed by the Governor and Prime Minister and all the schoolchildren of Antigua—including Archie's five. Our chambermaid Audrey asked us had we ever seen the Queen or Prince Philip and when we said no, told us she had, and that the Queen was lovely. When I asked about Prince Philip her answer was, 'Oh boy, he sure is something'. After the speeches were over and the Royal party had gone, Vernon, Archie's second son, aged 9, led us safely out of the recreation ground and down the road to where Archie was, as usual, changing a punctured tyre in a temperature of 95 degrees. We acquired two more 'fares' from the hotel which, with Archie's five children tucked into the boot, made ten of us in the taxi and we hardly filled half of it. In the afternoon Mary went to see the Queen and Prince Philip planting trees near the airport. I went to bed to recover from the morning.

That evening we went down to the harbour. *Britannia* was drawn-up alongside dressed overall and every light blazing. I gave her a little pat just to show my appreciation. There had been a dinner party on board followed by a cocktail party and the guests were being entertained by the prize-winning steel band of Antigua, playing on the quayside. After the guests had left the Queen came forward to the rail. She had a white dress, a diamond tiara and, as the lights focused on her, she looked what my Irish daily would have described as 'a scenery'. Finally the Antiguan flag was lowered and silently *Britannia* moved from the quayside and slipped further and further away while we cheered and waved our flags like mad. On the way back to the hotel we passed the Governor's car which had broken down and I felt a certain satisfaction, for Archie's sake, on seeing that the chauffeur was changing a flat tyre.

A few days later, after a tearful farewell from Archie, we were driven to the airport. Our plane was due to take off at 11 pm and, sure enough, we're all on board, seat-belts fastened, when: 'This is your Captain speaking. Owing to bad weather we have been unable to pick up passengers at Barbados so are returning there now.' Four hours later: 'This is your Captain speaking. We are now flying over Antigua!' Next day at 2.30 in the afternoon we had breakfast, again having mislaid hours in the Atlantic. When we finally got down at Heathrow it was dark, wet and cold and Mary drove home at 65 mph. As we swept in at her gate at 7.30 she turned to me with a smile and said, 'Didn't we do well, Aunt?'. Aunt was speechless.

Next morning I again found myself at Heathrow, this time on board the Dublin plane, seat-belts fastened and waiting to go. 'This is your Captain speaking. There will be a short delay while Concorde takes off. If you look out of the left-hand window you will see it and can judge how much noise there is on take-off.' We watched; like a silver pencil it sped down the runway and rose with less noise than the Boeing 727 which followed it. Then it was our turn and without further adventure we arrived safely in Dublin. As I hung up my croquet mallet in the hall it seemed a long time since Kitty Wheeler had walloped me at Devonshire Park.

Frances Joly

### 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, Gwent NP7 9AY (Tel. Gobion (087 385) 242).

### Deadline

Copy for the Summer issue of the *Croquet Gazette* must reach the Editor not later than Thursday, 15 June. In order to include Carrickmines, Challenge and Gilbeys and Ryde in the Summer issue, for these three tournaments alone the deadline will be 22 June (for both results and written report).

### Editor's Notes

#### I. C. Baillieu, Editor, November 1966 to August 1969

I had not intended to write an Editorial; the cap of wisdom sits ill on a learner, but throughout the work of editing I have become progressively conscious of the way in which Ian Baillieu's influence has permeated the corners of croquet. He joined Hurlingham in 1951 and by 1954 he had been co-opted on to the Council so that the C.A. has benefited for nearly 25 years from his dedication. The task of pulling the Laws to pieces and rebuilding them logically, word by legal word, needed more than dedication; it was his enthusiasm which was so endearing. He excelled as a negotiator and he not only steered his revision of the Laws through the New Zealand and Australian Councils but he also hammered out the conditions of the MacRobertson Shield: these are indeed the cornerstones of the international status of Croquet.

Ian's mind was a reservoir of ideas, all crystal clear to him, but he found the Ancient Mariner technique more rewarding than committees; he knew too much to be concise. With so many other interests absorbing his time he found the timetable of editing an inconvenience but his writing shows humour and perception. This perception he also brought to his Refereeing; he not only knew the precise position of everything at the moment of an irregularity but he noted the involuntary start when the striker realised his error; the mind of the Croquet player was an integral part of the problem and of great interest to him, which is one of the reasons why, to all of us, Ian was indeed the 'embodiment of the Law'.

### Baillieu Doubles

Ian was a good player but it was tactics which interested him most. How interested he would have been in Dr Parker's theories on 'imperfect doubles'. Ian was an advocate for shooting at 'Baillieu doubles' as he and his friends have long called them; he used to say to his partners: 'Aim at the middle and I will give you 1s. if you succeed'. He rarely had to pay up. It would be fitting if the term 'Baillieu double' were to become part of our vocabulary in the same way that 'peeling' commemorates the famous founder of the C.A., Walter Peel.

### Tournament Results

All tournament results will be sent *direct to the Editor* within a day or two of the end of the Tournament. Do not wait for the written report but give the name of the Reporter appointed. Written reports should be sent *direct to the Editor* within ten days of the end of the tournament.

### Weekend Tournaments

The results of Blocks in weekend tournaments are to be given in a different form.

### Blocks played under the laws of handicap play

The names (with handicap in parentheses) are to be shown in the order in which they finished, each name being followed by the number of wins. If there has been an equal number of wins in first or second place the number of points is to be shown (in parentheses) after the number of wins. Below is an example:

BLOCK A. **G.E.P.Jackson** (-½) 5 wins; D.H.Moorcraft (1½) 4 wins (+30 pts); L.Wharrad (6) 4 wins (+17 pts); R.F.A.Crane (+½) 3 wins; R.B.W.Gladstone (6) 3 wins; etc.

### Blocks played under the laws of advanced play

The names are to be shown in the order in which they finished and the scores of the matches they won follow. Initials are given only once. Annotations of Triple Peels, etc., should be added after the score (in parentheses). Below is an example:

BLOCK A. **Prof. B.G.Neal** bt D.Openshaw +25 (TP), H.O.Hicks +17 (TP), Dr J.N.Robinson ++ (on T), J.Rose +10 (TP opp), J.A.Wheeler +7, H.C.Green +14. **Openshaw** bt Hicks +4, Robinson +17, Hemsted +5 (on T), Wheeler +16, Green +20. **S.R.Hemsted** bt Neal +17, etc.

### Written reports of weekend tournaments

Although a reporter should not be appointed for weekend tournaments, notes may be added to the results, but not necessarily on every weekend; new systems, new players, marked improvement in play, exciting finishes, etc. *If space permits it is my intention to give better coverage to weekend tournaments.*

### Croquet Gazettes

Back numbers of most issues of the *Croquet Gazette* from 1954 onwards are still available, price 15 pence each, plus postage.

Please apply to Lt-Col D.M.C.Prichard, Gobion Manor, Abergavenny, Gwent NP7 9AY (not to the C.A. Office).

To avoid the cost of postage, arrangements can be made to deliver them at a convenient tournament for collection.

If anyone has any pre-1954 issues for disposal, would they please contact the above address?

### Ian Gillespie, President South African C.A., writes

The South African Croquet Association would be glad to hear from any croquet players (+1½ or lower) who intend visiting South Africa in November and who would like to be considered for the Riggall Gold Trophy Invitation Eight (which follows the South African Championships). Letters should be sent to the Secretary, Mrs D.C.Hobbs, 45 St Joseph Road, Plumstead, Cape Town, South Africa.

### Scottish C.A. Handicaps

Handicaps in Scotland have been raised at the start of the 1978 season in accordance with the graduated scale laid down by the C.A. Three of the touring team are members of the C.A.

### 1978 Fixtures

from *Sussex County Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club*

Sir,

May I draw your attention to an omission in the details of the Autumn Tournament at the above Club at Southwick.

Event 5—The Douglas Jones Cup, should have the word 'Men's' before the words 'Handicap Singles'.

A new event, No. 6, has been introduced for women only.

Yours faithfully,

E.A.Jackson

Hon. Secretary

Southwick

### Rover Notes

#### Anyone for New Zealand?

By the end of the year the tenth British International team will be off to New Zealand. Who will be the lucky six? First let us look at past internationals who must still be in the running. In '50/'51 John Solomon (age 19) went to New Zealand and has been an automatic choice ever since. Will he go on a sixth tour? For the past two years he has played only in Club matches but intends to play more this year. A fifth series seems a certainty for William Ormerod; he too was 19 when he came in at the end of the '56 tests at home. In 1963 it was left to New Zealand to produce a boy wonder—John Prince, but England countered in '69 with Nigel Aspinall (age 21) who was unbeaten, while in the same series the Professors Bray and Neal registered only one loss each. Bray now plays little away from home but Neal repeated this achievement in 1974, when William Prichard also scored 11 wins in 12 matches. Keith Wylie could only play in the first two tests that year but his dramatic return to form in 1977 makes one hope he will be available this time. Two others from '74 who might well fight back are Hands (whose chances were sabotaged by the Cyprus crisis) and Murray.

Reports from New Zealand indicate that they are confident of winning back the shield, their only problem being how to provide the balance of experience for all their talented young players. Much new talent has surfaced over here too. The 1977 Open Champion Michael Heap heads them, and his Doubles partner Stephen Wright cannot be far behind. Andrew Hope was runner-up in the President's Cup on his first appearance ('75) and Openshaw was equal third on his ('77), while Edgar Jackson, Eric Solomon, Steve Hemsted and Colin Prichard have been skating on the thin ice between the Best and the Second Best eights. Add to these the 'men of the moment' to complicate the job of the selectors—like Steve Mulliner who came from nowhere to sitting reserve for the President's Cup in one year. A test tour seems to trigger off a surge of new talent, and it is interesting to note that John Solomon, William Ormerod, Nigel Aspinall and William Prichard were all between 19 and 21 when they first became internationals.

#### When to Speak

Towards the end of a summer's day your opponent sometimes slips into a state of total absorption; his thoughts ride lightly on his ball and no doubts deter him. You, the out player, sit silently hypnotised by the rhythm of the break.

But there are occasions on which the Laws of Croquet require you to interrupt. They appear in various parts of the Law Book and it may help the beginner to have them summarised.

1. If your opponent is about to play a stroke when any ball is misplaced you must interrupt to forestall the stroke. *Exception:* if the player is about to play the wrong ball you remain silent. Law 28.

2. If your opponent takes croquet from the wrong ball, takes croquet when not entitled to do so or fails to take croquet when entitled to do so you must interrupt as soon as you notice it. But if you have not interrupted before the player has played two more strokes it is too late to get matters put to rights. If a ball is wrongly pegged out and removed from the game you can interrupt as soon as you realise the error and the game will go back to the stage when the ball had been wrongly removed—here the limit of claims is the end of the game. Law 29 and Guide to Limit of Claims (on the back page of the Law Book).

NOTE: In both 1 and 2 above the infringements are minor and when they have been set to rights your opponent goes on with his turn.

3. Any player seeing a clip misplaced shall immediately call attention to it and it shall then be properly placed.

4. If the striker indicates that he is about to take a bisque before he has made all the strokes to which he is entitled the adversary must forestall him. Law 38 (e).

5. You must answer any question from the striker as to the state of the game. Law 44.

6. If the striker fails to take the initiative in calling for a stroke to be specially watched then you may interrupt if in your opinion the fairness or the effect of the stroke may be doubtful. Law 45 (c).

*Summary.* The adversary should immediately draw attention to any irregularity he observes (except when the striker is about to play with the wrong ball) 'notwithstanding it may be to his disadvantage'. Law 45 (b).

The two laws in which silence is not only golden but compulsory are:

Law 46. The adversary should not interrupt the striker except to discharge his duty as a referee.

Law 51. Warning a player that he is about to run a wrong hoop or play with the wrong ball constitutes advice and in tournaments players must not so warn.

On the etiquette of pleasantries there is no law: the involuntary 'Good shot' must be allowed; 'Good hoop' occasionally, and 'What luck' never.

*Do as adversaries do in law. Strive mightily, but eat and drink as friends.*

### Peg Out—or Croquet Suicide

It was a Championship Doubles match and therefore Advanced—if slow—play. Time was called and at the end of play both sides were level; Black was on the Peg and so was Red while their partners were both for 4-back. It was Black and Blue's turn with Red and Yellow together somewhere in the distance; so Black merely took off to the peg and pegged himself out. The opponents agreed that they would have done the same but there was a sizeable camp among the onlookers who felt that, to win a game—especially after a nine-hour battle—with a tactic which would almost certainly be suicidal if the game were to continue, must be wrong. A change in the law was advocated so that the side which scored the next hoop point would be the winner.

Most players know—though they sometimes forget—that, in handicap games, unless an adversary's ball has been pegged out, a player may not peg his own ball out until his partner ball is also a rover. Thus all four balls would have to be on the peg for a game to be won by the unnatural peg-out of a single ball; but having been a witness to just such a finish last season I became converted to the suggestion that, if all four balls are for the peg at the end of the time period, that game should be played to a finish. It might waste ten minutes of precious tournament time, but it would save a peck of frustration.

### I Was a Club Secretary

Clubs sometimes find difficulty in persuading players to undertake the office of Honorary Secretary and this is a little surprising. To begin with, there's really nothing to it. Had there been, I should have been ousted before my first season was over. The first desideratum is for the Secretary to be nice to all and sundry—particularly the grumblers and the awkward squad. This is something which can be acquired or cultivated. I had a lesson from one of my daughters, then nine years old. She, of course, had picked it up from her mother (I married an angel—a Club Secretary needs to). Inwardly giggling at the sight of an outrageous hat on the head of a visitor, my daughter was asked, 'Do you like my new hat?'. After a pause my daughter came out with, 'I think that buckle is beautiful'. This was not dissembling: she had found one thing about that awful hat which she could genuinely admire. Any Honorary Secretary should convince himself—because it is true—that there is something to admire in every scallywag.

One definite requirement is that the Secretary should have a keen love of the game. He need be no more than a moderate player himself but it is no use trying to infuse enthusiasm into, say, the Annual Club Competitions if he prefers to spend that week watching Wimbledon on television. With these simple aptitudes, really nothing more than liking people and being enthusiastic about croquet, most players could make excellent Secretaries. And their reward is to make a host of friends; to enjoy being an I.P. (he's not Very Important) and to have the satisfaction of feeling he is contributing to the success of, and happiness in, the Club. Perhaps the editor should put the rest in very small print. There are a few duties to perform.

Committee meetings to arrange; taking down the minutes and implementing the directives therein; arranging the tournaments and any hosted events. This includes negotiating with Managers and other officials before they have a chance of going abroad to escape the English winter—or to get away from the flood of requests for their services which may pour in! Another duty is to comply with the C.A. requirements as laid down in the Calendar. The Club Notice-board has to be continually serviced with essentials and stale items removed. Seventy-five per cent of members never read the Notices and if the Secretary wishes to draw attention to something special, his best plan is to invite the Club's most reliable chatterbox to tea. A lot of letters have to be written and consequently there is a lot of filing, which should not be left until the pile gets too formidable to tackle. How well I know this! Horrible job, filing.

As to time on the job? Well, not more than 25 hours per day.

**How Far?**

Croquet definitely attracts men of an analytical frame of mind. Facts and figures are the tools of their trade and precision is their watchword. But even those who dot the i's and cross the t's of statistics agree that the most difficult thing to judge is the distance between two balls. Every Boy Scout knows that all you need is a tree, but it isn't done to ask your opponent to stand by his ball. So my good deed this winter is to work out a table of useful distances for you and me.

- Straight = distances parallel to a boundary.
- Diagonal = NOT parallel to a boundary.
- Corner I, etc., means Corner spot of Corner I, etc.

*Straight*

- Corner I to Corner II: 33 yards.
- Corner I to Corner IV: 26 yards.
- Centre South Boundary (yard-line) to Corner IV: 13 yards.
- Centre South Boundary (yard-line) to Hoop 5: 9½ yards.
- Centre South Boundary (yard-line) to Peg: 16½ yards.
- Centre South Boundary (yard-line) to Hoop 6: 23½ yards.

NOTE: Tice is usually between 9½ and 16½ yards.

- Hoop 1 to Hoop 2: 21 yards.
- Hoop 1 to yard-line (side or end): 6 yards.
- Hoop 5 to Hoop 6: 14 yards.
- Hoop 5 to Peg: 7 yards.
- Hoop 5 to side yard-line: 13 yards.
- Hoop 5 to near-end yard-line: 9½ yards.
- Hoop 5 to far-end yard-line: 23½ yards.

NOTE: Within the rectangle formed by the four outside hoops straight measurements are all in multiples of 7. But the distance between this rectangle and the yard-line is only 6 yards.

*Diagonals*

- Corner I to Hoop 1: 8½ yards.
- Corner I to Hoop 2: 21 yards.
- Corner I to Hoop 3: 33½ yards.
- Corner I to Corner III: 42 yards.

Other 'diagonals'

- Hoop 1 to Hoop 5: 8 yards.
- Hoop 1 to Hoop 6: 19 yards.
- Hoop 1 to Peg: 12½ yards.
- Hoop 1 to Hoop 3: 25 yards.
- Corner I to Hoop 5: 16 yards.
- Corner I to Hoop 6: 27 yards.
- Corner I to Hoop 2: 27½ yards.
- Corner I to Hoop 4: 21 yards.

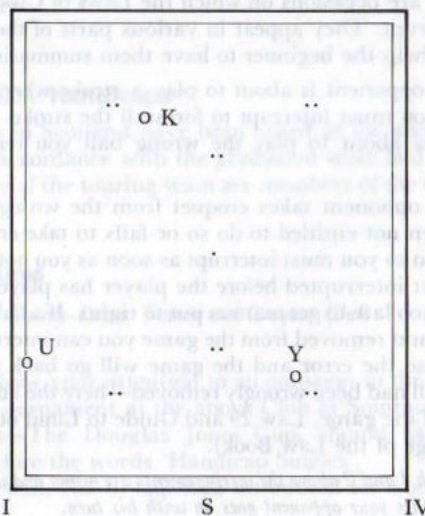
Write some of these distances in your Law Book and make a practice of guessing how long a shot is when watching a game—then check your guess. The distances will soon become second nature—I hope.

**The Riggall Gold Trophy**

Picture a man holding a mahogany board in his arms. On the board are croquet implements, depicted in gold, surrounding a solid gold plate which awaits the name of the first winner. It is a hot day and the man looks nervously over his shoulder—which is scarcely surprising when one hears that the trophy is worth £3,500 and has never before been seen outside the vault of a bank. Seven men are to compete for it, the top four South Africans and three of the Scottish touring team. The three Scots are wondering how much the insurance will be, the fourth, Ian Wright, had retired with a croquet elbow. And the dream so nearly came true; F.X.Norton was runner-up only one game behind the winner. Stephen Wright was third and was involved in the only three triple peels—he produced two against his compatriots Norton and Nichols but was on the receiving end against Lester Sullivan. The winner was the favourite, Tom Barlow, who has been South African Champion for the past five years. So the trophy will go to Vergelegen, one of the most beautiful and historic houses in South Africa. It was built in 1696 and the huge camphor trees planted by Simon van der Stel are National Monuments; unfortunately it is not permitted for it to be photographed.

**A Question of Tactics: 1**

In this problem Red is conceding a lift having just made 1-back and 2-back, and is faced with having to stop at 4-back without leaving any good shots from baulk. He has just rushed Blue off after making 2-back. What should he do? (Black is 6 or 7 feet from Hoop 2.)



Answer on page 15.

**Roving Eye**

19 May 1978 is a red-letter date. It will be the 90th birthday of Maurice Reckitt. Croquet has been a part of his life for more than 70 years; he had started playing within ten years of the revival of the game and has been deeply involved in every aspect ever since. That is why, on that day, everyone who has played, or even heard of, croquet will be thinking about him and I hope he will feel the ripples of affection which will be flowing towards 47 Fairacres, Roehampton, from all over the world. All readers of the *Gazette* send best wishes to its most erudite and entertaining contributor; may it be a day of happy memories shared with friends.

From New Zealand we hear that at least three of their 1974 team are likely to retain their places in 1979: John Prince, Allan Anderson and Rob Jackson. Add to these Paul Skinley, the Men's Champion (he attempted many sextuples and brought off a quadruple in that event), and Joseph Hogan (beaten by Prince in the Open Championships but only in the third game), which leaves one place. Will it be for Roger Murfitt or Dennis Bulloch or even brother William, who are all well known over here. Or perhaps Judith Clarke, now 18 and Women's Champion, who is reputed to be playing as well as Aspinall did in 1975! Or our oldest friend of all, G.Rowling, who is by no means out of the reckoning.

The Australian Interstate Cup (at Perth this year) was won for the ninth consecutive year by South Australia. The team included John Magor (three triple peels), Barry Chambers (two) and Mrs R.Chapman. Tom Howat (of Victoria) also did a triple peel in this event and then went on to win the English Silver Medal for the fourth time. (John Magor won his first three games—two triples—but had to scratch.) So it looks as though there will be quite a number of familiar faces in the Australian team too.

John Soutter and Sheila Cosh were married early in the New Year. In sending them good wishes it might be appropriate to quote from a poem by Ember written in 1971:

*The croquet wife's a treasure, fierce or tame,  
She knows the lingo—understands your game.  
But if the luck to marry one occurs  
Don't talk too much of your game—talk of hers.*

From the same pen, ten years ago, about Nigel Aspinall: 'He is at, or very near, the top . . . and will remain there as long as he cares to play'. M.B.R.

Also worth repeating from 1968: 'It is a sad feature of statistics that they tell you when you are in trouble but offer you no solution to your difficulties'. Written by Keith Wylie.

A reader asks what is the highest sum won in Prize Money in one season at Croquet. In a year when the two top British tennis players, Buster Mottram and Mark Cox, were reputed to have earned £40,000 each, one wonders. Has anyone kept a record?

David Openshaw plans to get married in May to Jacqueline Gristwood. Congratulations; we hope that he also has gained a croquet partner.

A reprint from the 'Scottish Bulletin' (C.G. Summer 1977) featured the diary of a Lady Katherine de Trevellyen. Readers may have wondered who was the author. Roving Eye can reveal that it was Katherine, the young sister of F.V.X. (Jack) Norton. He is to be congratulated on his personal success in South Africa; on the prosperity of his Club—Glasgow, and on his sister.

Roving Eye would like other 'eyes' to send in items of interest from the past—and the present.

**A Message from The President**

A vintage period of croquet lies just ahead of us. In January next our team will be in New Zealand, defending their position as holders of the MacRobertson Trophy, in a triangular Test series involving New Zealand, Australia and ourselves. The status of the game of croquet the world over is enhanced immeasurably by the fact that we can and do promote these Tests at regular intervals.

In order to maximise the advantages to be gained it is imperative that our team represents our full playing strength rather than merely those able and willing to meet the cost of the tour. I therefore urge all croquet followers, Clubs, Associates, and non-Associates alike, to support enthusiastically the appeal appearing below. Fortunately we have among us those in a position to contribute substantially to the Fund and I am certain that a number will do so, but let this not deter any from sending more modest amounts, either through their Club or direct to the C.A. office. Be assured that whatever the amount realised it will be used in the best interests of our splendid game.

Edward P.Duffield

**Test Tour Fund**

We are looking forward with keen anticipation to the tour in 1978/9 to New Zealand to compete in the Triangular Test Series and to retain the MacRobertson Trophy.

Although the Sports Council is expected to give a substantial Grant the income of the Croquet Association cannot possibly cover the balance of the cost of the tour, nor would it be proper to use its capital assets for this purpose. We want to send the best players irrespective of their financial status. This is the reason for our Appeal for a minimum of £1,500.

**Means of Raising This Amount**

1. A Raffle is being promoted under the Small Lotteries Act.
2. All Registered Clubs are requested to raise a modest sum which will include the raffle tickets sold in their Club.
3. Donations.

Raffle books will be sent to every registered Club and it is hoped that Clubs will not only sell all the raffle tickets they can but will raise the balance by such means as they think fit. Ideas for fund-raising are:

Croquet gymkhana, Barbecue, Coffee or wine parties, Bring-and-buy sale, Jumble sale, Auction, Sweeps on your Club tournament, Horse-racing night, 50/50 Sale, Shop-window contest, a losers' box, Sale of plants, Special tournament, etc.

We shall be pleased to provide any further information that Clubs may require.

There is no reason why, if your Club is short of funds, the profits of these events should not be shared between the Club and the Test Tour Fund. Don't stop at the modest target but see if your Club can do better.

**What Can I Do?**

You can lend a hand in helping your Club to sell raffle tickets as well as buy some and to put on a fund-raising event—you could make a private donation—all clubs reaching their target, as well as individual donors will have an acknowledgement in the *Gazette*. You could organise a fund-raising event yourself—you could do so much, and I hope you will.

*We are sure everyone will want to be associated with this effort and to have the satisfaction of feeling that he, or she, has contributed—so go to it, and thank you.*

Derek Caporn, Eleanor Bressey, Jim Townsend  
The Test Tour Fund Committee

## Development Officer's Report for 1977

When Liz Neal retired at the end of 1976 she presented an excellent report on the progress of the Development Scheme since its inception in 1971, as published in the December 1976 *Gazette*. It is only since I took over from her have I appreciated the vast amount of hard work she put into it, a lot of it quietly behind the scenes.

In January 1977 I had the problems of not only taking over from Liz but the added burdens of having to settle in as C.A. Secretary. I am aware that I have not yet had the time to devote as much of my energies to the Development Scheme as I would have liked, but I hope to remedy this in 1978.

Already I have learned the significance of the generous financial assistance we have been receiving from the Sports Council. It must be faced that although a great game, Croquet is a minority sport, and cannot ever hope to be otherwise; it does not have spectator appeal, and the very nature of the game with its requirements for a good lawn surface and the limited number of players who can take part at any one time, all add up to a hard battle to keep the game in a healthy state.

By 1971 the average age of croquet players was increasing year by year, with little new young blood coming in. There is no doubt that the Development Scheme has altered that. Through the support and encouragement made possible by the Sports Council's financial help many new clubs have been started, mostly with a much reduced average age of players, and I think significantly has brought into the game a different type of player—the working man and woman. It is still an excellent game for the retired, but now also for those that still have to work for their living. The popularity and ever-increasing number of weekend tournaments bears witness to this.

In 1977 eight new Clubs have been formed. Four with an organisation behind them—Chase Manhattan Bank with their Sports Ground in London, S.E.12, I.B.M. at Havant, West Bank at Wrekin Hospital near Wellington, Salop, and Stalham Secondary Modern School near Norwich; two on Council-owned ex-bowling greens at Chester, and Ingatestone, Essex; Lewes in the Priory Gardens owned by the Council, and the Wells Palace Club in the gardens of the Bishop's palace.

Demonstrations were held at Bath (now with two lawns and a doubled membership since it was formed last year); Bristol (to revive a long-established Club that had fallen onto hard times; Ingatestone (to get it off the ground—it now has 35 members); I.B.M. at Havant (again to get it off the ground); Dulwich (to try to convert its many players from Golf to Association Croquet); Charing Cross Hospital (still nibbling); and there are overtures of a revival of serious croquet at Oxford University, a drive to recruit younger players at Bowdon, and how to encourage about 100 young players at Durham University (rather out on a limb but with plenty of enthusiasm).

Three courses for beginners were held at National Sports Centres, two at Lilleshall Hall and one at Bisham Abbey. Courses for Middle Bisquers were held at Wallingford/Henley-on-Thames and Budleigh Salterton, a Laws course at Southwick, a Referees course at Hurlingham (at which all ten passed their Referee's examination) and a Coaches course at Lilleshall Hall.

We had a stand in Hyde Park in July at the Sport for All Spectacular where the game was introduced to vast hordes of young people, the small demonstration 'lawn' being occupied fully for eight hours each day.

Six courses have so far been arranged for 1978 (details of which appear elsewhere in this issue) and one can only look forward to increased recruitment activity in 1978. If anyone knows of a club playing croquet of any description do let me know and I will follow it up with the hope of getting them into playing 'proper' croquet.

R.F.Rothwell

## Chairman's Report 1977-78

The Association has suffered the sad loss through death of a number of members during the year including Ian Baillieu, who had served on the Council for a very long time, always attended to the Council's affairs assiduously, and had been of very great assistance indeed to the Association for very many years and his advice will be sadly missed.

We have been fortunate in our new Secretary, Richard Rothwell, who has worked far beyond the hours under his Contract, has been of great value to the Association, to the Council, and in particular to myself, and I should like to express the appreciation of all to him for his hard work.

We were disappointed during the year that the Golf Croquet Tournament arranged by the *Harper-Queen* Magazine in aid of the Playing Fields Association did not take place but it is hoped that a similar tournament can be organised in 1979.

We are all most grateful to Peter Hallett for all his hard work and great success as Editor of this magazine and the Association acknowledge this by electing him as an Honorary Life Member. We have been very fortunate in being able to persuade Mrs Prichard to take over as Editor. This job is an onerous one and I am sure that all Associates will give every help and encouragement to her, will send her articles and notes from Clubs and do their best to make sure that they reach her before the deadlines for publication as this does save a lot of time and trouble.

During the year we took part in a 'Sport For All week' and in particular the exhibition in Hyde Park organised by the Sports Council, to whom we are most grateful for the grant which they pay to us annually and which has enabled croquet to expand. It is most important that all those who play the game should be members of the Association for without such Association there would be no rules and the game would wither and ultimately die. I would appeal to all Associates to do their best to get their friends to join the Association.

We are all looking forward to the forthcoming Test Series in New Zealand and hope that our team will be successful in retaining the MacRobertson trophy.

A new event which appears in the calendar for 1978 is the Evening Tournament at Roehampton, which I hope will be a great success.

During last year we were fortunate in getting publicity on television, radio and in the Press and in particular the C.B.S. of America who filmed part of the Inter-Counties Week and have promised to let us have a copy of this film, which we hope we shall be able to show to Associates.

During the year the number of Associates has been maintained and there has been a steady recruitment of new members but we could do with many more of these.

Accounts for the year show a healthy position and it will not be necessary to increase the subscription rates this year. The Association is grateful for the work which Alan Oldham does as Treasurer and we owe him an enormous debt of gratitude for all his hard work and efficiency.

One of our major problems during the year has been the insurance of the trophies and due to our unfortunate claims record we have not been able to effect cover even at the sale value at a reasonable premium. The Council have decided that to spend 20 per cent of its income in connection with insurance is not in the interests of the Association and therefore we have not renewed our insurance but will be setting aside a sum to try to offset any losses that we may suffer during the year. We hope that our record will improve over the next few years and that we may then be able to resume insurance cover. Following this the Council decided to sell the Gilbey Cup by auction as the value of insuring this cup is very high and it will probably be replaced by another trophy. Likewise they have sold the Inter-Counties Cup as it was felt that most Counties that competed did not take the Cup away because of the problem of where it could be displayed.

A Conference was held last year and was a great success. A report of this appears elsewhere.

The 25p levy on the All-England in aid of our Patron's Silver

Jubilee Appeal, plus donations sent by individual Associates, enabled the Council to send to Her Majesty the sum of £100 and I should like to express my appreciation to all who contributed to this.

In conclusion I would like to thank all those who have given of their time to further the game, both members of Council and its Committees, Managers, Referees, Handicappers, Club Officials and Committees and all those who have helped behind the scenes and to offer our congratulations to Jim Townsend on being awarded the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal in recognition of all his work for the Association in so many ways over the last 25 years, most of which has been done behind the scenes, quietly and efficiently.

D.C.Caporn

## Obituaries

### Ian Baillieu

As a very old friend of Ian Baillieu I would like to be permitted to write a few words of appreciation of a man who by his qualities gained the admiration of so many.

In 1931 I joined the same chambers in the Temple as Ian; he had been in practice for two or three years and had already come to be regarded as a fine lawyer. His kindness and the help that he gave to those junior to himself, and not so learned in the law, was in the finest tradition of the Bar, indeed, I soon became aware that those much senior to Ian were glad to avail themselves of his opinion on any difficult legal point.

Complete integrity of character, tremendous enthusiasm in whatever he undertook and a great capacity for work were among his main virtues, plus a wonderful sense of humour. When war seemed imminent Ian enlisted in a T.A. unit and after hostilities commenced he was appointed to the Judge-Advocate General's Department, where he obtained the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. He served in the Middle East and by a quirk of fate actually officiated at the marriage of Robert and Claire Tingey, of Tingey mallet fame, in Cairo.

On returning to the Bar, after the war, his practice was mainly confined to appearing in the House of Lords and the Privy Council on appeals from the lower courts; tribunals well suited to his fine legal brain. In due course he was honoured by his Inn and elected a Bencher of the Hon. Society of the Inner Temple.

I have not touched upon Ian's services to Croquet, they are so well known, but perhaps I might recall that among the other offices he held was that of former editor of the *Gazette* and also that he brought all the qualities that I have mentioned above to our game.

A.D.K.

Ian will be sadly missed by all his friends in the Croquet world particularly at the Hurlingham Club, where he was a member for many years. He always found time to coach and encourage new players to whom he was endlessly kind and understanding. He will be chiefly remembered for his comprehensive knowledge of the Laws of Croquet; he undertook the task of revising the whole structure and wording of the Law book, and it will be a lasting memorial to him. He inspired numerous players to improve their understanding of the Laws. It gave Ian great pleasure when he was appointed Chairman of the Test Selection committee. The MacRobertson shield was one of his particular interests. His honesty and his wise and impartial judgement will be a great loss to all who admired and respected him.

J.S.S., Hurlingham Club

### D.L.G. Joseph

Perhaps the brightest and most spectacular star in the 1920s and early 'thirties was D.L.G. Joseph, who died on 9 February, aged 82. It is now well over 45 years since his last tournament at Lewes in 1932; his first tournament took place at Bexhill-on-Sea in 1913. The year 1924 saw him at his peak with unbroken victory: his defeat of the deadly D.D.Steel in the sensational Championship final being long remembered. He finished third in the Beddow Champion Cup with a total of 12, and despite numerous appearances in that exacting event, never won as many games again. A felicitous partnership with Miss Winifred Heap twice brought victory in the Mixed Doubles Championship. In 1925, the year of its inception, he was runner-up in the Gentlemen's Championship, as it was then called. But it was at Lewes and Eastbourne where Joseph especially shone, and where, by his dazzling but entirely convincing play, he drew a large gallery of spectators.

He was noted for his forward game, accurate long rushes and cutting powers, and with an exquisite delicacy of touch he was equally brilliant on a good or a bad lawn. Through his friendship with Maurice Reckitt, the link with croquet was never wholly severed. It was only towards the end of his life, however, that David Joseph again had leisure and opportunity to renew old associations in the flesh. A nostalgic visit to Devonshire Park one autumn led to annual invitations from Maurice Reckitt to watch the President's Cup at Hurlingham. By now a frail and wizened figure, Joseph was profoundly impressed by the expert play, sure in his mind that it was indeed of an altogether higher order to the 'standard' prevalent in his own day.

N.O.H.

### Sir Leonard Stone

Jack Stone died early in the New Year whilst on a visit to Cheltenham, and one feels that he would rather have departed this life there than anywhere else. He established a *piéd-à-terre* with his sister who lived in Cheltenham and became a member of the Club, together with his niece (now Mrs Sturdy), so to us he was always 'Uncle Jack'. He spent most of his days, out of the Law term, at Cheltenham, and most of each day at the Club. His charm and friendliness were appreciated by all, especially the young; he introduced the game to many young friends at Gray's Inn, where he also played daily. He was in demand as a Doubles partner and when he won the Club Doubles Trophy—the Walter Peel Jug—with Andrew Hope his delight had to be seen to be believed. He had a distinguished career in the service of his country and the law, yet he was unassuming and most grateful for anything that was done for him. When he wished to make a thank-offering to the Club, he gladly let it be applied to the purchase of some equipment that was needed. Many people will have very happy memories of him.

W.E.G.

### Major E.J. Bromley-Fox

The sudden death of Major E.J. Bromley-Fox at his home in Bedford on 18 December robbed the Wrest Park Club of one of its founder members. Although he had not played a great deal over the past few years he will always be remembered as a patient and helpful coach. (I was introduced to the game by him in 1962.) His handicap was around 10 and he was much sought after as a doubles partner, particularly in the Longman Cup in which he played for Wrest Park and Hunstanton.

D.V.H.R.

### Alan Longhurst Murphy

Rondebosch Club has lost not only a founder member but one whose unflinching courtesy will long be remembered. As the result of an accident he spent over two years in hospital, cared for devotedly by his wife and his son Nigel, to both of whom Alan's many friends extend their sympathy.

Alan always had time to help the Club; if he was not playing croquet he would repair to his workbench to make mallets. Happily, one of these has found its way to his home country and is known affectionately as the Murphy Mallet; it is most beautifully made. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

C.B.

### Billy

His many admirers in all parts of the croquet world will be much grieved to hear of the death of Billy and will sympathise with the Prichards over his loss. Though essentially a one-family dog, Billy did tolerate others, and those of us whom he accepted will miss his warm presence when waiting for the peg-out which allowed him to rush on to the court; he had taught himself never to cross the boundary netting until the game was over.

E.M.L.

*To Billy, loved and loving,  
Of five lives a great part,  
His wriggling, laughing welcome,  
Is locked in each sad heart.*

## Handicapping Procedures

### New Handicaps

A handicap is obtained either from:

(a) A Club Handicapper, or a committee of members, appointed by the Club to allocate handicaps. A Club Handicap will not necessarily be accepted for play in a C.A. Calendar Fixture Tournament;

or (b) the Tournament Handicapper of a C.A. Calendar Fixture (including weekend tournaments) who will be on the list of Authorised C.A. Handicappers, appointed by the Tournament Committee of the C.A.

A player entering a Calendar Fixture Tournament who has not obtained a C.A. handicap may request the Tournament Handicapper to apply his Club Handicap, or, in the absence of any such handicap, will be given a starred handicap.

*Note:* Subject to ratification by the Council the limit of not more than 9 for a starred handicap will no longer apply.

A starred handicap can be varied during the tournament but not in an event in which the player has already taken part.

At the end of the tournament the Tournament Handicapper will allocate a handicap, remove the star and advise the player and the C.A. Secretary (see Regulations 22 and 23).

### Reductions

All the handicap reductions recommended by Tournament Handicappers resulting from play in Calendar Fixtures (including weekend tournaments) take effect *immediately*.

The player concerned is notified of the reduction before he leaves the tournament and is handed an official card showing the alteration. This he must show to the Manager of any tournament which he may enter. He should also inform the Handicapper(s) of his own Club or Clubs.

It is the duty of a player to ascertain before leaving the tournament whether his handicap has been reduced.

COMPETITORS ARE REMINDED OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITY FOR PLAYING AT THEIR CORRECT HANDICAP UNDER REGULATION 11.

Handicap reductions recommended by Club Handicappers will also take effect *immediately*.

### Increases

An increase in Handicap may be obtained by a player applying to his Club Handicapper or to a Tournament Handicapper.

Handicappers may themselves suggest to a player that a handicap be increased, but any increase can only be made with the player's consent.

An increased handicap becomes effective *immediately* and all the relevant procedures under Reductions apply.

### Notification to the Croquet Association

Both Club and Tournament Handicappers should inform the Secretary of the C.A. of new and altered handicaps as soon as possible on the Handicap listing form supplied by the Secretary.

### Approval of Handicaps

New handicaps and alterations as advised to the C.A. are submitted to the Handicap Co-ordination Committee for approval.

The Handicap Co-ordination Committee in the exercise of their powers may request the Handicapper concerned for further evidence supporting an alteration.

The Handicap Co-ordination Committee has power to vary any alterations in handicaps which in their opinion call for modification and is also empowered to make a review of handicaps at the end of each season.

### Appeals

A player who disagrees with a Handicapper's decision has the right of appeal to the Handicap Co-ordination Committee.

Appeals against decisions of the Handicap Co-ordination Committee may be made by individuals through the Secretary of the C.A. to the Handicap Appeals Committee, whose decision will be final.

R.A.Godby

Chairman, Handicap Co-ordination Committee

## Correspondence

### E pur si muove

from G.Kimber

Sir,

It is not unknown for an adversary, having watched a take-off, to ask the striker, 'Did you move that ball?'

What can the striker reply? 'Yes, I suppose you thought I was cheating', or 'No, but I hoped you would not notice!'

I have long doubted whether the adversary has any right to ask the question at all. The implications are obvious, and having been a witness to the ill-feeling engendered by such an incident, I was driven to my typewriter.

It seems to me that while the striker must own to any irregularity he even 'suspects' he has committed, the adversary must not interrupt except to draw attention to 'any irregularity he observes'. If the adversary asks the question 'Did you move that ball?', it follows that he did not observe any irregularity, and therefore should not interrupt.

Furthermore, my guess is that adversaries limit this question to long bisquers and would not ask a low bisquer. Just imagine would anybody ask Humphrey Hicks if he had moved the ball (which I am sure he always does) and hope to live to fight another day?

Of course if one wishes to indulge in straight gamesmanship, then ask the question at every opportunity.

Nayland  
Colchester

Yours sincerely,  
G.Kimber

## The Handicapping System

from K.F.Wylie

Sir,

Some years ago I reached a conclusion similar to that of Dr Vincent (*Croquet Gazette*, No. 146) about the inherent inadequacies of the handicapping system. However, whereas he describes the effect as 'non-linearity' I feel that the true description is 'non-transitivity', which is a weaker condition: all that one can say with any certainty is that where players X and Y are fairly handicapped as between each other, and players Y and Z are also, it does not as a general rule follow that X and Z are.

The situation is complicated by the fact that the match between X and Z may not be a fair one even when they have the same correct handicap. A handicap player's skill depends both on his skill in level play and on his skill in taking or conceding bisques. Some balance has to be made between these factors, so that one will find two quite different players on the same handicap. The one who is better at taking bisques will tend to lose to the other. However, we can hardly abandon the simple handicapping system that we have, and any adjustment to it must, like Dr Vincent's, treat equally those who have the same handicap.

Dr Vincent proposes a sliding scale depending on handicap difference, a one-dimensional adjustment; but this does not resolve the difficulty which he himself points out: 'a bisque is of intrinsically more worth to a better player'. What is needed is a two-dimensional adjustment table, so that the adjustment depends not just on the handicap difference, but on the actual handicap of the players.

The following diagram is by way of *illustration only*. For the sake of brevity I consider groups of handicaps, whereas a proper working table would have to deal individually with each handicap. *No importance should be attached to the actual figures I have chosen.*

higher bisquer					
-2 to 1/2	0				
1 to 3 1/2	1/2	1/2			
4 to 7	1	1/2	1/2		
8 to 11	1 1/2	1 1/2	1	1	
12 to 16	2 1/2	2	1 1/2	1	1
	-5	-2	1	4	8
	to	to	to	to	to
	-2 1/2	1/2	3 1/2	7	11
lower bisquer					

The compilation of an official table along these lines would have to be preceded by much painstaking preparation of statistics. For instance, in order to lay down the correct adjustment where a 2-bisquer plays a 10-bisquer one ought to consider the history of just such matches, or possibly of matches between players in the range 1 to 3 and players in the range 9 to 11. It would not do to use a broader brush. A further complication is that each result used in this preparation would have to be scrutinised individually and rejected if either of the participants was notoriously under- or over-handicapped. For instance, there are usually a significant number of fast-improving players in the B class whose results should not be allowed to prejudice the handicapping of the class in general.

Dr Vincent develops his argument on the narrow ground that not enough bisques are conceded where the handicap difference exceeds about 4. If that were all that is wrong (and with all respect I do not think his figures substantiate his conclusions concerning non-linearity), the remedy would be all too simple: we just increase the handicap range, by making the maximum handicap 20, say, and changing all existing handicaps by the formula  $h' = hx 20/16$ .

17 Carlton Crescent  
Southampton

Yours sincerely,  
K.F.Wylie

## The Problem of Side

from R.C.Case and the Sidmouth Club

Sir,

Our members are oppressed with doubts. To use side, or not to; that is the question. The use of side is advocated in Lord Tollemache's book for certain stop-shots, for approaches to hoops when nearly in line from the non-playing side, and for heavily angled hoop-shots at short range. For some of the latter he goes so far as to say that 'without side, the ball would not go through at all'.

Careful scrutiny of photographs of his split-shots shows that Tollemache hits his ball with the mallet about 1/2 in. off centre, and with that side of the mallet face nearest to which the striker's ball is going to travel. The object being to ensure 'hitting into' the object ball. He concedes that 'it is not absolutely necessary, for most of the split-shots, to hit your own ball off the middle of your mallet at all—but it is an additional insurance against following-through the path of your own ball instead of towards the half-way aiming point'. This 'off-centre' play does not come strictly within the definition of 'side'; but it seems to have a connection.

Returning to the question of using side proper. What puzzles our more mathematically minded members is how a ball struck on the centre line can take any side at all. If struck much further off centre the striker's ball would certainly be given side but would be deflected from the centre line of aim.

It is claimed by some that a croquet ball does not behave in the same way as a billiard ball, presumably because of differences in hardness and surface texture. Even so, such differences do not provide an obvious solution to our problem. If a player of such assured standing as Lord Tollemache avers that side can (and should) be employed effectively, how can it be doubted? But how many players take advantage of it? And if the answer is not many, why not?

One can easily see top-spin on a ball flying its way through a hoop. Has anyone seen a ball spinning with side? If one, or more, of your experienced players could throw light on these questions, it would be greatly appreciated.

Knowle Drive  
Sidmouth

Yours sincerely,  
R.C.Case

## Weekend Results

from J.H.J.Soutter

Sir,

I think the present method of reporting the results of weekend tournaments is bad, it merely shows the results of the matches played by the Block winner. A minus player often loses by 26 to someone with too many bisques but otherwise does well and may even be 'in the money'; but in the magazine it looks as if he has done hopelessly badly—which is bad for his vanity.

Surely the best method is to report the results as follows:

BLOCK A. 1st A.B. 5 wins; 2nd C.D. 4 wins (+19); 3rd E.F. 4 wins (+11); 4th G.H., etc.

In this way you can see how well everyone has done.

Ancastle Green  
Henley on Thames

Yours sincerely,  
J.H.J.Soutter

[NOTE: This suggestion is to be adopted—see Editor's notes.]

## Proposed University Tournament 1978

from G.E.J.A.Doughty

Sir,

I have been asked to inquire into the possibility of holding an inter-university croquet tournament in late June or early July. Specific dates, venue and type of tournament would depend on the numbers and location of potential participants.

I am at the present making initial approaches to the British Universities Sports Federation for their approval and possible financial assistance. At present there is evidence to suggest that there are University Clubs at Birmingham, Cambridge, Durham, Exeter, Hull, Leeds, Loughborough, Oxford and York. If any reader knows of any other university clubs, I would appreciate it if you would draw their attention to this letter. Anybody who would be interested in entering a team into such a tournament please write to me c/o Durham University Association Croquet Club, DUACU Office, Palmers Garth, Hallgarth Street, Durham DH1 3AR, as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,  
G.E.J.A. Doughty

DUACC

### Wool in a Day's Work

The following is an extract from a letter received—and dealt with—by the Secretary, The Croquet Association.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wonder if you can tell me where I can get any information of croqueting wool. . . . I get a lot of pleasure out of this hobby. At the moment I have attempted to croquet a hooded baby's cloak. . . . I have tried several combinations of hooks and wool—even 3-ply—to achieve the measurements, so far without success. . . . The pattern quotes 22½ trebles.

I have got several teach-yourself books but they all give instructions on Cotton Croquet. Maybe you could tell me of publications that give details of wool croqueting.

Yours truly, etc.

### How to Record a Game

from Dr Eric Solomon

Sir,

I write in response to your invitation in Issue 145 which related to methods for recording a game of croquet. The task of recording a full game requires a considerable feat of concentration. I have evolved a system which minimises physical effort without sacrificing accuracy. Briefly, it consists of pre-printed sheets containing 40 stroke-record diagrams on which the stroke and final position of balls can be notated by symbols. The method suggested for ball location is similar to the 'clock' system used in gunnery.

I am producing some record sheets and would be prepared to send some, together with a copy of my system, to interested parties at a small cost to cover printing.

3 Clissold Court  
Greenway Close  
London N4 2EZ

Yours faithfully,  
E.W. Solomon

[NOTE: I have seen the first draft of the system which is regrettably too long to print. This method is to be given a trial this year and if it generates sufficient interest it will be printed in its final form.—Ed.]

### Kiss—but Don't Tell

from R.A. Godby

Sir,

I was most interested in Dr C.A. Parker's article 'The Imperfect Double' and his concluding statement that the striker need remember only one simple rule which he says experienced players say they already know, that is—always aim at a ball in a 'wide' double.

My experience is that there is another even more important rule to observe—never tell your opponent at which ball you were, in fact, aiming.

Copse Hill  
Wimbledon

Yours, etc.,  
Robert A. Godby

### Croquet in a Tennis Museum

The Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Museum devotes a section to the history of croquet but mainly tells the story of its association with the All England Club.

The lawns of the All England Lawn Tennis Club in Worple Road were known throughout the world for their fine, smooth texture. Lawns without weeds; lawns without bumps. These tennis courts at Wimbledon owed their reputation to the fact that they started life as croquet lawns. These croquet courts were laid down in 1869 at the old club grounds in Worple Road not far from Wimbledon railway station. The old ground is still there—but now the playing-fields of the Wimbledon High School for Girls. Some of the lawns are still used for lawn tennis and in the far corner, near where the wicket-gate stood at the entrance to the ground from the railway footpath, the visitor can still make out large patches of fine grass. After more than one hundred years the grass of the original croquet lawns still manages to survive.

Lawn tennis was first permitted at the All England Croquet Club, but on one lawn only, in the summer of 1875. In those days it was Major Walter Wingfield's game which he called Sphairistikè but in spite of its impossible name it proved so popular that a whole terrace—a third of the whole ground—was given over to the new sport the following year. By 1877 lawn tennis had taken over almost entirely although croquet and the croquet championships were still played. In April the name of the club, after much discussion and at times heated debate, was changed to the All England Croquet and Lawn Tennis Club. A few weeks later a championship lawn tennis tournament was held. All twelve croquet lawns were used and a large gathering of spectators watched the games. Spencer Gore, who lived at Wimbledon, became the first lawn tennis champion in the world. The centenary of this event was celebrated at Wimbledon last summer at the 'new' Wimbledon ground in Church Road. To mark the centenary the Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Museum was established and opened by the Duke of Kent, the President of the Club, in May. The Museum covers the whole history of ball-and-bat sports back to ancient Egyptian, Greek, and Roman games. Jeu de paume, rackets, fives, and badminton, which have all contributed something to lawn tennis, find their place at the beginning of the museum. While croquet itself contributed nothing to the development of lawn tennis it contributed everything to the premier lawn tennis club in the world and gave it the 'All England' part of its name. That section of the Museum which covers the early days of the All England Club devotes space to telling the story of the croquet club which became a tennis club.

For the first seven years of its existence the All England Club was a club devoted to the interests of croquet and nothing but croquet. The original men's dressing-room with the blue delf-type wash-basins inserted into a marble top, the original tall croquet lockers and the wood bench on which the early champions—both croquet and lawn tennis—rested, have all been transported from the old pavilion in Worple Road to the Museum. Even the original brass gas-brackets are there. The room has been 'dressed' as it was in Victorian times. Croquet mallets—some genuine ones from last century—are to be seen in one corner. Period clothing, a contemporary copy of *The Times*, and some period rackets all go to give a life-like appearance. From outside the window may be heard a lawn tennis match in progress and at the conclusion of each rally the umpire calling the score. Occasionally, in the distance, a South-western Railway train may be heard passing the ground as the steam trains did in Victoria's day.

To the left of the dressing-room is one of the original Club championship boards on which in faded gold lettering the Club croquet champions had their names recorded from 1869, when W.H. Peel was the first champion. A picture close by is one taken at the Club in front of the newly constructed pavilion in the summer of 1870. This photograph was taken during the Open Championships in August of that year. Many of those men who helped to make the Club the important one it was in the croquet world may be seen in this picture. In the centre—as if he ruled the Club, as he did for a short period—may be seen the controversial secretary Walter

Jones Whitmore. To one side is John Walsh, the editor of *The Field*. Near him may be seen the hand-bell which was rung when a match was due on court.

Another interesting picture is a reproduction of the engraving published in July 1870 in the *Illustrated London News*, in fact on the title page, showing John Walsh, his wife and daughter (both Ladies Club and Open Champions). The two ladies are playing while John Walsh in top-hat looks on. In the background may be identified several of the leading players and officials of the Club.

It was while turning out cupboards, some of which did not seem to have been opened for 50 years, at the All England Club that several of the items in the Museum were found. It was in this way that the 1870 group photograph mentioned above was discovered. Another fascinating find in a long-forgotten box of papers was a series of small cards giving information about the All England Croquet Club, a small plan to show its location and the railway station, a list of the officials for the year and details of subscription rates. This series of cards is dated from 1869.

Down in the entrance hall of the main club buildings are displayed the original croquet championship boards. The All England Championships end in 1877 but the Club Championships go right through from 1869 to the present day. It is perhaps fitting that the present Club Champion—there is still one croquet lawn (he has been Champion every year since 1963 with two exceptions)—should be Professor Bernard Neal who has also played in the lawn tennis championships at Wimbledon and, in his younger days, was a first-class player.

Tom Todd

NOTE: The Museum is closed on Mondays, Public Holidays and Bank Holidays. During the Championships admission has to be restricted and tickets can only be bought at a kiosk on the Public Tea Lawn. Otherwise

Opening Hours are

Tuesday to Saturday: 11 am to 5 pm

Sunday: 2 pm to 5 pm

Admission 30p (children and pensioners 15p).

### A Lift with Two Balls in a Balk Corner

Some time ago an incident arose in one of my games, being played under the Laws of Advanced Play, about which I would appreciate some comment both from the player's and the referee's point of view.

Red and Yellow are both corner balls. Red is on the corner spot in Corner I, and Yellow is in contact with Red on the west boundary. Blue and Black have completed their turn and having conceded a lift, they have separated, Blue going off to Corner II.

In the next turn Red is lifted with the aim of rushing Yellow as far as possible up the west boundary. When Red is placed on the baulk line, two things become obvious. First, that the nearer to Yellow it is moved the further up the boundary Yellow can be rushed; second, if Yellow has not been placed perfectly accurately a very simple rush or an impossible situation may arise.

Let us firstly assume that Yellow is perfectly placed, then how closely can Red be put to give a good rush? Theoretically, a rush can be obtained to any point west of the west boundary yardline. A rush can be obtained to the second corner but the gap between the balls would have to be less than a thousandth of an inch. It would, however, be well-nigh impossible to place Red thus in practice due to unevenness of the ground and human imperfections.

No player would wish to gain unfair advantage in such a situation so I suggest that there are two points to observe when Red is placed on the baulk yardline:

- that the Red and Yellow are separated and there is a visible gap;
- that looking East—West across court, no visible gap exists between the balls when the eye is at 'ball-height', that is, that the northernmost edge of Red is not to the south of the southernmost edge of Yellow.

What is important in this situation is the placing of Red relative to Yellow, not whether Red is or is not on the yardline, there being no means of determining this sufficiently accurately in these particular circumstances. It is of no consequence to the game whether Yellow is accurately positioned in the first place, and the importance of very careful placing originally would probably not have occurred to either player. By placing Red relative to Yellow and not to the baulk line when the lift is taken, no unfair advantage will accrue to either player.

On a flat lawn, a few practice rushes have shown that Yellow may be rushed some 10 to 14 yards up the West boundary before going out of court, the time taken to place the balls being similar to that taken for a corner cannon.

Michael Heap

### Clubs Near and Far

#### Croquet at Oxford

'... there are reasons (except perhaps at Oxford) for supposing that the outlook is less gloomy than it was'\*

The inevitability of a win by our traditional rivals has clearly obviated the need for a report of last year's Varsity Match played at Hurlingham on 13 June. The result is detailed below. Though these figures do not reveal it, things have changed at Oxford. Last year the revived intercollegiate Cuppers competition attracted a record entry of 172. From this large though admittedly mixed field has emerged a small group of players who, thanks in no small part to the hospitality of the Cheltenham club, have worked to improve their game over the summer. These efforts were rewarded by a few modest successes in the autumn; Bond and Sykes were finalists at the Colchester August Weekend, Boddington did well at Budleigh and Dinwoodie represented Scotland in a match for middle-bisquers. These endeavours have at last persuaded the authorities to elevate croquet to the status of a half-blue sport. With our relatively experienced players still available for selection and with the tired lawns in the Parks undergoing a long-awaited rejuvenation we are looking forward to a vigorous year ahead which will reverse the textbook allegation.

\*Miller and Thorp. *Croquet and how to play it*, p. 27.

Hurlingham, Monday, 13 June 1977

Time limit: 2½ hr. Cambridge names first.

M.Ormerod bt I.Bond (+19)

D.Wilson (Capt.) lost to C.Dinwoodie (-18)

R.Bowes bt P.Boddington (Capt.) (+5 t)

N.Hunn bt B.Sykes (+19)

A.Kilpatrick lost to I.Keable-Elliot (-11)

G.Anderson bt T.Hughes (+11 t)

M.Ormerod and D.Wilson bt I.Bond and P.Boddington (+16)

R.Bowes and N.Hunn bt C.Dinwoodie and B.Sykes (+1 t)

A.Kilpatrick and G.Anderson bt I.Keable-Elliot and T.Hughes (+16)

Cambridge beat Oxford 7-2

#### Cheltenham Weekend Tournament V

from G.E.P. Jackson

Sir,

For the American Tournament to be played at Cheltenham on 13-15 October, the Club announces that games will be modified, in accordance with Law 54, depending on the sum of the handicaps of the players. As daylight disappears at about six o'clock at that time of the year it is thought to be fairer to give all entrants roughly equal court occupation. By this means everyone will get six games in the three days rather than the five which till now has been usual. If any entrant wishes to withdraw because of this change of programme the full fee will be refunded.

Cheltenham Croquet Club

Yours sincerely,  
Edgar Jackson

... was a most successful season for the West Midlands entering the league for the first time, with Wolverhampton again ending up league leaders.

Club	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Wolverhampton	10	9	1	24	6	18
Walsall	10	7	3	20	10	14
Edgbaston	10	7	3	18	12	14
Sandwell	10	4	6	10	20	8
Stourbridge	10	2	8	12	18	4
Bromsgrove	10	1	9	6	24	2

In a pre-season friendly against the Northern Federation at Burscough indoor centre in March the W.M.F. won 3½-2½. Also in the annual match at Southport in May the W.M.F. beat the Northern Federation 7-2. A new event for 1977 was an Invitation Match between the W.M.F. and a Scottish team of comparable handicap ratings, played in three sessions:

1. *Level Singles (Advanced Rules)* W.M.F. 5, Scotland 2.
2. *Handicap Singles* W.M.F. 4, Scotland 3.
3. *Handicap Doubles* W.M.F. 2, Scotland 1.

**Match Result** W.M.F. 11, Scotland 6. Four weekend tournaments were organised by the W.M.F. under the able management of Mrs Lenfesty.

1. *Handicap Doubles* (21/22 May) **Semi-Final** D.Arthur & P.Barnes (Walsall) bt A.Ward & J.Assheton (Edgbaston) +1 (T); F.Norton & J.White (Scotland) bt R.Titchener & P.Trafford (Walsall) +5 (T). **Final** D.Arthur & P.Barnes bt F.Norton & J.White +18.
2. *Handicap Singles* (18/19 June) **Block A** **Semi-Final** H.Bottomley (3½) bt P.Trafford (7½) +11; L.H.Hawkins (11) bt L.Flutter (10) +25. **Final** L.H.Hawkins bt H.Bottomley +17.

- Block B** **Semi-Final** J.Meads (3) bt D.Lenfesty (4) +12; R.F.Wheeler (6) bt S.Willetts (7) +7 (T). **Final** R.F.Wheeler bt J.Meads +1 (T).

3. *Tilly Bowl* for 6+ handicap players (3/4 September) This was won by Rosemary Flutter of the Sandwell Club.
4. *A new Golf Croquet Tournament* (2 October) Organised on an X, Y, Z basis with a beautiful Rose Bowl presented by the *Sunday Mercury* for the X-winner. X-winner: H. Bottomley, runner-up: J. Potter. Y-winner: D. Trueman, runner-up: P. Woodhams. Z-winner: I. Wright, runner-up: D. Willetts.

There has been an increase in playing members throughout the W.M.F. clubs. At the end of the 1976 season a Barn Dance organised by Des Willetts and the Stourbridge club raised funds and bought a fine Rose Bowl for the Handicap Doubles Tournament and at the end of the 1977 season a similar event organised jointly by the Wolverhampton and Sandwell clubs bought a lovely cup for the Handicap Singles Tournament. I think that this sort of effort by local clubs shows the increasing enthusiasm and interest in croquet.

We also have an arrangement with the *Sunday Mercury* whereby all our results and league tables and coming events are published throughout the season and we also have them to thank for our Golf Croquet Rose Bowl.

Finally may I wish all croquet clubs a successful and prosperous season.

P.J.Barnes (chairman)

## The Scottish Croquet Association Tour of South Africa

**1st Test Match**  
Rondebosch, 4 and 5 November

**DOUBLES**  
S.J.H.Wright and I.H.Wright lost to T.Barlow and D.G.Cunningham +1, -9, -25.  
\*F.V.X.Norton and D.I.Nichols lost to L.Sullivan and C.Coulson +10, -11, -11.

\*Match lasted a day and a half.  
**SINGLES**  
S.J.H.Wright lost to T.Barlow -16, +14, -12.  
I.H.Wright lost to D.G.Cunningham -23, -22.  
F.V.X.Norton lost to L.Sullivan +13, -10, -25.  
D.I.Nichols beat T.Coulson +13, -15, +9.

**South Africa** won 5-1.

**2nd Test Match**  
Pietermaritzburg, 11 and 12 November

**DOUBLES**  
S.J.H.Wright and F.V.X.Norton beat T.Barlow and D.G.Cunningham +14, +4.  
I.H.Wright and D.I.Nichols lost to L.Sullivan and C.Coulson -10, -18.

**SINGLES**  
S.J.H.Wright lost to T.Barlow +4, -10, -23.  
I.H.Wright lost to L.Sullivan -18, -18.  
F.V.X.Norton lost to D.G.Cunningham -15, +1, -12.  
D.I.Nichols beat C.Coulson -10, +17, +2.

**South Africa** won 4-2.

## South African Open Championships

Maritzburg Club. Sponsored by J. & B. Whisky S.A.

**Belcher Cup**  
**DRAW**  
**PROCESS**  
T.Barlow beat L.Sullivan +22.

**RUNNER-UP**  
Sybil Barras beat L.Sullivan +7.

**Lady Steel Silver Salver. Open Doubles**  
S.J.H.Wright and F.V.X.Norton beat T.Barlow and D.G.Cunningham +24.

**Rondebosch Cup. Handicap Singles 'X'**  
D.I.Nichols (+1, Edinburgh) beat F.V.X.Norton (0, Glasgow) +12.

## A Grading System for Croquet Players

The handicapping system in croquet is designed to equalise the chances of two players of different abilities in a handicap game. Despite its lack of direct relevance to performances in Advanced play it is also looked to as an indicator of a player's position in the croquet pecking order. However, there is no reason why the *Gazette's* excellent coverage of the results of Advanced games should not be used to provide an objectively calculated numerical grading system similar to that used in the game of chess. The principle is very simple. If X of grade x beats Y of grade y, X receives (y + 50) points and Y receives (x - 50) points. At a convenient time, such as the end of the season, a player's points can be totalled and divided by the number of games played to give an average figure which represents his new grade.

The idea was put into practice by taking 1970 as the starting point. The 20 best players were given arbitrary grades of 100. Only 20 players at any one time were examined because it was necessary to keep the quantity of data to manageable proportions. It is hoped



President's Cup 1977. Left to right: Keith Wylie (who won the event) with Ian Baillieu and Andrew Hope (who had just failed to take croquet when entitled to do so after a corner cannon). This is how croquet players best remember Ian (seated behind are Jim Townsend, Edward Duffield and Maurice Reckitt).  
Below, left: William Ormerod (runner-up Open Championships). Below, right: Michael Heap (Open Champion 1977).  
(Photographs by Peter Alvey.)





Above, left: Barbara Meachem, winning the Ladies' Field Cup (everyone will recognise the hat) for the first time. Right: Kitty Wheeler, the runner-up; in her nine years in this event she has won three times, divided once, and has never been more than two games behind the winner. (Photographs by Miss Sarah Hampson.)

Below: Southport and Birkdale Spring Tournament 1977. Many larger clubs would envy this fine pavilion. (Photograph by E.L.Gardiner.)



Chairman's Salver, Colchester. William Prichard receiving the salver from the C.A. President, Edward Duffield. This event started in 1966; it was devised by Ian Baillieu and the salver was presented by Jack Rivington (Chairman C.A. 1964-66) to whom, with Ian, Croquet at Hurlingham owes so much. (Photograph sent by R.Alford.)

Below, left to right, standing: Martin Murray, Robin Godby, William Prichard, Colin Prichard, Eric Solomon; front: Stephen Wright, Norman Davren, Edgar Jackson. (Photograph by Robin Godby.)







Stourbridge Members at a croquet demonstration on 'Pebble Mill at One'. Mick and Val Tompkinson and Peter and Tony Young with Alan Pascoe (Olympic Athletics Team Captain) and David Seymour (TV presenter). (Photograph sent by Peter Young.)



Devonshire Park. Skyline from the Pavilion. On court is Tiny Tyrwhitt Drake playing in the last match of the last of the Winter Tournaments at Devonshire Park (they started in 1896). In 1979 the South of England Championships will be held in April. (This year Southwick are putting them on from 18 September to 1 October.) (Photograph by Mrs G.E.Cave.)



Durham University Athletic Union. 1977 croquet team. Standing: Andrew Coleman, Steve Quartermaine, David Lyons. Sitting: David Iddon, George Doughty, John Macdonald. (Photograph sent by G.E.J.A. Doughty.) Note these names—we will surely hear more of them.

to repeat the pilot experiment later in the year when the performances of every player with a handicap of +3 or better will be analysed. In the present case the limitation of numbers means that any games played between graded players and games lost by graded players to ungraded players are considered. A player becomes graded when he plays at least 12 games in a season against graded opposition and averages at least 100. Equally a player can lose graded status by an insufficiently good performance. At present a grade of 100 is associated with a player who does play to a handicap of +1 to scratch. Problems arise when a very high grader (e.g. Aspinall in 1976: 169) plays a 100-grader. Even if he wins he may score fewer points than his own grade. This would tend to lower his grade unfairly. Thus the minimum worth of a win against a graded player is the winner's grade plus 5 points. Conversely, the maximum worth of a loss is the loser's grade less 5 points. The legitimate sources of data are all Open Tournaments, the Eights, Inter-Club matches and internal Club competitions played to Advanced rules.

My calculations show that the 'best 6' in the years 1972 to 1977 were as follows:

**1972**  
W.Prichard, 143; J.Solomon, 137; Aspinall, 133; Neal, 126; Wylie, 112; Ormerod, 108.

**1973**  
Aspinall, 156; Neal, 142; Ormerod, 133; Hands, 119; J.Solomon, 109; W.Prichard, 107.

**1974**  
Neal, 139; Aspinall, 138; J.Solomon, 130; W.Prichard, 130; Hemsted, 119; Murray, 116.

**1975**  
Aspinall, 169; Ormerod, 139; Hope, 127; Heap, 125; Neal, 115; J.Solomon, 112.

**1976**  
Aspinall, 169; Ormerod, 139; C.Prichard, 119; Heap, 118; Wylie, 114; Murray, 109.

**1977**  
Wylie, 143; Aspinall, 137; Ormerod, 135; W.Prichard, 133; Heap, 130; Openshaw, 121.

Although the limitations of this restricted experiment are obvious, it is interesting to see how some subjective impressions are reinforced by a purely results-based system and how some are challenged. Aspinall's general dominance of the game in this decade, Ormerod's remarkable consistency, Wylie's less-consistent brilliance, the 1977 trend towards more equal sharing of the honours—all these can be easily traced in the gradings given above. However, many may be surprised at John Solomon's grading performance and at the considerable amount of position-changing from year to year. It is possible that the grading system may have some use in the future in selecting Test teams and Invitation Eights. This system will be more reliable when it embraces a larger section of the tournament population. In any event all comment and criticism will be warmly welcomed and replied to.

S.N.Mulliner

**A Moot Point of Law**

Mr B ends his turn with Black and Blue close together on the south boundary near Corner IV, but they are not touching.

Red shoots and misses and comes on the yardline about nine inches away along the east boundary.

Mr B calls for a Referee and says: 'I want to play with Blue and roquet Red, but Black is so close to Blue I am afraid of making a fault, will you watch it please'. The Referee watches the shot carefully and to his surprise Mr B strikes Black with the face of his mallet and Black roquets Red! Mr B was equally surprised: 'I was trying to strike Blue... but have I made a fault or not?'

The Australian Laws Committee intend raising this point in 1979 during the Tests. What do Pavilion Lawyers think?

**The Imperfect (or Baillieu) Double**

Dr Parker's detailed figures and graphs in the last Gazette were most interesting. One of his difficulties was to find the standard deviation applicable to each individual which would give the theoretical probability of the player hitting. This is understandable, but for the average player the work has already been done empirically by nearly 30,000 observations of Dr Grundy published in the *Gazette* of Summer 1977. These give us the probability of hitting a single ball at all ranges and also show that these probabilities differ little between A and B class players.

Dr Parker's graphs show that we stand a better chance of hitting something if we aim at the centre of doubles of various widths rather than at a specific ball when the probability of hitting a single ball is as follows:

Ball spaces between balls	1½	2	3	9
Probability of hitting a single ball	Less than 75%	Less than 58%	Less than 45%	Less than 18%

If we substitute Grundy's distances for Parker's probabilities (excluding the 19-ball space which could never be treated as a double) we get a result much easier to visualise. The following table shows that it is better to aim at the centre of a double than at a specific ball if the range is:

Ball spaces between balls	1½	2	3	9
Range	More than 5 yd	More than 6½ yd	More than 9 yd	More than 27 yd

This table means, for instance, that up to about 5 yards it is better to aim at a specific ball rather than at the centre of a double with 1½-balls space but that over this distance we should treat it as a double. Similarly for the other columns in the table.

Some players who fancy themselves to be exceptionally good shots will still aim at a specific ball at greater ranges, but for the majority of us it would be more profitable to swallow our pride and treat as a double a target of the ranges and dimensions given above.

Dr Parker's rule (regardless of the range) 'always to aim at a ball unless the space between the two balls is too small for a ball to pass between' does not appear to be the logical conclusion from his graphs. Moreover, it is difficult to imagine, for instance, a player, presented with a double of 1½-balls space at 30 yards range, aiming at a specific ball rather than at the centre of the Baillieu double.

Old Brown

*Reply to Old Brown by Dr C.A.Parker*

It is quite true that at all ranges longer than those given in Old Brown's table the 'average player' (as defined by Dr Grundy's results) would make more hits by aiming at the middle. In practice there are three factors which may modify the theoretical situation, viz. (1) the player's shooting accuracy may differ from the average, (2) the player may misjudge the target range, and (3) he may misjudge the separation of the balls in the double. Suppose the player is shooting 20 per cent better than average. With 1½-ball separation this is equivalent to reducing the range for the average player from Old Brown's value of 5 yards, to 4 yards. From the first row of figures in my table it will be seen that aiming at the middle then causes a loss of 12 per cent of the hits that the player would have made by aiming at a ball. The same effect would be observed if the player's shooting ability were average, but he overestimated the range by the same proportion.

Alternatively, suppose that the player's accuracy is exactly average but he misjudges the separation of the balls, i.e. the separation is actually 1¾ ball spaces but he assumes it to be 1½ spaces. At Old Brown's range of 5 yards he will now, by aiming at

the middle, lose 8 per cent of the hits that he would have made by aiming at a ball (see second row of figures). If he is unfortunate enough to be 20 per cent more accurate than average (or make a 20 per cent error in estimating the range) and misinterpret a 1 3/4-ball space as a 1 1/2-ball space, then the third row of figures in the table indicates that he will lose 24 per cent of the hits that he could have made had he aimed at a ball.

The figures in rows 4, 5, and 6 of the table show the results of the corresponding calculations for a 2-ball space, with, in this case, a 15 per cent error reducing the range from 6 1/2 yards to 5 1/2 yards, or/and misjudging a 2 1/2-ball space to be a 2-ball space. Similarly, the figures in rows 7-12 of the table show the results of the calculations for doubles having 3-ball and 9-ball separations. It will be seen that there is a substantial loss of hits in some of these cases also. It is true that at greater ranges than those recommended by Old Brown the danger of losing hits in this way is much less, but even with an optimum Baillieu double the gain achieved by aiming at the middle never exceeds 14 per cent. Or, to put it the other way, aiming at a ball never results in a loss of more than 12 per cent of the hits that would have been obtained by aiming at the middle, whatever the range, the ball separation, or the accuracy of the player.

Effects of variations at Old Brown's limiting ranges. (The limiting ranges and the corresponding number of ball spaces are indicated by \*)

No. of ball spaces	Range in yards	% hits aiming at middle	% hits aiming at a ball	Hits lost by aiming at the middle	
				As % of number of shots	As % of hits by aiming at a ball
1 1/2*	4	74	84	10	12
1 3/4	5*	68	74	6	8
1 3/4	4	62	82	20	24
2*	5 1/2	62	69	7	10
2 1/2	6 1/2*	52	60	8	13
2 1/2	5 1/2	46	67	21	31
3*	7	43	56	13	23
3 1/2	9*	41	46	5	11
3 1/2	7	33	55	22	40
9*	22	17.1	22.4	5.3	24
11	27*	14.5	18.4	3.9	21
11	22	11.3	21.9	10.6	48

It was considerations such as these, coupled with the advantages that can often be gained by aiming at one particular ball, that led me to propose the simple rule. If a player does not have to worry about the exact range, or the exact ball separation, or his accuracy relative to the average, he can give his whole attention to executing a relaxed stroke, happy in the knowledge that he cannot lose more than 12 per cent of his possible hits in the worst case, no matter how bad a shot he is.

With regard to the average player presented with a double of 1 1/2-ball spaces at 30 yards, it will make only 0.9 per cent difference if he aims at a ball (30.3 per cent hits compared with 31.2 per cent). Of course, it makes little difference which he aims at, but I don't think one should reject the rule simply because it is not needed at this extreme limit.

Players experienced in judging distances may prefer to make the necessary assessments to allow them to aim safely at the middle on appropriate occasions. For some players I suggest that the limiting ranges should be set at values appreciably higher than those recommended by Old Brown. Ranges corresponding to the positions of maximum advantage for each ball separation (i.e. corresponding to optimum Baillieu doubles) should be sufficient to allow for most cumulative errors. If these positions were

adopted, the ranges in Old Brown's table would become 8, 9 1/2, 15, and 38 yards respectively.

Corrigendum. A sentence was omitted from the beginning of the second paragraph of my original article. It should read: '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". The accuracy of a particular player is then measured by his "Standard Deviation", which can be expressed as the angle within which 68 per cent of his shots will fall.'

C.A.P.

### Croquet History Quiz

A £5 prize is offered for the best solution (entry free).

This is a difficult quiz and 33 per cent correct answers might well win, so do not be put off from entering. Some answers involve more than one name. Entries to Lt-Col D.M.C.Prichard, Gobion Manor, Abergavenny, Gwent NP7 9AY, by 5 January 1979.

- Name any C.A. Associates who were:
  - An International Rugby football player.
  - British Amateur Golf champion.
  - British Chess champion.
  - Winner of a Wimbledon Lawn Tennis championship event.
  - An Australian Test Match cricketer.
- (a) Who won a C.A. Silver Medal at their first appearance in an official tournament?  
(b) What was the player's Christian name?
- Who were the oldest and the youngest winners of the following:
  - Open Championship.
  - 'Best Ten or Eight'.
  - Men's Championship.
  - Any C.A. Championship event.
  - Association Plate.
  - Du Pre Cup.
  - Chairman's Salver.
  - Surrey/Spencer-Ell Cup.
- Who was the:
  - Youngest winner of a C.A. Silver Medal.
  - Oldest competitor in the 'Best Ten or Eight'.
  - Youngest MacRobertson Shield International.
  - Last side-style (golf style across the body) to play in 'Eights Week'.
- To which competitors in the 'Best Ten or Eight' do the following apply:
  - Won the event on their first appearance in it.
  - A well-known portrait painter.
  - Commanded a submarine through the Dardanelles and became a professional actor.
  - Became Secretary of the C.A.
  - Son of the organist at St George's Chapel, Windsor.
  - A regular officer in the Royal Army Medical Corps.
- Name any winner of the Open Championship or 'Best Ten or Eight' who:
  - Was killed in action.
  - Died suddenly in the National Liberal Club.
  - Died young of a heart-attack in New Zealand.
  - Had a husband who was killed at a level-crossing.
  - Was reported dead in the *Croquet Gazette* but subsequently reappeared to play in a tournament at Compton.
  - Played in the Veterans' Lawn Tennis Championship at Wimbledon.
  - Invented the Chinese Imperial Game of Frogs and Toads.
  - Was Classics Master at St Paul's School.

- Who in the Open Championships:
  - Completed a sextuple peel.
  - Completed a three-ball triple peel (i.e. without touching the fourth ball).
  - Won a doubles match single-handed without a partner.
  - Claimed (unsuccessfully) to retain the title as holder although unable to be present to defend.
  - Won the final mainly due to unjustifiably claiming a foul by his opponent, wrongly upheld, and which subsequently led to acrimonious arguments.
  - Left the ground in a fury after defeat but, on getting home, sent a telegram claiming another stroke.
- (a) Why was the Beddow Cup renamed the President's Cup?  
(b) Who presented the President's Cup?  
(c) Who presented the Chairman's Salver?  
(d) What was remarkable physically about M.Spencer-Ell?
- Have any husband and wife ever won the Open Championship and the Ladies' Championship respectively in the same year? If so, who?
- (a) Thirty prominent players once signed a protest refusing to compete in the Open Championship if it was to be held at a certain club owing to the bad courts. Which club?  
(b) Where was the first C.A. Headquarters ground established (independent of Wimbledon).
- With what innovations in croquet were the following associated:
  - J.H.Hale; (b) H.W.Whichelo; (c) W.Davidson; (d) J.E. Austin; (e) A.Brigstocke.
- Which croquet player or players:
  - Became entitled to wear the President's Cup tie without having played in that event.
  - Played cricket for the Gentlemen v. Players at Lords.
  - Was Editor of *The Field*.
  - Was C.A. Authorised Instructor before the last war.
  - Was Archdeacon of Waitotara in New Zealand.
  - Was Rector of Dauntsey, Wilts., from 1875 to 1915.
  - Was Chief Constable of West Sussex and was prominent in the revival of croquet.

### An Answer to Question of Tactics: 1

Red must not panic, unlike the unfortunate player in last year's Open Championship, who tried to send Blue towards the second corner and left himself so short of Black that he missed it.

The best plan is probably to take off to Black, trying to get a rush in the general direction of the middle of the court; then after making 3-back, Red can leave Yellow near the fourth corner and tidy up without any difficulty. If he fails to get the rush on Black, all he needs do is (i) roquet Black to a spot from which he can see Yellow, and (ii) croquet it to a spot which is easily visible from the fourth corner; then after 3-back he tries to take off from Yellow near the fourth corner to give himself some sort of a rush on Black towards the middle of the court.

I would choose this way because I personally rather fancy my chances of getting a fairish rush on Black immediately. However, not everyone likes that kind of take-off, and there are other plausible schemes. One is simply to take off to Yellow straight away and hope to be able to tidy up after the hoop. The trouble is that the sixth Hoop rather interferes with the take-off to Black from the fourth corner.

Another plan is to do a split-shot sending Blue across the lawn and going to Black. This is rather an 'all eggs in one basket' sort of plan, in that it is a disaster if Red fails to make the next hoop.

K.F.W.

### Annual General Meeting to be held at The Hurlingham Club on Monday, 29 May 1978, at 11.30 am

#### Agenda

- MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS A.G.M.  
These minutes were published on page 20 of Issue No. 144 (Summer 1977) of *The Croquet Gazette*.
- PRESIDENT'S REMARKS
- CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
- TREASURER'S REPORT  
The accounts are published in this issue.
- ELECTION OF TREASURER UNDER RULE VIII  
The retiring Treasurer, Mr A.J.Oldham, offers himself for re-election.
- ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF COUNCIL UNDER RULE VI  
The following members of Council retire by rotation under Rule II(a) and offer themselves for re-election:  
G.N.Aspinall, Mrs E.E.Bressey, A.B.Hope, Mrs W.Longman, B.G.Neal, C.B.Sanford, S.S.Townsend.  
Mrs R.E.Tucker retires by rotation under Rule II(a) and does not seek re-election.  
The following seek election under Rule VI(a)(ii):  
T.F.Owen and L.Wharrad.  
There are thus nine vacancies to be filled and nine candidates presenting themselves for election.
- ELECTION OF AUDITORS  
Messrs. Nicholass, Ames & Co. offer themselves for re-election.
- ANY OTHER BUSINESS

#### Proposed Alterations to Regulations

In accordance with Rule XIV the following alterations to Regulations for Tournaments, having been passed by the Council at their meeting on 10 December 1977, are published in the *Croquet Gazette*. After such publication the Resolutions will be reconsidered by the Council at the first available occasion and will become law if passed by a majority of six to four.

Regulation 24 be deleted.

Regulation 22(e) A new Regulation 22(e) be inserted as follows: 'Handicapping Procedures'

The procedures for giving new and altering handicaps, other than those in this Regulation and Regulation 23, shall be laid down by the Council of the C.A. and be published annually in *The Croquet Gazette*.

Regulation 23(d) and 23(e) be deleted.

Regulation 23(d) A new Regulation 23(d) be inserted as follows:

'To make reductions and (with the consent of the players concerned) increases in handicap after play, and to inform the players concerned before they leave the tournament.'

Regulation 22(c) the words '(See Regulation 23(a) below)' be inserted at the end of the first sentence of Regulation 22(c). The second paragraph of Regulation 22(c) to read: 'In other cases the Tournament Handicapper shall, at his discretion, give a starred handicap.'

Regulation 23(b) The second sentence of Regulation 23(b) be replaced by:

'As a starred handicap is provisional, a handicapper must either remove a star from a competitor or cancel the starred handicap by the end of the tournament.'

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1977**

Year to 31.12.76 £		£
	<b>INCOME</b>	
2,826	Subscriptions	2,785.50
495	Affiliation Fees and Overseas Members	645.39
525	Levy	560.30
21	Tribute	21.00
1,344	Sale of Books, Laws, etc.	367.99
460	Income from Investments (net)	702.25
		<u>5,082.43</u>
37	Less: Deficit (Surplus) on Tournaments (net)	56.90
5,708		5,025.53
	<b>Less: Expenditure</b>	
1,974	Gazette, less Income from Advertisements	2,012.99
3,734		3,012.54
	<b>General Overheads</b>	
602	Office Rent, Lighting, Heating and Cleaning	601.20
3,502	Staff Salaries	3,348.26
537	Postage and Telephone	412.34
1,018	Printing and Stationery	1,011.72
396	Insurance	245.41
250	Sundry Expenses	196.54
165	Audit and Accountancy Charges	185.00
188	Maintenance of Office, Furniture and Equipment	200.50
		<u>6,200.97</u>
6,658		580.08
1,115	Expenditure on Development Scheme, net	6,781.05
7,773		4,608.00
4,500	Development Grant	
3,27		2,173.05
<u>£461</u>		<u>£839.49</u>
	<b>Excess of Income over Expenditure</b>	

**INVESTMENTS HELD AT 31 DECEMBER 1977**

Nominal Value £	QUOTED INVESTMENTS	Cost £	Market Value £
2,000.00	Alnwick District Council 12½% Bonds 1.2.78	2,011.40	2,000
141.75	Drayton Premier Investment Trust, Ordinary Shares of 25p each	186.64	1,117
1,260.00	Grand Metropolitan Hotels Ltd., 8½% Unsecured Loan Stock 1978/80	1,272.92	1,228
140.00	Midland Bank Limited £1 Ordinary Shares	253.43	546
275.00	Temple Bar Investment Trust Ltd., Ordinary Shares of 25p each	1,811.74	1,057
400.00	The New Throgmorton Trust Ltd., Income Shares of 25p each	478.75	336
218.15	¾% War Stock	115.50	81
		<u>6,130.38</u>	<u>£6,365</u>
	<b>UNQUOTED INVESTMENTS</b>		
	Abbey National Building Society	4,750.00	
	Britannia Building Society	4,911.50	
	Roehampton Country Club £1 Shares	10.00	
		<u>£15,801.88</u>	

**STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1977**

As at 31.12.76 £		£
	<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>	
200	Office Furniture and Equipment, at written-down value	200.00
7,000	Trophies, estimated to realise	7,000.00
13,523	Investments, as per attached schedule	15,801.88
20,723		<u>23,001.88</u>
	<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>	
829	Sundry Debtors and Prepayments	623.29
83	Cash in Hand and at Bank	799.67
912		<u>1,422.96</u>
21,635		24,424.84
	<b>LESS: CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	
311	Subscriptions received in advance	190.50
1,638	Accrued Expenses	3,103.23
280	Bank Overdraft	—
82	Taxation	78.23
2,311		<u>3,371.96</u>
£19,324		<u>£21,052.88</u>
	<b>Net Assets</b>	
		<u>£21,052.88</u>
	<b>REPRESENTED BY</b>	
12,541	Accumulated General Fund, as at 1 January 1977	12,381.53
621	Deduct: Transfer to Benefactors' Fund	—
11,920		12,381.53
461	Add: Excess of Income over Expenditure for year	839.49
12,381		13,221.02
1,585	Life Membership Fund	1,585.00
215	Apps Heley Memorial Fund	215.50
367	Dominion Tour Fund	367.09
4,265	Benefactors' Fund	5,054.27
510	Tournaments Fund	610.00
£19,323		<u>£21,052.88</u>

Derek C. Caporn, Chairman of the Council  
A.J. Oldham, Hon. Treasurer

We have examined the books, vouchers and other records maintained by the Croquet Association for the year and obtained such further information as considered necessary. To the best of our knowledge and belief the above Statement of Accounts and the annexed Income and Expenditure Account give a true and fair view of the state of affairs as at 31 December 1977 and of the Surplus of Income over Expenditure earned in the year to that date.

Kipling House  
43 Villiers Street  
London WC2N 6NJ

NICHOLASS, AMES & CO.  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS  
23 February 1978

**Treasurer's Commentary on the 1977 Accounts**

The £800 excess of income over expenditure is the result of a fortunate coincidence of a number of favourable factors, principally an increase in investment income and the reduction in expenditure on staff salaries brought about by Richard Rothwell being able to combine the duties of Development Scheme Administrator with his secretarial duties and by making certain other administrative economies.

The income from sale of books, etc., in 1976 was inflated by large sales of *Basic Laws* and it has returned to a more normal level this year. It is now our practice to deduct from the gross sales the cost of items such as ties and brooches which are purchased for resale to Associates and only the resulting net figure is shown.

C.A. Tournaments were operated at a profit of £63 during the year, but because it was necessary to bring into this year's accounts a payment of £120 for lawn hire due in respect of 1975 which had

been overlooked previously, a deficit has to be shown. A legacy of £500 from the late Daisy Lintern has been added to the Benefactors' Fund which with accumulated income from its investments now amounts to £5054. The Tournaments Fund has received the proceeds of the insurance claim in respect of the stolen 'Ladies Field' cup and part of the fund has been used to acquire new plinths and plinth bands for various C.A. trophies. Because of our poor claims record the Association has been unable to obtain cover for our trophies in the insurance market on acceptable terms and Council decided in December that for the time being we would 'self-insure'. Accordingly from 1978 in lieu of an insurance premium the sum of £200 will be paid out of general income into the Tournaments Fund which will be drawn upon to make good any loss of trophies which may occur.

A.J. Oldham  
Hon. Treasurer  
11 March 1978

**Automatic Handicapping 1977**

Locock's system of Automatic Handicapping was fully explained in *Gazette* No. 129 (Dec. 1973) and I have drawn it up again on the same lines as last year.

Results are calculated for players who played at handicap 2 or better in events reported in full in the *Gazette*. Qualification for inclusion is a minimum of 20 games or participation in a C.A. invitation event. Players whose handicaps have been reduced during the season are shown separately at each handicap. Percentage plus or minus means net points divided by the number of games multiplied by 100.

D.M.C.Prichard

*Played at or above their theoretical form*

At Hcp	Name	Games	Percentage plus
-1/2	S.N.Mulliner (2)	13	63
*1	R.Wood	21	61.4
0	N.J.Davren (1)	14	57.6
-1	D.K.Openshaw (2)	9	55.6
0	S.N.Mulliner (1)	13	53.8
-1	E.J.Tucker (1)	13	52.3
*-2	D.K.Openshaw (3)	17	51.8
1/2	E.Bell	24	50.2
-1/2	D.K.Openshaw (1)	10	46
1	M.Ormerod (1)	12	45.8
2	J.C.Ruddock	33	43.5
3	Mrs B.G.Weitz (1)	7	42.9
-2 1/2	M.E.W.Heap (1)	30	41
*1 1/2	Mrs E.M.Lightfoot	23	38.8
-1	S.N.Mulliner (3)	19	37.1
1	B.Keen (1)	10	35
-1	N.J.Davren (2)	14	34.3
*-3	K.F.Wylie	27	34.1
-1 1/2	S.N.Mulliner (4)	35	33.7
0	Mrs B.Meachem (1)	23	30
0	B.Keen (2)	14	30
-1	A.J.Cooper	22	29.5
1 1/2	J.C.G.Phillips (1)	31	26.6
-1/2	Rev. W.E.Gladstone	24	23.6
0	J.A.Wheeler	23	23
-1 1/2	Dr E.W.Solomon	42	21.9
-2	S.N.Mulliner (5)	7	21.4
1 1/2	Mrs J.N.Rolfe	24	20.4
-1 1/2	G.E.P.Jackson (1)	17	20.3
-1 1/2	S.J.H.Wright	59	20.2
1/2	J.Haigh	28	18.6
-2	S.R.Hemsted (1)	29	16.2
*-1/2	Dr J.N.Robinson	28	15
-2 1/2	A.B.Hope	30	11.3
1 1/2	Dr C.A.Parker (2)	15	10.6
*1 1/2	Miss B.Duthie	26	10.4
-3 1/2	W. de B.Prichard	19	8.4
-1/2	Mrs D.M.C.Prichard	59	7.7
0	H.G.T.Bolton	24	6.7
3	Miss S.G.Hampson	38	4.3
-2	T.O.Read	28	3.6
*0	Professor B.G.Weitz	30	3.2
0	Lt-Col D.M.C.Prichard	50	0.1
1/2	J.C.G.Phillips (2)	7	0
1	L.S.Butler	27	0

*Played below their theoretical form*

At Hcp	Name	Games	Percentage minus
-2 1/2	Dr M.Murray	36	0.4
-1/2	Miss F.Joly	69	1.2
-1/2	Mrs B.Meachem (2)	27	2.2
0	D.Harris	21	4
-1	H.O.Hicks	31	4.2
-1	P.Newton	34	6.5
-1/2	D.J.V.Hamilton-Miller	37	6.9
-1	E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake	59	8.2
-1/2	A.V.Camroux	23	10.2
2 1/2	Mrs B.G.Weitz (2)	32	10.6

2	Mrs N.A.C.McMillan	43	11.3
-3	P.W.Hands	20	11.6
1/2	R.F.Rothwell	21	12.1
0	C.G.Pountney	32	12.2
-2 1/2	S.R.Hemsted (2)	18	12.2
2	Dr C.A.Parker (1)	7	12.8
-3 1/2	Dr W.P.Ormerod (1)	18	14.4
-2	G.E.P.Jackson (2)	35	16.3
1 1/2	Dr W.R.Bucknall	28	16.8
-1 1/2	E.J.Tucker (2)	55	17.5
-1 1/2	J.H.J.Soutter	36	18.8
-1	T.F.Owen	60	19.8
-3 1/2	Professor B.G.Neal	42	21
-4	Dr W.P.Ormerod (2)	18	23.6
-1 1/2	R.A.Godby	57	25.8
-1	Mrs B.L.Sundius Smith	57	26.8
-1 1/2	W.E.Moore	23	27.4
-3 1/2	M.E.W.Heap (2)	14	28
-1	Comdr G.Borrett	30	37.3
-5	G.N.Aspinall	26	40.4
-1	Mrs G.T.Wheeler	47	40.9
-1/2	M.Ormerod (2)	26	41.7
-3	C.H.L.Prichard	22	68.4

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

**Extract from Council Meeting, 10 December 1977**

- NPFA Golf Croquet*. Tournament at Stately Homes in 1978 abandoned due to the failure of sponsorship.
- Sports Council letter on Apartheid in South Africa*. It was RESOLVED unanimously that NO action be taken.
- Reappointment of the Secretary and Development Officer* was agreed unanimously. Council expressed their satisfaction and unanimously recorded their thanks for all the hard work of Mr Rothwell.
- Report of the Handicap Co-ordination Committee* re raising of handicaps was ACCEPTED *nem. con.*
- Report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee* agreed, and on *Insurance of Trophies* the Treasurer reported that the existing insurance cover will expire on 13 December 1977, that our present insurers had refused to renew the insurance, and that our brokers were trying to find a firm to take it on. Even if this is possible the premium was likely to be in the region of £700+ per annum. The considerable rise in premium was due to our bad loss record over the past several years. After considerable discussion it was RESOLVED unanimously that we should NOT insure our trophies and that from 14 December 1977 we would self-insure by transferring to the Trophies Fund the present premium plus such additional sum as the Treasurer and Chairman of F. & G.P. considered appropriate. Consequent on the above resolution it was RESOLVED unanimously AS A MATTER OF URGENCY to consider the sale of the Gilbey and Inter-Counties Cups. It was RESOLVED by 14 votes to 2 that the Gilbey Cup be sold and by 13 votes to 3 that the Inter-Counties Cup be sold to Mrs Sundius-Smith for £150. Consideration of possible Trophy replacements was deferred to the next meeting.
- Test Tour Fund*. It was RESOLVED unanimously that a Test Tour Fund Committee be set up with the object of raising money for the Test Tour, to consist of D.C.Caporn and S.S. Townsend with power to co-opt as they think fit. The Committee was asked to organise a raffle, to launch an appeal to individuals and to ask Clubs to raise specific sums based on the number of croquet players in the Clubs, such sum to include amounts raised by the Club on the sale of raffle tickets.

7. *Report of the Laws Committee*. The alterations to Regulations 22 to 24 were passed and appear elsewhere in the *Gazette*.

It was RESOLVED by 12 votes to 2 that: 'The handicap procedures be reviewed in detail by the Handicap Co-ordination Committee, then be published in the Spring 1978 issue of *The Croquet Gazette*, and that there should be reference to the article in the Fixtures Book.'

*Specification of Croquet Balls*. An amendment to Law 2c will appear in the *Gazette*.

8. *Test Selection Committee*. It was agreed that a Committee of four with power to co-opt be formed forthwith to select the Test team and a manager, and the following were elected: G.N.Aspinall, I.C.Baillieu, D.J.V.Hamilton-Miller and S.S. Townsend with power to co-opt.

9. *Golf Croquet*. It was agreed to hold these Championships at Colchester in 1978 on Monday, 1 May and that Dr Bray be asked to manage or find a deputy.

10. *Conference* on 26 November 1977. The Chairman reported briefly on the recent Club Conference which had proved very successful and had been attended by 61 Associates representing 21 Clubs. A comprehensive report by the Chairman will be considered by the Publicity and Development Committee.

11. *Secretary's Report*. Sixteen new members were elected to the C.A. The death of two Associates was reported with regret: Dr W.F.W.Betenson; Major Geoffrey Blackett, M.C.

*New Registered Club*. Chase Manhattan Bank (Coleman Street, E.C.2). Ground at Kidbrooke, Greenwich, S.E.12.

*Courses 1978* at Bisham Abbey, Lilleshall, Ellesmere, Parkstone, and one for Referees at Hurlingham, were approved.

12. *Effect of Raising Handicaps*. On 31 December 1977 there were:  
 57 Minus players total 73  
 16 Scratch players  
 and as a result of raising handicaps there were on 1 January 1978:  
 24 Minus players total 31  
 7 Scratch players

13. *The Benefactors' Book* was shown to the Council.

14. *Retirement* of Walter Winterbottom, Director of the Sports Council, was reported and Council agreed to contribute £5 towards present.

**Draw for the Longman Cup 1978**

1ST ROUND  
 Chester v. Southport  
 Bretby v. Ellesmere  
 Nottingham v. Bowden  
 Walsall: Bye

Bristol v. Harwell  
 Wolverhampton v. Trawscoed  
 Cheltenham v. Bath  
 Edgbaston v. Stourbridge

Hurlingham v. Roehampton  
 Reigate Priory v. Woking  
 Parsons Green v. Compton  
 Southwick v. Ryde

Phyllis Court v. Maidenhead  
 Oxford University v. Wrest Park  
 British Airways v. Colworth  
 Harrow Oak v. Colchester

Latest dates for completion of rounds:

1st round by 29 May; 2nd round by 2 July; 3rd round by 6 August; Semi-final by 3 September; Final by 1 October.

The winning team is responsible for notifying the result of a match to the C.A. Secretary immediately, either at the C.A. office or at his home: Reading (0734) 475415.

**Prize List 1977**

This list covers all events reported in *The Croquet Gazette* other than team events. The figures in parentheses indicate the handicap of a player at the beginning of the season, and any change that may have occurred. This list and these handicaps are *not* authoritative. Only Associates' results are shown.

M, W, Mx, R—Men's, Women's, Mixed, Restricted; O, H, L, GC—Open, Handicap, Level, Golf Croquet; S, D—Singles, Doubles; B, C, D—class; X, Y, Z—tier; W/E, BW—Weekend, Block Winner.

**A**

- Adams, L.D.** (2 1/2) Budleigh Salterton III RLSB1, Carrickmines OS2, HS1, HD2, Roehampton HD2
- Alford, R.S.** (3 1/2, 2 1/2) Colchester W/E I HS2, Budleigh Salterton III HSY1, Colchester HD1, Hunstanton I RLSB1, HSX2
- Alvey, P.L.** (5 1/2, 4) Southwick II RLSB=1, HD1
- Anderson, T.W.** (7, 5 1/2) Cheltenham W/E I BW, Wrest Park W/E II BW
- Arkell, Miss E.H.** (2 1/2) Cheltenham W/E I BW, Cheltenham W/E II BW, Mixed Doubles Championship 2
- Asa-Thomas, Mrs E.** (5, 4 1/2) Parkstone I RLSB2, Hurlingham MxOD2
- Aspinall, G.N.** (-5) Cheltenham W/E II BW, President's Cup 2
- Asheton, Miss J.E.** (10, 9) Cheltenham W/E II BW
- Audsley, E** (5, 3 1/2) Wrest Park W/E I BW, Wrest Park W/E III BW

**B**

- Bagnall, Mrs C.** (4 1/2) Budleigh Salterton II HSX2, Budleigh Salterton III HD2
- Bazley, Lady** (12, 9D8) Peels HD1, Hurlingham WHD2
- Bell, E.** (1, 1/2) Wrest Park W/E I BW
- Betts, A.J.** (8, 6) Southwick W/E BW
- Betts, G.H.** (2, 2 1/2) Carrickmines HD2, Devonshire Park RLSB1
- Birch, G.** (1/2) Nottingham W/E I BW, Ryde OS1, HSX=1, Ryde W/E BW
- Bishop, P.** (3 1/2, 3) Colchester RLSB2, HSY1, HD1
- Blumer, G.F.** (7, 6) Peels MHS2, Cheltenham W/E V BW
- Boddington, P.** (12, 10) Budleigh Salterton W/E BW
- Bond, I.D.** (10, 7) Colchester W/E II HS2, HD2
- Borrett, Cdr G.** (-1) Compton HD2, Devonshire Park II OD2
- Bromfield, Mrs R.E.** (10, 9) Challenge and Gilbey RLSD1
- Bucknall, Dr W.R.** (1 1/2) Budleigh Salterton HSZ1
- Bucknell, A.J.** (5 1/2) Veterans HSX2
- Bushnell, M.J.** (0) Cheltenham W/E III BW, Cheltenham W/E IV BW

**C**

- Calder, R.O.** (3) Scottish C.A. W/E BW
- Camroux, A.V.** (-1/2) Spencer-Ell Cup 7
- Caporn, D.C.** (2 1/2) Hurlingham MHD2
- Carder, R.H.C.** (6, 4 1/2) Parkstone I RLSB1, HD2, Parkstone II RLSB1, Budleigh Salterton W/E BW
- Carlisle, Mrs H.B.H.** (4, 2) Peels WHS1, Hunstanton W/E BW, Hurlingham RLSB2, WHD1, Hunstanton I HD2
- Carlisle, W.H.** (6 1/2) Hunstanton W/E BW
- Cave, Mrs G.E.** (5) Devonshire Park II HD2
- Chappell, Lt-Col R.P.** (11, 9) Compton RHSC1
- Cocker, Mrs E.** (8) Southport and Birkdale W/E HD1
- Coleman, A.F.** (1 1/2, 1) Parkstone I HD1
- Cooper, A.J.** (-1) Budleigh Salterton III OS1
- Cosh, Mrs S.A.** (11, 9) Challenge and Gilbey HD1, Parkstone II HD1
- Cousins, C.H.J.** (1/2) Roehampton W/E HS=1
- Coutts, J.** (2 1/2, 1 1/2) Wrest Park W/E III BW

**Craig, A.D.** (3½) Carrickmines HS2  
**Crane, R.F.A.** (4, 3½) Veterans HSX1, RHSB1, Ryde HD2  
**Crane, Mrs R.F.A.** (14D12, 12D10) Ryde HD2  
**Croker, D.J.** (4, 2) Hurlingham RLSB1  
**Croker, Mrs D.J.** (12, 10) Hurlingham RHSD1  
**Cross, H.A.** (8, 6) Colchester HSX1

## D

**Davren, N.J.** (½, -1) Chairman's Salver 5  
**Day, Mrs G.C.** (9, 8) Challenge and Gilbey HD2  
**Death, P.** (6, 3½) Nottingham HS1, HSX1  
**Dell, Mrs E.F.** (11, 9) Compton RHSC2  
**Digby, G.S.** (3, 2) Colchester RLSB1, Cheltenham RLSB2, Colchester W/E II HD1  
**Digby, Mrs G.S.** (3) Colchester HSX2, Colchester W/E II HD1  
**Drake, H.G.** (2½, 1½) Ryde HSX=1, HD1  
**Duck, M.J.** (5) Cheltenham W/E III BW  
**Duthie, Miss B.** (1½, 1) Ladies' Field Cup 8  
**Duveen, Mrs L.L.** (9, 8) Southwick III RHSD2

## E

**Eades, R.S.** (3, 2½) Challenge and Gilbey RLSB1  
**Edwards, C.** (2½) Budleigh Salterton I HD1  
**Evans, H.A.C.** (14, 12) Devonshire Park I RHSD2  
**Evans, M.J.** (1, ½) Cheltenham W/E I BW, Cheltenham W/E II BW  
**Everest, R.L.** (3) Southwick I HDX1  
**Exell, Mrs D.** (12, 10) Budleigh Salterton W/E BW

## F

**Forth, R.** (8, 7½) Budleigh Salterton I BW

## G

**Garrett, S.J.** (9, 7) Cheltenham W/E III BW, All England HS=3  
**George, R.L.** (15) Ryde RHSC2, HD1  
**Girling, A.J.** (5, 4) Edinburgh HD2, HSX2, Cheltenham W/E IV BW  
**Gladstone, Revd W.E.** (-½) Peels HS2  
**Godby, R.A.** (-½) Budleigh Salterton III HD2, Chairman's Salver 8  
**Gooch, N.J.C.** (5, 4) Cheltenham W/E IV BW, Cheltenham W/E V BW  
**Goode, Mrs M.J.** (10D8, 8) Budleigh Salterton III RHSC2  
**Green, H.C.** (1, 0) Wrest Park W/E I BW, Hunstanton W/E BW, Hunstanton I OS1, Cheltenham W/E V BW  
**Greswell, Air Cdre J.H.** (4) Parkstone II HD2  
**Griffiths, J.H.T.** (8) Parkstone I HD1

## H

**Haigh, J.** (½) Hurlingham MHD1, Cheltenham W/E V BW  
**Hallett, G.F.** (1) Colchester W/E I HD1  
**Halliwell, E.** (8) Southport and Birkdale W/E HD2  
**Hamilton-Miller, D.J.V.** (-½) Devonshire Park I OS1, Devonshire Park II MOS2  
**Hampson, Miss P.G.** (14, 14D12) Hunstanton I HD2, Hunstanton II HD1  
**Hampson, Miss S.G.** (2½, 2) Colchester W/E I HS1, Cheltenham HSY1, Ladies' Field Cup 6  
**Hancock, B.** (6, 5) Budleigh Salterton I HD2  
**Handley, Mrs H.G.** (5) Peels HD2  
**Hands, P.W.** (-3) Spencer-Ell Cup 1, Cheltenham W/E IV BW  
**Harral, B.** (10, 8) Wrest Park W/E III BW  
**Harris, D.A.** (0) Devonshire Park II OD1  
**Haworth, Mrs C.W.** (13) Nottingham HD2  
**Heap, M.E.W.** (-2½, -3½) Colchester OS1, Open Championship 1, Doubles Championship 1, President's Cup =5

**Hemsted, S.R.** (-2, -2½) Compton OS=1, HD1, Doubles Championship 2, Hurlingham MxOD1, President's Cup 8  
**Hemsted, Mrs S.R.** (5, 3½) Compton HS1, HD1, Hurlingham MxOD1  
**Hope, A.B.** (-½) Hurlingham MxOD2, President's Cup =5  
**Hopkins, Miss G.** (6) Carrickmines RHSB1  
**Hudson, C.** (6, 4½) Bowdon W/E HS2  
**Hutcheson, G.A.** (8, 6) Southwick I HDY1, Compton HD2, Devonshire Park I RLSC2

## J

**Jackson, G.E.P.** (-½, -2) Men's Championship 1, Mixed Doubles Championship 1, Delves Broughton Cup GCD1, Cheltenham W/E III BW, Chairman's Salver =6, Roehampton OS2, HS=BW  
**Johnson, P.M.** (8, 5) Peels MHS1, Cheltenham W/E III BW  
**Joly, Miss F.I.** (-½) Women's Championship 1, Ladies' Field Cup 4, Devonshire Park II HS2  
**Jones, D.S.** (9\*, 11) Southwick I HDX2  
**Jones, Mrs D.S.** (5\*, 7) Southwick I HDX2

## K

**Keen, B.A.** (1, 0) Spencer-Ell Cup 4  
**Kent, S.G.** (3) Compton RLSB1  
**Knight, C.E.** (4½, 4) Southwick I HDY1, Southwick II RLSB=1

## L

**Latham, L.V.** (1, 0) Cheltenham RLSB1, HSX1  
**Lenfestey, D. de Q.** (5½, 3½) Nottingham W/E I BW, Nottingham HD1  
**Lenfestey, Mrs D. de Q.** (8, 5½) Nottingham RLSB2, HD1  
**Lewis, Mrs E.** (10, 9) Southwick II RHSD1  
**Lightfoot, Mrs E.M.** (1½, 1) Budleigh Salterton III HSX2  
**Lindley, A.** (7½, 4) Southwick W/E BW, Roehampton RLSB1  
**Lindsay, C.T.J.** (5) All England HS6  
**Linstead, Mrs D.** (8) Southwick III RHSC2  
**Locke, E.A.** (5, 4½) Ryde RLSB2  
**Lynes, B.C.** (11) Colchester W/E II HD2

## M

**Mackenzie-Bowie, E.** (9, 4) Edinburgh HSY1, Devonshire Park I HD2, RHSD1, HSX1, Devonshire Park II RLSB1, HD2  
**McLaren, J.** (2) Delves Broughton Cup GCD2  
**Maclean, R.N.** (1½) Scottish C.A. W/E BW  
**McMillan, Mrs N.A.C.** (2) Southwick II HD2  
**McMordie, Dr J.A.** (14, 11) Parkstone I RHSC2  
**Malin, Dr S.R.C.** (4, 3) Scottish C.A. W/E BW, Edinburgh RLSBX1, Devonshire Park II HS1, HD1  
**Mallinson, Mrs E.H.P.** (4½) Southwick III RLSB1  
**Mann, Mrs P.H.** (8, 7) Ryde RLSB1, Colchester RHSC2, Hurlingham RHSD2  
**Mansfield, Mrs B.** (10, 7) Roehampton RHSC1, HD2  
**Marshall, Mrs C.W.** (11, 9) Budleigh Salterton III RHSC1  
**Martin, G.B.** (2½) Roehampton RLSB2  
**Maude, J.S.** (7, 4) Woking W/E BW, Wrest Park W/E III BW  
**Meachem, Mrs B.M.** (0, -½) Hurlingham WHD2, HSX2, Ladies' Field Cup 1  
**Meads, J.D.** (5, 2) Nottingham W/E I BW, Nottingham HSY1  
**Meredith, Mrs I.C.** (14, 13) Nottingham RHSC2  
**Meyer, H.N.D.** (6½) Devonshire Park I RLSC1  
**Moore, W.E.** (-½) Challenge and Gilbey HD1, Southwick II HSY1  
**Mozley, A.N.** (8, 6) Woking W/E BW  
**Mulliner, S.N.** (0, -2) Cheltenham W/E I BW, Roehampton W/E HS=1, Peels HS1, HD1, Parkstone I OS1, HS1, Budleigh Salterton III HSX1, Parkstone II OS1, HSX1, HD1, Roehampton OS1, HS=BW  
**Murray, Dr M.** (-2) Du Pré Cup 1, Delves Broughton Cup GCD1, Colchester W/E II HS1, Chairman's Salver 2

## N

**Neal, Prof. B.G.** (-3½) Wrest Park W/E II BW, Doubles Championship 2, Hurlingham OS1, President's Cup 7  
**Neal, Mrs B.G.** (4½) Parkstone II RLSB2  
**Newnham, R.W.** (9, 8) Ryde RHSC1  
**Newton, P.** (-1) Budleigh Salterton III OS2, Cheltenham HD2, Southwick III HD2  
**Newton, Mrs P.** (5½, 5) Cheltenham HD2, Southwick III HD2  
**Nicholls, Lt-Col A.W.D.** (10, 7) Colchester W/E I HD2  
**Noble, G.W.** (2½, 2) Nottingham HS2

## O

**Openshaw, D.K.** (-½, -2½) Roehampton W/E HS=1, Southport and Birkdale W/E BW, Men's Championship 2, President's Cup =3  
**Ormerod, M.** (½, -½) Colchester HD2  
**Ormerod, Dr W.P.** (-3½, -4) Open Championship 2, President's Cup =3, Parkstone II OS2  
**Ovens, H.E.** (6½, 5) Budleigh Salterton I BW, Budleigh Salterton W/E BW  
**Owen, T.F.** (-½, -1) Southwick I HS1, Southwick W/E BW, Challenge and Gilbey OS2, HSY1, Southwick II OS2, Southwick III HD1, Spencer-Ell Cup 8

## P

**Parker, Dr C.A.** (2, 1½) Parkstone I HS2  
**Parker, Dr D.A.** (5½, 4) Compton W/E HS2, Southwick II RHSC2, HSX1  
**Parker, Miss P.E.** (13D12, 11) Parkstone II RHSC1, HD2  
**Paterson, K.H.** (3) Colchester W/E HD1  
**Pearson, M.G.** (4½, 3) Roehampton HD1  
**Perry, B.G.** (-2) Budleigh Salterton I BW, Budleigh Salterton II HSY1  
**Phelps, M.** (10\*, 4) Challenge and Gilbey RLSC1, HSX1  
**Phillips, J.G.C.** (1½, ½) Southwick III OS1  
**Pountney, C.G.** (0) Ryde OS2  
**Povey, Mrs J.** (3½, 2) Peels WHS2, Mixed Doubles Championship 1, Cheltenham RHSC1, Devonshire Park I HD1  
**Prichard, C.H.LI.** (-3) Chairman's Salver =6  
**Prichard, Lt-Col D.M.C.** (-1, 0) Budleigh Salterton III HD1, Devonshire Park I HD1  
**Prichard, Mrs D.M.C.** (-½) Du Pré Cup 2, Devonshire Park I HSY1, Devonshire Park II WOS1  
**Prichard, W. de B.** (-3½) Chairman's Salver 1

## R

**Randle, J.** (6, 4½) Southwick III HSX2  
**Read, T.O.** (-2) Cheltenham HSX2, Carrickmines OS1, HD1  
**Rees, E.E.** (2, 1) Southwick III RLSB1, HD1  
**Robertson, Miss A.R.** (14D12, 13D12) Parkstone II RHSC2  
**Robinson, Dr J.N.** (-½, -1) Spencer-Ell Cup 2  
**Robinson, L.** (9, 7½) Veterans HSZ1  
**Rolfe, Mrs J. Neville** (1½) Ladies' Field Cup 5, Hunstanton II HD1  
**Rose, J.** (½, 0) Woking W/E BW  
**Rothwell, R.F.** (½) Devonshire Park I HD2  
**Rowe, Mrs C.A.** (5½) Edinburgh RLSBX2  
**Ryan, Miss A.M.** (12, 11) Southwick III RHSD1

## S

**Scarr, W.A.** (9, 7) Budleigh Salterton II Swiss HS1, HD2  
**Scarr, Mrs W.A.** (11D9, 10D9) Budleigh Salterton II HD2  
**Schmieder, C.M. von** (3) Carrickmines HSY1  
**Schofield, K.S.** (4½) Budleigh Salterton II HD1  
**Sheppard, H.A.** (3) Challenge and Gilbey RLSB2  
**Simpson, R.A.** (1½) Hunstanton I HSY1  
**Simpson, Mrs R.A.** (2) Budleigh Salterton I BW

**Skempton, Prof. A.W.** (5, 4½) Hurlingham RLSC1, MHD2  
**Skempton, Mrs A.W.** (4½, 4) Hurlingham RLSC2, WHD1  
**Smith, M.P.W.** (9) Edinburgh RHSCX1, All England HS=3  
**Smith, Dr T.W.** (4, 3½) Nottingham RLSB1  
**Snowdon, Dr C.B.** (5) Cheltenham W/E I BW  
**Solomon, Dr E.W.** (-½) Chairman's Salver 3  
**Soutter, J.H.J.** (-½) Spencer-Ell Cup 3, Parkstone II HSX2  
**Stanley-Smith, Mrs F.** (10, 7½) Colchester W/E I HD2, Parkstone II HSY1  
**Stevens, M.J.** (3½, 1½) Southwick II HD1, Hurlingham HSX1  
**Stevens, R.S.** (1) Budleigh Salterton I HD2, Budleigh Salterton W/E BW  
**Stevens, Mrs R.S.** (12, 10) Budleigh Salterton II HD1  
**Sturdy, Mrs W.J.** (10, 9) Cheltenham RHSD1, HSZ1  
**Sundius-Smith, Mrs B.L.** (-1) Women's Championship 2, Ladies' Field Cup 3, Hunstanton I OS2

## T

**Tapp, A.E.C.** (½) Southwick II OS1, HSX2  
**Tapp, M.** (7, 2) Southwick II RHSC1, HD2, Southwick III RHSC1, HSX1, All England HS1  
**Tapp, S.** (0, -1) Southwick W/E BW  
**Taylor, Dr G.K.** (-½) Nottingham OS2, HD2  
**Townsend, K.F.W.** (10, 8) Roehampton RHSC2, HD1  
**Townshend, Revd C.H.** (6) Southwick III HSY1  
**Tucker, E.J.** (-1, -1½) Compton W/E HS1, Southwick I HS1, HDX1, Compton OS=1, HS2, Challenge and Gilbey HD2, Association Plate 1, Cheltenham OS1, Spencer-Ell Cup =5, Devonshire Park OS2  
**Turner, D.S.** (4, 3½) Hunstanton I RLSB2, Hunstanton II HS1  
**Tyldesley, Mrs J.S.** (5, 4½) Southport and Birkdale W/E Swiss HS=1  
**Tyrwhitt Drake, E.C.** (-1) Veterans OS1, HD2, Challenge and Gilbey OS1, Devonshire Park II OD1  
**Tyrwhitt Drake, Mrs E.C.** (8D7) Veterans HD2, Challenge and Gilbey HSZ1, Hunstanton I RHSC1

## V

**Vincent, I.G.** (½) All England HS =3

## W

**Waller, C.J.** (7, 4) Budleigh Salterton I HD1, Budleigh Salterton II HSX1  
**Wallis, R.E.** (5) Compton RLSB2, Devonshire Park II RLSB1, HD1  
**Warren, Mrs M.A.L.** (14D12, 12D10) Cheltenham W/E II BW  
**Warwick, J.G.** (4) Budleigh Salterton III HD1  
**Weitz, Prof. B.G.** (0, -½) Cheltenham W/E I BW, Cheltenham OS2, HD1, Hurlingham HSY1, Southwick III OS2  
**Weitz, Mrs B.G.** (3, 2½) Budleigh Salterton III RLSB2, Cheltenham HD1, Ladies' Field Cup 7  
**Wharrad, L.** (10, 5½) Budleigh Salterton I BW, Parkstone I RHSC1, Challenge and Gilbey RLSC2, HSX2, Hurlingham MHD1, Hunstanton II HS2, HD2  
**Wharrad, Mrs L.** (15) Hunstanton II HD2  
**Wheeler, Col. G.T.** (4, 3½) Peels HD2, Cheltenham W/E II BW, Veterans HD1, Cheltenham RHSC2, Devonshire Park I RLSB2  
**Wheeler, Mrs G.T.** (-1) Veterans OS2, HSY1, HD1, Ascot Cup GCS1, Delves Broughton Cup GCD2, Ladies' Field Cup 2, Devonshire Park II WOS2  
**Wheeler, J.A.** (0) Hurlingham OS2, Spencer-Ell Cup =5  
**Wheeler, Dr R.F.** (7, 5½) Hunstanton I HD1  
**Wheeler, Mrs R.F.** (6, 3) Cheltenham W/E II BW, Hunstanton I HSX1, HD1  
**Whittington, R.O.B.** (0) Mixed Doubles Championship 2  
**Williams, R.** (2) Edinburgh OS2  
**Wills, Mrs T.** (9, 8) Roehampton HS BW  
**Wilson, D.B.** (3\*, 3) Colchester HD2

**Wood, Dr R.** (1, -1/2) Devonshire Park II MOS1, OD2  
**Wood, T.I.** (1 1/2, -1/2) Cheltenham W/E I BW, Wrest Park W/E II BW, Ryde W/E BW, Devonshire Park I HSX2  
**Wraith, Miss J.** (12, 10) Cheltenham RHSD2  
**Wright, I.H.** (-1/2) Edinburgh HD1  
**Wright, S.J.H.** (-1, -1 1/2) Colchester OS2, Doubles Championship 1, Association Plate 2, Nottingham OS1, HSX2, Edinburgh OS1, Chairman's Salver 4  
**Wylie, K.F.** (-3, -3 1/2) President's Cup 1

**Handicap Alterations**

*Parkstone: 12-17 September*  
 S.N.Mulliner -1 1/2 to -2; Miss P.E.Parker 13 (D12) to 11; Miss A.R.Robertson 14 (D12) to 13 (D12); Dr T.J.Haste 7 1/2 to 7 (New Associate November 1978).

*All-England Handicap Final: Roehampton 1-2 October*  
 M.Tapp 4 to 2; N.Maclean 10 to 9 (Non-Associate).

*Woking Club Recommendations*  
 G.Cuttle 11 to 10 (D8); R.A.Gosden 12 to 12 (New Handicap); Mrs R.A.Gosden 13 (New Handicap); C.J.Caesar 10(D8) to 9(D7); Mrs N.Nalder 8 to 7.

*Personal Request*  
 Major G.B.Horridge 6 to 7.

*Alteration on Appeal*  
 Vandeleur Robinson 13(D11) to 14(D12).

*Corrections from Winter 1977 Gazette*  
 Mrs B.Mansfield 9 to 8 (not 7 1/2); J.R.G.Solomon 2 to 1 1/2 (not 1/2); L.Robinson 9 to 7 1/2 (not 7).

**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

**Draw for the Inter-Club Championship 1978**

**1ST ROUND** Nottingham v. Hurlingham  
 Hunstanton v. Colchester  
 Heley Club v. Harrow Oak  
 Southwick v. Wrest Park  
 Roehampton v. Colworth

**2ND ROUND** Cheltenham v. Nottingham or Hurlingham  
 Compton v. Phyllis Court

Latest dates for completion of rounds:  
 1st round by 25 June; 2nd round by 23 July; Semi-final by 3 September; Final by 8 October.

It is hoped that clubs will complete their matches, particularly in the first two rounds, earlier than the latest permitted dates. The winning team is responsible for notifying the result of a match to the C.A. Secretary immediately either at the C.A. office or at his home: Reading (0734) 475415.

**Crossword (Winter 1977) Solution**

B	R	O	W	N	I	N	T	H	E	J	A	W	S	
R	A	O	N	E	E	C	T							
Y	O	R	I	C	K	A	G	I	T	A	T	O	R	
A	B	A	R	R	U	I								
N	I	N	E	T	Y	Y	E	A	R	S	B	A	C	K
L	R					R	O	R	E					
L	E	N	G	T	H	S	B	Y	L	A	Y	E	R	
O	O	I				A	L	S						
Y	A	W	N	I	N	G	C	L	E	A	R	U	P	
D	E					H								
P	O	S	I	T	I	O	N	O	F	P	O	W	E	R
R	T	N	O	I	R	T								
A	D	V	A	N	C	E	S	N	A	T	I	O	N	
T	I	U	H	A	D	S	E							
T	R	I	P	L	E	O	U	T	O	U	T	E	R	

**Secretary's Notices**

- 1. NEW ASSOCIATES**
- S Mrs R.H.Alexander, 30 Melville Street, Ryde, Isle of Wight.
  - R Mrs K.B.(J.P.)Ashton, J.P., 11 The Warke, Worsley, Manchester M28 4WX.
  - R Mrs A.H.(J.)Baker, 23 Fairmount Road, Swinton, Manchester M27 3EP.
  - S J.A.Bardo, Flat 8, 85/87 Westbourne Terrace, London W.2.
  - S R.L.S.Berkeley, 11 Edward Street, Bath, Avon.
  - J P.J.Duquemin, Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge CB3 0DJ.
  - S Miss S.E.Foden, Wolfson College, Oxford.
  - S T.J.Fotheringham, Upper Harveys, High Easter, Chelmsford, Essex.
  - S C.A.Grout, 35 Reynolds Road, St Anthony's Hill, Eastbourne, Sussex.
  - S Mrs C.A.Grout, 35 Reynolds Road, St Anthony's Hill, Eastbourne, Sussex.
  - S Mrs M.Langley, 9 Avondale Buildings, Larkhall, Bath, Avon (Tel: (0225) 310923).
  - S I.C.Meredith, 2 Broom Close, Stoney Hill, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire B60 2NL (Tel: (0527) 75729).
  - S C.Oulton, 12 Forest Road, Melksham, Wiltshire (Tel: (0225) 70464).

- S A.T.Pickles, Bank House, 122 Fishpool Street, St. Albans, Herts. AL3 4RZ (Tel: (56) 51431).
- O Philip H.Robb, One Rosemount Avenue, Apt 52, Westmount H3Y 366, Canada.
- S A.A.Rushbrooke, 18 Argyll Road, Parkstone, Poole, Dorset.
- S G.W.Sisom, The Mundens, 27 Abbey Road, Malmesbury, Wiltshire (Tel: (066 62) 3203).
- S Dr B.C.Sykes, 9 Lathbury Road, Oxford.
- S A.E.R.Watkins, 84 Old Station Road, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire B60 2AF.
- S Mrs V.Worsley, 4 Metchley Park Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham 15.
- R Mrs H.S.(J.)Wright, 51 Beanfields, Worsley, near Manchester.
- S Mrs K.G.Yeoman, 27 Gay Street, Bath, Avon (Tel: (0225) 25846).
- R T.C.Young, 26 Wolverhampton Road, Codsall, Wolverhampton WV8 1PJ.

**2. DEATHS**

The following deaths are announced with regret: I.C.Baillieu (on 31 December); Sir Leonard Stone (on 2 January).

**3. NEW REFEREE** (omitted in error from previous list)  
 Dr W.R.Bucknall.

**4. OFFICE HOURS**

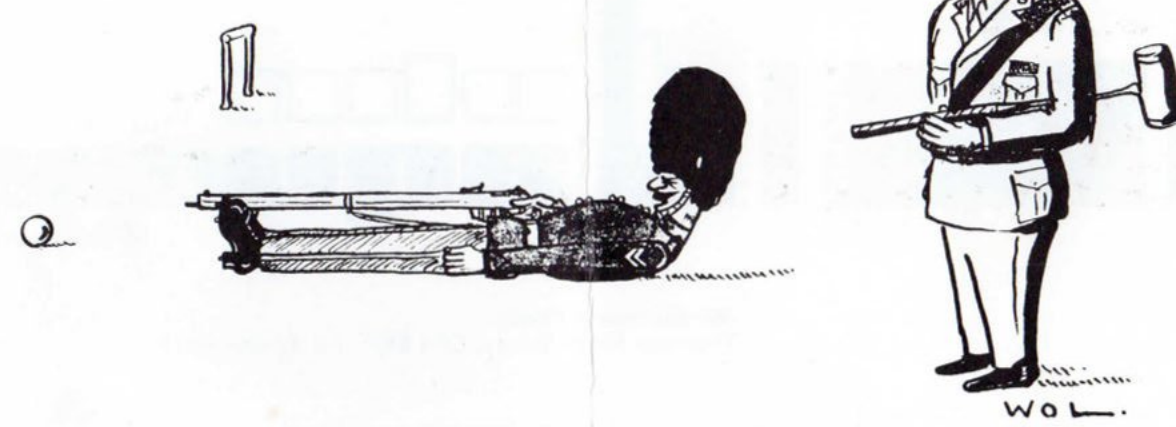
I have been asked if I can give an indication to Associates at what hours the C.A. office at Hurlingham is manned. This is an impossible question to answer for several reasons. I am endeavouring to manage without clerical assistance; there are times when I am out carrying out the duties of Development Officer or attending meetings, etc.; and on occasions I work at home to save travelling expenses or have a day off. When I am at the office my normal hours are from 9 or 9.30 am (depending on the traffic) until about 5 pm or later. I am happy to be telephoned at home in the evenings up to 11 pm when the call rates are low—Reading (STD 0734) 475415.

**5. DIRECTORY 1978-9**

The new Directory for 1978-9 is now available from the C.A. office at £1.25 (post free). A series of Amendment Sheets will be issued in duplicated form from time to time as necessary during the currency of the Directory. These are available for a further £1.25 (post free). Orders (with the appropriate remittance) should be placed with the Secretary.

**6. SUBSCRIPTIONS**

It is hoped that all 1978 subscriptions, due on 1 January, will have been paid by the time this note is read. I would like to appeal to those not having paid by now to do so forthwith.



**7. ITEMS FOR SALE FROM THE C.A. OFFICE**

Price List of literature, etc., available from the C.A. office will be sent on request. Some items have had to be increased in price due to rising costs:  
 C.A. Ties now £2.50 (post free); *Croquet Gazette* (single copies) 50p plus postage 12p; Draw Sheets (per dozen, post free) 16 entries £2, 32 entries £2.50, 64 entries £3.50.

**8. COURSES 1978**

The list of courses for 1978 was not finalised before the last issue of the *Gazette* went to press. It may be too late to enter some, but the full list is as follows:

- Beginners**
1. At Bisham Abbey (National Sports Centre) near Marlow, Bucks. From Friday evening, 28 April, to Sunday afternoon, 30 April. Full board, lodging and instruction: £13.75. Instruction only: £2.50.
  2. At Lilleshall Hall (National Sports Centre) near Whitchurch, Salop. From Friday evening, 26 May, to Sunday afternoon, 28 May. Full board, lodging and instruction: £13.75. Instruction only: £2.50.
- High Bisquers (10 to 14 approx.)*
1. At Ellesmere Club, Worsley, Manchester, on Saturday and Sunday, 6 and 7 May. Instruction: £2.50.
  2. At Parkstone Club, Poole, Dorset, on Tuesday and Wednesday, 9 and 10 May. Instruction: £2.50.
  3. At Harrow Oak Club, Harrow, North London, on Saturday and Sunday, 20 and 21 May. Instruction: £2.50.

**Laws**  
 At Hurlingham Club, London S.W.6, on Saturday and Sunday, 22 and 23 April. Instruction: £1.  
 Full details on request from the C.A. Secretary.

**9. HANDICAPS**

Associates are reminded that some handicaps have been raised as of 1 January 1978 as follows:  
 1977 Handicaps Scratch and Under: Raised by 1 1/2 bisques  
 1/2 to 4 (inclusive): Raised by 1 bisque  
 4 1/2 to 7 1/2 (inclusive): Raised by 1/2 bisque  
 8 and over: No change  
 Handicaps of Associates in the 1978/9 Directory have been adjusted in accordance with the above scale.

R.F.Rothwell  
 Secretary