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THE CROQUET GAZETTE

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Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

New Zealand 1979

The New Zealand International Team has been selected, and it has sprung no surprises: John Prince (Capt), Allan Anderson, J. Hogan, R.V. Jackson, R. Murfitt, P. Skinley. Of the two new members, I am told: 'Paul Skinley age 19 plays with a Solomon grip with an enormous swing and an upright stance. He has completed a sextuple peel in a tournament. Joseph Hogan (age 20) has a more conventional style and the ability to pick up breaks from almost anywhere.' Roger Murfitt has had ups and downs, but he did beat John Prince in the N.Z. Championships twice in two days, each time in two turns. Prince and Anderson are the N.Z. Open Doubles Champions; while Bob Jackson, who played at No 5 or 6 in 1974, completed six sextuple peels in tournaments in twelve months.

The Great Britain Team will be announced at Hurlingham on Saturday, 9 September at the end of the President's Cup. At the Men's Championships, in the absence of the first four in last year's President's Cup and of the Open Champion, form was unpredictable. In a field containing three of our champion eight (plus the reserve) and five of the second eight plus John Solomon, it was the winner of the third eight, Paul Hands, who triumphed. This bears out the contention that we could send out a team of sixteen players of almost equal ability.

The Great Britain Team will leave England a few days after Christmas. The itinerary taken from the New Zealand April *Gazette* is printed below:

Representative Matches:

Great Britain v. New Zealand	Dunedin	4-6 Jan
Australia v. New Zealand	Wellington	4-6 Jan

Welcome: Christchurch Thursday, 11 Jan.

Test Matches:

Great Britain v. Australia	Christchurch	8-10 Jan
Great Britain v. New Zealand	Westport	13-15 Jan
Australia v. New Zealand	Gore	17-19 Jan
Great Britain v. Australia	Nelson	22-24 Jan
Great Britain v. New Zealand	Hastings	27-29 Jan
Australia v. New Zealand	Palmerston North	31 Jan to 2 Feb
Great Britain v. Australia	Hawera	5-7 Feb
Great Britain v. New Zealand	Wanganui	9-10 Feb (2 day)
Australia v. New Zealand	Bay of Plenty at Rotorua	12-14 Feb

Farewell: Auckland 16 February, 1979.

Note. If anyone wishes to order *The New Zealand Croquet Gazette* (it is well worth having at all times and especially so in the coming year) the Annual rate is \$2 for Overseas subscribers. It comes surface mail which takes about six weeks. Air mail costs an extra \$1 an issue. Write to the Editor-Manager:

Dr A.M. Anderson: 52 Marne Street, Palmerston North, New Zealand.

Pilgrim's Progress

The three splendid gateways of Caius College, Cambridge, are justly one of the proudest possessions of the college. Furthermore, the names bequeathed to them by their founder were chosen with a most admirable sense of imaginative inspiration. The first gateway through which the shy and nervous Freshman enters is named the gate of Humility; the second and inner gateway is the gate of Virtue; and the third, through which the undergraduate finally passes three years later, on his way to the Senate House opposite, to receive his degree, is the gate of Honour. Humility—Virtue—Honour.

When we look back, each one of us, to our first appearance on a croquet court in a friendly Club game and then in an Open Tournament, I should be surprised if we did not all experience this feeling of humility, something deeper than mere nervousness, and although since the early 1960s Croquet has undergone a transformation and has become a young man's game with the advent of so many undergraduates and other young players, I like to think that they too must have experienced, together with the resilient confidence of youth, a momentary and inner feeling of true humility. Certainly in bygone days this was very much the case.

When Humphrey Hicks and I began to play tournament Croquet in the early 1920s, then still in our teens, there were some 115 Registered C.A. Clubs and 1500 Associates. It would not be an exaggeration to say that at just, say, three very popular tournaments in August, held at Roehampton, Lewes and Southwick (with ten playing lawns at each club), any competitors under the age of 30 could be counted on the fingers of one hand. While my own home Club, Compton, was then, as now, the friendliest and happiest of communities, my reception at outside tournaments was very different. Nobody, except my match opponent, ever spoke to me, and I was certainly made to feel that, viewed from the inner sanctum of the world of Croquet, I was very definitely an outsider, who had no business at all to be playing croquet at my age. The fact that I was playing it rather well made it all the more unforgivable! I remember the scratch-handicap woman player at Lewes, who—almost in tears—snapped indignantly, at the end of a match which I had 'stolen' from her by some outrageously reckless but successful tactics, 'You ought to be playing cricket at your age!' Nor was she in the least mollified by my answer that I did, in fact, play cricket regularly at the Saffrons during the Long Vac. There was too the elderly and fearsome grande dame, a not very good 1-handicap player, always impeccably and colourfully robed in silks and satins, whom I partnered to victory in the final of a Compton tournament. After I had pegged out, she came over to me and said quietly but most reprovingly, 'I am going to tell you something which you must learn. When you are playing in a Doubles match with a lady, you should always allow her to play the final turn of pegging out.'! Humphrey Hicks, I think, was received far more quickly and graciously into the Establishment, helped by the fact that his mother was then a very active and well-known player-member of Roehampton, which with its ten fine lawns and large membership was very much the 'Headquarters' of croquet.

Today I am glad to say the picture is a happier and a healthier one. Beginners, now assured of a warm and genuine welcome, come into our game in many variations from those who start with a handicap of 14 rising upwards to a certain unique and charming character, the late Captain H.G. Stoker, R.N., who took up the game at the age of 70 and improved each successive year until he was, very rightly, invited to play in the President's Cup at the age of eighty. In the Southwick August Tournament of 1946, in which I was playing, a whisper presently went round that there was an unusually promising newcomer making his first appearance in the B Opens. His name was Patrick Cotter. I went over to watch him in action and was joined by a minus player from the West Country, a very tall thin man who was seldom known to smile. At the end of the game he turned to me and said, in a tone of gloomy approbation, 'That chap will make quite a good player, if and when he learns something about tactics'. Famous first words (with justification, I may add!) on a performer who was so soon to reach the very top of the ladder and become one of the most accurate, and quick, opponents of the triple peel, which in his hands looked so simple to accomplish! But for many beginners the initial stages are far more difficult. It is one thing to be told what to do but quite a different problem when left alone to play the next turn. I was coaching a beginner recently and during one session I left her to play the next stroke by herself. Instead of roqueting the yellow opponent ball, a mere three yards away, she retired to her partner ball on the far boundary. 'But why didn't you hit the yellow?', I asked her. 'Oh!', she replied brightly, 'I remembered what you told me—if in doubt, join your partner ball.' Instructors too have their problems!

From 'Humility' to 'Virtue'. Virtue, I would say, is the Badge which rightly belongs to all who, having made a start, remain our good companions and continue to play year after year at their home club and in an occasional tournament, whenever possible. For this is by no means always as easy as it sounds. There are some who may not live within easy distance of a croquet club; the younger generation, especially those in the London area, may very understandably, not be able as yet to afford Club entrance fees and subscriptions; and for a wide and middle age-group the ties of business and family must naturally hold a prior claim, so that it is difficult and sometimes impossible to make room for croquet within the pattern of their lives.

It is therefore to those who remain with us and to those who work behind the scenes in many capacities that we owe not only our gratitude but also our very existence.

Finally, 'Honour'. Here, in the first instance, the glittering prizes are the well-deserved rewards which go to the few—the champions of yesterday, today and tomorrow; those men and women whose skill, endurance and steady nerve have brought them victory in the hour when victory mattered most. But there is another category where Honour is equally deserved. This includes the many, whose names are perhaps never written on scrolls and silver cups but who play for the sake and enjoyment of playing, whether they win or 'come in second' as the Irishman said. How right this is. Come to think of it, Kipling once had some familiar, wise and true words to say on this theme, did he not!

D.J.V.H.-M.

Western Province Croquet Association, South Africa

The dates for the Western Province Tournament 1979 are 12–17 March. Events are Open Singles (Draw and Process), Open Doubles, Handicap Singles (X.Y.Z.) and a Restricted Handicap (10 bisques and over). It is played at Rondebosch Croquet Club and anyone wishing to enter should write to the Hon Secretary Mrs D.J. Martin (who can also arrange accommodation if required).

This year four visitors from the British Isles did well. Miss F. Joly beat T.F. Owen in a play-off for second place in the Open Singles (the event was won by Dennis Bulloch) and together they won the Doubles. Mrs Sundius-Smith and Mrs C.W. Howarth also played.

The Secretary and The Editor

The Secretary of the Croquet Association is Mr R.F. Rothwell, The Hurlingham Club, London SW6 3PR. Tel. (01) 736 3148. The standard annual rate of subscription to the C.A. is still £5.

The Editor of *The Croquet Gazette*, to whom all items for inclusion in the *Gazette* should be sent direct, is Mrs D.M.C. Prichard, Gobion Manor, Abergavenny, Gwent NP7 9AY. Tel. Gobion (087385) 242.

Deadline

Copy for the Autumn *Gazette* must reach the Editor not later than Thursday, 30 Aug. In order to include the Test Team the deadline for the three invitation events alone will be Monday, 11 Sept (for both results and reports).

Roving Eye

Peter Hallett has moved to St Clement's Parsonage, Lincoln Road, Skegness, Lincolnshire. Those who only knew him as Editor may not have realised what a skillful croquet player he is. In the few tournaments in which he played latterly he was often dogged by *Gazette* work before and after and sometimes during play. There must be some people who play croquet in Lincolnshire so if any reader knows anyone within fifty miles of Skegness would they put Peter in touch with them; he is hopeful of starting something in Lincolnshire — it is certainly flat enough.

Hugh Carlisle 'took silk' in April and now he is a Q.C. he seems to be playing more croquet. Or is it because Veronica, the new Women's Champion, is now within half a bisque of Hugh's handicap?

Maurice Reckitt was inundated with messages and flowers and friends on his ninetieth birthday and the following day the Croquet Members of Roehampton turned up in strength to a celebratory tea party which they had arranged for him, which gave him great pleasure. Maurice, with the Chairman's help, plunged the knife into his cake, and then enjoyed his slice. Dudley Hamilton-Miller spoke about the 'nine lives' which Maurice had led, devoting himself to nine distinct interests and ways of living during his long life. In reply Maurice, in good voice, especially remembered his brother, G.L. Reckitt, with whom he had shared his great interest in Croquet. The C.A. Council also toasted Maurice after the A.G.M. and this time his theme, in reply, was silence. 'The role of a President is supposed to be a silent one', he said — so an ex-President should be even more silent, he added, as he sat down to a warm ovation.

Mrs Sundius-Smith had a motor accident in Chelsea in June and has a painful fracture of her collar-bone. The *Evening Standard* reports that 'Mrs Sundius-Smith of croquet fame' has recently been made Chairman of the Chelsea and Kensington Tory Association and portend that she will lead them into less turbulent waters: 'Croquet and in-fighting do not go together', they add.

Barry Keen, playing in Woking's Bank Holiday week-end, ran two hoops and made a roquet in one shot. Hardly *Guinness Book of Records*? Well, the hoops were the fifth and sixth!

'Croquet Gazettes'

The offer of back numbers of the *Croquet Gazette* (at 15 pence each) met with a considerable response. Not only have many associates been able to fill gaps in their collection, but the C.A. has gained a bonus of over £70. As a result, however, some back numbers have become exhausted or scarce, and there is now a waiting-list. Any surplus or unwanted issues prior to 1971 would be welcomed. There is also a shortage of No 120 (April '72 originally numbered 119 in error) and No 130 (April '74). Please contact Lt-Col D.M.C. Prichard, Gobion Manor, Abergavenny, Gwent NP7 9AY.

Correspondence

Handicaps

from Mr H.O. Hicks

Sir,

In my view the Handicap Committee should, if considered desirable, automatically raise a player's handicap, whether or no the player wishes it.

Until this is done, the Handicap system is bound to be unrealistic.

Colyford
Devon

Yours sincerely,
H.O. Hicks

E pur si muove

Sir,

I was interested and amused to read the letter from G. Kimber. This happens to me every time I do a take-off, whether I move the ball a foot or only shake it, and now I wonder is the adversary entitled to ask? I am a new member at an old Club and although I know that I have moved the ball, it is not very pleasant to feel that some of the members think you are a cheat. Conversely I do not see why I should have to do much thicker take-offs than I would like, simply so that my adversary can see a more definite movement.

Yours sincerely,
Galileo mi.

Not So Moot a Point

from H.B.H. Carlisle, Q.C.

Sir,

(Problem. Black and Blue are close together. Mr B. says that he is trying to roquet Red with Blue but in fact roquets it with Black.) If Mr B. had struck both Blue and Black it would not merely have been a bad shot but also an obvious fault, since his mallet would have touched two balls during the striking. If his shot was even worse and he had missed his ball altogether he would have made a stroke and his turn be at an end. Can it really be that Mr B. is saved by reason of the fortuitous juxtaposition of Black? It would be offensive to common sense if this was so.

The solution is to be found in Law 31 which defines the period during which a fault under Law 32 can be committed. The striking is a specified portion of the stroke. And 'a stroke is any movement of the mallet with intent to hit the ball'. The use of the definite article is crucial: it excludes an intention to hit either ball. Thus the Laws and common sense are reconciled. It follows that Black and Red must be replaced and that Mr B.'s turn is at an end. Let us hope his honesty is soon rewarded.

Yours sincerely,
Hugh Carlisle

Note. This letter summarises the opinion of the majority: some think the error was a fault but the 'think tank' at Roehampton are satisfied that it is a case of wrong ball. A minority still hold that Mr B. has the absolute right to play either ball and that his choice was not made until his mallet struck a ball; they maintain that too much can be read into the use of the word 'the'.

Advantage In

from Mr K.F. Wylie

Dear Sir,

In number 147 of *The Croquet Gazette* Rover suggests that when time is called a game which is level should not be decided by a peg point. He argues that were there no time limit no player would peg out his forward ball; but in doing so Rover loses sight of the purpose of the present law, which is to give the game to the player who is in

the better position as expeditiously as may be. Usually the winner is the player who has the innings when time is called. I would argue that in general if one player has a rover and the other does not then the former player is in the stronger tactical position in that it would have been easier for him to win a full game in one turn. I regard it as entirely satisfactory that someone having this advantage should be able to capitalise on it by pegging out his rover. The fact that it would not be allowed in handicap games does not weaken this argument.

I would strongly oppose any change which would give the game to the scorer of the next hoop point, as it would unjustly penalise a player who already had a rover. Such a change (if change there must be) should, I suggest, take the form of giving the game to the player who next scored a point with his backward ball, or with a ball chosen by lot when time expired if his balls were for the same hoop.

17 Carlton Crescent
Southampton

Yours sincerely,
Keith Wylie

The Problem of Side

Sir,

In reply to R.C. Case's letter in the last *Gazette*, Lord Tollemache's theory of side was discussed in some detail in the *Gazettes* of 28 April, 12 May and 26 May, 1921. I have tried to condense the gist of the correspondence.

E.H. Cartwright agrees with Case's opinion that no side whatsoever can be imparted simply by striking a ball off-centre, as this is merely the equivalent of hitting with the centre of a freak narrow head. So far as hoop running is concerned, however, he considers that Lord Tollemache may be right but for the wrong reason. To run an angled hoop it is necessary to skim the near wire and hit the far wire just on the non-playing side. The eye, however, is unconsciously attracted by the centre of the hoop, which shifts the line of aim so that the ball catches on the near wire. A conscious effort to avoid this sometimes leads to the opposite deviation and the ball hits the far wire full. But if one moves the mallet head a little to one side parallel to the line of aim, one can then aim the centre of the mallet head at the centre of the hoop and the swing is more likely to be on the true aim. Thus the hoop is run, but by psychology not side spin.

Following this up, Charles Tickell describes some experiments he had carried out, which though not strictly relevant to Tollemache's theory, are interesting. He started by investigating how soon a ball began to roll, as opposed to sliding, after it was struck. This he did by using a ball with the figures 0 to 9 engraved on the circumference which left a clear imprint on impact with a plasticine pad stuck to a rigid board; thus he was able to determine how much it had revolved. Distances selected were 1½, 23 inches and so on, being one, two, etc, times the circumference of the ball. He found that the ball if struck with moderate force did not revolve at all in the first 1½ inches and not a great deal in twice that distance.

He then investigated whether an oblique stroke could put on side spin and to what extent. He used a mallet suspended pendulum fashion on a cross-bar which passed through a hole bored obliquely through the shaft so that it gave a glancing blow. He found that the ball revolved considerably in a horizontal plane as it slid to the pad, i.e. it took considerable side. In fact with a stroke hard enough to travel half way across the lawn it was revolving during the first two feet at about the same speed as the wheel of a car travelling at 15 mph. He concluded that whilst side could certainly be imparted, by striking obliquely in the same way as putting cut on a tennis ball, it was doubtful if this was of any practical use in a single ball stroke owing to the difficulty of playing this glancing shot accurately.

The croquet stroke, however, is quite a different matter, a split shot being the equivalent of a glancing blow, putting side on the croqueted ball. This is of great practical importance in peeling. First it accounts for the allowance necessary for pull, and secondly for the well-known fact that it is easier to peel from an angle with a

split shot when the striker's ball travels past the near wire rather than across the front face of the hoop. In the former case the direction of spin is of assistance when the ball hits the far wire and in the latter a hindrance. Tickell was unable to measure precisely the effect of spin when the ball hit a round wire, but when playing split shots at a rigid iron plate, he found that the croqueted ball rebounded as much as 30 degrees from the normal in a 45-degree split shot.

May I add a personal epilogue? Walter Jones Whitmore in his *Croquet Tactics* (1868) describes the 'curling stroke' in which by hitting the ball on one side it may be made to curl round a wire. Unfortunately he gives no further instructions apart from the remark that it requires long practice and great strength of wrist. This stroke appears to be a lost art. Or is it? I recall many years ago at Devonshire Park leaving the court smug in the satisfaction that I had left Miss Hickson's two balls wired each side of a hoop. To my consternation she neatly served her ball round the wire and made the roquet, a stroke she said she had been taught by Dr Penny.

Yours sincerely,
Old Brown

Obituaries

Lt-Col A.E.Saalfeld, O.B.E.

His many friends in England will be sad to learn of Albert Saalfeld's death in Australia on 27 March.

Albert was a Life Associate of our Association and for many years came to England to play in our tournaments. He was always a difficult person to beat at his handicap. He was one of those stationed in Cairo during the War and played a lot at the Gezira Club. He was for many years a member of the Australian Croquet Council and Chairman of their Laws Committee, and he represented Australia in the 1969 MacRobertson contest.

R.F.R.

Ronald Faulkner

Ron Faulkner died early in March. He had been a County tennis player and was a member of the Northern Tennis Club which, at that time, had excellent croquet lawns; and it was there that he turned to croquet. Ron soon became an able player and used to play at the Buxton tournament in the early nineteen fifties where the late Miss D.D.Steel was impressed by his play. Business did not allow him to go to other tournaments, but he did end up in fourth place in the Surrey Cup in 1954. He was a member of the Bowdon Club and much liked and respected both for his sportsmanship and innate modesty. He will be sadly missed by all who had the good fortune to have known him.

A.F.

Miss E.C.Brumpton

I first met Cecily Brumpton when she joined the Nottingham Club in 1954. From 1962 on we were both working closely on Committee, and this pleasant relationship continued up to 1977. Her devotion to the job of Secretary over many years helped to put Nottingham on the Croquet map, and she will be sadly missed by all those friends she made on and off the lawns. She set a high standard of lawn behaviour, and her friendly and tactful management of Association events was always appreciated by competitors.

All well-established clubs — in whatever their sphere of operation — have reached their zenith because of the dedication of the faithful few, and Cecily belonged to that band. We extend our sympathy to her sister Maud.

Buck

Every tournament to which Cicely and Maud went — and they always went together — will miss that special atmosphere they engendered. A blend of warmth and charm and humour and so much more that it is indefinable, yet added so much to the enjoyment of the week.

E.A.M.P.

The Croquet Handyman

1. Shaft Repairs

To remove a shaft you will require a vice, a piece of dowel, a heavy hammer and courage. Cut a length of about 5 in. of dowel which is slightly smaller in diameter than the hole in the head: a piece of old broom handle may well do. Secure the head with shaft downwards in the vice with something (scraps of wood/rag) on either side to prevent bruising. Hold dowel firmly on top of shaft bottom and hit with hammer. Do this gently to begin with since the head may bind below and you may sometimes cause wood to splinter off the head as the shaft moves downwards. There is not much you can do to prevent this apart from starting gently. If the dowel breaks persistently it may be that the shaft has been glued in. If so, you will probably have to use a piece of solid steel of suitable diameter. Of course, if the shaft is broken the simplest thing is to drill out the shaft using a bit slightly smaller than the hole: a chisel will remove the rest. If you hope to preserve the shaft, there is really no alternative to brute force. (Having removed the shaft, take the opportunity of sandpapering off all old varnish from the head. Tighten up all screws and brass fittings, etc.)

To replace the shaft it is necessary first to secure it in a vice and to clean out the old wedge with a saw. A very thin, fine blade (a Junior hacksaw) works well. Cut down either side (avoiding shaft) and remove most of wedge. Then use a coarser saw at a slight angle and it will act as a scraper. Be gentle and all remnants ought quickly to be freed. Make a new wedge from a piece of old, straight-grained wood. Cut a piece roughly to size and then use a chisel to shape it: it does not need to be brilliant, but its taper ought to be reasonably even. Trim it sideways so that it is the correct width and then mark it for length so that you will know when it has gone in fully.

Next offer up the shaft to the hole and see how much play there is (without the wedge). There is likely to be some rocking at the top unless the shaft is a particularly tight fit. Try putting masking tape around the shaft until you get a snug fit in the head. Then position the shaft and adjust for feel, etc. Tapping in the wedge follows, with the top of the shaft on a towel on the floor. Go gently. If you reach your mark too easily your wedge is probably too thin and it will be best to start again. Try the position of the shaft for feel before the wedge is fully home: the head can probably still be twisted round slightly if this is needed. Then tap wedge home: do firm strokes with not too heavy a hammer in order to prevent the wedge splitting. Finally, put the head in the vice with shaft pointing downwards and saw off protruding wedge end to about 1/8 in. or less (without touching the head); and then cut flush (working towards the centre) with a chisel.

If your shaft is merely loose you may be able to tighten it without actual removal. If the whole shaft twists, the quick remedy is to hold the head in both hands and to bang the handle vertically downwards. Then try to force the wedge further in by means of a piece of steel of appropriate size. Use something like a cold chisel. If the wedge can be forced in a further 1/8 in. or so it will probably tighten the shaft sufficiently. This may also solve rocking which is caused by a slight gap between the shaft and the top of the head (as above). But to get the best result it will probably be necessary to remove the shaft and to pack it with masking tape, etc.

H.C.

2. Repairing Loose Screws and/or Brass Fittings

This is not very difficult, but remember: use a screwdriver of the correct size in order to prevent the slot being churned up; and use extreme care as the brass screws can easily be broken with over-twisting (the wood is harder than they are). Work in stages:

(a) Try replacing screws having dipped them in varnish or glue. You will notice that the brass frequently has a slight gap on top. If the brass itself is loose tighten the screws furthest from the gap first; and then work round to the gap so that any slack is removed as you do so. If the brass is disfigured you can hammer this down, but be careful as you may damage the wood and/or

break the screws. It is probably best to remove the brass altogether and to hammer it gently on something solid.

(b) Replacing with larger screws. Buy slightly longer screws with the same size of head. But if the screws are already fairly long use a slightly thicker screw for which it may be necessary to make a larger countersink in the brass fitting. (Remember when buying new screws also to buy a steel screw of the same size: it is stronger than brass and should be used first as a pilot.)

(c) New holes. Start afresh if the existing holes are already too large or if a brass screw has broken off in the hole: it can be drilled out, but this requires extreme care since the hole is quite close to the playing-surface. Drill and countersink with accuracy. Do not attempt this unless you know what you are doing (use something as a depth gauge and also use at least two different drill sizes).

As long as you go carefully there is not much that can go wrong; but if in doubt ask someone.

H.C.

3. Pegging-down Discs

Galvanised roofing felt nails (1 in. long with 5/8 in. heads) make good pegging-down discs. They are strong, firm, and do not affect the run of the balls. When painted to the appropriate colours, they show up well.

H.G.

4. Double Banking Ball Markers

A one- or two-penny piece, although of a suitable size, is not always readily 'spottable' and is sometimes kicked in the search. I use as an alternative golfer's marking pins which are approximately 3/4 in. in diameter, have a non-aggressive pin and are made of polythene. Four colours (Red, Blue, Yellow, White) are available and they cost about one penny each. One way to carry them is to drill four holes in a good-sized pencil eraser: three small ones for the markers and a bigger one for threading a piece of string in order to attach it to one's person. The sex-discrimination Act prohibits me from saying more.

A.C.

Are You Satisfied With Your Swing?

If you are not, you may find the following exercise useful. Place three balls in a row, almost touching, and practise hitting the middle ball firmly without moving either of the outside balls. This exercise will expose two weaknesses in the swing, thus:

1. If you are swinging the mallet with the head much out of line, the head will touch one or both of the outer balls.
2. If the inner ball is not struck with the centre of the mallet head, the latter is likely to be twisted sufficiently by the blow to touch one of the outer balls.

If, in the first few attempts, one of the outer balls does move, keep practising and you will find that the presence of the outer balls, and the attempt to hit without moving them, will cause you to straighten your swing.

When you can do the first exercise satisfactorily, try making it more difficult by moving the two outer balls backwards and inwards. In this way the test can be made very stringent indeed, and even players with a perfect swing may find it difficult not to move one of the outer balls if the space between them is almost as small as the width of the mallet head.

Incidentally, the fact that the mallet twists when the face strikes the ball off-centre, probably answers the question raised by Mr R.C.Case in the Spring 1978 issue of the *Gazette*, viz., how is side spin imparted to a ball? Although the mallet face is square to the direction of swing at the start of the impact, it is slanting to this line before the period of impact is completed.

C.A.Parker

Clubs Near and Far

Northern Federation 1977 Season

The name of this Federation was changed and now includes all North of England Clubs. Contacts have been established with Hull, Durham and York. The Federation league was run throughout the season and a rejuvenated Ellesmere Club proved too strong for Daten.

	P	W	D	L	G	Pts
Ellesmere	6	5	0	1	22-14	10
Daten	6	3	1	2	21-15	7
Southport	6	1	1	3	16-20	4
Bowdon	6	1	1	4	13-23	3

Brian Slater

Hon. Secretary, Northern Federation

Apologies are made to the Northern Federation for the late appearance of this item. It was submitted by their Hon. Sec. in November but did not reach the Editor until April. All items for the Gazette must be sent direct to the Editor — preferably well before the deadline. Ed.

Croquet in Nigeria

I arrived in Lagos, Nigeria, in May 1977, and approximately two months ago was delighted to discover that the game is played in Nigeria to quite an extent. There are about six private lawns in Lagos itself, one in Port Harcourt, one in Kaduna and one in Jos in Central Nigeria. There are about 30 players in Nigeria and the game is very popular (and becoming more so) among the Diplomatic Corps. Two of the keenest and best players are the Minister of the British High Commission, Mr J.R.Williams, C.M.G. (who is also a member of Roehampton) and Mr Donald B.Easum, the American Ambassador to Nigeria, who is also a brilliant trumpet-player and baritone. Mr Williams has been playing for several years and on previous diplomatic postings has brought his full croquet set to Indonesia, India and the Fiji Islands.

I had the opportunity of playing a doubles recently with Mr Williams and Mr Easum. We played on Mr Williams's private lawn which is bounded on two sides by age-old beautiful mango trees. Due to the enormous enthusiasm of the players, the game went on well into the dark, when four candles were produced (one for each ball) with a special convex base so they could sit down snugly on each ball! Is there such enthusiasm in England? Mr Williams and his partner beat myself and the American Ambassador by +8. I would also like to add that Mrs Williams treated guests and players to a true English tea which included wafer-thin cucumber sandwiches, crumpets, etc.!

The courts in Lagos are flat and hard, and, due to the great seasonal differences, they are green for about eight months of the year (in the rainy season), and brown for four months in the 'harmattan', when there is a great amount of dust in the air, caused by the sands of the South of the Sahara Desert blowing southwards all over Nigeria. This dust gives a very different texture to the lawns and one has to vary one's strength of shot enormously, according to Mr Williams. One of the best courts in Lagos is at the original residence of the British Governor to Nigeria, in the Colonial days. One other court has one boundary a mere three yards from water, a creek in fact, called the Five Cowrie Creek, which is south of the Island of Ikoyi, which is the 'Stockbroker Belt' of Lagos. I understand balls have been lost in the water in the past!

The writer hopes to coach the interested group of players on advanced tactics, triple peels, 'Wylie Leaves' and an explanation course on the more complicated rules of our great game. He hopes to instigate a proper weekend American Handicap Tournament and perhaps even a Championship of Nigeria in the not too distant future.

P.O. Box 1701
Lagos, Nigeria

David O'Connor

Inter-County Championship, 30 May to 2 June

It has been some time since a team dominated this event in the way that Middlesex did this year. By any standards they had a strong team. Jim Townsend was missing through illness, but Robin Godby, whose forceful captaincy was a feature, managed to find an adequate substitute on two days in William Prichard. Further, Eric Solomon completed two triple peels; a rare occurrence in the Counties. Colin Prichard has the knack of bringing out the best in his partners which, coupled with his own play (quite up to his 1976 standard, enhanced perhaps by three weeks in hospital), gave him seven wins in seven matches.

Berks. and Oxon. seem fated to be the bridesmaids. They played six players only, with pairings unchanged. A study in contrasts, Aspinall and Soutter, combined well but lost the vital match after Prichard W. (playing with Solomon E.) double peeled, then pegged out Aspinall and himself. 'No backswing' Rothwell and new boy Croker were undefeated.

Bedfordshire, defending champions, appeared to be suffering from rustiness — or winter fatigue; they also had difficulty in controlling their junior partners. Keen did brilliantly to lead (?) Audsley to victory against Mrs Prichard and Solomon E. (who — several times — started the quadruple peel).

Surrey were missing Bernard Neal, but Graham Martin played superbly and on occasion had to nursemaid a more experienced partner. Haigh and Pountney also made their mark and apparently lost one game through failing to advance a clip. But they played nearly faultlessly on the Cricket Field (which was sometimes, rather unjustly, made the scapegoat for bad play) to give their charming female opponents (Eastern Counties) but one chance of a turn.

For the first time since the war Northern Counties entered and did creditably under the guidance of David Openshaw. It fell to them to beat the holders on the first day. It is a little confusing as to where the boundary lies between them and the Midlands (nicknamed 'The Rest of England'), but both would like the names

of more players from which to draw their teams. The hapless Eastern Counties finished gameless, in spite of Hugh Carlisle's cunning manipulations of his pairings and the odd flash of brilliance from the Judge. They were suffering from the loss of Ian Baillieu, that great tactician.

Devon, who have for so long been making the pilgrimage each year, were absent: Bill Perry, John Cooper and Co. were much missed. It seems as though Sussex are destined to take over their mantle of having a strong team but failing to do themselves justice. Sussex have to travel from the South Coast each morning, but a little more emphasis on croquet and a little less on getting to Roehampton in time for lunch might benefit them! Their three pairs played unchanged and the second pair, Borrett and Wood, conceded exactly the same number of points as they scored; a curiosity which must prove something.

Final Order: Middlesex 7 wins (19 games); R.A.Godby (Capt), Lt-Col Prichard, Mrs Prichard, C.H.L.Prichard, W. de B. Prichard, Dr E.Solomon, Mrs B.Sundius-Smith.

Berks. and Oxon. 6 wins (16); G.N.Aspinall (Capt), D.B.Croker, R.F. Rothwell, J.H.Soutter, B.G.Weitz, T.I.Wood.

Surrey 4 wins (12); D.J.V.Hamilton-Miller (Capt), A.V.Camroux, J.Haigh, G.B.Martin, C.G.Pountney, Dr W.R.D.Wiggins.

Bedfordshire 4 wins (11); J.A.Wheeler (Capt), T.E.Anderson, E.Audsley, N.J.Davren, A.G.Dumont, H.A.Green, B.A.Keen, D.V.H.Rees.

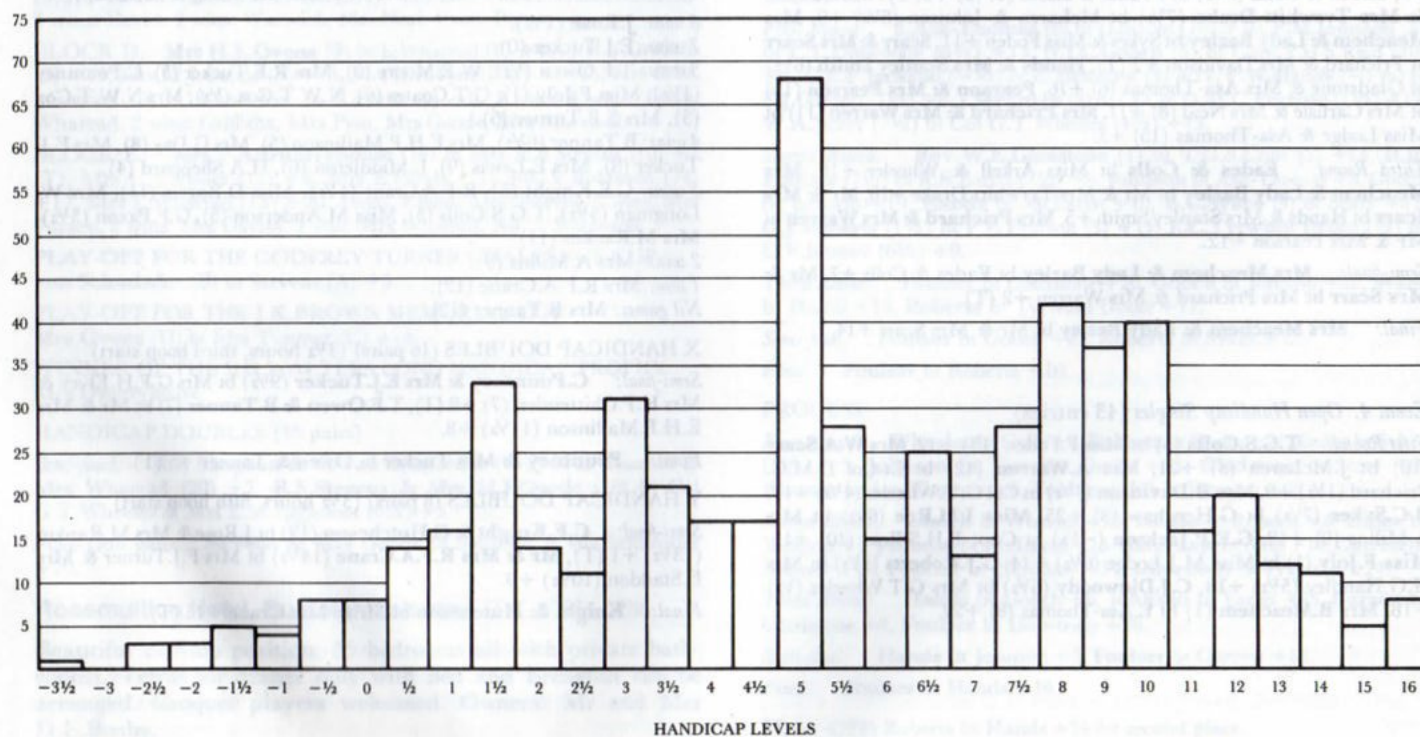
Northern Counties 3 wins (10); D.K.Openshaw (Capt), E.Bell, J.Maude, G.Richardson, J.Rose, P.Slater, B.Stoker.

Sussex 3 wins (9); R.Wood (Capt), Cmdr G.Borrett, D.A.Harris, T.F.Owen, E.J.Tucker, E.C.Tyrwhitt Drake.

Midlands 1 win (7); D.C.Caporn (Capt), D.Archer, Mrs H.B.Carlisle, J.McLaren, Mrs B.Meachem, G.C.Hopewell, G.W.Noble, Dr N.Robinson, L.Wharrad.

Eastern Counties Nil; H.B.Carlisle (Capt), Mrs E.E.Bressey, G.S.Digby, Mrs Digby, Miss S.Hampson, Judge A.D.Karmel, Mrs B.G.Neal, M.Pearson.

Distribution of Handicaps (taken from current Directory up to No 2 amendment sheet). Compiled by L. Wharrad.



Parkstone, 5-10 June

With the tendency for change of the British weather, it seemed unlikely before the tournament that the glorious sunshine of the preceding days could last throughout the week. These fears gained ground when, on the Sunday morning before the start, heavy rain flooded the courts. However, in the event, fate was kind and, with one exception, rain held off, enabling some splendid croquet to be enjoyed by spectators and players alike.

The most exciting game of the week was played by Dr Bucknall and Dr Parker. For 80 minutes Dr Parker's balls were for the peg. During this time Dr Bucknall stealthily, and nerve-rackingly for the spectators, caught up and eventually reversed a deficit of 12 to a win by 2. Dr Bucknall also distinguished himself in another match scoring, if the *Daily Telegraph* is to be believed, what must be an all-time record win of 133 over Mrs Davies. In spite of such gargantuan feats, there was no stopping Les Butler, whose consistent and accurate croquet enabled him to win both the Open Singles outright and the Handicap Singles 'X'. However, the achievement of the week belongs to beginner Hal Mortimer who, in his first full games of croquet, under the captaincy of Dr Parker, battled through to the final of the Handicap Doubles. Who could hope for a more auspicious introduction to the game?

It would be extremely difficult to surpass this tournament for the friendly spirit in which games were played and the hospitality extended to the visitors by all members of the club. The extremely high quality of the catering provided by Mrs Allen and the ladies of the Club, the excellent management of Pat Newton, tempered with a unique brand of humour, and the hard work of secretary Margaret McMordie, all contributed to a most smoothly run tournament and a week thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Results

Event 1: Open Singles (4 entries)

DRAW

Semi-final: L.S.Butler bt Dr W.R.Bucknall +23, **Dr C.A.Parker** bt Mrs N.A.C.McMillan +18.

Final: Butler bt Parker +8.

PROCESS

Semi-final: Bucknall bt Parker +2, **Butler** bt Mrs McMillan +6.

Final: Butler bt Bucknall +18.

PLAY-OFF (for second place): Parker bt Bucknall +2.

Event 2: 'B' Level Singles (12 entries)

First Round: J.H.T.Griffiths bt Mrs M.J.Goode +18, **A.Rushbrooke** bt J.G.Warwick +6, **Dr H.A.Pim** bt R.H.C.Carder +9, **Mrs L.L.Duveen** bt Mrs G.L.Ormerod +6.

Second Round: Air-Cmdr J.H.Greswell bt Mrs H.A.Pim +12, **Griffiths** bt Rushbrooke +6, **Pim** bt Mrs Duveen +9, **K.S.Schofield** bt Mrs L.M.Bishop +12.

Semi-final: Greswell bt Griffiths +8, **Schofield** bt Pim +24.

Final: Greswell bt Schofield +13.

Event 3: 'C' Singles (7 entries)

First Round: Mrs E.M.Pursey (11) bt Mrs C.A.Parker (15) +12, **Miss A.R.Robertson** (13) bt Mrs D.Mitchell (13) +7, **Dr J.A.McMordie** (11) bt Miss P.E.Parker (11) +7.

Semi-final: Mrs Pursey bt Miss Robertson +6, **McMordie** bt Mrs L.A.Davies (11) +16.

Final: McMordie bt Mrs Pursey +8.

Event 4: 'X' Handicap Singles (23 entries)

First Round: Miss A.R.Robertson (13) bt Air-Cmdr J.H.Greswell (5) +11, **Dr J.A.McMordie** (11) bt R.H.C.Carder (5) +10, **Dr C.A.Parker** (2 1/2) bt Dr H.A.Pim (5 1/2) +17, **Mrs G.L.Ormerod** (9) w.o. Mrs C.A.Parker (15), **Mrs E.M.Pursey** (11) bt Mrs N.A.C.McMillan (3) +22; **Dr W.R.Bucknall** (3 1/2) bt Mrs L.A.Davies (11) +13, **Mrs H.A.Pim** (7 1/2) bt A.Rushbrooke (7 1/2) +1 (T).

Second Round: K.S.Schofield (5) bt Mrs D.Mitchell (13) +17, **Mrs L.M.Bishop** (9) bt Miss P.E.Parker (11) +14, **McMordie** bt Miss Robertson

+8, **Parker** bt Mrs Ormerod +14, **Mrs Pursey** bt Bucknall +15, **Mrs Pim** bt Mrs L.L.Duveen (8) +9, **L.S.Butler** (2) bt Mrs M.J.Goode (8) +15, **J.H.T.Griffiths** (8) bt J.G.Warwick (5) +10.

Third Round: Schofield bt Mrs Bishop +9, **McMordie** bt Parker +18, **Mrs Pursey** bt Mrs Pim +16, **Butler** bt Griffiths +21.

Semi-final: McMordie bt Schofield +13, **Butler** bt Mrs Pursey +24.

Final: Butler bt McMordie +2.

'Y' Handicap Final (11 entries): Greswell bt Mrs Davies +20.

'Z' Handicap Final (10 entries): Carder bt Bucknall +15.

Event 5: Handicap Doubles (12 pairs)

First Round: Mrs Duveen & Mrs Bishop (17) bt Pim and Mrs Mitchell (17 1/2) +12, **Mrs McMillan & McMordie** (14) bt Greswell & Mrs B.Saunders (19) +11, **Carder & Rushbrooke** (12 1/2) bt Mrs Pim & Mrs Davies (18 1/2) +1 (T), **Parker & H.R.Mortimer** (16 1/2) bt Griffiths & Mrs Ormerod (17) +17.

Second Round: Butler & Miss Robertson (14) bt Bucknall & Mrs Goode (11 1/2) +7, **Mrs McMillan & McMordie** bt Mrs Duveen & Mrs Bishop +12, **Parker & Mortimer** bt Carder & Rushbrooke +5, **Schofield & Miss McMordie** (8 1/2) bt Warwick & Mrs Pursey (15) +5.

Semi-final: Mrs McMillan & McMordie bt Butler & Miss Robertson +6, **Parker & Mortimer** bt Schofield & Miss McMordie +15.

Final: Mrs McMillan & McMordie bt Parker & Mortimer +6.

Compton, 5-10 June

My impressions as a first-time visitor were of the Club's strong tradition (it dates from 1898) and the extreme friendliness and hospitality of the members; we enjoyed excellent meals and the informal atmosphere of Denno's bar. The chief referee, Giles Borrett, with his outsize panama hat, appeared like a genie whenever a doubtful situation arose to give impeccable judgment with a kind word for everyone. I was also pleased that time limits were out.

One of the best games of the big handicap saw Mrs Asa-Thomas making an eight-hoop three-ball break to the peg followed by Hutcheson who pegged her out. He too made a six-hoop three-ball break but stuck in penultimate. His opponent failed at rover so Hutcheson ran out to win a splendid game by 2. Bernard Yallop showed particularly good form. Indeed the 'yalloping' of opponents proved to be the order of the day in both the big handicap and in the level 'B' event; his only loss was at the hands of fellow astronomer Roy Wallis but in the play-off Yallop successfully turned the tables.

In the open single event, Alec Coleman from Reigate on +2 was the highest-handicapped contender but, playing beautiful croquet, he won the draw with several impressive wins including one against Ted Tucker, the holder. Alec again reached the final in the process, to meet Tucker. The game fluctuated dramatically, Coleman hitting everything and Tucker hanging on like grim death until he missed a relatively easy shot into the third corner after ceding his last lift. Coleman had the game in his pocket, but he missed a simple return roquet and Tucker won by 6. This put Tucker on his mettle and in the play-off he was at his best. The doubles proved a triumph for Coleman and his partner Knight who convincingly beat the strong combination of Borrett and Hutcheson. Borrett had one chance to get going before Knight, who had played so well, hit the peg with a long shot (Coleman had fluffed the peg-out).

Mrs Asa-Thomas had a good tournament and she really deserved to win the Compton Plate when she beat Evans in a most exciting game. Evans's bisques ran out with both of his balls on the peg but Mrs Asa-Thomas caught up from 4 back and 2 back to win, giving Evans only one long shot. Mrs Tyrwhitt Drake also played well throughout the week, reaching the semi-final of the X and beating Col Brown in the final of the restricted handicap.

The Managers Roger Wood and Roy Wallis 'observed by telescope' the state of play. Dressed in shorts, with hand-embroidered sashes and pukka sahib headgear, they added tone to the occasion.

Y Handicap Singles (15 entries)

Final: **Crane** bt Mrs Cave +13.

Ryde, 12-17 June

Cliff-hangers, heavy showers, a wine-and-cheese party and the general friendliness of the Club ensured that a 'good time was had by all'. Except for Doris Osborn who broke two bones in her foot on the first day and was told by the ambulance men that she would be in plaster for three months. 'But I am only here for a week', she replied!

Other mishaps: the player who innocently drove four balls from corner I to corner III at the start of a game; the writer who found his car had disappeared (taken by the same innocent player when called urgently for play whilst enjoying a long lie-in); the referee who removed a clip from 1 back and replaced it on Hoop 2! Lionel Wharrad played R.Newnham for 16 hours all told. Lunch was considerably delayed one day because every window was filled watching the fluctuations of the Y final between Dennis Cross and Gwyneth Mann. Cross (playing in his first tournament) with Mrs Brown (23) beat Pountney and Newnham (9½) by one on time! This is a haven for C players, all credit to Mrs Marshall for winning the event; then Manager Birch hit in to win the Championship by a single point from Pountney. It is scarcely surprising that the X had to be shared between Birch and Newnham — the latter to hold the cup.

Results*Event 1: Isle of Wight Championship* (3 entries)

DRAW (played as an American)

C.G.Pountney bt G.Birch +9, **Pountney** bt Mrs E.E.Bressey +24, **Mrs Bressey** w.o. Birch.

PROCESS (played as an American)

Birch bt Mrs Bressey +20, **Birch** bt Pountney +6, **Pountney** bt Mrs Bressey +16.

PLAY-OFF: **Birch** bt Pountney +1.

Event 2: 'B' Level Singles (7 entries)

First Round: **R.W.Newnham** w.o. Miss M.G.Anderson, **L.Wharrad** bt Mrs P.H.Mann +18, **H.G.B.Wagnell** bt F.E.M.Puxon +18.

Semi-final: **Wharrad** bt Newnham +10, **Wagnell** bt P.H.Mann +9.

Final: **Wharrad** bt Wagnell +24.

Event 3: C Handicap Singles (11 entries)

First Round: **D.C.Cross** (11*) w.o. Mrs E.D.Osborn (10), **R.L.George** (12) bt Dr C.W.Marshall (10) +15, **Miss J.Wraith** (10) bt Mrs L.Wharrad (14) +11.

Second Round: **Mrs C.W.Marshall** (9) bt S.Elkan (12) +8, **Cross** bt George +4, **Miss Wraith** bt Mrs S.Elkan (14) +18, **Mrs E.G.Brown** (12) bt Miss D.E.Rogers (11) +12.

Semi-final: **Mrs Marshall** w.o. Cross, **Mrs Brown** bt Miss Wraith +16.

Final: **Mrs Marshall** bt Mrs Brown +13.

Event 4: X Handicap Singles (19 entries)

First Round: **H.G.B.Wagnell** (8) bt Mrs S.Elkan +11, **Mrs C.W.Marshall** (9) bt Miss M.G.Anderson +9, **C.G.Pountney** (1½) bt Mrs P.H.Mann (7½) +15.

Second Round: **G.Birch** (1½) bt R.L.George (12) +10, **F.E.M.Puxon** (7½) bt Mrs L.Wharrad (14) +16, **P.H.Mann** (5½) bt Mrs E.D.Osborn (10) +7, **Mrs Marshall** bt Wagnell +4, **Pountney** bt Dr C.W.Marshall (10) +20, **L.Wharrad** (6) bt Mrs E.G.Brown (12) +17, **S.Elkan** (12) bt Miss J.Wraith (10) +12, **R.W.Newnham** (8) bt Mrs E.E.Bressey (5) +19.

Third Round: **Birch** bt Puxon +13, **Mrs Marshall** bt Mann +7, **Wharrad** bt Pountney +12, **Newnham** bt Elkan +12.

Semi-final: **Birch** bt Mrs Marshall +13, **Newnham** bt Wharrad +3.

Final: **Birch** and **Newnham** divided.

Y Handicap Final: **Cross** (11*) bt Mrs Mann (7½) +3.

Event 5: Handicap Doubles (10 pairs)

First Round: **Dr Marshall & Mrs Mann** (17½) bt Elkan & Mrs Elkan (26) +13, **Puxon & Wagnell** (15½) bt Mann & Miss Rogers (14½) +2 (T).

Second Round: **Birch & George** (11½) bt Mrs Marshall & Miss Wraith (19) +20, **Marshall & Mrs Mann** bt Mrs Bressey & Mrs K.M.Lowein (17) +13, **Cross & Mrs Brown** (13) bt Puxon & Wagnell +11 (T), **Pountney & Newnham** (9½) bt Mr & Mrs Wharrad (20) +8 (T).

Semi-final: **Birch & George** bt Marshall & Mrs Mann +9, **Cross & Mrs Brown** bt Pountney & Newnham +1 (T).

Final: **Birch & George** bt Cross & Mrs Brown +14.

Carrickmines, 12-17 June*Event 1: Championship of Co. Dublin* (8 entries)

DRAW

First Round: **Mrs N.Tyldesley** bt A.D.Craig +12, **Mrs H.M.Read** bt Prof R.E.Steen +20, **H.O.Hicks** bt C. von Schmieder +13, **R.Leonard** bt C.Gamble +11.

Semi-final: **Mrs Read** bt Mrs Tyldesley +2, **Hicks** bt Leonard +15.

Final: **Hicks** bt Mrs Read +17.

PROCESS

First Round: **von Schmieder** bt Mrs Tyldesley +12, **Gamble** bt Mrs Read +11, **Hicks** bt Craig +14, **Leonard** bt Steen +23.

Semi-final: **von Schmieder** bt Gamble +13, **Hicks** bt Leonard +6.

Final: **Hicks** bt von Schmieder +7.

Event 2: Duff Mathews Cup. Handicap Singles (8 entries)

First Round: **Dr T.J.Haste** (7½) bt Miss G.Hopkins (6½) +21, **G.B.Binks** (8) bt Miss E.K.Hawkins (8) +17, **P.E.Callan** (10) bt P.Brown (12) +5, **Dr H.Webb** (16) bt Miss I.M.Hawkins (9) +15.

Semi-final: **Binks** bt Haste +18, **Callan** bt Webb +16.

Final: **Binks** bt Callan +22.

Event 3: Boxwell Cup. Handicap Singles (16 entries)

First Round: **A.D.Craig** (4½) bt P.Brown (12) +9, **P.E.Callan** (10) bt Miss E.K.Hawkins (8) +7, **Dr T.J.Haste** (7½) bt C. von Schmieder (3) +7, **Mrs N.Tyldesley** (5) w.o. Miss G.Hopkins (6½), **R.Leonard** (3½) bt R.Hannon (5½) +16, **G.B.Binks** (8) bt Miss I.M.Hawkins (9) +9, **C.Gamble** (3) bt Prof R.E.Steen (6½) +8, **Mrs H.M.Read** (5) bt H.O.Hicks (½) +7.

Second Round: **Callan** bt Craig +2, **Mrs Tyldesley** bt Haste +5, **Binks** bt Leonard +25, **Gamble** bt Mrs Read +7.

Semi-final: **Callan** bt Mrs Tyldesley +18, **Binks** bt Gamble +23.

Final: **Binks** bt Callan +18.

Event 4: Coronation Cups. Handicap Doubles (8 pairs)

First Round: **Hicks & Hannon** (6) bt Leonard & Steen (10) +9 (T), **Binks & von Schmieder** (11) bt Haste & Craig (12) +23, **Callan & Brown** (22) bt the Misses Hawkins (17) +8 (T), **Miss Hopkins & Gamble** (9½) bt Mrs Tyldesley & Mrs Read (10) +1 (T).

Semi-final: **Binks & von Schmieder** bt Hicks & Hannon +23, **Miss Hopkins & Gamble** bt Callan & Brown +3 (T).

Final: **Miss Hopkins & Gamble** bt Binks & von Schmieder +1 (T).

Golf Croquet Cups played at Colchester on Monday, 1 May*Event 1: The Ascot Challenge Cup. Open Singles* (20 entries)

PLAY-OFF between Block winners.

M.E.W.Heap 7 & 6 v. S.N.Mulliner. **A.B.Hope** 1 up v. Dr M.Murray.

Final: **Heap** 3 & 2, and 4 & 3 v. Hope.

Event 2: The Delves Broughton Challenge Cup. Open Doubles (11 pairs)

Final: **S.N.Mulliner & J.G.Phillips** bt A.B.Hope & Dr M.Murray 6 & 5. (Others taking part were M.N.Avery, N.J.Gooch, Mr & Mrs J.Maclaren, Mrs B.E.Read, Mrs O.Morrison, Miss C.M.Sinclair, Mrs H.A.Zinn, Mrs J.Amos, Mr & Mrs G.F.Hallett, Mr & Mrs G.S.Digby, Mr & Mrs Money, Miss E.I.Wood.)

Oxford v. Cambridge. Hurlingham Club, 12 June

Oxford wrested the Edmund Reeve Challenge Cup* from Cambridge, for the first time, after a match which was undecided until the last minute. Both sides surprised each other by fielding strong teams and what each had expected to be a relatively easy victory developed into a thrilling struggle. Oxford had been preparing quietly for weeks, entering tournaments and taking part in an extended series of fixtures which culminated in a win against a strong Cheltenham side two days beforehand. Cambridge prepared even more quietly and although they had lost by 3 games to 5 to Hunstanton in May, they arrived fresh from an impressive victory at Colchester on the previous day. Furthermore, both sides were backed up with reserves and even supporters!

David Wilson, the Cambridge Captain, struck the first blow; he finished brilliantly to defeat Oxford's secret weapon from New Zealand, Graeme Roberts, by 2. Then Sykes fought off a late challenge by Bowen, the Cambridge number two, and by lunch-time, when Sue Foden (the first woman to play in this event) managed to be 3 in front at time, each team had three wins.

In the Doubles Cambridge's first couple (Wilson D. and Bowen) were victorious, but this was counterbalanced by Sykes and Miss Foden coasting home against Anderson and Wilson J. All then depended on the second pairs, and the onlookers converged around lawn two. Cambridge (Macdonald and Jones) for Rover and peg, were laid up for the final turn, when Dinwoodie hit in and, keeping calm, ran Rover and laid up for Bond; he duly ran the hoop but laid up so far apart that Cambridge joined up. Under tremendous pressure, Bond hit his partner ball, pegged out and won the match for Oxford. The atmosphere was summed up by one international among the spectators who was heard to say that it was the first time this year that a game of croquet had made him nervous — and he was not even playing!

Results*Singles*

Oxford names first. Level Advanced play.

G.Roberts lost to D.Wilson -2; B.Sykes bt R.Bowen +4; C.Dinwoodie bt F.Macdonald +17; I.Bond lost to K.Jones -18; P.Boddington lost to G.Anderson -7 (T); Miss S.Foden bt J.Wilson +3 (T).

Doubles. Level Advanced play.

Roberts and Boddington lost to Wilson D. and Bowen -11; Dinwoodie and Bond bt Macdonald and Jones +3; Sykes and Miss Foden bt Anderson and Wilson J. +24.

Oxford beat **Cambridge** 5-4.

* This Cup was not specifically for competition only between Oxford and Cambridge. What happens when another University (say Durham) wishes to enter?

Note. The results of Oxford v. Cambridge matches since 1965 are missing. Will any player who can recall names and/or results (including the years that there were no contest), please contact the Editor.

An Answer to Question of Tactics: 2

Blue should simply roll Black near the first corner and leave a rush to the Peg. If his opponent hits-in, he will have no easy break, and certainly no easy triple peel.

Unfortunately for him, this solution did not appeal to a player in last year's President's Cup. He thought he would take advantage of Black's position on the court and wire both his balls from both Red and Yellow, so that his opponent had an even longer shot. This he did, leaving Blue and Black in the middle of the court. Inevitably, Yellow hit-in and gratefully accepted the simple chance of a triple peel. The loser had only himself to blame.

K.F.W.

The Men's and Women's Championships played at Cheltenham 19-24 June

The Caskets, played for the seventh consecutive year at Cheltenham, attracted both a large and strong entry for all three Championships. Obviously the carrot for the men was the forthcoming Test series, while all the top guns, with the noticeable exception of Mrs Sundius-Smith, appeared in the women's event. It was this event which started the programme and there were some early surprises. Marion Hemsted, who plays an attractive game, won the first game against Frances Joly, who had to use all her Irish cunning to win the match. Donna Manning from South Australia unwisely pegged one ball out when well ahead against Barbara Meachem, which cost her the first game and subsequently the match.

In the afternoon John Solomon and Paul Hands met in a vital match. The first game was full of mistakes which ended in a narrow win for Solomon. Hands levelled the match in a quick second game. In the third, after Solomon had been pegged out (with his other ball for 4 back), Hands wired his balls behind Rover; Solomon ran the hoop from the North boundary, missing by a fraction. Thus Hands won the first of a string of matches against 'a good, stiff crew'.

On Tuesday, after one round of Doubles, the singles continued and there were some fascinating duels. Hands played Andrew Hope, who, when going out on a triple, missed a three-yard peg-out. Hands made two perfect breaks, including a triple, to win this first game. In the second there were many mistakes, but Hands struggled home. Stephen Hemsted recovered to win the first game against William Prichard, who had taken a commanding lead, while the second was the exact reverse with Prichard picking up two breaks from unpromising leaves. The decider was one of no mistakes which Hemsted won, having hit one more lift shot. Steve Mulliner and Eric Solomon had a patchy third game, after each had won one easily, with Solomon making the last mistake. In the Women's it seemed that the top four would meet in the semi-final. However, Veronica Carlisle, having lost the first game against Barbara Meachem, fought back to win the second comfortably. The third was destined to finish on time the next day when Veronica, using attacking tactics, nudged ahead to win by 2.

Wednesday saw the Mixed Doubles through to the Process final, where William Prichard and his mother met the surprise survivors in Paul Hands and Lady Bazley, who had both played superbly to win three rounds. The game was pegged down at dusk with honours even but when it continued the next evening the Prichards won quickly.

On Thursday there were two matches which promised to be interesting, Hands v. Murray and Hemsted v. Mulliner. However, Hands and Hemsted, both now playing with great touch, won in straight games against their respective opponents, neither of whom played their best, although Mulliner, with the death-wish of a lemming, attempted a straight triple on Hemsted. Three rounds of Doubles were completed (thanks to a three-hour time limit which could, with advantage, have been introduced earlier), ending in Andrew Hope and Mrs Asa-Thomas, who had had three convincing wins, and the Prichards — with two narrow and one easy win — reaching the final.

The semi-finals of both Championships were played on Friday. The ever accurate Frances Joly defeated in two games Kitty Wheeler, who never found her best form. Veronica Carlisle, playing enterprising croquet, won easily against Betty Prichard; they both sportingly waived their lunch and tea breaks in case it went to a third game. The men provided two greatly contrasting semi-finals. Edgar Jackson, who had had a relatively easy draw, was in fluent form against Stephen Hemsted, who up till now had been playing well enough to win the event. Jackson swept round to win the first game within the hour. In the second Hemsted had his chances and took one ball round; however, Jackson was irrepressible and casually went round twice to win the match by lunchtime. Hands met Bernard Neal, who had won his earlier matches convincingly. Hands was quickly round in the first game and his second ball followed after a speculative approach to the first hoop from the fourth corner. Neal hit the lift and ended on four

back but Hands hit in at once and went one game up. The second game seemed to be going the same way until Hands stuck in the second hoop with his second ball, whereupon Neal finished the game in two turns. The deciding game was enthralling: Hands, after another long approach to the first hoop, decided to go round and peg out his own ball. Neal nursed one ball to the fourth hoop where a mistake gave Hands a long shot which he hit. He needed only one more hit-in to set up his winning three-ball break. Thus it was to be an all-Cheltenham final, avenging the defeat by Hurlingham in the Inter Club played the previous Sunday.

At 6.45 the final of the Draw Doubles was surprisingly started, with the situation that Hope and Mrs Asa-Thomas had to beat the Prichards twice to win the Championship. Hope, the only one of the four to be involved in two events, was pegged down in his Du Pre match. William Prichard played well going round to 4 back peeling the now weary Mrs Prichard through the first three hoops (she had the unenviable record of playing continuously throughout the tournament from Monday morning often until dusk). When the game was resumed on Saturday morning, this lead was whittled down until Hope and Mrs Asa-Thomas won by two on time after glancing at the pavilion clock (bought from a legacy from the late Lord Parmoor). In the play-off Mrs Asa-Thomas played magnificently, and was soon on four back; Hope failed on the triple, but soon regained the innings to record a well-deserved victory.

Veronica Carlisle, playing with great confidence against Frances Joly, always seemed to have the Women's final under control, winning in two games. She has a nice swing and uses positive tactics, and she is to be congratulated on her magnificent victory. The Men's final was one-sided: Hands, in devastating form, gave Edgar Jackson no chance in either game. There is no doubt that Hands was the most outstanding and entertaining player of the week. Whispers were heard about seeding but, in the event, neither of the finalists would have been seeded on last year's form.

The Manager chose to play the Du Pre Cup as Draw and Process (or as some nicknamed it Process and re-Process!). Special mention should be made of John Soutter's defeat of John Solomon twice in one day and of Robin Godby's recovery from behind to beat William Prichard. Mulliner, having survived several near defeats in earlier rounds, ran out of luck against Hope in the play-off after the prize-giving.

Cheltenham provided its now famous fast courts (till rain made them easy-paced from Wednesday onwards); they were generally in excellent condition due to the 'keen amending eye' of R.O.B. Whittington. Edgar Jackson would agree that the programme was full, but it was in no way impossible to complete.

Results

Event 1: The Men's Championship (22 entries)

First Round: Dr M. Murray bt Lt-Col D.M.C. Prichard +9 +23, H.O. Hicks bt J.H.J. Soutter +9 +3, A.B. Hope bt T.F. Owen +13 +26, P.W. Hands bt J.W. Solomon -4 +26 +4, S.R. Hemsted bt J.A. Wheeler +25 +26, W. de B. Prichard bt D.R. Foulser +8 +21.

Second Round: B.G. Neal bt R.A. Godby +26 +16, G.J. Roberts bt D.V.H. Rees +6 -1 +3, Murray bt Hicks +6 +26, Hands bt Hope +2 +5, Hemsted bt W. de B. Prichard +9 -15 +17, S.N. Mulliner bt Dr E.W. Solomon -25 +26 +6, Dr I.G. Vincent bt Rev W.E. Gladstone +1 -10 +5, G.E.P. Jackson bt J. Haigh +26 +5.

Third Round: Neal bt Roberts +4 +16, Hands bt Murray +26 +6, Hemsted bt Mulliner +24 +9, Jackson bt Vincent +14 +15.

Semi-final: Hands bt Neal +17 -16 -23, Jackson bt Hemsted +24 +17.

Final: Hands bt Jackson +26 +26.

Event 2: The Women's Championship (15 entries)

First Round: Mrs D.M.C. Prichard bt Mrs E.M. Lightfoot +20 -3 +14, Mrs N.A.C. McMillan bt Miss E.H. Arkell +5 +3, Mrs H.B.H. Carlisle bt Mrs P. Asa-Thomas +6 +7 (T), Mrs B. Meachem bt Miss D. Manning +1 +13, Mrs G.T. Wheeler bt Mrs J. Neville Rolfe +21 +19, Miss B. Duthie bt Mrs G.F.H. Elvey +8 +8, Miss F. Joly bt Mrs S.R. Hemsted -16 +10 +14.

Second Round: Mrs Prichard bt Mrs McMillan -7 +4 +10 (T), Mrs Carlisle bt Mrs Meachem -10 +15 +2 (T), Mrs Wheeler bt Miss Duthie +8 +15, Miss Joly bt Mrs B.G. Neal +21 +17.

Semi-final: Mrs Carlisle bt Mrs Prichard +15 +11, Miss Joly bt Mrs Wheeler +6 +18.

Final: Mrs Carlisle bt Miss Joly +11 +9.

Event 3: The Mixed Doubles Championship (16 pairs)

DRAW

First Round: W. de B. Prichard & Mrs D.M.C. Prichard bt Gladstone & Mrs Wheeler +1, Vincent & Miss Manning bt Mr and Mrs Hemsted +15, Godby & Mrs Meachem bt Wheeler & Mrs Rolfe +10, Mulliner & Mrs McMillan bt Soutter & Mrs H.G. Handley +9, Rees & Mrs Carlisle bt Hands & Lady Bazley +10, Prof & Mrs Neal bt Haigh & Miss Arkell +5, Hope & Mrs Asa-Thomas bt D.M.C. Prichard & Mrs Lightfoot +8, Jackson & Mrs J. Povey bt Owen & Miss Joly +15.

Second Round: W. de B. Prichard & Mrs Prichard bt Vincent & Miss Manning +5 (T), Godby & Mrs Meachem bt Mulliner & Mrs McMillan +7, Rees & Mrs Carlisle bt Prof & Mrs Neal +3, Hope & Mrs Asa-Thomas bt Jackson & Mrs Povey +13.

Semi-final: W. de B. & Mrs Prichard bt Godby & Mrs Meachem +15, Hope & Mrs Asa-Thomas bt Rees & Mrs Carlisle +17.

Final: Hope & Mrs Asa-Thomas bt W. de B. & Mrs Prichard +2 (T).

PROCESS

First Round: Hands & Lady Bazley bt Gladstone & Mrs Wheeler +4, Godby & Mrs Meachem bt D.M.C. Prichard & Mrs Lightfoot +15, Vincent & Miss Manning bt Haigh & Miss Arkell +22, Owen & Miss Joly bt Soutter & Mrs Handley +8 (T), W. de B. Prichard & Mrs Prichard bt Rees & Mrs Carlisle +8 (T), Hope & Mrs Asa-Thomas bt Wheeler & Mrs Rolfe +5 (T), Mr & Mrs Hemsted bt Prof & Mrs Neal +13, Jackson & Mrs Povey bt Mulliner & Mrs McMillan +23.

Second Round: Hands & Lady Bazley bt Godby & Mrs Meachem +3 (T), Owen & Miss Joly bt Vincent & Miss Manning +13, W. de B. Prichard & Mrs Prichard bt Hope & Mrs Asa-Thomas +9, Mr & Mrs Hemsted bt Jackson & Mrs Povey +7.

Semi-final: Hands & Lady Bazley bt Owen & Miss Joly +4, W. de B. Prichard & Mrs Prichard bt Mr & Mrs Hemsted +9.

Final: W. de B. & Mrs Prichard bt Hands & Lady Bazley +9.

PLAY-OFF: Hope & Mrs Asa-Thomas bt W. de B. Prichard & Mrs Prichard +11.

Event 4: The Due Pre Cup (26 entries)

DRAW

First Round: Wheeler bt Lady Bazley +16, Foulser bt Mrs Povey +16, D.M.C. Prichard bt Miss Duthie +7, Godby bt Mrs Elvey +26, Vincent w.o. Miss Arkell, J.W. Solomon bt Rees +14, Gladstone bt Mrs R. Rolfe +22, Mrs Neal bt Mrs Asa-Thomas +7, Hope bt Mrs Hemsted +17.

Second Round: Soutter bt Owen +16, Wheeler bt Foulser +16, D.M.C. Prichard bt Godby +5, J.W. Solomon w.o. Vincent, Mulliner bt Gladstone +25, Mrs Neal bt Miss Manning +2, Hope w.o. W. de B. Prichard (scr by Manager), Haigh bt Mrs Meachem +1.

Third Round: Soutter bt Wheeler +10, J.W. Solomon bt D.M.C. Prichard +13, Mulliner bt Mrs Neal +26, Hope bt Haigh +25.

Semi-final: Soutter bt J.W. Solomon +21, Mulliner bt Hope +5.

Final: Mulliner bt Soutter +1.

PROCESS

First Round: Soutter bt Mrs Rolfe +20, Godby bt W. de B. Prichard +4, Foulser bt Miss Manning +17, Mrs Neal w.o. Lady Bazley, Haigh bt Vincent +3, Mulliner bt Owen +25, Murray bt Mrs Povey +26, Wheeler bt Mrs Asa-Thomas +6, Mrs Meachem bt Miss Arkell +20, Hope bt Miss Duthie +26.

Second Round: Soutter bt Godby +12, J.W. Solomon bt Foulser +26, Haigh bt Mrs Neal +16, Mrs Hemsted w.o. D.M.C. Prichard (ret. on peg), Mulliner bt Mrs Elvey +19, Murray bt Rees +5, Wheeler bt Mrs Meachem +5, Hope bt Gladstone +23.

Third Round: Soutter bt J.W. Solomon +13, Haigh bt Mrs Hemsted +13, Mulliner bt Murray +5, Hope bt Wheeler +4.

Semi-final: Soutter bt Haigh +12, Hope bt Mulliner +14.

Final: Hope bt Soutter +17.

PLAY-OFF: Hope bt Mulliner +17.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Hurlingham Club on Monday 29 May 1978

The President, Mr E.P. Duffield, took the Chair. There were present Mr J.W. Solomon, Vice-President, and 23 Associates.

- The Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting, as published in the Summer 1977 issue of *The Croquet Gazette*, were approved.
- The President in his address referred to the deaths of Ian Baillieu, David Joseph, Albert Saalfeld, Captain Nalder and Ron Faulkner. He praised the work of the Council and the Secretary and Mrs Prichard for her first issue of *The Gazette* on becoming Editor. He spoke on the coming Test series in New Zealand early in 1979 in defence of the MacRobertson trophy and stressed the importance of supporting the Test Fund so that we could send our best team.
- The new Benefactors Book was tabled, and the Secretary read from it the names of the benefactors recorded in it.
- The Chairman of Council's annual report, as published in the Spring 1978 issue of *The Croquet Gazette*, was adopted.
- The Treasurer, Mr A.J. Oldham, presented the annual audited accounts for the year ending 31 December 1977 which had been published in the Spring 1978 issue of *The Gazette*. He pointed out that the market value of the Temple Bar Investment Trust shares should have read £2057 instead of £1057. With this amendment the accounts were approved. In his forecast for the coming year he estimated that unless conditions changed it should be possible to hold the 1979 subscription rates to those of 1978.
- Proposed by Dr W.R.D. Wiggins and seconded by Mrs K. Longman, it was unanimously resolved that Mr A.J. Oldham be reappointed as Treasurer. The President thanked him for his great services to the Association in former years.
- The Secretary reported that there were nine vacancies and nine candidates had been proposed for election/re-election to the Council, and, that under Rule VI, were deemed to be elected: G.N. Aspinall, Mrs E.E. Bressey, A.B. Hope, Mrs W. Longman, Professor B.G. Neal, T.F. Owen, C.B. Sanford, S.S. Townsend and L. Wharrad.
- Messrs Nicholass, Ames & Co were unanimously reappointed as Auditors.
- Mr D.C. Caporn proposed and Dr R.W. Bray seconded and it was unanimously resolved at under Rule XIV(b) that the Council be empowered to authorise the adoption of temporary variations in the Laws AND REGULATIONS FOR TOURNAMENTS.
- There was no other business.

Proposed alteration to Law 2

In accordance with Rule XIV, the following alteration to Law 2, having been passed by the Council on 10 December, 1977, is published below. The alteration will be reconsidered by the Council on the first available occasion and, if passed by a majority of six to four, will become Law.

Law 2(c). The second sentence of Law 2(c) to be replaced by 'They shall be 3 $\frac{5}{8}$ inches, plus or minus 1/32 in, in diameter, and of even weight 16 ounces, plus or minus 1/4 ounce'.

The Longman Cup 1978

First Round:

Southport bt Chester 4-1
Ellesmere bt Bretby 5-0
Nottingham bt Bowden 4-1
Harwell bt Bristol 4-1
Wolverhampton bt Trawscoed 4-1
Cheltenham bt Bath 4-1
Edgbaston bt Stourbridge 3-2
Hurlingham bt Roehampton 4-1
Reigate Priory bt Woking 3-2
Compton bt Parsons Green 3-2
Southwick bt Ryde 3-2
Maidenhead bt Phyllis Court 3-2
Oxford University bt Wrest Park 4-1
British Airways bt Colworth 4-1
Harrow Oak w.o. Colchester

Inter-Club Championship 1978

First Round:

Hurlingham beat Nottingham 7-0
Colchester beat Hunstanton 4-3
* Harrow Oak beat Heley 4-3
Roehampton beat Colworth 7-0
Wrest Park beat Southwick 6-1

* One dramatic game in this match was reported. David Openshaw was round to 4 back and going well with a delayed triple when hampered after 3 back; this let Keith Wylie in who ran the first six hoops leaving David cross-wired at Hoop 1 with his own balls in corner III. David put his forward ball (for penult) in corner IV. From here Keith double-peeled and pegged out his opponent and peeled his partner ball through 1 back. This break was made possible by a beautiful pseudo-cannon to get the ball out of corner IV. Keith won the ensuing three-ball game.

Attendances at Council and Committee Meetings 1977-8

D.C. Caporn, Chairman, * C4, L2, F&GP2, T2, P&D1, Ed1. Total 12/12
Dr R.W. Bray, Vice-Chairman, * C4, L2, F&GP2, T1, P&D1, Ed1. Total 11/12
A.J. Oldham, Hon. Treasurer, * C4, L1, F&GP2, T1, P&D1, Ed1. Total 10/12
G.N. Aspinall, C4, T2, S2, Ed1. Total 9/9
I.C. Baillieu, ** C3, L2, T2, S2. Total 9/9
Mrs E.E. Bressey, C4, P&D1. Total 5/5
Mrs H.B.H. Carlisle, C3, F&GP1, T2, P&D0. Total 6/9
R.A. Godby, C4, F&GP2, P&D1, Hcp3. Total 10/10
D.J.V. Hamilton-Miller, C3, Hcp3, S2. Total 8/9
A.B. Hope, C3, L1, F&GP2. Total 6/8
Mrs K. Longman, C2, T2, P&D1. Total 5/7
G.B. Martin, T4, L1, T2. Total 7/8
Mrs B.L. Meachem, C3, L0, F&GP1, P&D0. Total 4/8
D.H. Moorcraft, C2. Total 2/4
Professor B.G. Neal, C4, L2, P&D1, Hcp3. Total 10/10
Lt-Col D.M.C. Prichard, C4, L2, T2, S2, Ed1. Total 11/11
C.B. Sanford, C3, F&GP2. Total 5/6
E. Strickland, C4, T2, F&GP1, P&D1. Total 8/9
Mrs B.L. Sundius-Smith, C3, T2, Hcp3. Total 8/9
Dr G.K. Taylor, C3, L0. Total 3/6
S.S. Townsend, C4, F&GP2, Hcp3, S2. Total 11/11
Mrs R.E. Tucker, C2, T1. Total 3/6
Mrs N. Tyldesley, C4, P&D0. Total 4/5
Dr W.R.D. Wiggins, C3, L2. Total 5/6

Attendances at ad hoc Committees, e.g. Test Tour Committees, are not included.

Key: C denotes Council, L Laws, F&GP Finance & General Purposes, T Tournaments, P&D Publicity & Development, Hcp Handicap Co-ordination, S Selection, Ed Editorial Board.

* denotes Ex-officio all meetings except Handicap Co-ordination and Selection Committees.

** Deceased 31 December 1977.

Handicap Alterations

Compton weekend: 20-23 April

J.N.D.Bettley 16 to 14 (Non-Associate); Lt-Col R.P.Chappell 9 to 8; Mrs A.Millns 10 to 9; W.Nicholson 7½ to 6½; Dr B.D.Yallop 4 to 3½.

Hunstanton weekend: 29 April to 1 May

Dr C.B.Snowdon 5½ to 4½.

Cheltenham Club Recommendations: May

D.R.Foulser 8 to 7½; Mrs W.J.Sturday 9 to 8.

Budleigh 1: 8-13 May

Dr W.R.Bucknall 2½ to 3½ (own request); Mrs P.A.Dwerryhouse 14 (D13) to 13 (D12); Mrs M.J.Goode 8 to 8 (D7); Mrs H.E.Ovens 9 to 8; C.M. von Schmieder 4 to 3; R.S.Stevens 2 to 1½.

Hurlingham Club Recommendation: May

Lt-Col C.M.Fox 13 to 12.

Peel Memorials - Cheltenham: 15-20 May

During Play: D.R.Foulser 7½ to 5½; B.J.Sykes 9 to 7½.

After Play: D.R.Foulser 5½ to 4; S.J.Garrett 7½ to 6½; P.M.Johnson 5½ to 4½; Mrs B.Meachem 1 to ½; G.J.Roberts 1½ to 1; Mrs W.A.Scarr 10 (D9) to 8; G.W.Sisum 12; B.J.Sykes 7½ to 7; Mrs M.A.L.Warren 12 (D10) to 10; Mrs K.G.Yeoman 10.

Southwick 1: 22-27 May

John Rose 1½ to 1.

Cheltenham weekend II: 27-29 May

Lady Bazley 9 (D8) to 8; G.F.Blumer 6½ to 6; D.R.Foulser 4 to 3; Rev W.E.Gladstone 1 to ½; Miss I.M.Roe 6½ to 7½ (own request); Dr C.B.Snowdon 4½ to 4; Mrs J.H.J.Soutter 9 to 8; M.Stevens 2½ to 2.

Wrest Park weekend 1: 19-21 May

T.W.Anderson 6 to 5; E.Audsley 4½ to 3½; B.Harral 8 to 6 (Non-Associate).

Woking Club Recommendations: May

J.S.H.Battison 5 to 4; J.Maude 5 to 4; A.Mozeley 6½ to 6; F.H.Newman 12 to 11; Mrs F.H.Newman 13 to 12; Mrs L.Wharrad 15 to 14.

Himley Hall weekend: 20-21 May

H.J.Bottomley 3½ to 3; E.L.Gardiner 11 to 11 (D10); A.J.Girling 5 to 4; L.H.Hawkins 6 to 5; Dr R.C.Jones 9 to 8.

Southport & Birkdale weekend: 27-29 May

Mrs J.Ashton 16 to 14; A.Bennet 7½ to 6½ (Non-Associate); G.B.Binks 10 to 8; E.L.Gardiner 11 (D10) to 9; J.S.Meads 3 to 2.

Harrow Oak Club Recommendation: June

J.C.Ruddock 3 to 1½.

Nottingham weekend 1: 2-4 June

D.Daintree 14 (Non-Associate); P.J.Death 4½ to 4; A.J.Girling 4 to 3½; Dr M.J.Haslam 6 to 5½; Miss D.Manning 4; I.C.Meredith 12 to 11; C.Smith 14 to 11 (Non-Associate); I.G.Vincent 1½ to 1.

Apps and Steel Bowl Awards

In order to assist the Handicap Co-ordination Committee in selecting the most improved players for this year (leading to the award of the Apps Bowl and the Steel Bowl), clubs are asked to consider whether they have any Associates worthy of consideration for either of these awards. If they have any players who have made outstanding improvement for this year, will they please submit detailed particulars not later than 11 October to the C.A. office, so that the Committee can include such players in their deliberations. Account is taken both of club play and play in tournaments.

Extract from Council Meeting

29 MAY, 1978

- Council Elections.** It was decided that T.F.Owen should fill the vacancy caused by I.C.Baillieu's death and would therefore serve for one year. The seven candidates re-elected and L.Wharrad serve for three years.
 - Chairman and Vice-Chairman.** Dr R.W.Bray and A.J.Oldham were elected Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively for the year.
 - Gilbey Cup.** The Secretary reported that the Cup had been sold at Sotheby's for £920, resulting in a net payment to the C.A., after deduction of expenses, of £797. A glass goblet will be awarded annually to the winner in lieu of the cup, and goblets for the first ten years had been purchased for £95.
 - Book on Croquet.** Following an approach from Messrs. Cassell's, the Secretary had explored with their Sports Editor the possibility of publishing a new book on Croquet. The publisher's decision was now awaited.
 - The Match with Scotland** had been cancelled for this year as the Secretary had been unable to find sufficient players. Council agreed to start negotiations for the next match to be in England in 1979.
 - M.B.Reckitt's 90th Birthday.** A card and flowers had been sent to our former President in celebration of his recent anniversary.
 - President's Cup.** A.B.Hope's motion 'That for 1978 the number of competitors in the President's Cup competition may be ten' was carried by 15 votes to 0. Council agreed that, if ten were selected and Hurlingham were unable to offer more than four courts, a fifth court would be sought elsewhere.
 - Committee Reports.**
 - The Test Selection Committee** reported that the Team would be announced immediately following the conclusion of the President's Cup.
 - The MacRobertson Shield Committee** outlined arrangements for the Test Tour. The Team would depart on 27 December. Council agreed that a gift from the C.A. should be given to the N.Z.C.C. and that there should be a Manager's Fund for use during the Tour.
 - The Alterations to Regulations 22, 23 and 24,** published in *The Croquet Gazette* (Spring issue, No. 147, page 15) were agreed *nem. con.* and under Rule XIV become Law.
 - Secretary's Report.**
 - Deaths and Resignations.** The deaths of the following Associates were reported with deep regret: Ronald Faulkner, Lt-Col Albert Saalfeld, Cyril Tolley. Eleven Associates had resigned.
 - Membership Statistics.** As on 29 May, 1978, the numbers of paid-up Associates were as follows (comparable 1977 figures in brackets):

Standard Rate	475	(431)
Reduced Rate	115	(120)
Life Members	47	(47)
Junior Rate	19	(15)
	656	(613)
Overseas	48	(60)
	704	(673)
- 92 (85) Associates had yet to pay.
- Council Resignation.** Council accepted with much regret the resignation of D.H.Moorcraft and, under Rule XII, appointed K.S.Schofield to fill the vacancy so caused.
 - Guinness Book of Records.** Following an invitation from the publisher, Council agreed to submit alterations to the Croquet entry in *The Guinness Book of Records* for the 1978 edition.

Council Standing Committees 1978/79

Laws: G.B.Martin, Mrs B.Meachem, T.F.Owen, Lt-Col D.M.C. Prichard, Dr G.K.Taylor, L.Wharrad, Dr W.R.D.Wiggins, Prof B.G.Neal, A.B.Hope.

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

Tournament: G.N.Aspinall, D.C.Caporn, Mrs H.B.H.Carlisle, Mrs W.Longman, G.B.Martin, T.F.Owen, Lt-Col D.M.C.Prichard, E.Strickland, Mrs B.L.Sundius-Smith.

Handicap Co-ordination: R.A.Godby, D.J.V.Hamilton-Miller, Professor B.G.Neal, S.S.Townsend, Mrs B.L.Sundius-Smith.

Editorial Board: G.N.Aspinall, D.C.Caporn, Mrs H.B.H.Carlisle, Lt-Col D.M.C.Prichard.

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

Handicap Appeal: Mrs E.E.Bressey, D.C.Caporn, Dr W.R.D.Wiggins.

Special Appeal: Professor B.G.Neal, Lt-Col D.M.C.Prichard, Dr W.R.D.Wiggins.

Existing Special Committees

Test Selection: G.N.Aspinall, R.A.Godby, D.J.V.Hamilton-Miller, S.S.Townsend, Dr W.R.D.Wiggins.

MacRobertson: Dr R.W.Bray, Professor B.G.Neal, J.W.Solomon, Dr W.R.D.Wiggins.

Test Fund: Mrs E.E.Bressey, D.C.Caporn, S.S.Townsend.

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 plus postage £1.05 in UK.

TACTICAL GAMES 19 NORTHWOLD ELY CAMBS CB6 1BG

Secretary's Notes

- NEW ASSOCIATES**
 - S R.G.Anderson, 11 Burgh Close, Pound Hill, Crawley, West Sussex. Tel: Pound Hill (029 382) 3297.
 - J Paul C.Bandeen, Rusdene Lodge, 2 Cromwell Avenue, Woodhall Spa, Lincolnshire, LN10 6TH.
 - J A.Nicholas W.Bell, 269 Menlove Avenue, Liverpool 25.
 - S Dr C.J.Chandler, OBE, LLD, 10 Eaton Grove, The Drive, Hove, East Sussex, BN3 3PH.
 - S Mrs J.A.Hetherington, Harmans Hill, 24 Stoke Road, Nayland, Colchester, Essex, CO6 4JD.
 - S Mrs E.A.Jackson, 23 Ashcroft Close, Shoreham-by-Sea, Sussex, BN4 6YR. Tel: (0273) 592714. Secretary (Croquet) Southwick Club.
 - S Mrs G.Kimber, 32 Bear Street, Nayland, Colchester, Essex, CO6 4HX. Tel: (0206) 262337.
 - S Martin Kolbuszewski, Department of Theory of Materials, University of Sheffield, St. George's Square, Mappin Street, Sheffield S1 3JD.
 - S Miss Lorna Manning, Nurses' Home 2, City Hospital, Nottingham.
 - S M.J.Moreton-Smith, 2 Radley Road, Abingdon, Berks. Tel: (0235) 21290. Secretary Harwell Club.
 - S Mrs M.R.Sheldon, 19 Bernard Crescent, Hunstanton, Norfolk, PE36 6ER. Tel: (048 53) 2098.
 - S D.E.Wood, 43 Trevelyan, Bracknell, Berks, RG12 4YD.

2. DEATHS

The following deaths are announced with regret:
 Ronald Faulkner, A.Longhurst Murphy, Lt-Col A.E. Saalfeld, OBE.

3. RESIGNATIONS

S.M.Ballard, Miss A.Bigley, J.Cantley, J.A.Hollweg, K.F.Kot, R.A.Lewty, W.N.Loynes, E.Sidwell, John Stokes, Miss H.Webb, M.Yates.

4. MANAGERS (omitted from new Directory)

Dr R.Wood.

5. NEW REFEREES

P.Alvey, T.G.S.Colls, H.Gordon Drake, J.G.C.Phillips, R.D.C. Prichard, L.Wharrad, K.S.Schofield (omitted from New Directory).

6. CHANGES IN THE CLUBS

- Cambridge University.** New Secretary: D.B.Wilson, Corpus Christi College, Cambridge.
- Cheltenham.** New Secretary: P.M.Johnson, 1 Thirlestaine Villas, Thirlestaine Road, Cheltenham, Glos, GL53 7AR. Tel: (0242) 39074.
- Gray's Inn.** New Secretary: S.N.Mulliner, Flat 2, Melcombe Court, Balcombe Street, London N.W.1. Tel: 01-720 3319.
- Maidenhead.** New Secretary: A.G.Edwards, 9 Maple Drive, Crowthorne, Berks, RG11 6SQ.
- Oxford University LT & C.** New Secretary: B.Sykes, 9 Lathbury Road, Oxford.
- Sandwell.** Britannia Park, Sandwell, West Midlands. New Secretary: Mrs S.E.Truman, 97 Booth Close, Crestwood Park, Kingswinford, West Midlands, DY6 8SP.
- Southport & Birkdale.** New Secretary: Professor B.R.Sandiford, 10 Stanlet Road, Lytham St Annes, Lancs, FY8 5QX. Tel: Lytham (0253) 737798.

7. NEW REGISTERED CLUB

Barbican. Barbican, London E.C.2. Secretary: Miss Amaryllis Bigley, 312 Bunyan Court, Barbican, London E.C.2. Tel: 01-638 5978. Office: 01-831 5978, extension 2638.

R.F.Rothwell,
 Secretary