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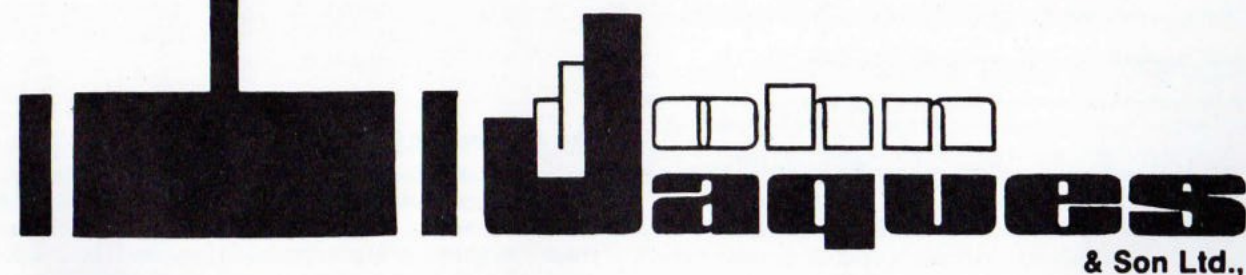
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# THE CROQUET GAZETTE

Number 150

Winter 1978

The Official Organ of the Croquet Association

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

### Calendar 1979

9-14 April	Devonshire Park I (Eastbourne)
16-21 April	Devonshire Park II
7-12 May	Budleigh Salterton I
14-19 May	Peel Memorials at Cheltenham
21-26 May	Southwick I
29 May to 1 June	Inter Counties at Hurlingham and Roehampton
4- 9 June	Parkstone I
11-16 June	Compton
11-16 June	Carrickmines
11-16 June	Challenge and Gilbey at Budleigh Salterton
18-23 June	Men's and Women's Championships at Cheltenham
18-23 June	Ryde
24 June to 1 July	Roehampton Evening
25-29 June	Northern Championships at Bowdon
25-30 June	Veterans' Championships at Compton
2- 7 July	Budleigh Salterton II
9-14 July	Colchester
9-14 July	Southwick II
16-21 July	Open Championships at Hurlingham and Roehampton
22-29 July	Cheltenham I
2-11 August	Hurlingham
13-18 August	Carrickmines II
13-18 August	Nottingham
13-18 August	Southwick III
20-24 August	Ladies' Field Cup at Budleigh Salterton
20-25 August	Edinburgh
27 August to 1 September	Hunstanton
3- 7 September	Chairman's Salver at Compton
3- 7 September	Spencer-Ell Cup at Nottingham
4- 8 September	President's Cup at Hurlingham
10-15 September	Parkstone II
17-22 September	Roehampton
26-30 September	Cheltenham II five-day
29-30 September	All-England Handicap Finals at Roehampton

### Weekend Tournaments

14-16 April	Cheltenham I	29 June to 1 July	Nottingham II Open
19-22 April	Roehampton	6- 8 July	Wrest Park II Open
28-29 April	Golf Croquet at Hurlingham	12-15 July	Woking
5- 7 May	Hunstanton I	28-29 July	Compton II Open
10-13 May	Compton I	24-27 August	Bowdon
12-13 May	Scottish C.A. I at Edinburgh	25-27 August	Cheltenham III
18-20 May	Wrest Park I	25-27 August	Colchester II
25-28 May	Cheltenham II	14-16 September	Cheltenham IV
26-28 May	Colchester I	14-16 September	Ryde
26-28 May	Southport and Birkdale	15-16 September	Scottish C.A. II at Glasgow
1- 3 June	Nottingham I	21-23 September	Wrest Park III
8-10 June	Hunstanton II	21-23 September	Nottingham III
15-17 June	Southwick	21-23 September	Budleigh Salterton
16-17 June	C.A. v. Scotland at Nottingham	12-14 October	Cheltenham V



### 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* is Mrs D.M.C.Prichard, Gobion Manor, Abergavenny, Gwent, NP7 9AY. Tel. Gobion (087385) 242.

The Secretary and the Editor hope to have the results of each Test Match within a week after it finishes. Clubs or Members anxious to know results are invited to telephone either of them.

### Deadline

Copy for the Spring issue of the *Gazette* must reach the Editor not later than **1 March 1979**.

## New Zealand 1979

### The Australian Team

**W.H.Smith** (Captain), South Australia; **Mrs L.Bray**, Queensland; **M.Prater**, South Australia; **C.Pickering**, South Australia; **C.R.Sloane**, Victoria (player/Manager); **Miss D.M.Wiesner**, New South Wales.

### Representative New Zealand Teams (excluding 1979 Internationals)

1. v. Great Britain at Dunedin (4-6 January): D.J.Bulloch (Captain), Miss S.Grigg (Vice-Captain), W.R.Bulloch, C.E.Jones, J.W.McNab, K.Woollett.

2. v. Australia at Wellington (4-6 January): R.J.Clark (Captain), Mrs V.Boyes (Vice-Captain), C.E.Anderson, Mrs R.A.Johnstone, Mrs J.N.Ward, J.Wardle (Miss J.Clark not available).

### from 'The Australian Croquet Gazette', October 1978

The Interstate Cup was won once again by the South Australia team — the tenth consecutive year. Congratulations are extended to **Mr J.Magor** (Capt.), **Mr M.Prater**, **Mr W.Smith**, **Mr N.Spooner** and **Mr C.Pickering** (Emergency) on achieving this victory for their State.

Congratulations are extended also to the N.S.W. team, the runners-up, who were presented with the W.H.Smith Tray.

The full results of the Interstate Cup Competition is as follows:

	points	games	matches	
South Australia	759	28	5	1st
New South Wales	637	19	4	2nd
Victoria	570	17	3	3rd
Western Australia	523	12	2	4th
Queensland	458	7	1	5th
Tasmania	397	7	0	6th

The English Medal Contest was won by:

Silver Medal, **Mr M.Prater** (S.A.), who won all his games in this event.

Bronze Medal, **Mrs L.Bray** (Q'land), runner-up with three games.

Congratulations to both winners.

Championship events resulted as follows:

Singles Championship of Australia, **Mr R.J.Magor** (S.A.); runner-up, **Mr B.Chambers** (S.A.).

Ladies' Singles, **Mrs N.R.Dodd** (Vic.); runner-up, Miss D. Wiesner (N.S.W.).

Men's Singles, **Mr N.Spooner** (S.A.); runner-up, **Mr B.Chambers** (S.A.).

Doubles Championship of Australia, **Mr N.Spooner** and **Mr B.Chambers** (S.A.); runners-up, Messrs P. and S.Buck (S.A.).

The A.B.Morrison Memorial Trophy for Junior 'A' Grade Player, **Mr J.Boschetti** (Vic.).

D. Johnstone  
A.C.C. Hon. Secretary

## Obituary

### Major Robert Tingey

Robert Tingey died early in 1978 in Australia where he had lived for 30 years. He was educated at Bradfield — a school which also produced Dr W.R.D.Wiggins. A beautiful stroke player and a noted tactician, it is not surprising that he was sought after as a coach. For two years before the war he acted as an authorised coach for the C.A. — the only one ever to be appointed — and was made a life member of the C.A. in recognition of his unselfish services to Croquet. During the war he coached several post-war players at the Gezira Club when he was stationed in Cairo and even brought the ball-boy Mohammed up to A-class standard!

After the war Robert went to Australia with his wife Clare. There he was instrumental in starting the Australian Croquet Council and was its first Secretary. Failing health put a stop to Robert and Clare's frequent visits to do the grand tour of the English tournaments. Clare died in 1971 and Robert did not return home again — much to the regret of his many friends and a loss to Croquet. He was one of the great players of the late 'thirties; as well as playing twice in the President's Cup, he played for England against Australia in 1937, but it was his ability to pass on his love and understanding of the game which made him unique.

### Midlands Counties

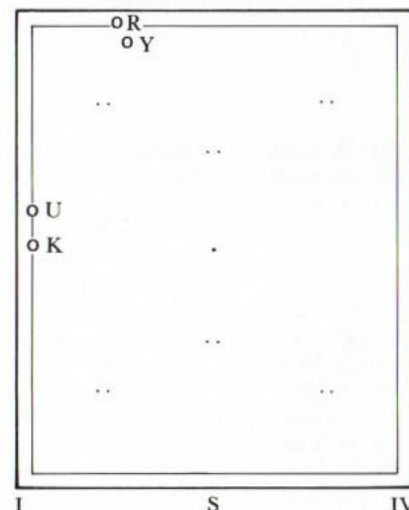
WANTED for 29 May to 1 June (or any part thereof) to join the above team for the Inter-Counties, players of minus or above up to Handicap of 5 who are qualified by birth, present or five years' past residence or being a playing member of a registered Croquet Club in any of the following counties: Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire. Please contact Derek Caporn, 1 Pinelands, 12 Beechwood Avenue, Weybridge, Surrey.

Note. The Captains of other county teams were listed in the results of the 1978 Inter County Championship. Eligible players wishing to play should contact their County Captain direct. (C.G., Summer 1978, p.10.)

## A Question of Tactics: 4

This is the sort of debatable situation which occurs many times in a year's play. The example was taken from the Ladies' Field Candles recently.

Red and Yellow are for penultimate and peg; Black and Blue (K and U) are not far behind. Red is in play. What should she do?



Answer on page 23.

## Test Tour Fund 1978

We are delighted to report that this Fund greatly exceeded its target of £1,500 and reached the splendid figure of £2,185 — this sum has enabled us to send our best available players. We acknowledge in particular the following:

1. The entirely unexpected donations from the Board of Directors of the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, the Roehampton Club and the Hurlingham Club, which we feel is extremely generous of them.
2. The magnificent response from the croquet members of Hurlingham whose total is made up entirely of donations (names included in list below).
3. Cheltenham's original idea in holding an auction to raise the major part of their donation — which was nearly three times their target. Other clubs might consider this idea for raising money for club funds.
4. Roehampton Croquet members also greatly exceeded their target; their efforts included a Bridge Drive and Gymkhana.
5. The Woking Club who, with only two lawns, exceeded their target four times over. As well as a special inter-Club Open tournament they held a Challenge Competition based on the Sidmouth Shot Game (see *Gazette* Autumn 1977) — especially recommended as a means of getting everyone involved and accommodating all members on a small number of lawns.
6. Harrow Oak, with a small membership, produced £45; the Heley Club, a wandering side with no home base, £40, and other smaller and newer clubs who rallied round to contribute.

We thank you for your response.

Derek Caporn, Eleanor Bressey, Jim Townsend  
Fund-raising Committee

	£	£
The Scottish C.A.		20.00
All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club		100.00
The Hurlingham Club		50.00
The Roehampton Club		100.00
Croquet clubs		1,178.90
Donations not through clubs		146.00
Raffle	749.00	
less Prizes and Expenses	158.16	
		590.84
		£2,185.74

### Club Donations

£401 Hurlingham. £275 Cheltenham. £143 Roehampton. £121 Woking. £120 Colchester. £61 Southwick. £56 Nottingham. £50 Parkstone. £45 Harrow Oak. £40 Heley. £35 Compton, Budleigh Salterton. £31 Tunbridge Wells. £30 Phyllis Court. £28 Southport. £25 Hunstanton, Reigate Priory, Wolverhampton. £23 All England. £22 Edgbaston. £20 Bentley, Stourbridge. £17 Wrest Park. £15 Bath, Bristol, Cassiobury, East Riding, Parsons Green, Ryde, Sidmouth. £11 Chase-Manhattan. £10 Barnes, Bowden, Colworth, Daten. £8 Barbican, Bretby, Gray's Inn. £7 Jealotts Hill, Preston Lawns, Royal Observatory, Walsall. £6 Ingatestone. £5 Bromsgrove, I.B.N. Havant, Ipswich, Lewes, Oxford Univ., Wellcome Research. £4 Harwell, Hastings. £3 Chester, Hove Lawns, Trawscoed.

### Individual Donations

Mrs M.Adler, Mrs I.C.Baillieu and family, Sir Alfred Beit, G.Birch, B.H.Bliss, E.Brearely, Mrs E.E.Bressey, D.C.Caporn, Mrs D.F.Caporn, H.B.H.Carlsle, D.C.Cross, A.L.D'Antal, Mr and Mrs E.Duffield, Miss B.Duthie, P.J.M.Fidler, Lt-Col C.M.

Fox, R.A.Godby, R.O.Havery, S.R.Hemsted, N.O.Hicks, S.G. Kent, D.A.Kerensky, Mrs E.M.Lightfoot, C.T.J.Lindsay, Mrs W. Longman, F.R.Meachem, J.B.Meachem, A.I.Milne, Mrs M.Nalder, Prof and Mrs B.G.Neal, M.G.Pearson, M.B.Reckitt, A.R.Robertson, R.F.Rothwell, G.Rowling (N.Z.), B.R.Sandford, C.B.Sanford, Lady Shaw, Prof and Mrs A.W.Skempton, Mrs G.W. Solomon, C.Southern, Mr and Mrs E.Strickland, Mrs B.L.Sundius-Smith, E.B.T.Tanner, K.F.Townsend, Mr and Mrs S.S.Townsend, B.Whitehouse, G.W.Williams, I.H.Wright, and all those unnamed persons who contributed through their clubs.

## Inter-Club Championship. Final at Roehampton, 24 September

The final this year was an interesting tussle between Hurlingham and Roehampton. Roehampton felt that they had had a lucky path to the final as they were actually beaten by Wrest Park but won on application of condition 2.\* In the morning Aspinall and Mulliner had a one-sided game against Solomon and Neal, and with Hurlingham's greater strength in depth it was beginning to look as if Roehampton's only real chance of winning the match was to secure just one of the bottom four singles. This they nearly did when Cousins (4 back and peg) was leading Prichard (1 and 4) after Prichard had played with the wrong ball in a corner cannon. Cousins's ball refused the 4 back hoop and Prichard, hitting the long shot, pulled himself together and gave Cousins only two or three shots before pegging out Cousins deliberately and himself accidentally. Although one hoop behind, Prichard's better strategy now won him the game.

Solomon and Neal unfortunately spent most of the early afternoon in their chairs with Aspinall and Mulliner playing cracking croquet. Hemsted again cruised to victory followed by Prichard despite valiant attempts to break into their game by Cousins and Camroux. At the end, John Solomon's announcement of his withdrawal from competitive croquet was received with sadness. It is doubtful that anyone this century will exceed the number of his championship titles.

J.W.Solomon and B.G.Neal lost to **G.N.Aspinall** and **S.N.Mulliner** -25; **S.R.Hemsted** bt A.V.Camroux +17; **C.H.L.Prichard** bt C.H.J.Cousins +2; Solomon lost to **Aspinall** -21; Neal lost to **Mulliner** -24; **Hemsted** bt Cousins +22; **Prichard** bt Camroux +20.

**Hurlingham** bt Roehampton 4-3.

\*Wrest Park's team included a player who had already represented another club in this year's competition. Both games in which he played (and won) were conceded to Roehampton. Wrest Park were disqualified in that they fielded only three eligible players instead of the minimum of four laid down. For the record: D.V.H.Rees beat G.N.Aspinall and J.A.Wheeler beat S.N.Mulliner. — Manager.

### Apps and Steel Bowls 1978

The following awards were announced at the Council Meeting of 9 December 1978:

**Apps Bowl:** Jointly to **D.R.Foulser** (Cheltenham) and **B.C.Sykes** (Oxford University).

**Steel Bowl:** **Mrs B.C.Sykes** (née Sue Foden), Oxford University.

They will be presented at the A.G.M. 1979.

The 1977 Awards were presented at the Club Conference in December that year and appear to have been omitted from official reports. They were:

**Apps Bowl:** **D.K.Openshaw** (Harrow Oak and Roehampton).

**Steel Bowl:** **Mrs R.F.Wheeler** (Nottingham).

**Apps/Heley Award:** **Ingatestone Club.**



## 1978 in Retrospect

### Waiting in the Wings

By the time that this *Gazette* is printed we will have received news of the early Tests against Australia and New Zealand. Meanwhile one can only say: 'What's to come is still unsure'. New Zealand undoubtedly has a strong team, including four previous international players and two newcomers age 19. The Australian Team, from which the names of Magor and Spooner are missing, is an unknown quantity but not, for that reason, to be taken lightly. In wishing our team a happy beginning and a happy ending we may rest assured that they will give nothing away on the score of skill, judgment and nerve.

Some years ago, before the era of disc jockeys, there was a song which enjoyed wide popularity, entitled, 'Spring will be a little late this year'. A similar title might be ascribed to the summer of 1978, which appeared to lose its sense of direction until the beginning of September, when it emerged and continued in full majesty until the last few days of November. In the Peel Memorials D.R.Foulser (5½) scored a convincing victory in the Draw and also the Process, heralding the start of a vintage year at the end of which he was awarded the Apps Bowl, jointly with B.C.Sykes, as the most improved player of the year. G.J.Roberts (1½) beat P.W.Hands (-1½) for the runner-up position. The Women's Challenge Bowl was won by Mrs Meachem (1) after a close match against Mrs Carlisle (3), and in partnership with Lady Bazley (winner last year with S.N.Mulliner) she gained a further success against Mr and Mrs W.H.Scarr in the Doubles. P.M.Johnson (5½), holder of the Men's event, came through with no less than three wins +26 to take the Handicap Singles at the expense of W.E.Gladstone (1). A.F.Coleman from Reigate achieved the success story of the Compton tournament, defeating Gladstone, Dr Wiggins and E.J. Tucker (in the Draw), and though he lost the play-off to the latter he also won the Handicap Doubles with C.E.Knight. Giles Borrett and G.A.Hutcheson were again the runners-up. Dr D.B.Yallop, having narrowly lost the B singles Draw to R.E.Wallis, then won the Process and beat his rival in the play-off. He completed a good week by taking the Handicap singles from Mrs R.E.Tucker. In the Challenge and Gilbey Cups, John Cooper carried off the Opens and also the Handicap Doubles with Mrs Pursey while Toby Bolton won the Gilbey Cup. Other winners were Mrs Digby (by one point from her husband), W.A.Scarr and Mrs Dwerryhouse.

The Caskets and the Open Championships have been fully and admirably reported. Paul Hands achieved a fine win in distinguished company at Cheltenham; John Solomon, Hope and Neal came at him strongly, but he finished with a fluent victory over Jackson. Veronica Carlisle created a surprise by defeating, in turn, Barbara Meachem, Betty Prichard and Frances Joly to become the new holder of the Women's title, a performance of great merit. In the Mixed Doubles, Mrs Asa Thomas, by excellent play, established a valuable lead against William Prichard and Mrs Prichard, and Hope added the final touch for victory. The Du Pre Cup final brought a third encounter between Hope and Mulliner in which Hope drew away to win. A vintage year for the Open Championship. Openshaw, William Prichard and Heap in succession took the first game against Aspinall, and Hands, in a match of high quality, came close. In the second game of the final Heap was in play with a break, but failed, and Aspinall quickly settled the issue with a faultless display to regain the Championship. Openshaw and Cousins (after eliminating Wylie and William Prichard) were unexpected but deserving finalists in the Open Doubles against Aspinall and William Ormerod — whose fifth Doubles title this was. Mulliner found and maintained his best form to win the Association Plate, defeating G.J.Roberts whose success in the Draw was most commendable.

In the popular Budleigh July tournament Edgar Jackson, undefeated in both Draw and Process, took the Open singles with

John Cooper runner-up. P.K.Devitt and Mrs R.S.Stevens were successful in the B and C events respectively while B.C.Sykes added to his string of victories by beating Dr C.A.Parker in the Handicap singles. L.D.Adams and Mrs Goode carried off the Handicap Doubles after a close match with B.G.Weitz and P.L.Alvey. Cheltenham staged an innovation in July by nominating the Open singles, A and B, to be played in blocks with a play-off. Terence Read, a Cheltenham 'specialist', reversed an earlier defeat by Jackson to take the Opens, while D.R.Foulser, I.D.Bond and E.Asa Thomas were the respective winners of the B, C and D events. In the Handicap singles final E.E.Rees outpointed I.D.Bond in a close finish, and in the Handicap Doubles Mr and Mrs Digby got home by only two points from Mr and Mrs Croker.

Some unexpected results occurred in the Process of the Hurlingham Cup. From an entry which included John Solomon, Mulliner and Eric Solomon, the final was fought out between Haigh and Pountney. But in the play-off Mulliner turned the tables on Haigh.\* Croker and Martin, finalists in the Turner Cup, were engaged in a tremendous struggle which ended by Croker running the Rover with his one remaining ball from a distance of 20 yards! Victories by a similar narrow margin were achieved by C.B.Sanford and Lady Bazley in the C and D events. Miss Hampson and Mrs R.F. Wheeler became the holders of the Ladies' Field Candlesticks, while Mulliner and Alvey (the latter in very good form) took the Men's Handicap Doubles. In the Open Mixed Doubles final Mr and Mrs Hemsted were laid up to finish when Aspinall, partnering Mrs Carlisle, hit in and triple peeled his partner to snatch victory at the eleventh hour! John Phillips came valiantly through five rounds of the Silver Jubilee Cup to defeat Mrs R.F.Wheeler in the final.

At Nottingham G.W.Noble (2) scored an impressive double by winning both the Opens and the Robin Hood Gold Cup. Mrs R.F. Wheeler, successful in the Doubles with her husband, had the distinction of defeating Ian Wright in a round of the Opens. Other winners were P.V.Cozens, J.L.MacDonald and Dr R.C.Jones in the Handicap singles. At the Southwick August tournament the best of three games were played in the Open singles. B.G.Weitz had a good week, winning the Opens against T.F.Owen and finishing as runner-up to Dr C.A.Parker in the Men's Handicap singles.

Mrs Weitz then provided a family double by capturing the Women's Handicap singles. Dr Parker scored his second success in the B Opens, while the C and D events went to E.H.P.Mallinson and Miss Shine and the Handicap Doubles to John Phillips and Mrs Cox. Results from the Roehampton tournament were unfortunately destroyed. Eric Solomon was the winner of the Open singles against L.D.Adams, and A.Lindley of the B Opens and the Handicap singles with L.Wharrad runner-up. The steadiness and accuracy of Mrs W. Jones prevailed over the more mercurial play of S.Godsi; Mrs E.Bressey, in excellent form this week, was a popular winner in the Handicap Doubles partnered by S.Godsi.

Congratulations to Oxford University upon their first victory against Cambridge after several weeks of careful preparation. The growing popularity of weekend tournaments; a record entry of 31 clubs in the Longman Cup culminating in a clean-sweep victory for Walsall; the first appearance of Northern Counties in the Counties meeting (won by a strong Middlesex team); reports from Clubs of triple peels being attempted for the first time — all these are clear signs of the game's well-being. Thus we may go forward into 1979 with assurance and eager anticipation of the arrival of April when it will be time once more to recall those words of Sherlock Holmes: 'Come, Watson! The game's afoot!'

D.J.V.H.-M.

\*Both are to be congratulated on winning their Silver Medals — Ed.

## Stop Press from Dunedin, 6 January 1979

The party foregathered at Heathrow on Boxing Day and it was with much pleasure that we found Richard Rothwell, Alan Oldham and family and David and Betty Prichard there to see us off. The long flight to Los Angeles was comfortable and after a good night's sleep we were taken on a tour of the city which included Hollywood and the exclusive Beverly Hills area which contrasted sharply with the multitude of boulevards all similar to each other and generally unattractive. The flight continued via Tahiti and on to Auckland. William took on the job of O.C. tickets and the rest of the men dealt with the baggage in quite fine style. Luck was with us as it transpired there were seats available on the morning flight to Dunedin. We thus avoided a long wait till the late afternoon flight. We picked up the minibus which turned out to be an almost new Bedford vehicle. William quickly assumed the role of driver at which task he proved himself to be an expert, assisted by Nigel.

The next day we set off for Queenstown, passing through the sharply contrasting coastal plain to the mountainous areas. A truly beautiful place greeted us with sunshine and a light breeze. A great change has taken place in 15 years. New wooden hotels, 'made-up' good roads and a complete change in the pattern of daily life has made the lot of the tourist far simpler. The Travelodge has been built for only three years, very comfortable, and excellent food. Our trips were many, including a visit to the memorial gardens which contain a small lawn and a large bowling-club at which we all had a try. Your writer brought off two shots which were worthy of any TV screen! The courts are very level and are of the weed type — cotula — which produces a firm and accurate surface. A trip on the good ship S.S. *Earnslaw* on Lake Wakatipu was delightful. This 65-year-old ship is the only steam-ship still working in the southern hemisphere. Leaving beautiful Queenstown we proceeded through the central highlands to Cromwell, an area having vast apricot and cherry orchards stretching over many miles, to Alexandria where we were greeted at the Club by the Secretary and at which the players put in some practice. Again they have weed courts which are true, even when a shot is taken slowly. On returning to Dunedin we met up with Bernard and Liz who had left England a week ahead of the main party. Two days were left before the opening representative match against South Island at the Tainui Club and these were spent practising at the Montecillo and Punga Clubs.

### Day 1. Doubles

**Nigel Aspinall and David Openshaw** v. Dennis and William Bulloch

In a cool wind, Nigel began in storming fashion but unaccountably failed at the fourth, but the innings was soon regained and his clip was on 4 back within 25 minutes of starting. He was soon followed by David which resulted in a win by 23. In the second game Nigel got on quickly but failed at the sixth, allowing William to proceed to 3 back where he failed. Nigel completed his turn to 4 back. Dennis hit going to peg and was then pegged out by Nigel. England were home +5.

**Michael Heap and William Prichard** v. Susan Grigg and Keith Woollett

This was played on the bowling green which was superb and very fast. William made a good break to 4 back after Michael who had got going well missed a return roquet after the third. Michael then went round doing the 4 back peel. After missing the peg-out twice, they were home by 18. In the second game William proceeded to 4 back quickly but then the game became protracted with no progress. After four hours Michael reached the peg. Woollett hit what might have been the last shot, but no hoop was made. William pegged out after five hours!

**Bernard Neal and Martin Murray** v. J.W.McNab and C.E.Jones

In an in-and-out first game Bernard and Martin won by 15 and took control of the second, winning +23.

### Day 2. Singles. Numbers 2, 4 and 6

**David Openshaw** v. Keith Woollett

The strong wind which had made play difficult at times dropped today. A mistake by Keith gave David a laid-out break which resulted in 4 back in quick time. David did a very accurate triple peel after Keith had missed the lift winning by 21. David was soon on 4 back in the second game with an accurate break; he started on a triple peel but broke down at the Rover, his other ball being for penultimate and he soon went out to win by 24.

**William Prichard** v. Dennis Bulloch

William started unhappily: he failed at the first hoop and got hoop-bound at the second. This saw Dennis on 4 back, but a breakdown at 2 back gave William a much-needed chance which he took to 4 back; a missed lift saw William on the peg with a 'N.Z.' leave. Dennis missed the lift and William went out +10. In the second game William was soon on 4 back which he followed by a triple peel expertly carried out to win +23.

**Bernard Neal** v. William Bulloch

In the first game Bernard got home against William Bulloch +15 and played well to win the second +24 with little opposition.

### Day 3. Singles. Numbers 1, 3 and 5

**Nigel Aspinall** v. J.W.McNab

Nigel was in very early to pick up a difficult break to 4 back, ending with a standard leave. The lift was missed and he started on a triple peel; he was set up to finish but under-approached the Rover. He again approached but stuck; the shot at the ball in the hoop luckily missed and Nigel finished to win +26. Then the rain came down, flooding the bowling green. A very useful implement for sweeping the rain off the courts allowed play to continue on the other two lawns and Nigel's game had to be transferred later by which time the rain had nearly stopped. McNab played well to go to 4 back. Nigel got in with a lift conceded and went to 4 back. The lift was missed and he went to the peg peeling at 4 back. The lift was again missed and Nigel went out +16.

**Michael Heap** v. Miss Susan Grigg

Susan's leave after hitting her own tice was promptly hit by Michael who proceeded to 4 back. Michael failed to do a straight peel at the Rover and left a cross-peg. Susan missed and Michael won +17. In the second game Michael was soon round to 4 back but Susan hit in to make a good break to 3 back, leaving a cross-peg. Michael hit in and went on to win by 16.

**Martin Murray** v. C.E.Jones

Martin went round on the fourth ball, picking up the break with a cannon on the side boundary, and won the game with a triple peel +26. In the second game Martin hit in and went to 4 back where he was quickly joined by Jones. Martin picked up a break for a triple peel in which he was running neck and neck with Michael on the next court. Martin won the race and the game +16.

**Great Britain** won by 9 matches to 0, without conceding a game.



*Impressions.* G.B. played well. Accurate, enterprising, they delighted the spectators who did not seem to have seen such play condensed into three days. They were particularly complimentary about our approach strokes and expedition in play. Television came along and so far Nigel, Bernard and Michael have been televised for a few moments on court and I have been interviewed. A sherry party concluded the proceedings which were first class in every way. The friendliness and hospitality of the New Zealanders was much in evidence so we feel well prepared for the first Test to come against Australia. We see in the paper that Australia are just holding their own against the representative North Island side.

This tour side is a very happy one and is all that could be desired. It augurs well for the weeks to come. The players are delighted at the extra money which Alan Oldham was able to make available from the Test Tour Fund.

W.R.D.W.

## Stop Stop Press

First Test. Result. Great Britain bt Australia 7-2

## Longman Cup Final at Wrest Park, 22 October

In the Summer of 1977 the *Gazette* heralded a new Club, Walsall, which had just secured an option on two lawns and had raised £100 towards their acquisition. It seems hardly credible that here they are one year later in the historic Longman Cup final. They had to beat Nottingham, Southport and Cheltenham to get there to try their new skills against Harrow Oak, who seemed quite hoary in comparison having already won this event twice (1972 and 1975) and who had beaten Colchester, British Airways, Oxford University and Compton this year.

On a brisk, sunny morning Walsall soon won one double. The other was even until Paul Trafford made an excellent nine-hoop break to put Walsall two up. After lunch all the games were characterised by some good break play. David Arthur won with breaks of seven and nine hoops against Jean Wraith. Stephen Hare and Peter Barnes both made eight-point breaks to beat Peter Alvey and Julian Bardo (winner of the All-England), while Paul Trafford won well against Philip Cordingley to complete a fine triumph for Walsall. We hope to see them following Harrow's path to become a successful club in the Inter Club Championship within the next two years.

**P.Barnes (5) and P.Trafford (7)** bt P.Alvey (3½) and Miss J.Wraith (10) +18; **S.Hare (6) and D.Arthur (9)** bt J.Bardo (3½) and P.Cordingley (9) +21; **Barnes and Hare** bt Alvey and Bardo +18; **Trafford** bt Cordingley +12; **Arthur** bt Miss Wraith +20.

Walsall beat Harrow Oak 5-0.

## Roving Eye

The four players who arrived from **South Africa** in September came just too early for our late-autumn summer. With our old friends **Tom Barlow** and **Lester Sullivan** came two impressive new visitors: **Clive Coulson** and **Corrie Carter**. In disappointing conditions the first Test against Scotland had to be abandoned. South Africa won the second Test five matches to one. **David Nicholls** was the only Scot to win, but that was a good one against **Lester**. After a short tour of Scotland three of them visited **Cheltenham** and they ended the visit with a friendly match against **Hurlingham** and a farewell dinner.

Another milestone. Our President, **Edward Duffield**, had his 80th birthday on 21 December. The lawns of Colchester have benefited from his unequalled knowledge and industry — and in turn he has benefited from them because the revelation of his age was a great surprise. Octogenarians usually show some sign of old age, but our President shows none.

A broadcast on Croquet — including its early history — was recorded at **Southwick** in September. **Mrs R.E.Tucker**, **Mrs Prichard** and **Robert Prichard** were interviewed and the programme went out on Radio Brighton a month later. Extracts were relayed on Friday, 10 November on Radio 4 in *Local Time*. One 88-year-old listener writes: 'I cannot get over my great luck — hearing that broadcast'. She is **Mrs Staveley** who, as **Miss L.McCarthy**, played in Ireland, mainly at the flourishing Cork Club, and knew all the great early Irish players. She played in several English tournaments just before the 1914 War off 3½ bisques. Publicity may not bring in many new players, but it certainly brings back happy memories to old ones. For those who wondered who was making the click of mallet on ball, it was **Thomas G.S.Colls** — that quiet but expressive 'Blast' was his.

**David Curtis**, who stayed out in New Zealand after playing in the 1963 Test series, has been asked to manage the Hastings Test between Great Britain and New Zealand and he is much looking forward to it. G.B. can be sure of a lot of spectators — and a few supporters. Australia have again organised a tour for supporters, but we will have **Mr and Mrs R.S.Stevens** from Budleigh Salterton who travelled out with our team on Boxing Day. We are warned that the sun is twice as powerful so sunglasses, a big hat, thick socks (the sandfly bite your ankles off) and sun-barrier cream are essential. The team are warned not to bathe in the Taupo hot springs because of germs in the water — no doubt similar to the ones we have been hearing about in Bath lately.

A **Referee** was aghast to hear that a newish referee quoted her as saying that, if the boundary was crooked, you put your balls on crooked too, even if it gave you a rush into the court! The yardline is an imaginary line and is always a perfectly straight line joining the corner pegs. In no circumstances can a player use a human wiggle in the boundary line to give himself an advantage. The new referee was probably remembering that when judging a ball off the court a referee judges the actual spot at which the doubtful ball is contiguous to the white line; a wiggle might either sink or save the striker. But if adjudged off, the ball is of course placed on the perfect yardline.

Another A-class player quoted an **irrefutable expert** as saying that you could not commit a crush stroke if you were merely running the hoop to rejoin your partner and it was not your hoop in order. It was eventually elicited that what the irrefutable expert had said was: 'You cannot transmit a crush'. That is an entirely different case. The ball from which the striker is about to take croquet is hard against a wire. The striker **must** play into that ball or he will not shake it, and that is a fair stroke because 'you cannot transmit a crush'.

## Correspondence

**A Moot Point of Law** (C.G. 147 p.13 and 148 p.3)

from Dr B.R.Sandiford

Sir,

Surely the crux of the matter is the significance to be attached to **Mr B** having 'declared a shot'. Before that is determined it is fruitless to consider what Law, if any, he has transgressed.

There is no law in Croquet, as there is in Snooker, concerned with the nomination of a ball before playing, unless the act of picking up a ball, when a lift is due, be so regarded. A Referee on Call is entitled to ask what shot is intended so that he can take up the best place for observation and also note the position of any balls which may have to be replaced. If, however, the player muffs his intended shot and happens, say, accidentally to run a hoop in order, the point is scored. No penalty could attach to his having, like **Mr B**, not done what he said he was going to do! Therefore, I submit, **Mr B** was entitled to continue his turn.

As regards the ethics of **Mr B's** being 'saved by the fortuitous position of Black' — what about the ethics of a player aiming at one ball in a double, missing it and, thanks to the fortuitous position of another ball, scoring a roquet?

10 Stanley Road  
Lytham, Lancs.

Yours sincerely,  
B.R.Sandiford

## Referees and Umpires

from Mr A.F.Coleman

Sir,

Referees give generously of their time, energies and, not infrequently, their concentration on their own game. Their burden is sometimes eased by the appointment of Umpires by the Referee of the Tournament. Notwithstanding, many players do not discriminate when calling for judgment on a situation and, consequently, referees have to journey to distant lawns when all that is required is an Umpire.

I therefore make two suggestions:

1. Players should acquaint themselves of the judgments permitted of an umpire (Reg. 7A.).
2. When requiring a referee — raise the mallet head uppermost; and when requiring an umpire — raise the mallet head downwards.

39 Stanstead Road  
Caterham, Surrey

Yours sincerely,  
Alec F.Coleman

## Plymouth Sound

from Commander R.D.Sinclair, R.N.

Sir,

Because of my employment I have often bewailed the fact that there is no Croquet Club convenient to either Portsmouth or Plymouth. The fleeting advantage of being able to play in Mombasa, South Africa and Australia while 'working' does not make up for having no regular club for regular use at hand.

Now I have found a very small club in Plymouth. It is set in an ideal site distinctly redolent of Sir Francis Drake's alleged pre-occupation with another game. The one lawn is on the edge of Plymouth Sound and has a superb view over that area.

The snags are that the Club is not affiliated to the C.A.; plays its own version of the game, and its lawn badly needs attention. The club needs members too. Are there any Croquet players in Plymouth? If so, and if they are prepared to join me in some hard work rescuing a lawn and a club, there is a situation here we might make something of.

96 Durnford Street  
Stonehouse, Plymouth

Yours sincerely,  
R.D.Sinclair

## How Often Do You Miss a Short Shot?

from Dr C.A.Parker

Sir,

The detailed results of shooting described by Lt-Col Prichard in *Gazette* No. 144 (Summer, 1977) provide the basis for a variety of interesting calculations. For example, we find that the average accuracy of the shots at distances greater than 13 yards is significantly better than the average accuracy of the shots at distances less than 13 yards. Could it be that the players were less relaxed for the shots under 13 yards? — and what about the accuracy of shots at distances less than the minimum of six yards recorded by Dr Grundy? Using Dr Grundy's results for six- to 12-yard shots, the calculated per cent hits for distances of four, three and two yards are 81, 92 and 99.2 per cent respectively. Readers may care to consider whether, in their experience, these values are realistic. Are they representative of the performance of the average player (A or B class) taking a relaxed shot, e.g. at partner ball on the yard line with opponent's balls widely separated? Does the average player miss less than one in 100 shots at a range of two yards? Perhaps we can never be as relaxed for a two-yard shot as we are for a long shot.

64 Orchard Avenue  
Poole, Dorset

Yours sincerely,  
Alan Parker

## Sticks and Stones

from Mr J.H.Bowman

Sir,

Every few years, it seems, someone decides that Croquet needs a new name. Fifteen years ago it was Lawn Billiards; now Mr Eades suggests 'Peel, Quantum, Cotter, Mallet'. I assume that none of this is to be taken seriously. 'Quantum' has a pseudo-intellectual air about it that would hardly encourage the spread of the game; 'Peel' and 'Cotter' could easily be found undesirable double meanings — and why, if one is to choose someone who is still living, choose Cotter? There must be others equally eligible. 'Mallet' does not deserve comment.

The word 'Croquet', whatever its origins, is a unique and distinctive name for a unique game. I do not believe the distinction between Association Croquet and Golf Croquet is relevant here; the general public knows nothing about either, and a change of name will not suddenly produce a change in reputation. Croquet is not something to be ashamed of and to try to disguise as something else, as Mr Eades seems to wish: it has been called the queen of games. I lose no opportunity to tell friends about it; I dare say they all think me mad, but I am not afraid to mention it.

No: we must stop apologising for the game and instead be proud of it; meanwhile, let us hear no more of this nonsensical tampering with its beautiful name.

42 East Road  
Longsight, Manchester

Yours faithfully,  
J.H.Bowman

from Mr J.G.C.Phillips

Sir,

The answer to Smokey Eades's quest for an alternative name for Association Croquet is obvious. It is to use the one feature which totally distinguishes Croquet from all other games, and call the game 'Hoops'! Of course, in the C class the 'H' would be omitted.

3 Chester Close  
Queen's Ride, Barnes

Yours faithfully,  
John G.C.Phillips



## A Bisque in Time

Sir,  
*'How long soever it hath continued if it be against reason, it is of no force in law.'* Sir Edward Coke (1552-1634).

Every new croquet player comes across regulation 8 (c) fairly early in his croquet life, not often by reading it but by experiencing its consequences. Because at this stage of his development much of the game is equally incomprehensible most players meekly accept what they are told, i.e. that the regulations do not allow them to use a bisque or half bisque after time is called, when playing in a tournament. They may be lucky enough to come across this regulation in a game in which both sides are level when the time limit has expired, but mostly they do not discover that in such circumstances a treasured bisque or half bisque may be used, until in some subsequent game an opponent calmly does so.

I have learned that the laws and regulations generally have a logical, understandable *raison d'être*, but I have been unable to think of a sensible reason for this regulation. Can a member of the Laws Committee help?

Yours sincerely,  
Scorpio

## Ball in Hoop

from Mr K.S.Schofield

Sir,  
A few random thoughts on problems arising from these situations:

Case 1. The ball, just in the hoop and touching near wire, is aimed at diagonally; the aid which referees resort to in placing a coin to denote the line of centres of ball and wire is so valuable as to be almost infallible, i.e. if the target ball travels any other course than towards the coin it has been hit.

Case 2. The ball is exactly half-way through and touching the near wire and is aimed at with top spin from the side. The target ball ricochets between the wires, and the striker's ball, unless it stops dead, surges forward; it is extremely difficult for the eye, even if it enlists the ear, to judge whether the cheeks of the balls have brushed against each other. Any quick guide would be welcomed.

Case 3. Ball as for 1 or 2. Whilst the referee is putting down the coin — and unsighted — impetuous player shoots before referee is ready.

Should he (a) say that no hit has been seen?  
(b) make player take it again?  
(c) make an intelligent guess?

Case 4. This is now well known, being an integral part of the laws, namely — if opponents leave any part of your ball in the hoop you have a lift on the next (or subsequent) turn even though both sides of another ball, lurking near, could be hit.

This leads me to

Case 5. An opponent ball is just in the hoop and well protruding. Has a ball, close by, that can only aim at this (the other two being genuinely wired) a lift? If you try out the geometry of this situation you will see that there are positions close to the ball where you have a shot but mostly you would be entitled to a lift. Experience shows that players are so grateful that the enemy stuck in a hoop and equally grateful that they can hit a part ball from near at hand that they forget that a lift (especially if one of the other balls is near baulk) might be a much better tactic.

No doubt there are many other ball-in-hoop problems, but all the above have happened to me recently.

Boucher Road  
Budleigh Salterton

Yours sincerely,  
Ken Schofield

Note. ref. 3. The referee on call in such a case becomes a referee on appeal and has wide powers under Regulation 6. As to (c): Investigation and intelligent deduction — certainly; but 'guesswork' never.

ref. 2. If the ball is 'exactly half-way' and a wire only is hit the object ball will only rattle and not move out of the jaws. A few seconds spent on examining the exact spot that the ball is touching the wire and plotting where the striker's ball is likely to end, if it hits the wire only, are well worth while. Do not stare at the object ball but follow the course of the striker's ball; if close to the hoop, stand behind the striker. In a recent match, the striker hit so hard that the object ball travelled 15 yards. The striker knew he had not hit the ball — and so did the spectators from the sharp way the ball took off from the wire — only the referee standing over the hoop was in any doubt; but because he had plotted the line the ball would take he said 'no hit' and gave the reason why.

ref. 5. If an opponent ball is in a hoop and the ball claiming a lift is so close that it would hit the near part of that ball before it could reach the outermost edge of the ball, of course there is no lift. If the striker's ball were further away and the wire would prevent the hitting of the outermost edge of the ball partly in the hoop, then there would be a lift (a test ball placed in the position the striker's ball would be on reaching the wire is the surest way of judging this). A ball is said to be wired if 'any part of an upright of a hoop or the peg would impede the DIRECT course of any part of the striker's ball towards any part of the other ball'. (Law 13 (a) (i).) Ed.

## The Mind Winks

A slightly shortened version of eight principles written by Walter Jones Whitmore in *Croquet Tactics 1868*.

1. As at billiards never pause too long on your stroke; especially if it is a difficult one. The mind winks as much as the eye; it is not capable of retaining an exact aim above a second or two at a time. You must not keep your attention too long on the stretch, but strike the moment you have it in your mind that you will hit, though without hurry.
2. In easy strokes, however, which merely require care, take plenty of time. If you count the occasions you get your balls wired from each other or miss an easy hoop . . . you will find, nine cases out of ten, that the accident was the result of mere carelessness.
3. Never allow yourself to consider too much the responsibility of a stroke. If the whole game depends on it you should yet play it as coolly, and with as little concern, as if it were the second stroke in the game.
4. *Nil desperandum* . . . if once you consider your adversary is certain of the game you have morally given up. After that every stroke is pretty certain to be timid, uncertain and unsuccessful . . . So long as you have another shot you have another chance.
5. Learn quickly to estimate your adversary's powers correctly . . . Play against the weakness of his character as much as the weakness of his game.
6. Whatever you do never lose your temper . . . When you are unsuccessful do not discover that you are playing with a wretched mallet or that it is a ground which does not suit you and is in favour of your adversary, or that it was too dark, or somebody was talking, etc.
7. Against a good player win quick. When you have a skilful antagonist, of good nerve, you must play a bold forward game or not expect to win.
8. Don't think about your practice in the middle of a match . . . do not be anxious about your action or attitude. In [match] play, all your energies should be simply given to getting the sight of your ball and to considering the means how best to defeat your adversary.

To W.J.W.

*In a difficult stroke — think it's easy.*

*When it's easy you must take care.*

*If a dangerous shot — play coolly.*

*When behind you must never despair.*

*You must study adversary's foibles.*

*When beaten excuses please shun.*

*Be bold against top-class opponents.*

*Don't think about style till you've won.*

Janus

## The Northern Championships, Bowdon, 25-29 June 1979

The Northern Championships are being revived this year at Bowdon, and Gavin Richardson has been doing some research (as yet unfinished) on their history. The earliest event reported in the *Gazette* was in 1904, and it was played on nine lawns, laid out on the croquet-lawns, tennis-courts and cricket-field. Three of the lawns were reported as 'good', four of the remainder as 'quite up to average', and one lawn obtained such a bad name that it was scarcely used. Later in the week, a Break tournament was started on it. The reporter comments 'when we find an 8-bisquer making 20 points on this lawn, are such complaints justified?' It seems that complaints over lawns are as old as the hills! First prize in 1904 was £3 (runner-up £1 10s.), and the entry fee was 5s. What would be their equivalent today? And in 1904, they had four-inch hoops to aim at — we would consider it money for old rope!

The 1904 tournament was described as the fifth, and the one in 1919 as the fifteenth. From 1919 to 1956, the Tournament was held at Buxton, with an interval between 1940 and 1945 caused by the War. Thus it appears that 45 Championships have been held. Miss D.D.Steel, who won the Championship in the four years 1935 to 1938, and then came back to win it again in 1952, was a major figure in its history. After the War, she generally acted as Referee, Manager, and Handicapper for the Tournament. Dr H.J.Penny also figures prominently, winning the last Championship before the War in 1939, and then winning it again in 1946, '47 and '48.

Quotes from the early *Gazettes* give a picture of a different world. In 1919, 'the Championship was held in the charming surroundings of the Buxton Gardens. Unfortunately, Capt. Moffatt is away with the Forces in Northern Russia, so could not defend the Open Championship Cup.' In 1920, 'the final, played in pouring rain, was won by Mr Christopherson in two straight games, Mr McMordie not showing his best play, doubtless due to the state of the lawns, and even his "wet day" mallet (reported to weigh 11 lb 11 oz) was not sufficient of itself to bring success'. If the comment about the mallet is surprising (if not downright startling!), there is an even more intriguing comment in the report of the 1922 tournament. 'General regret was expressed at the adoption of balls of which most players had little or no practical experience.' I wonder what sort of balls they were!\*

The Championship was last played for at Buxton in 1956, when it was won by the late Ron Faulkner, of Bowdon. Joint runner-up was Mrs Fotiadi, now President of the Bowdon Club, and it is perhaps appropriate therefore that Bowdon should be concerned with the revival of the Championship. We hope that we shall be well supported, and in looking forward to welcoming a wide range of competitors in the various classes this coming June, we hope that we shall all have as pleasant a time as our predecessors obviously did.

C.Hudson

\**Slazenger's Stadium*—Ed.

## Clubs Near and Far

### Oxford University. The Reckitt Club

The last two years have witnessed something of a revival in serious croquet at Oxford. There is of course a long history of croquet playing there — indeed, one of the earliest recorded croquet tournaments was held in Oxford, in 1869 (with hoops reduced to the then unheard of size of 6 in.) and was won by W.H.Peel — but the more recent history of the university's croquet is not happy, being interspersed with long periods of dormancy.

There is a strong feeling amongst those who have participated in, and benefited from, this recent revival that efforts should be made to guard against such lapses in the future. To this end, it has been proposed that a club be formed, along the lines of the Heley Club,

for those who have played croquet at Oxford. This would give players recently down from Oxford an immediate link with the croquet world, and those with greater experience the opportunity — which might otherwise be denied them — of participating in club matches and the inter-club competition; as well as ensuring the existence of a group of players anxious to help the O.U.C.C. survive. The club would arrange matches for its members, and offer assistance and support to the O.U.C.C. if it were needed.

The first decision made was to select a name for the Club. In 1906 M.B.Reckitt went up to St John's College and his association with croquet started the following year. We like the sound of 'The Reckitt Club' and I am glad to say that he does too. It may be some time before the Reckitt Club can take part in all the above activities, but we feel an immediate start should be made. If past Oxford players interested in joining the Club would contact me (Ian Bond, 123 Bickenhall Mansions, Bickenhall Street, London W.1), even if they do not at present wish to take an active part, I can gauge the likely strength of the Club. If they could, at the same time, indicate the direction they would like to see the Club's activities take, then their views can be taken into account when plans for the future are made.

There is at present no plan to levy any membership fee as it is intended to make all activities self-financing, the participants sharing any administrative costs to which their match or whatever gives rise.

### Bentley

The Annual Prize Distribution was held on 8 November at a Wine and Cheese party attended by Dr and Mrs Roger Bray. Dr Bray gave a talk on the origins and development of our game, illustrated with apparatus from his historical collection.

**Coaching.** A course of six weekly sessions has been held during November and December on a member's court, the club court being closed for work on the turf. Coaching was syndicated. Tuition was programmed on (a) basic methods of strokes and sequence, (b) tactics and strategy, (c) breaks. Keen interest has been displayed by all taking part.

### Northern Federation of Croquet Clubs

Once again a season of advancement for croquet in the North beginning with the Southport weekend and as yet to terminate, with one final game in the league still to play. Along the way our team finished with distinction in the middle of the Inter Counties table, the Bowdon weekend had to turn entrants away because it was over-subscribed, and several broadcasts on local radio were made. The league, comprising this year seven teams, was hotly disputed by Ellesmere B and Bowdon A with newcomers East Riding also creating a serious challenge. With one match still to play the championship is still undecided.

	Pl	W	L	D	Games	Points
Ellesmere B	6	4	1	1	21-15	9
Bowdon A	5	3	1	1	17-11	7
East Riding	6	3	2	1	20-14	7
Southport	5	3	2	0	16-14	6
Ellesmere A	6	2	3	1	12-22	5
Bowdon B	6	1	3	2	15-19	4
Chester	6	1	5	0	13-19	2

B.Slater

### Southport

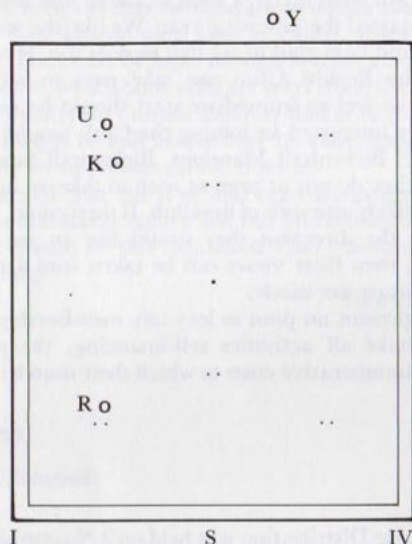
The Club was recently asked by the Burscough Recreation Centre, which is indoors, to assist in training handicapped persons to play Golf Croquet. So far, one session has been held, in which four handicapped people, two of whom could get about on foot, the other two being in wheel-chairs, took part: it proved quite practicable and enjoyable for them.



**Problem: 1**

(seen at Southwick during South of England Championships)

A New Comer (h'cap 5) is about to run 1 back with Blue when she realises that she is playing the wrong ball — she had started the turn with Yellow. Her opponent is a Good Experienced Player, but he had had his attention distracted on an incisive matter by the Manager. There were no spectators. They call YOU in. How could this situation have arisen? How do you get the game restarted?



Answer on page 21.

**The Off-Centre Split Shot**

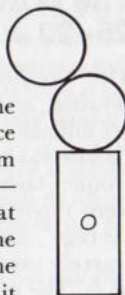
In the Spring 1978 issue of *The Croquet Gazette* Mr Case drew attention to photographs of Lord Tollemache hitting croquet strokes about half an inch from the centre of the face of his mallet. His Lordship explains in his book that he does this on purpose: '[in a Split shot] you must imagine your ball to be driven against the Pilot ball, from which your ball will rebound towards the desired spot. This is the reason why the first rule in Splitting is to halve the angle between the desired finishing points of the two balls. The first half of the angle is made by aiming at the halfway point. The second half is brought about by your ball rebounding off the Pilot ball. It is to avoid there being anything in the way of this rebound, that we hit our ball with the side of the mallet face nearest to which our own ball is going.'

Later on he says: 'When a very wide split shot is required, I employ the following method; but I only recommend it in very short split shots such as in approaching a hoop... I halve the angle as before. I then hit my own ball with the same side of the mallet as the Pilot ball goes to, but I stand very much more round on the Pilot ball side. A combination of this with a Dead Stop will result in a Split which is virtually a right angle.'

In other words Lord Tollemache says that he narrowed the angle of split by the former method, and widened it by the latter. I disagree with the reasons he gives (especially his espousal of the half-angle heresy), and from practical experience find that the desired effect is achieved in precisely the opposite way.

I must first discuss croquet strokes generally. Most players will have devised for themselves techniques for varying a croquet stroke from a stop shot, through a drive, to a pass roll. Different writers express different opinions on how this is or should be done, but whatever one's opinion is on this, the difference between the various croquet strokes boils down to the variation of the weight of shot imparted during the period of impact. The point of the off-centre split shot is that it provides a further way to alter the weight of shot. The further from the centre of the face of the mallet the stroke is made, the more of a stop shot is played.

The impact of a croquet stroke lasts for an appreciable period of time. (Do some long split shots with very new balls and see the smudges they make on the face of the mallet.) During this time the striker's ball moves across the face of the mallet. In the diagram, the ball will move from the centre of the face towards the right. Consequently, to give the maximum weight of shot to the split shot — i.e. maximum roll — one strikes one's ball slightly to the left of centre, so that it passes across the centre of the face. Conversely, if one wants to play as square a split shot as possible, one strikes one's ball well to the right of centre, so that it moves away from the centre of the face.



I have explained this technique to a number of players, but apparently hardly anyone else uses it. It is not all that difficult and I now find it indispensable. It is especially useful for wide-angle split rolls, which are often difficult to execute without contravention of the laws of croquet.

I am forced to the conclusion that either Lord Tollemache made a simple error in putting his thoughts in print or he deceived himself about the effects of what he did. I must leave it to the reader to experiment on the lawn and decide for himself which of us is right.

K.F.Wylie

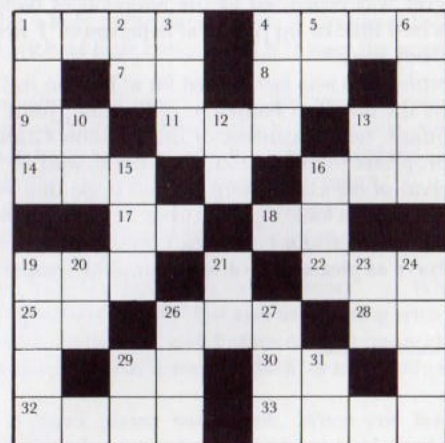
**The Croquet Cross Figure Puzzle**

In a match between 'A' and 'B' the game is won in the eleventh turn. No hoops are scored in the first two turns.

Distances are all in yards, and refer only to how far all balls travel in each turn.

Balls travel 32 yards in the first two turns on standard opening shots.

Who wins the match, 'A' or 'B', and by how many points?



- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>Across</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Total distance last six turns.</li> <li>4. Three times distance last six turns.</li> <li>7. Total 'A' hoops scored by 'A's fifth turn.</li> <li>8. Twice distance on first turn.</li> <li>9. Distance on second turn.</li> <li>11. Distance on seventh turn.</li> <li>13. Twice hoops scored by 'A' on the sixth turn.</li> <li>14. Two-thirds distance of sixth turn.</li> <li>16. Average distance of all 11 turns.</li> <li>17. One less than 18 across.</li> <li>18. Combined points scored by 'A' and 'B'.</li> <li>19. Distance on third turn.</li> <li>22. Distance on fourth turn.</li> <li>25. Twice no 'B' hoops scored by the seventh turn.</li> <li>26. Distance on fifth turn.</li> <li>28. Same as 25 across.</li> <li>29. Five times hoops by 'B' on the third turn.</li> <li>30. One-third of the eleventh turn distance.</li> <li>32. Twice distance of ninth turn.</li> <li>33. Total distance last five turns.</li> </ol> | <p><b>Down</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Total distance first five turns.</li> <li>2. Hoops scored by 'B' by the fifth turn.</li> <li>3. Distance on fifth turn.</li> <li>4. Distance on ninth turn.</li> <li>5. Three times 'B' total score.</li> <li>6. Total distance all turns.</li> <li>10. One-fifth of distance eighth turn.</li> <li>12. One-tenth distance of third turn.</li> <li>13. Total points scored by 'B'.</li> <li>15. Eight times 10 down.</li> <li>16. Distance on tenth turn.</li> <li>19. Total distance first six turns.</li> <li>20. Total 'A' hoops scored in eighth turn.</li> <li>21. Same as 7 across.</li> <li>23. Total points scored by 'A'.</li> <li>24. Five times 33 across.</li> <li>26. Distance of eighth turn.</li> <li>27. Same figures as 11 across. Different order.</li> <li>29. Two more than hoops scored by 'A'.</li> <li>31. Two less than 5 down.</li> </ol> |
|---|---|

**The Croquet Handyman**

**Ball-Carriages**

1. All measurements given are on the assumption that 3/4 in. plywood will be used for the (main) ends and that 1 in. and 3/8 in. diameter dowel will be used for the bars. Different-sized materials may be used, but the present carriages (as at Hurlingham) are strong and they keep the centre of gravity of the balls low (i.e. the balls cannot easily fall out, so up to four carriages can be carried in one hand).

2. You will need three pieces of 1 in. dowel and one of 3/8 in. dowel: cut into 16 1/2 in. lengths (this will result in the ends being 15 in. apart). You will also need two ends of 3/4 in. plywood (exterior ply is best: ask a builder for an offcut) and two more of up to 1/4 in. plywood (this thickness is unimportant). Each end is an isosceles triangle with a base width of 8 in. and a height of 8 1/2 in.

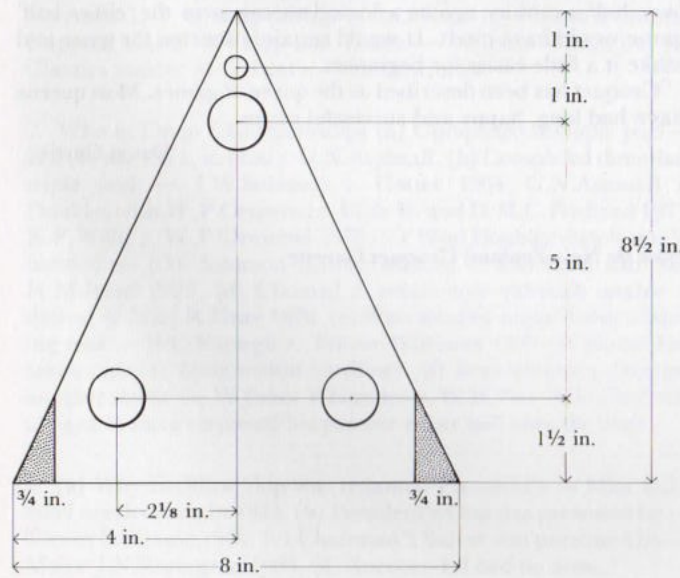
3. To mark out the ends it is best to make a pattern out of paper or, better still, hardboard. Once made, this can be used repeatedly. The lower hole centres are 1 1/2 in. up from bottom and 4 1/4 in. apart (so mark 2 1/8 in. from centre vertical line). The third large hole centre is 6 1/2 in. from the bottom and on the centre line. The small hole for the clip-dowel has a centre 1 in. above (i.e. 7 1/2 in. from bottom).

4. Mark outlines of all ends. Prick hole centres through pattern onto main ends only. Cut ends accurately and then drill holes in main ends (with 1 in. and 3/8 in. bits). Then glue and pin thin ends onto outside of main ends (i.e. keep best faces for inside — drilling should be done from the same side in order to get a clean hole and this face should be the inside). After glue is dry mark vertical lines 3/4 in. in from bottom corners and cut off (this can be left, but it is unnecessary bulk). Sandpaper ready for painting.

5. Assemble bars into ends and glue. Nails or screws are unnecessary if a clamp or home-made jig is used. Make sure ends are vertical and square.

6. The top bars should now be about 5/16 in. apart. Shape a piece of wood to this thickness and about 1/2 in. wide and 5 in. long. Glue and pin in the centre between the top dowels: it will prevent the clip-dowel from being compressed during carrying.

H.C.



*You see them with their rushes and their rolls,  
Approaching hoops as if they've called for tea,  
You watch them with their cuts and corner cannons,  
And you wonder if the game is really me!*

*You wonder why you ever came to Cheltenham  
(A game of golf tomorrow might be fun).  
And then he stuffs a jump for a win by twenty,  
And you — in some alarm — you win by one!*

S.

**The Perils of Double Banking**

In *Croquet Gazette*\* No 140 of August 1976 Doctor Bray and Professor Neal wrote a short article\* on the Customs and Etiquette of Double Banking. If the precepts therein outlined were adhered to many incidents would be avoided. But they are not...

**R.O.Calder** writes: 'None of us likes double banking, but we also hate time limits, and many people feel that double banking is the lesser of two evils'. He cites a number of incidents:

1. A ball claiming a lift under Law 13 was knocked out of position by a ball from the other game before it could be judged. (*The other player should have interrupted his turn: para. 4.3.\**)

2. White successfully roquets Pink only to find that Pink had not been replaced by the other game. (*Other game should have 'asked consent' of White/Pink: para. 4.2. Law 28 applies.*)

3. In a long take-off White does an unexpectedly bad aim and hits an 'other game' ball which may — or may not — have stopped it from going off. (*Balls from the other game are outside agencies: para. 5.2. Law 34(b) applies.*)

4. White takes a long shot and hits Black thinking it is Brown. (**Dr Bray** comments '*The Laws do not deal leniently with mental aberrations in single- or in double-banked games.*')

5. **Dr I.G.Vincent** writes: 'Held up by a slow break in front, I break off leaving White with a perfect rush on Pink. Resuming my break, I take the rush only to find I have struck Pink because the colours had been interchanged by a player in the other game.' (*Para. 4.2. again. Wrong-ball Law 30 applies.*)

6. **L.Wharrad** writes: 'Red and Yellow have gone to tea. White roquets Pink which cannons Yellow off. He puts White on yard line and continues his turn with Yellow. He makes two hoops.' (*Yellow is outside agency — wrong-ball Law does not apply.*)

7. **Several** players ask: If Double Banking is introduced do all games in that event or round have to be Double Banked? They find it illogical and frustrating to start a game double-banked when there are spare courts. (Some Managers say: 'All must suffer equally'. **Dr Bray** comments: '*No argument on variable conditions between games in the same tournament will hold good since weather, time of day and so on can alter players' performances in highly variable ways.*')

8. **S.G.Kent** writes: 'I cannot always distinguish a dark green ball from a black, nor a faded red from a pink... the clips are even more difficult to distinguish. I suggest that the normal coloured clips be always placed on the left side of the hoop (from the approaching side) and that the alternate colours be placed on the right.' (*This could never be made obligatory. Would it help? Opponents of players with impaired or imperfect vision should be as helpful as is in accord with the Laws.*)

Most clubs give advance warning if they intend to introduce double-banking, but Managers have the power to introduce it at will. It might help newer players if a copy of the Bray/Neal\* principles were placed on the Notice Board at tournaments where double-banking is needed. The main trouble is that double-banking is a more sociable game and the out players get distracted. Obviously cases of hardship arise and Referees on Appeal have wide powers to help them find equitable solutions; but if you have failed to be ever vigilant you cannot expect both tea and sympathy.

\*Paras. 4.3., 4.2. refer to this article, a copy of which may be obtained from the Editor, 25p including postage.

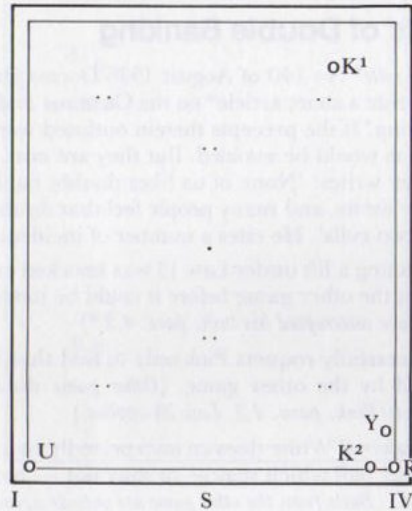


## A Question of Tactics: 5

### At the Counties 1978

Red is for 1 back, Yellow is for Penultimate. At the end of his turn Yellow laid Red with a rush on Yellow to Black which was a few yards North of Hoop 3 (K<sup>1</sup>). Black shot and missed (to K<sup>2</sup>). Blue is in the first corner.

Red is to play. How should a top-class player set about getting a break?



Answer on page 17.

## The Modified Grading System

(as explained in *Croquet Gazette* No 149 Autumn 1978)

1978(2) Grades.

The following have played at least 12 graded games since 1 January 1978:

G.N.Aspinall 171, P.W.Hands 160, S.R.Hemsted 151, D.K.Openshaw 148, M.E.W.Heap 145, G.E.P.Jackson 141, A.B.Hope 139, S.N.Mulliner 139, E.W.Solomon 138, W.de B.Prichard 134, B.G.Neal 133, M.Murray 130, R.A.Godby 124, G.J.Roberts 124, P.Newton 122, C.H.J.Cousins 119, J.Haigh 119, J.H.J.Soutter 118, S.Tapp 118, E.J.Tucker 117, A.Coleman 115, W.P.Ormerod 114, J.W.Solomon 113, M.Ormerod 111, J.Rose 111, P.J.Crocker 110, J.G.C.Phillips 110, B.G.F.Weitz 110, T.F.Owen 108, J.A.Wheeler 107, H.C.Green 106, D.V.H.Rees 106, Mrs H.B.H.Carlisle 105, N.J.Davren 103, W.E.Gladstone 102, W.E.Moore 102, A.B.Camroux 101.

The following had notable provisional grades:

K.F.Wylie 178, T.O.Read 136, A.J.Cooper 126, L.D.Latham 124, J.Ruddock 123, S.J.H.Wright 119.

S.J.Mulliner

Reginald Arkell (1882-1959)

*My lawn is very very old,  
Three hundred years or more I'm told.  
It heard the news of Waterloo  
And saw the Roundheads marching through.*

*A man looked at my lawn today,  
And how it laughed to hear him say  
'Your piece of grass looks nice and flat.  
Next year I'll have a lawn like that.'*

Sent in by A.J.Oldham

## New Zealand Croquet — Looking Towards the 1980s

In playing our weekend croquet and striving for a little better standard than we achieved in our last game we tend to forget the great advances made in the game over the years.

It is hard now to imagine a game played with four-inch hoops (or does your club still have them?), a peg at each end of the lawn, croquet shots played with a foot on the striker's ball and the turns played in strict colour sequence of the balls. Has the game become too difficult? Are we in danger of advancing ourselves completely out of our environment like the dinosaurs? I think not. There is still room for quality among mass production. Real (or Royal) tennis is still played and Rolls-Royce cars are still sold. There is one club in the U.K. which allows nothing but Golf Croquet to be played. It produces economic and social success but has, I think, limited appeal. Nonetheless it provides a thinking-point for struggling clubs. Finance, or lack of it, plays of course a large part in the stability of any sport. Subscriptions must be kept down, green-keepers cost more, rentals escalate, the cost of travel and accommodation increases. How realistically do we approach these problems? With an inflation rate bordering on 15 per cent per annum has the cost of levies, subscriptions, tournament fees, badges and raffles increased by that amount? Can we afford not to pay in this way to keep the game alive?

The past 15 years have brought an increase in international play, a widening of sponsorship, an improvement in coaching methods and a reaching out for greater skills at all levels.

What can we expect in the next decade or so? Already there are moves towards shorter tournaments and more provisions for players who work during the week. This is encouraging for we must attract more people to a game which has a universal appeal once it is appreciated. Will we see major changes in the rules? I still consider that the 'either clip' game suggested by Lord Tollemache over half a century ago as a logical successor to the 'either ball' game would have merit. It would certainly shorten the game and make it a little easier for beginners.

Croquet has been described as the queen of games. Most queens have had long, happy and successful reigns.

David Curtis

from the New Zealand Croquet Gazette

## Croquet History Quiz. Spring 1978 'Gazette'. Answers.

1. C.A. Associates who were (a) International Rugby player — H.J.Orr, Scotland 1903-04, five caps; H.M.Read, Ireland 1910-13, 13 caps. (b) British Amateur Golf champion — C.J.H.Tolley, 1920 and 1929. (c) British Chess champion — C.H.O'D.Alexander 1938 and 1956. (d) Winner Wimbledon L.T. championship event — J.B.Gilbert, Mixed Doubles 1924 with Miss K.McKane. (e) Australian Test Match cricketer — F.R.Spofforth (joined C.A. 1907).

2. (a) Won C.A. Silver Medal at first appearance — Miss Gower, Budleigh 1898. (b) Christian name — Lilius (not Lily or Lilian).

3. Oldest and youngest winners (a) Open Championship — Mrs E.Rotherham 66 4m, 1960; J.D.Heath c.20, 1873. (b) Best ten or eight — W.B.du Pre 60, 1935; J.P.R.Bolton c.17, 1965. (c) Men's Championship — G.E.P.Jackson 70 11m, 1977; J.W.Solomon 19 7m, 1951. (d) Any C.A. Championship event — G.E.P.Jackson 70 11m, Men's, 1977; W.de B.Prichard 16 4m, Mixed Doubles, 1969. (e) Association Plate — E.J.Tucker 76 11m, 1977; S.A.Buck 19, 1974. (f) Du Pre Cup — Captain H.G.Stoker 80 3m, 1965; J.P.R.Bolton 20, 1968. (g) Chairman's Salver — Mrs E.Rotherham 72 5m, 1966; P.W.Hands 19 2m, 1971. (h) Surrey/Spencer-Ell — Miss K.M.O.Sessions (Mrs G.T.Wheeler), 1971; S.Tapp 19 89d, 1978 (34 days younger than W.P.Ormerod, 1956).

4. (a) Youngest winner C.A. Silver Medal — G.F.Stone 13½, 1912. (b) Oldest competitor Best ten or eight — H.T.Pinckney Simpson 79 333d, 1946 (115 days older than Stoker, 1964). (c) Youngest MacRobertson Shield International — J.G.Prince (N.Z.) 16, 1963. (d) Last side-style player in Eights Week — G.V.Evans, Surrey Cup 1959.

5. Competitors in Best ten or eight (a) Won on first appearance — W.W.Bruce 1901, C.F.Barry 1919, Miss D.D.Steel 1922, Captain J.B.Morgan 1929, E.P.C.Cotter 1949, W.de B.Prichard 1972. (b) Well-known portrait painter — Sir Oswald Birley. (c) Submarine through Dardanelles and actor — Captain H.G.Stoker, R.N. (d) Secretary C.A. — Mrs B.C.Apps; R.F.Rothwell. (e) Son of organist St George's Chapel, Windsor — Rev. G.F.H.Elvey. (f) Regular officer R.A.M.C. — Colonel D.W.Beamish; J.W.Simon.

6. Winners of Open Championship or Best ten or eight (a) killed in action — H.Maxwell Browne; G.Ashmore. (b) Died in National Liberal Club — Sir W.W.Bruce. (c) Died young of heart-attack in N.Z. — R.N.Roper. (d) Had husband who was killed at level-crossing — Mrs C.W.C.Strickland (Mrs Apps). (e) Reported dead, but later played at Compton — J.E.Austin. (f) Played in Veterans' L.T. Championship — B.G.Neal. (g) Invented Chinese Imperial Game of Frogs and Toads — W.Jones Whitmore. (h) Classics master at St Paul's — E.P.C.Cotter.

7. Who in Open Championships (a) Completed sextuple peel — K.F.Wylie 1971, in final v. G.N.Aspinall. (b) Completed three-ball triple peel — J.W.Solomon v. Cotter 1964; G.N.Aspinall in Doubles with W.P.Ormerod v. W.de B. and D.M.C.Prichard 1975; K.F.Wylie v. W.P.Ormerod 1978. (c) Won Doubles match single-handed — J.W.Solomon (Cotter absent) v. T.O.Read and Mrs H.M.Read 1972. (d) Claimed to retain title although unable to defend — [Sir] R.Gray 1876. (e) Won final by unjustifiably claiming foul — B.C.Eveleigh v. Trevor Williams 1899 (Williams had taken croquet from within yardline). (f) Sent telegram claiming another stroke — W.Jones Whitmore v. W.H.Peel 1870 (Peel was alleged to have roqueted his partner rover ball onto the peg).

8. (a) Why Beddow Cup was renamed President's — Miss D.D.Steel won it outright 1933. (b) President's Cup was presented by — Trevor Williams 1934. (c) Chairman's Salver was presented by — Major J.N.Rivington 1966. (d) Spencer-Ell had no arms.

9. Mr and Mrs G.C.Joad won Open and Ladies' Championship respectively in 1869.

10. (a) Protest of players was against playing the Open Championships at Wimbledon because of the bad courts in 1904. (b) First C.A. Headquarters ground — Sheen House 1900.

11. Innovations in Croquet — (a) J.H.Hale — Hale setting (six hoops with two pegs); probably the Bisque. (b) H.W.Whichelo — second lift 1946. (c) W.Davidson — present type hoop. (d) J.E.Austin — corner pegs; scythe-handled mallet; Excelite balls; the real inventor of Davidson hoop. (e) A.Brigstocke — either-ball game.

12. (a) Entitled to President's Cup tie without having played in that event — Playing in the MacRobertson Shield entitles G.B. players to wear the President's Cup tie. The following thus qualified: Sir F.Colchester Wemyss 1927-28 and 1935, Mrs Kingsford (Mrs L.H.Ashton) 1950-1, L.Kirk-Greene 1956 and P.J.M.Fidler 1974. None of these ever played in President's Cup. The following played in MacRobertson Shield before appearing in President's Cup: E.L.Ward Petley 1935, E.Longland 1937, R.Tingey 1937, W.P.Ormerod 1956 and Dr M.Murray 1974. (b) Played cricket for Gentlemen v. Players at Lord's — R.D.Walker 1863, '65, '66, '67; J.H.Hale 1859 and 1860; W.B.Franklin 1926, '27, '28. (c) Editor of *Field* — J.H.Walsh 1857-88. (d) C.A. authorised instructor — R.Tingey 1937-9. (e) Archdeacon of Waitotara — R.Creed Meredith 1924-31. (f) Rector of Dauntsey 1875-1915 — Rev. A.Law. (g) Chief Constable of West Sussex — Captain G.R.B. Drummond 1879-1912.

from the 1979 Test Tour Programme





## Weekend Tournaments

### Federation of West Midlands Croquet Clubs — Played at Himley Hall

*Handicap Doubles* (14 pairs), 20–21 May

*Semi-final:* **L.H.Hawkins** and **E.L.Gardiner** (17) bt H.Bottomley and Mrs E.Bottomley (16) +7; **A.J.Girling** and **R.C.Jones** (14) bt G.E.P. Young and T.C.Young (14½) +1 (T).

*Final:* **Girling and Jones** bt Hawkins and Gardiner +17.

*Handicap Singles* (22 entries), 17–18 June

*Semi-final:* **D.de Q.Lenfestey** (4½) bt A.J.Girling (3½) +14; **H.Bottomley** (3) bt P.J.Barnes (5) +13.

*Final:* **Lenfestey** bt Bottomley +2.

*Class Singles* 15–16 July

*A — Level, Advanced play (3–5 bisques)* 8 entries

*Semi-final:* **L.H.Hawkins** bt A.J.Girling +1; **M.Tompkinson** bt H.Bottomley +14.

*Final:* **Hawkins** bt Tompkinson +10.

*B — Level, Advanced play (6–10 bisques)* 9 entries

*Semi-final:* **Miss H.Hewitson** bt R.C.Jones +13; **Miss J.Assheton** bt Mrs D.de Q.Lenfestey +1 (T).

*Final:* **Miss Hewitson** bt Miss Assheton +9.

*C — Handicap (18-point games) (11–16 bisques)* 9 entries

*Semi-final:* **R.A.Jones** (12) bt B.Hallam (11) +6; **Mrs E.Bottomley** (13) bt I.C.Meredith (11) +4.

*Final:* **Jones** bt Mrs Bottomley +16.

Those who were able to take part in all three two-day weekends had the equivalent series of events to a full one-week tournament, but with the added assurance of four games in each event. The series started in May with the well-established Handicap Doubles for the Willetts Rose Bowl. Then followed the 'big' Handicap Singles in June for which the new 'Wolsand Trophy' had been provided jointly by the Sandwell and Wolverhampton clubs as a permanent trophy for annual competition. The July weekend was a new event for Class Singles play, the entry being divided into three groups according to handicap. Visitors were welcomed from Ellesmere, Glasgow and Nottingham, adding some keen competition for the local players. Frank Norton undertook the duties of Official Referee/Handicapper at the Doubles, and George Henshaw at the two Singles tournaments. The weather was kind on each occasion, and the turf much improved from treatment received after the rigours of 1976. There were eight lawns available, making ample provision for all games.

### Cheltenham IV, 15–17 September

**BLOCK A Prof.B.G.Neal** (-2) 5 wins; D.R.Foulser (1½) 4 wins; Dr R.C.Jones (7) 2 wins; Col G.T.Wheeler (4½) 2 wins; Mrs D.Exell (10) 1 win; F.E.Pearson (3) 1 win.

**BLOCK B Mrs A.Warren** (10) 4 wins; Mrs D.J.Crocker (8) 3 wins; M.J.Bushnell (1½) 3 wins; W.J.Sturdy (3½) 2 wins; Rev. W.E.Gladstone (0) 2 wins; Mrs B.G.Neal (5) 1 win.

**BLOCK C A.G.Girling** (3) 5 wins (+82); Lady Bazley (7) 4 wins; G.E.P.Jackson (-½) 3 wins; Dr H.Pim (5½) 2 wins; D.H.Moorcraft (1½) 1 win; Mrs A.F.Adlam (9) 0.

**BLOCK D P.M.Johnson** (4½) 4 wins (+66); M.J.Evans (1½) 4 wins (+41); J.A.Wheeler (1) 4 wins (+26); Miss I.M.Roe (6½) 2 wins; Mrs D.H.Moorcraft (9) 1 win; E.L.Gardiner (9) 0.

**BLOCK E Mrs C.Bagnall** (5) 4 wins (+47); D.J.Crocker (1) 4 wins (+19); Mrs G.T.Wheeler (½) 3 wins; G.F.Blumer (6) 2 wins; Mrs H.Pim (7½) 1 win; Mrs V.Worsley (12) 1 win.

**BLOCK F C.B.Sanford** (4½) 4 wins (+18); Dr G.K.Taylor (1) 4 wins (+7); Mrs W.J.Sturdy (7) 4 wins (+7); Miss M.J.Lodge (6½) 2 wins; Miss J.Assheton (9) 1 win; W.F.Morton (11) 0.

### Budleigh Salterton, 22–24 September

**BLOCK A F.T.Moore**s (9) 5 wins (+53); Dr W.R.Bucknall (3) 5 wins (+32); J.H.J.Soutter (0) 4 wins; L.G.Ayliffe (5) 3 wins; Mrs J.Goode (7) 3 wins; Mrs D.Mitchell (13) 1 win; Miss D.Rogers (11) 0.

**BLOCK B R.S.Stevens** (1½) 5 wins; H.E.Ovens (5½) 3 wins (+11); N.Morrison (8) 3 wins (-6); Mrs C.A.GROUT (9) 2 wins; Miss A.R.Robertson (11) 1 win; Mrs P.A.Dwerryhouse (11) 1 win; Mrs R.A.Simpson (3) withdrew.

**BLOCK C H.G.T.Bolton** (1½) 5 wins; C.Edwards (3½) 3 wins (-8); Miss J.Wraith (10) 3 wins (-14); E.L.Gardiner (9) 2 wins; Mrs H.Cruden (7) 1 win; Mrs C.W.Marshall (8) 1 win.

**BLOCK D B.G.Bucknall** (7) 6 wins; Mrs G.H.Mapstone (9) 4 wins; R.A.Simpson (2) 3 wins; Mrs C.Bagnall (5) 3 wins; Mrs E.Pursey (9) 3 wins; M.M.Hawthorne (16) 1 win; C.A.GROUT (12) 1 win.

**BLOCK E S.G.Garrett** (6½) 4 wins; Col E.L.Vulliamy (2½) 3 wins (+40); Mrs L.M.Bishop (9) 3 wins (-23); Dr C.W.Marshall (9) 2 wins; R.A.Dwerryhouse (12) 2 wins; P.H.Mann (5½) 1 win.

### Nottingham, 22–24 September

**BLOCK A B.Hallam** (11) 6 wins; Rev. P.D.Hallett (2½) 4 wins (+18); Mrs R.F.Wheeler (3) 4 wins (-7); P.Trafford (7) 3 wins; G.Henshaw (3) 3 wins; Mrs A.J.Bucknell (9) 1 win; Mrs C.W.Haworth (14) 0.

**BLOCK B P.J.Death** (3) 6 wins; C.Chamberlain (6½) 4 wins; D.Dain-tree (12) 3 wins; Dr R.F.Wheeler (5) 3 wins; R.H.Fletcher (6½) 3 wins; C.Hudson (5) 2 wins; Mrs L.A.Coombs (4½) 0.

**BLOCK C Dr I.G.Vincent** (1) 5 wins (+38); H.J.Bottomley (3) 5 wins (+37); D.Arthur (9) 3 wins; P.J.Barnes (5) 3 wins; A.J.Bucknell (6) 3 wins; Dr Joan Miller (14) 2 wins; Mrs C.Chamberlain (8) 0.

**PLAY-OFF: Death** bt Vincent +17; **Hallam** bt Death +10.

### Wrest Park III, 22–24 September

**BLOCK A I.Bond** (3½) 5 wins; H.C.Green (1) 4 wins (+9); N.Norman (3) 4 wins (-9); F.Landor (13) 3 wins; A.Watkins (13) 3 wins; J.Rose (½) 2 wins; L.Flutter (9) 0.

**BLOCK B T.W.Anderson** (5) 6 wins; B.A.Keen (1) 4 wins (+49); P.Hands (-2) 4 wins (+16); Miss J.Assheton (9) 3 wins; D.E.Wood (12) 2 wins; P.Stoker (2) 2 wins; S.B.Walker (14) 0.

**BLOCK C J.A.Wheeler** (1) 6 wins; D.Openshaw (-2) 5 wins; Dr T.Haste (5½) 4 wins; P.Johnson (4) 2 wins; S.Battison (3) 2 wins; R.J.Smith (14) 1 win; Dr R.Jones (7) 1 win.

**BLOCK D J.Maude** (4) 5 wins (+76); A.B.Hope (-1½) 5 wins (+48); Mrs J.Neville-Rolfe (2½) 4 wins; E.Bell (1) 3 wins; R.Gosden (12) 2 wins; R.Hobbs (14) 1 win; B.Harral (6) 1 win.

**BLOCK E Mrs J.Anderson** (13) 5 wins (+48); C.Cumming (6) 5 wins (+35); G.Roberts (0) 3 wins; D.Foulser (1½) 3 wins; A.Girling (2½) 2 wins; Dr G.Taylor (1) 1 win; Mrs B.Gosden (13) 1 win. The game between Roberts and Mrs Gosden was not played.

Nine lawns were used and there was an emergency phone call Keen to Wheeler on the Wednesday evening which conveyed the alarming news that we should need 126 bisques for the first session on Friday morning (six of the lawns were double banked). The part-time groundsman had to go to his workshop and make some extra ones. On Friday morning Paul Hands almost beat Barry Walker +26 with 14 bisques still standing but a slightly careless approach to two back, which he failed, cost him his triple peel. Congratulations to Judy Anderson on her first Block win.

### Cheltenham V, 13–15 October

**BLOCK A Miss I.M.Roe** (6½) 6 wins; G.E.P.Jackson (-½) 4 wins; A.F.Coleman (1½) 4 wins; Mrs T.W.Anderson (11) 4 wins; A.Blenkin (8) 1 win; P.M.Johnson (4) 1 win; R.Rothwell (1½) 1 win.

**BLOCK B L.Latham** (1) 5 wins (+73); J.McLaren (3) 5 wins (+48); J.H.J.Soutter (0) 5 wins (+29); I.C.Meredith (11) 3 wins; Miss R.M.Allen (4½) 2 wins; S.J.Garrett (6) 1 win; Mrs A.J.Bucknell (9) 0.

**BLOCK C Dr G.J.Roberts** (0) 5 wins (+53); G.Henshaw (3) 5 wins (+37); J.A.Wheeler (1) 3 wins; G.F.Blumer (6) 2 wins; Mrs J.Exell (10) 2 wins; Mrs M.Langley (14) 2 wins; L.Ayliffe (5) 2 wins.

**BLOCK D N.A.J.Norman** (3) 5 wins (+46); T.W.Anderson (5) 5 wins (+25); M.J.Evans (1½) 4 wins; Mrs A.Warren (10) 3 wins; A.E.Watkins (13) 2 wins; A.J.Bucknell (6) 1 win; Mrs B.Meachem (½) 1 win.

**BLOCK E J.A.Ross** (5½) 5 wins (+81); Lady Bazley (7) 5 wins (+48); R.E.Adlard (2) 4 wins; Col E.L.Vulliamy (2½) 4 wins; D.R.Foulser (1½) 2 wins; J.Davis (14) 1 win.

## Edinburgh, 21–26 August

The Edinburgh tournament has never been oversubscribed, but brings together for a week the competitive croquet players in Scotland along with a few visitors. This year, due to a series of other commitments, only one player from Glasgow, Rod Williams, was competing, but we welcomed back Lewis Middleton from Aberdeen after several years' absence and were glad to have with us two visitors from south of the Border; Tim Smith from Nottingham and Roy Wallis from Herstmonceux (can we expect a future *Gazette* to carry a 'Wol' cartoon of kilted croquet players?). All the Class Events were played on the two-life system and the Big Handicap as X, Y and Z. This meant that everyone had a guaranteed six games with opportunities for many more. Ian Wright, managing the tournament with his usual efficiency, decreed that no time limits would be imposed on early rounds. Perhaps he regretted this when several games went to more than six hours! It rained for a large part of Monday, stayed cloudy but dry and cold on Tuesday and continued to improve throughout the week to provide a warm, sunny Saturday for the finals.

In the Open event, the lower-handicapped players were mildly annoyed to find that both Draw and Process were won by 4-bisquers. In the play-off Stewart Malin lost his form and in spite of several attempts failed to run the first hoop and found himself 'twentysix' by Ewen Mackenzie-Bowie whose croquet continues to improve.

In the B Class singles Mrs Margaret Lauder won the Draw without much difficulty while Gavin Anderson, who had had to scratch from the Draw without playing a game, beat her in the final of the Process. This game started at 10 o'clock on Saturday and finished after lunch, when they immediately set to again in the play-off. When Gavin reached Rover and Peg with Margaret's forward ball only on 1-back the result seemed inevitable but Margaret, always dangerous under pressure, began to make a comeback and worried the Manager sufficiently for him to impose a time limit to ensure that she would be available to play in the Doubles final. In spite of her efforts, Gavin won by eight points before time was called.

Malcolm Smith, from Auchencruive, had a good victory over Donald Lamont in the C Class play-off to win the Walter B. Laing Cup for the third time running. Malcolm completed his double by beating Rod Williams in the Big Handicap while earlier in the day Ewen Mackenzie-Bowie had achieved the first half of his double by beating Tim Smith in the Y event. The last game to finish was the Doubles final in which Ian Wright and Margaret Lauder, the holders, were making their bid to retain the trophies. Perhaps Margaret was becoming tired after continuous play during the day, but in the evening of the day Bob Calder and Alistair Adam won a hard-fought and at times tense game.

## Results

*Event 1: Open Singles* (7 entries)

DRAW

*First Round:* **R.Williams** bt Dr T.W.Smith +4, **I.H.Wright** bt R.O.Calder +13, **E.M.Bowie** bt R.E.Wallis +10.

*Semi-final:* **S.R.C.Malin** bt Williams +5, **Wright** bt Bowie +15.

*Final:* **Malin** bt Wright +10.

PROCESS

*First Round:* **Malin** bt Calder +19, **Bowie** bt Smith +10, **Williams** bt Wallis +15.

*Semi-final:* **Bowie** bt Malin +10, **Wright** bt Williams +6.

*Final:* **Bowie** bt Wright +19.

**PLAY-OFF: Bowie** bt Malin +26.

*Event 2: Level Singles, 4 bisques and over* (6 entries)

DRAW

*First Round:* **Mrs M.Lauder** bt J.E.Rowe +11, **Mrs V.M.Macpherson** w.o. *Semi-final:* **L.Middleton** bt Mrs Macpherson +4, **Mrs M.Lauder** bt C.J.Tait +8.

*Final:* **Mrs Lauder** bt Middleton +9.

PROCESS

*First Round:* **Middleton** bt Tait +10, **G.Anderson** bt Rowe +17.

*Semi-final:* **Anderson** bt Middleton +23, **Mrs Lauder** bt Mrs Macpherson +11.

*Final:* **Anderson** bt Mrs Lauder +13.

**PLAY-OFF: Anderson** bt Mrs Lauder +8.

*Event 3: Handicap Singles, 8 bisques and over* (6 entries)

DRAW

*First Round:* **Miss A.M.Murray** (9) bt J.D.H.Lewis (14) +8, **A.Adam** (9) bt Mrs M.Wright (13) +13.

*Semi-final:* **N.P.W.Smith** (8) bt Miss Murray +12, **Rev A.D.Lamont** (9) bt Adam +16.

*Final:* **Lamont** bt Smith +15.

PROCESS

*First Round:* **Smith** bt Mrs Wright +9, **Lamont** bt Lewis +16.

*Semi-final:* **Smith** bt Miss Murray +20, **Adam** bt Lamont +2.

*Final:* **Smith** bt Adam +1(T)

**PLAY-OFF: Smith** bt Lamont +17.

*Event 4: Handicap Doubles* (10 pairs)

*First Round:* **Williams & Middleton** (8½) bt Bowie & Smith (9) +5, **Mrs Macpherson & Lamont** (16) bt Tait & Rowe (13) +7.

*Second Round:* **Calder & Adam** (13) bt J.C.McCulloch & Miss Murray (18) +2, **Williams & Middleton** bt Malin & Wallis (7½) +7, **Anderson & Rowe** (12½) bt Mrs Macpherson & Lamont +21, **Wright & Mrs Lauder** (8) bt Mrs Wright & Lewis (27) +12.

*Semi-final:* **Calder & Adam** bt Williams & Middleton +14, **Wright & Mrs Lauder** bt Anderson & Rowe +1.

*Final:* **Calder & Adam** bt Wright & Mrs Lauder +7.

*Event 5: Handicap Singles X* (15 entries)

*First Round:* **G.Anderson** (6) bt C.J.Tait (6½) +23, **A.Adam** (9) bt Dr T.W.Smith (4½) +16, **I.H.Wright** (1) bt Mrs V.M.Macpherson (7) +4, **M.P.W.Smith** (8) bt A.D.Lamont (9) +20, **L.Middleton** (6) bt R.E.Wallis (5) +12, **R.Williams** (2½) bt R.O.Calder (4) +18, **S.R.C.Malin** (4) bt E.M.Bowie (4½) +22.

*Second Round:* **Anderson** bt Adam +12, **M.P.W.Smith** bt Wright +19, **Williams** bt Middleton +5, **Mrs M.Lauder** (7) bt Malin +1.

*Semi-final:* **M.P.W.Smith** bt Anderson +12, **Williams** bt Mrs Lauder +9.

*Final:* **M.P.W.Smith** bt Williams +7.

*Handicap Singles Y* (7 entries)

*Final:* **Bowie** bt Dr T.W.Smith +23.

## Carrickmines (Championship of Ireland), 14–19 August

Carrickmines was happy to welcome seven visitors from England and further afield. Despite heavy rain at the beginning of the week, the faithful fought bravely on, and so enabled all to be comfortably finished on the Saturday. If the outer man was soaked, the inner spirit was not dampened, and the excellent club catering helped to keep it so, with refreshment both solid and liquid available at all hours.

John Meads established himself in three events, occupying the courts for about nine hours a day, but failed to achieve final victory



in any of the three — whether from sheer exhaustion or insufficient quantities of Guinness, who can say? He did win one doubles match in unusual fashion, rather as an astonished spectator than an actual participant. He and his partner, Mrs Read, were comfortably placed when time was called, with Meads's yellow ball on the stick. Opponent Charles Gamble made a spectacular break, running penultimate with a jump shot to the South-boundary, picking up a ball in the fourth corner, and by a circuitous route finally making the rover hoop, thus levelling the score. All that was needed now was to lay-up for his partner to make one more hoop; but fate would not have it so — with his next shot he roqueted the yellow ball firmly onto the stick.

Andrew Bennet showed that he is a rapidly improving player, beating Terence Read in one side of the handicap, and demolishing Meads in the final with the aid of 4½ bisques — clearly indicating that he could manage with less in future.

Terence Read won the Open for the seventh year running, thus establishing a record for the Championship of Ireland.

## Results

### Event 1: Championship of Ireland (12 entries)

**First Round:** J.D. Robinson bt Mrs H.M. Read -4 +8 +12; T.O. Read bt R.S. Stevens +8 +21; J.D. Meads bt C.A. Gamble +23 +10; Dr M. Kolbuszewski bt Prof R.E. Steen +8 +20.

**Second Round:** A.D. Craig bt R. Leonard -1 +3 +9; Read bt Robinson +18 +16; Meads bt Kolbuszewski +14 -8 +5; C. von Schmieder bt Mrs B.L. Sundius-Smith +23 -5 +24.

**Semi-final:** Read bt Craig +23 +19; Meads bt von Schmieder +18 +21.

**Final:** Read bt Meads +26 +26.

### Event 2: Green Cup. Handicap Singles (6 bisques and over) (5 entries)

**First Round:** Mrs R.S. Stevens (9) bt Dr H. Webb (16) +3.

**Semi-final:** A. Bennet (6½) bt D. Rooke (10) +11; J. Campbell (8) bt Mrs Stevens +6.

**Final:** Bennet w.o. Campbell.

### Event 3: Steel Cup. Handicap Singles. Plate (10 entries)

**First Round:** Mrs Read bt Stevens +5; Mrs Sundius-Smith w.o. Rooke.

**Second Round:** Robinson bt Miss Hopkins +2 (T); Mrs Read bt Leonard +10; Mrs Sundius-Smith bt Gamble +5; Mrs Stevens bt Campbell +14.

**Semi-final:** Mrs Read bt Robinson +4; Mrs Stevens bt Mrs Sundius-Smith +11.

**Final:** Mrs Stevens bt Mrs Read +10.

### Event 4: Founders Cup. Handicap Singles (18 entries)

**First Round:** A.D. Craig (4½) bt Sir A. Beit (13) +5; R. Leonard (3½) bt Miss G. Hopkins (6½) +11.

**Second Round:** D. Rooke (10) bt Mrs R.S. Stevens (9) +17; Mrs H.M. Read (5) bt Mrs B.L. Sundius-Smith (½) +11; Dr M. Kolbuszewski (5½) bt J. Campbell (8) +4; J.D. Meads (2) bt Craig +13; Leonard bt C. von Schmieder (3) +21; A. Bennet (6½) bt C.A. Gamble (3) +14; T.O. Read (-½) bt J.D. Robinson (5) +5.

**Third Round:** Mrs Read bt Rooke +1; Meads bt Kolbuszewski +19; Leonard bt von Schmieder +2; Bennet bt Read +17.

**Semi-final:** Meads bt Mrs Read +14; Bennet bt Leonard +3.

**Final:** Bennet bt Meads +26.

### Event 5: Stonebrook Cups. Handicap Doubles (8 entries)

**First Round:** Leonard and Miss Hopkins (10) bt Mr and Mrs Stevens (10½) +5; Read and Steen bt Craig and Campbell +1 (T); Mrs Read and Meads (7) bt Beit and Mrs Sundius-Smith (13½) +2; Webb and Gamble (17) bt Kolbuszewski and Bennet (12) +6 (T).

**Semi-final:** Read and Steen bt Leonard and Miss Hopkins +3; Mrs Read and Meads bt Webb and Gamble +1 (T).

**Final:** Read and Steen bt Mrs Read and Meads +4.

## Parkstone, 11–16 September

This Tournament was run on somewhat unusual lines, with everyone playing in his class event on Monday, and Doubles on Tuesday. The X Handicap started on Wednesday, and the Y not till Thursday. Any disadvantages seemed outweighed by the fact that every player was virtually guaranteed at least one game, and not more than two, on each of the first four days, a schedule which commends itself strongly to elderly competitors, of whom the writer was one of several. Owing to the regrettable absence of William Ormerod, who received a get-well card signed by all of us, there was no competitor with a minus handicap, and it must be admitted that play was undistinguished and erratic, until the last day. Two newcomers, Simon Garrett from Bath and John Rose from Woking, both of whom had had their handicaps reduced this year, did not justify their new ratings, and even John Soutter was noted more for his crimson anti-wind hat than his accuracy! Alec Coleman, whose long roquets and hoop running are usually a wonder to behold, played erratically, but Betty McMillan largely recovered her previous form.

Pat Newton generously stood down, but he did not sit down often, as he was ceaselessly and cheerfully on the move, time-keeping and refereeing in addition to his managerial duties. We owe a great debt to him and to Margaret McMordie for a happy Tournament, also to a devoted groundsman, and not least to the lady caterers, who provided cold meat with salad and hot potatoes, followed by delicious home-made sweets for lunch, and all at a cost of 60p! We were blessed with fine, sunny weather, but a gale on Monday necessitated a three-hour time limit, and as the lawns were very fast nearly half the matches were won on time. However, a midnight thunderstorm on Wednesday left the courts in excellent condition.

There was a welcome transformation in play on Saturday. In the finals of the B Levels, W.A. Scarr and Air-Commodore Greswell played aggressive and accurate Croquet, completing the game in under an hour and three-quarters. Col Vulliamy played superbly in the finals of the X, winning easily and convincingly with one-and-a-half bisques. His game in the finals of the Draw (Open Singles) was equally notable. In the final play-off, which was not finished until dusk, John Soutter beat Alec Coleman by three after a hard-fought battle.

## Results

### Event 1: Open Singles (8 entries)

DRAW

**First Round:** L.S. Butler bt Dr W.R. Bucknall +16; A.F. Coleman bt Dr C.A. Parker +19; J. Rose bt J.H.J. Soutter +1 (T); Col E.L.L. Vulliamy bt Mrs N.A.C. McMillan +14.

**Semi-final:** Coleman bt Butler +3; Vulliamy bt Rose +6.

**Final:** Coleman bt Vulliamy +15.

PROCESS

**First Round:** Rose bt Bucknall +15; Coleman bt Mrs McMillan +8; Soutter bt Butler +6; Vulliamy bt Parker +5.

**Semi-final:** Rose bt Coleman +8; Soutter bt Vulliamy +11.

**Final:** Soutter bt Rose +15.

PLAY-OFF: Soutter bt Coleman +3.

### Event 2: Level Singles B (4–9 bisques) (16 entries)

**First Round:** Mrs J.H.J. Soutter bt Dr C.W. Marshall +2 (T); Mrs S.S. Cruden bt J.H.T. Griffiths +10 (T); Mrs F. Stanley-Smith bt Mrs L.L. Duveen +13 (T); Air-Comm. J.H. Greswell bt S.G. Kent +20; A. Rushbrooke bt Mrs F.H.N. Davidson +6 (T); R.H.C. Carder bt Mrs C.W. Marshall +14; Mrs W.A. Scarr bt Mrs M.J. Goode +2 (T); W.A. Scarr bt S.J. Garrett +11.

**Second Round:** Mrs Cruden w.o.; Greswell bt Mrs Stanley-Smith +15; Carder bt Rushbrooke +8; Scarr bt Mrs Scarr +7.

**Semi-final:** Greswell bt Mrs Cruden +24; Scarr bt Carder +7.

**Final:** Scarr bt Greswell +10.

### Event 3: Handicap Singles C (10 bisques and over) (8 entries)

**First Round:** Mrs L.A. Davies (11) bt F. Stanley-Smith (12) +5; Mrs D. Mitchell (13) bt Mrs D.G. Waterhouse (10) +5 (T); Miss A.R. Robertson (12) bt Mrs C.A. Parker (15) +5 (T); Mrs E.V.W. Deakin (13) bt Miss P.E. Parker (11) +4 (T).

**Semi-final:** Mrs Davies bt Mrs Mitchell +12; Miss Robertson bt Mrs Deakin +5 (T).

**Final:** Mrs Davies bt Miss Robertson +2 (T).

### Event 4: Handicap Singles X (30 entries)

**First Round:** Mrs F.H.N. Davidson (7½) bt Mrs E.V.W. Deakin (13) +12; Mrs M.J. Goode (7) w.o.; S.G. Kent (4) bt Miss A.R. Robertson (12) +8; Col E.L.L. Vulliamy (3) bt W.A. Scarr (6) +9; Dr C.W. Marshall (9) bt J.H.T. Griffiths (8) +4; R.H.C. Carder (4½) bt Mrs C.A. Parker (15) +15; Mrs F. Stanley-Smith (8) bt Mrs D. Mitchell (13) +13; S.J. Garrett (6½) bt Mrs L.A. Davies (11) +19; A. Rushbrooke (7½) bt J. Rose (½) +21; Miss P.E. Parker (11) bt J.H.J. Soutter (0) +16; Dr C.A. Parker (2½) bt Mrs D.G. Waterhouse (10) +14; Mrs N.A.C. McMillan (3) bt A.F. Coleman (1½) +17; Dr W.R. Bucknall (3) bt Mrs L.L. Duveen (8) +9 (T); L.S. Butler (1½) bt Mrs C.W. Marshall (8) +18.

**Second Round:** Air-Comm. J.H. Greswell (5) bt Mrs Davidson +8; Kent bt Mrs Goode +7; Vulliamy bt Marshall +9; Mrs Stanley-Smith bt Carder +18; Rushbrooke bt Garrett +15; Miss Parker bt Parker +1 (T); Mrs McMillan bt Bucknall +2 (T); Butler bt Mrs S.S. Cruden (7½) +20.

**Third Round:** Greswell bt Kent +10; Vulliamy bt Mrs Stanley-Smith +10; Rushbrooke bt Miss Parker +10; Butler bt Mrs McMillan +23.

**Semi-final:** Vulliamy bt Greswell +5; Butler bt Rushbrooke +13.

**Final:** Vulliamy bt Butler +22.

### Handicap Singles Y (15 entries)

**Final:** Griffiths bt Mrs Duveen +1 (T).

### Event 5: Handicap Doubles (15 entries)

**First Round:** Garrett and Mrs Duveen (14½) bt Bucknall and Mrs Goode (10) +7; Mr and Mrs Scarr (13) bt Kent and Miss Parker (15) +1 (T); Mr and Mrs Stanley-Smith (20) bt Carder and Mrs Waterhouse (13½) +15; Butler and Miss Robertson (13½) bt Greswell and Marshall (14) +9; Coleman and Griffiths (9½) bt Mrs Cruden and Mrs Deakin (20½) +11 (T); Rushbrooke and Mrs Mitchell (19½) bt Mrs McMillan and Mrs Davidson (10½) +5; Rose and Mrs Soutter (7½) bt Dr and Mrs Parker (15½) +1 (T).

**Second Round:** Mr and Mrs Scarr bt Garrett and Mrs Duveen +10; Butler and Miss Robertson bt Mr and Mrs Stanley-Smith +12; Rushbrooke and Mrs Mitchell bt Coleman and Griffiths +1 (T); Rose and Mrs Soutter bt Vulliamy and Mrs Marshall +1 (T).

**Semi-final:** Butler and Miss Robertson bt Mr and Mrs Scarr +13; Rose and Mrs Soutter bt Rushbrooke and Mrs Mitchell +10.

**Final:** Butler and Miss Robertson bt Rose and Mrs Soutter +7.

## An Answer to a Question of Tactics: 5

Red rushes Black into Corner I. A simple corner cannon sends Black to 2 back (1 foot west) and rushes Blue to Corner IV. He stop shots Blue towards 3 back leaving Red with a perfect rush on Yellow to 1 back his hoop. Result — a perfect four-ball break.

The top-class player had been contemplating how to improve his rush to 1 back and it was the partner who was quick to see and alert the player to the possibilities of this fortuitous leave.

## Roehampton, 18–23 September

Calm, clear mornings and whole days of soft sunshine with long-shadowed evenings were enjoyed by those who played in the Roehampton tournament this September. The weather was so perfect that Croquet receded in importance, and Eric Solomon's managing seemed as relaxed as we all felt. I say 'seemed', because only those who have done it can guess at the difficulties that confront a first-time Manager commuting each day from the other side of London. Once again the Club made available three extra courts, and we were grateful to the tennis and golf section for giving up some of their facilities. The putting-green was a delight to play on.

It is always good to see old faces returning to tournaments, and Dr Wiggins, now somewhat freer from the hospital bleeper, was playing at Roehampton once again. Equally it is pleasing to see new players. Mrs Elizabeth Burge came in to partner Humphrey Hicks when his partner scratched, and Mrs Wynne Browne, another Roehampton member now in her second season, partnered Dudley Hamilton-Miller. Not many people in their first or second year of Croquet are ready to play in a tournament, and these entries reflected their enthusiasm and the Club's encouragement. Sol Gods, not exactly a newcomer, but nonetheless in his early tournament days, strikes the ball well and should improve rapidly. He lost only narrowly on time to Mrs Win Jones in the C Class final, and with Eleanor Bressey won the doubles final by beating the Wharrads. Each doubles match went to time; indeed half the matches were won by +1 on time, so that the whole event was very closely contested. In the final both partnerships feared the other's shooting so much that for the spectators it hardly seemed a handicap match with such respectfully wide joins.

The finals were watched by an impressive number of people besides those in the tournament, which gave a sense of occasion and added to the friendly atmosphere. Eric Solomon won the Open Event with a triple against Lionel Adams in one half and by beating Robin Godby in the other. Arthur Lindley and Lionel Wharrad, who were in too many events from the Manager's point of view, agreed to battle out the B Class Draw and Process play-off at Woking the following weekend. This was another close game. Lionel Wharrad, for 4-back and stick, pegged out his opponent whose other ball was for penult., but Arthur Lindley hit in and won by +5. Arthur Lindley also won the X, and Graham Martin triumphed in the Y.

## Results not received

## All-England Handicap. Finals at Roehampton, 30 September to 1 October

Handicappers countrywide are to be congratulated on the excellent matches this year which stemmed from not one of the six finalists being sent forward on a false handicap. Nearly half the victories were single figure and the only three which were in the twenties arose from unfamiliarity with the testingly fast lawns. There seems to be no stopping Harrow Oak; in Julian Bardo they have shot another arrow into the air. Arthur Reed, the back mark 'r', did well to come second in such improving company. In 1979 there will be seven area finals in England and one in Scotland which should bring in even more than the 336 entries this year.

4 wins J. Bardo (Harrow Oak 3½) bt Death +7, Lindley +8, Reed +17, Williams +24.

3 wins A.A. Reed (Roehampton 1½) bt Hare +3, Lindley +23, Williams +25. S. Hare (Walsall 6) bt Lindley +5, Bardo +2, Williams +11. P.J. Death (Nottingham 2½) bt Hare +5, Lindley +16, Reed +13.

2 wins R. Williams (Glasgow 2½) bt Death +18, Lindley +3.

0 wins A. Lindley (Woking 3½).



## The South of England Championships held at Southwick 18-30 September

### First Week

Evicted from Eastbourne by the Davis Cup, we 'Devonshire Parkers' found refuge in the warmth — both of the hospitality and climate — of Southwick. Several old regulars were missing (and missed), but their number was almost made up by Southwick members, who won nearly everything that was not won by Sykeses. Sue Foden had entered at handicap 13, but announced on arrival that she had changed both her handicap and her name; and by Saturday was Sue Sykes, handicap 7½. The other dominant player was the back-marker, Tristram Owen, who showed that taking great care over important shots can sometimes speed games up by allowing the making of long breaks, which gave him almost every game by large margins. The Handicap runner-up, Pat Asa Thomas, had a more perilous journey to the Final. She beat Cyril Pountney only by catching up from five hoops behind after time was called, and was playing dismally while Betty Weitz forged a huge lead. She suddenly woke up and won — though in the dying seconds Betty nearly stole the game as she had earlier in the week against her twin sister Pat Shine. In the Final, however, Tristram never looked like surrendering his lead.

In the Open, the Draw semi-finals saw Bill Moore give Tristram his only nervous moment and Arthur Tapp playing beautifully to beat Cyril Pountney (perhaps still suffering from his five-and-a-half-hour victory over Ted Tucker the night before). The Process semi-finals were easy wins for Ted and Tristram; the latter was under little pressure in either final and won both. The Bs were far more closely contested: the last seven matches of the Draw were all won by margins in the two-to-eight range, with Betty Weitz doing well to fend off ferocious hitting-in by Tom Colls in the final. In the early rounds of the Process, Brian Sykes did show true form, but against Edna Cox soon found himself well behind. This is a situation whose rarity seems to depress him, so it was she who reached the Play-off; but here her tidy game was cut short by time and Betty Weitz, whose signature will now be added to the unique Devonshire Park Salver. The Luard Cup is also a rarity: for although Ordinary Level Singles is the standard game set out in Part 2 of the Laws, few tournament games are played thus, free from the Adaptations of Advanced or Handicap play set out in Part 3. It was won by George Coates, as industrious but relaxed on the court as he was on the late-night shift behind the bar.

The Trevor Williams Cup was won by Sue Sykes, who played with a fluency which has seemed possible all season. She and Brian also swept easily through to the Doubles Final. He was one of only two players in the tournament to achieve any significant peeling. The other was Arthur Tapp, who overcame two of the toughest pairs in guiding Doreen Waterhouse to the Final, where however the Sykeses proved too good. The Y was won by Norman Cox, who speaks disparagingly of his play but lost only one handicap game — and that to Cyril Pountney, who as last year kept winning all day, all week, only to vanish suddenly on Friday. The runner-up, Vera Tyrwhitt Drake, also had a good week, though her Y victories were narrow. She beat Giles Borrett about an hour after sunset, and her next match ended level on time. Having miscalculated the score she had 'wisely' scattered all the balls, but even more wisely hit in to score the deciding point.

Six days of almost unbroken sunshine showed how pleasant tournaments can be in the oyster season: April, come quickly! The weather certainly helped the Manager, Robert Prichard, maximise the play. Despite some languid croquet (of Monday's 11 10 o'clock games only one was over by 1.15), time limits were applied to only about a third of the singles games, and only one player, Pat Asa Thomas, had to be scratched from an event. (Perhaps we need new words to distinguish between compulsory and voluntary scratching.) The tournament's exile from Devonshire Park will have been brief, but successful owing to the wholehearted support and hard work by the Southwick Club.

### Results

*Event 1: The Ionides Challenge Trophy. Championship of the South of England (12 entries)*

#### DRAW

*First Round:* **W.E. Moore** bt E.C. Tyrwhitt Drake +17; **N.W.T. Cox** w.o.; **E.J. Tucker** bt R.D.C. Prichard +5; **C.G. Pountney** bt G. Borrett +11.

*Second Round:* **T.F. Owen** bt Mrs D.M.C. Prichard +23; **Moore** bt Cox +12; **Pountney** bt Tucker +2; **A.E.C. Tapp** bt Miss F. Joly +4.

*Semi-final:* **Owen** bt Moore +4; **Tapp** bt Pountney +21.

*Final:* **Owen** bt Tapp +19.

#### PROCESS

*First Round:* **Owen** bt Pountney +14; **Tyrwhitt Drake** bt Miss Joly +19; **Mrs Prichard** bt Borrett +9; **Moore** bt Tapp +13.

*Second Round:* **Owen** bt Cox +12; **Tyrwhitt Drake** bt Prichard +16; **Mrs Prichard** w.o.; **Tucker** bt Moore +17.

*Semi-final:* **Owen** bt Tyrwhitt Drake +20; **Tucker** bt Mrs Prichard +14.

*Final:* **Owen** bt Tucker +20.

*Event 2: Devonshire Park Salver (2½ bisques and over) (16 entries)*

#### DRAW

*First Round:* **Mrs A.E. Coetzee** bt Mrs H.F. Chittenden +12; **Mrs G.F.H. Elvey** bt A.S.C. Ross +3; **T.G.S. Colls** bt Mrs E.H.P. Mallinson +12; **Miss D. Manning** bt G.F. Paxon +14; **Mrs A.E. Asa Thomas** bt Mrs S.J. Turner +11; **H.A. Sheppard** bt B.C. Sykes +4; **Mrs J. Povey** bt Mrs R.E. Tucker +10; **Mrs B.G. Weitz** bt Mrs N.W.T. Cox +2.

*Second Round:* **Mrs Elvey** bt Mrs Coetzee +2; **Colls** bt Miss Manning +6; **Sheppard** bt Mrs Asa Thomas +5; **Mrs Povey** bt Mrs Povey +8.

*Semi-final:* **Colls** bt Mrs Elvey +2; **Mrs Weitz** bt Sheppard +8.

*Final:* **Mrs Weitz** bt Colls +5.

#### PROCESS

*First Round:* **Mrs Asa Thomas** bt Mrs Chittenden +21; **Mrs Mallinson** bt Mrs Tucker +1 (T); **Sheppard** bt Mrs Elvey +25; **Mrs Cox** bt Paxon +24; **Mrs Turner** bt Mrs Coetzee +1 (T); **Mrs Povey** bt Colls +1 (T); **Sykes** bt Ross +22; **Mrs Weitz** w.o. Miss Manning.

*Second Round:* **Mrs Mallinson** w.o. Mrs Asa Thomas (scr by Manager); **Mrs Cox** bt Sheppard +5 (T); **Mrs Povey** bt Mrs Turner +8; **Sykes** bt Mrs Weitz +17.

*Semi-final:* **Mrs Cox** w.o. Mrs Mallinson ret.; **Sykes** bt Mrs Povey +15.

*Final:* **Mrs Cox** bt Sykes +4 (T).

*PLAY-OFF:* **Mrs Weitz** bt Mrs Cox +7 (T).

*Event 3: Luard Cup. Level Singles (5½ bisques and over) (9 entries)*

#### DRAW

*First Round:* **Mrs G.C. Day** w.o.

*Second Round:* **G.T. Coates** bt Mrs E.C. Tyrwhitt Drake +8; **Mrs Day** bt Miss H.D. Parker +3; **E.B.T. Tanner** w.o.; **A. Gordon** bt Mrs E.J. Tucker +2.

*Semi-final:* **Mrs Day** bt Coates +6 (T); **Tanner** bt Gordon +7.

*Final:* **Tanner** bt Mrs Day +6.

#### PROCESS

*First Round:* **Coates** bt Mrs Tucker +7.

*Second Round:* **Coates** bt Mrs Day +23; **Miss Parker** w.o.; **Mrs Tyrwhitt Drake** bt Tanner +9; **Gordon** w.o.

*Semi-final:* **Coates** bt Miss Parker +26; **Mrs Tyrwhitt Drake** bt Gordon +4.

*Final:* **Coates** bt Mrs Tyrwhitt Drake +14.

*PLAY-OFF:* **Coates** bt Tanner +7.

*Event 4: Trevor Williams Cup. Handicap Singles (9 and over) (6 entries)*

#### DRAW

*First Round:* **Mrs B.C. Sykes** bt Miss P. Shine +23; **Mrs M. Rankin** bt Mrs D. Waterhouse +9.

*Semi-final:* **Mrs Sykes** bt Mrs Rankin +17; **Mrs M.D. Tanner** bt Mrs E.M. Lewis +11.

*Final:* **Mrs Sykes** bt Miss Shine +17.

### PROCESS

*First Round:* **Miss Shine** bt Mrs Lewis +3 (T); **Mrs Sykes** bt Mrs Tanner +14.

*Semi-final:* **Miss Shine** bt Mrs Waterhouse +21; **Mrs Sykes** bt Mrs Rankin +20.

*Final:* **Mrs Sykes** bt Miss Shine +23.

*Event 5: Sussex Challenge Cup. Handicap Singles X (41 entries)*

*First Round:* **Miss M. Anderson** (5) bt A. Gordon (7) +8; **E.C. Tyrwhitt Drake** (½) bt Mrs G.F.H. Elvey (3½) +5; **Mrs B.C. Sykes** (10) bt A.S.C. Ross (3½) +12; **Miss D. Manning** (3½) bt A.E.C. Tapp (1) +1; **W.E. Moore** (0) bt Mrs A.E. Coetzee (5) +5; **Mrs E. Asa Thomas** (5) bt Mrs E.J. Tucker (7½) +9; **G.F. Paxon** (5½) bt Mrs M.D. Tanner (12) +10; **E.B.T. Tanner** (6½) bt Mrs D. Waterhouse (10) +13; **Mrs N.W.T. Cox** (3) bt Miss F. Joly (1) +3.

*Second Round:* **G.T. Coates** (6) bt G. Borrett (½) +7; **H.A. Sheppard** (4) bt Mrs E.C. Tyrwhitt Drake (6½) +8; **Mrs G.C. Day** (8) bt Mrs H.F. Chittenden (3½) +9; **Mrs D.M.C. Prichard** (1) bt Mrs E.M. Speer (5) +14; **B.C. Sykes** (3) bt Miss H.D. Parker (6) +13; **T.F. Owen** (0) bt Miss Anderson +16; **Mrs Sykes** bt Tyrwhitt Drake +21; **Moore** bt Miss Manning +9; **Mrs Asa Thomas** bt Paxon +18; **Mrs Cox** bt Tanner +4; **C.G. Pountney** (1½) bt N.W.T. Cox (½) +18; **T.G.S. Colls** (5) bt Mrs S.J. Turner (5) +8; **Miss P. Shine** (10) bt Mrs J. Povey +12; **Mrs B.G.F. Weitz** (3) bt Mrs E.M. Lewis (9) +12; **E.J. Tucker** (0) bt Mrs M. Rankin (11) +14; **R.D.C. Prichard** (2) bt Mrs E.H.P. Mallinson (5) +5.

*Third Round:* **Sheppard** bt Coates +2; **Mrs Prichard** bt Mrs Day +17; **Owen** bt Sykes +14; **Moore** bt Mrs Sykes +14; **Mrs Asa Thomas** bt Mrs Cox +9; **Pountney** bt Colls +17; **Mrs Weitz** bt Miss Shine +3; **Prichard** bt Tucker +3.

*Fourth Round:* **Mrs Prichard** bt Sheppard +1 (T); **Owen** bt Moore +9; **Mrs Asa Thomas** bt Pountney +3 (T); **Mrs Weitz** bt Prichard +15.

*Semi-final:* **Owen** bt Mrs Prichard +23; **Mrs Asa Thomas** bt Mrs Weitz +2.

*Final:* **Owen** bt Mrs Asa Thomas +9.

*Handicap Singles Y (20 entries)*

*First Round:* **Mrs Elvey** bt Ross +3 (T); **Mrs Coetzee** bt Tapp +10; **Mrs E.J. Tucker** bt Mrs Tanner +5; **Miss Joly** bt Mrs Waterhouse +11.

*Second Round:* **Mrs Tyrwhitt Drake** bt Borrett +5 (T); **Mrs Speer** bt Mrs Chittenden +15; **A. Gordon** bt Miss Parker +11; **Mrs Coetzee** bt Mrs Elvey +22; **Miss Joly** bt Mrs E.J. Tucker +1; **N.W.T. Cox** bt Mrs Turner +5; **Mrs Povey** bt Mrs Lewis +4 (T); **Mrs Mallinson** bt Mrs Rankin +11 (T).

*Third Round:* **Mrs Tyrwhitt Drake** bt Mrs Speer +1; **Mrs Coetzee** bt A. Gordon +11; **Cox** bt Miss Joly +2 (T); **Mrs Mallinson** bt Mrs Povey +1 (T).

*Semi-final:* **Mrs Tyrwhitt Drake** bt Mrs Coetzee +1 (T); **Cox** bt Mrs Mallinson +1 (T).

*Final:* **Cox** bt Mrs Tyrwhitt Drake +14.

*Event 6: Handicap Doubles (16 pairs)*

*First Round:* **Pountney and Mrs E.J. Tucker** (9) bt Mrs Chittenden and Mrs Elvey (7) +11 (T); **Owen and E. Strickland** (6½) bt Ross and Gordon +9; **Mr and Mrs Sykes** bt Mrs R.E. Tucker and Mrs Turner +18; **Borrett and Mrs Rankin** (12½) bt Mrs Povey and Mrs Tanner (15) +1 (T); **Mrs Weitz and Miss Shine** (15½) bt Mallinson and Tanner (11½) +5 (T); **Tapp and Mrs Waterhouse** (10) bt Mrs Prichard and Miss Parker (7) +9; **Moore and Colls** (5) bt Mrs Coetzee and Mrs Day (9) +9; **Mrs Asa Thomas and Tucker** (5) bt Paxon and Coates (11½) +18.

*Second Round:* **Pountney and Mrs Tucker** bt Owen and Strickland +7; **Mr and Mrs Sykes** bt Borrett and Mrs Rankin +15; **Tapp and Mrs Waterhouse** bt Mrs Weitz and Miss Shine +2 (T); **Tucker and Mrs Asa Thomas** bt Moore and Colls +4.

*Semi-final:* **Mr and Mrs Sykes** bt Pountney and Mrs Tucker +16; **Tapp and Mrs Waterhouse** bt Tucker and Mrs Asa Thomas +1 (T).

*Final:* **Mr and Mrs Sykes** bt Tapp and Mrs Waterhouse +12.

### Second Week

Derek Caporn now took over the management and the fine, warm weather continued. A first-round clash between Tristram Owen and Edgar Jackson in the Gold Cup proved once again that a game is never lost. Owen had only a simple rover hoop to make, but failed; whereupon Jackson went round from the fourth hoop to peg out both his opponent and himself, the two remaining balls being

for rover. Owen missed two long shots narrowly and Jackson was home. The same four players got to the semi-final in both Draw and Process: Butler, Jackson, Hamilton-Miller and Newton (who had defeated Owen by one point on time). Jackson and Newton then met in the final of each section. In the first game Newton succeeded in a fine peg-out of his opponent's ball by getting behind it after a long take-off to a distant yardline. But in the dim, evening light Newton missed a short roquet after a hampered penultimate and Jackson went out. In the second game Jackson allowed his opponent no chance, playing two all-round breaks with effortless ease to win the Gold Cup. In the Women's Singles for the Franc Cup, Miss Joly, after a narrow win over Mrs Cox, was the losing finalist in each half. Mrs Povey played with great determination and accuracy to win the Draw and Mrs Prichard, hitting her long shots, established an early lead which she retained to win the Process. In the final Mrs Povey was unable to recapture her earlier good form and Mrs Prichard had no difficulty in repeating her last year's victory.

The final stages of the Felix Cup brought six contestants in opposition: Coates, Sheppard, Caporn, Colls, Miss Anderson and Knight. Caporn, who had looked the strongest in the earlier rounds, proved the eventual winner, defeating Knight in the final after a close semi-final against Coates, who went off the boundary at a critical moment at the end. The Sussex Union Challenge Cup produced a final of good Croquet between Owen and Jackson. When the latter missed the second hoop, Owen went round with his first ball and repeated the process with his second until he missed a short roquet at two back. Here, however, his half bisque rescued him from trouble and in spite of a late spurt by Jackson, Owen won by a comfortable margin. Borrett and Wallis played some good games in this event to reach the semi-final. Wallis, who won the Extra event, was especially unlucky to lose against Jackson, who hit in four times consecutively when his opponent was laid to go out.

In the final of the Victor Vases, Newton and Butler were quickly off the mark against Owen and Moore, but having reached four back and three back respectively without any opposition, they were checked by a series of mistakes. Owen now made good progress and when Moore followed with a likely four-ball break in view, the issue was wide open. But the challenge was not carried through, and Newton and Butler won with something to spare. G.A. Hutcheson and Mrs Mallinson, a strong partnership, overcame the opposition of C.E. Knight and Mrs Speer to take the Handicap Doubles and the Milln Trophies.

A word of congratulation to H.A. Sheppard upon his three consecutive victories during the week by one on time. He is 87 this year but how well he retains his form on a handicap of four. Although many games were of long duration and the hoops were found difficult to run, Derek Caporn as Manager and ship's Captain fittingly brought the tournament to an end at 5.15 pm on Saturday with his own success in the Felix Cup — this was a well-deserved reward for a player who has given so much time and devotion to our game on the C.A. Council.

And so, our thanks to the Tournament Committee who have certainly had their problems this year and to Mrs Wells and her assistants for their really excellent lunches and teas. The magnificent array of cups for presentation was a timely reminder that the Devonshire Park tournament, in its home surroundings next April, must go on and be supported.

### Results

*Event 1A: O'Callaghan Gold Cup. Men's Championship of the South of England (12 entries)*

#### DRAW

*First Round:* **D.A. Harris** bt Dr S.R.C. Malin +10; **P. Newton** bt R.E. Wallis +11; **G.E.P. Jackson** bt W.R. Moore +4; **T.F. Owen** bt E.C. Tyrwhitt Drake +2 (T).

*Second Round:* **L.S. Butler** bt Comdr G. Borrett +18; **P. Newton** bt Harris +21; **Jackson** bt Owen +2; **D.J.V. Hamilton-Miller** bt N.W.T. Cox +10.







## Secretary's Notes

## 1. NEW ASSOCIATES

- R John W.Wood, Britannia House, Cliff Terrace, Hunstanton, Norfolk, PE36 6DY.  
 S Mrs C.A.Chard, 28 Hillview Lane, Twynning, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, GL20 6JW. Tel. (0684) 293754.  
 S J.W.Hoole, 34 Keynesham Road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. Tel. (0242) 27918.  
 R R.G.Balkwill, Flat 2, 25 Broadwater Down, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN2 5NL. Tel. (0892) 25461.  
 S Mrs J.(P.V.)Healy, 13 Flat D, Kingswood Road, Fulham, London SW6 6SP.  
 R H.F.Barnett, Atlantis, Mill Road, Wells-next-the-Sea, Norfolk, NR23 1HE.  
 J F.J.R.Landor, 56 West Street, Osney, Oxford.  
 S Miss Mary Coates, 21 Hanover Court, Elkstone Close, Worcester.  
 S Kenneth A.Clabburn, Besthorpe Old Vicarage, Attleborough, Norfolk.  
 S Philip Cordingley, 16 Poplar Grove, Wembley Park, Middlesex, HA9 9BZ.  
 O Brian A.Bamford, M.P., 47 Sandown Road, Rondebosch, Cape Town 7700, South Africa.  
 S D.G.Arthur, The Abnalls, Abnalls Lane, Lichfield, Staffs.

## 2. RESIGNATIONS

R.S.Howard, E.J.Jack, Dame Mary Railton, Dr J.Neil Robinson, Mrs B.I.Shackleton.

## 3. DEATHS

Miss Helen Borchers (South Africa), Robert Tingey (Life Associate).

## 4. REFEREES

New Examining Referees: T.F.Owen, Dr I.G.Vincent. New Referee: R.W.Newnham. Add Dr B.R.Sandiford (omitted in error).

## 5. CHANGES IN THE CLUBS

*Bowdon.* New Secretary: J.H.Bowman, 42 East Road, Longsight, Manchester M12 5QZ.

*Budleigh Salterton.* New Croquet Secretary: H.G.T.Bolton, Turville Lodge, 4 West Terrace, Budleigh Salterton, Devon, EX5 1JT. Tel. (039 54) 3778. New Tournament Secretary: R.S.Stevens, Oakhayes, Woodbury, near Exeter, Devon, EX5 1JT. Tel. Woodbury (039 53) 2710.

*Gray's Inn.* Secretary's New Address: S.N.Mulliner, 36 Regent House, Wellington Place, London NW8 7PG. Tel. 01-586 1437.

*Oxford University and O.U.L.T.& C.C.* Secretary's New Address: Aldoth, Boars Hill, Oxford.

## 6. CLOSING DATES FOR C.A. FIXTURES 1979

Inter-Club Championship	27 February
Inter-Counties Championship	27 February
Longman Cup	6 March
All-England Handicap (with numbers and entry fees)	22 May

With entries for the Inter-Club Championship and the Longman Cup should be details of the Club Organiser (name, address and telephone). In the past a lot of unnecessary work has been caused chasing late entries. If you intend entering, why not do so now?

## 7. ITEMS AVAILABLE FROM C.A. OFFICE

*C.A. Ties.* The following ties are available from the C.A. Secretary: Associates' (in crimplene) £2.50 post free. President's Cup, Chairman's Salver, and Spencer-Ell Cup (in silk) £4.50 post free. *Fixture Book 1979.* Copies have been sent to all Associates paying the full rate of subscription of £5. Copies are available from the C.A. Secretary 50p each (plus 16p postage).

*Croquet Gazette.* Spare copies from Summer 1977 are available from the C.A. Secretary 50p each (plus 15p postage).

*Pegging-down Discs.* Pegging-down discs, approximately 2¼ in. diameter, in first and second colours, 50p per set of four post free. *Souvenir Test Tour Programme* (prepared by N.Z.C.C.). A limited number of copies are available from the C.A. Secretary at 70p each (plus 10p postage).

*C.A. Flags.* Factory & Farm Supplies (Gloucester) Ltd, 428 Severn Road, Gloucester GL1 2LE, supply C.A. flags to order. The current price (October 1978) is £24 each, plus V.A.T. plus postage and packing.

## 8. SUBSCRIPTIONS 1979

Subscription rates for 1979 are the same as for 1978 and are due on 1 January 1979. Early payment will be appreciated.

## 9. LAWN AND BALL HIRE RATES FOR 1979 (payable to Clubs holding C.A. events) have been increased as follows:

Lawn hire (per lawn per day)	£2
Ball hire (per lawn per week)	£1.50.

R.F.Rothwell  
C.A. Secretary

## Courses 1979

The following Courses have been arranged for 1979. Application forms and details can be obtained from the C.A. Secretary.

As numbers at each course are limited, early application is recommended.

All Courses are available to Associates, but Non-Associates will be welcomed at all the Beginners' Courses.

1. *Laws.* At the **Nottingham Club**. Saturday and Sunday, 28–29 April. For potential Referees. Subject to numbers it may be possible for the Referees examination to be taken during the Course. Non-residential. Fee £1.

2. *Beginners.* Intended for players with handicaps of 12 or over. Mallets will be provided if necessary without charge.

i. **Bisham Abbey** National Sports Centre, near Marlow, Bucks. RESIDENTIAL: From Friday evening, 27 April to after tea, Sunday, 29 April. Fee: Including full board and lodging including evening meal on Friday to tea on Sunday and Instruction — £16. NON-RESIDENTIAL: Instruction on Saturday and Sunday. Fee: £2.50. Meals, if ordered in advance, will be obtainable at the Centre.

ii. **Cassiobury Club**, Watford, Herts. Saturday and Sunday, 5–6 May. Non-residential. Fee for instruction only: £2.50.

iii. **Lilleshall Hall** National Sports Centre, near Newport, Salop. Friday evening, 25 May to Sunday, 27 May after tea. Residential and Non-residential. Fees, etc., as for Bisham Abbey (above).

3. *Middle Bisquers.* Intended for players with handicaps 6 to 11 bisques.

i. **Bisham Abbey** National Sports Centre, near Marlow, Bucks. From Friday evening, 27 April to after tea, Sunday, 29 April. Residential and Non-residential. Fees, etc., as for Bisham Abbey Beginners' Course (2.i. above).

ii. **Lilleshall Hall** National Sports Centre, near Newport, Salop. Friday evening, 25 May to after tea, Sunday, 27 May. Residential and Non-residential. Fees, etc., as for Lilleshall Hall Beginners' Course (2.iii. above).

iii. **Bowdon Club**, Cheshire. Saturday and Sunday, 12–13 May. Non-residential. Fee: £2.50.

It may be possible to arrange other Courses at clubs during the season. Club Secretaries should apply to the C.A. Secretary as early as possible.

## Handicap Alterations

*Ryde weekend: 15–17 September.* Miss D.E.Rogers 11 (D9) (correction from 12 (D9)); Mrs J.Howarth 13 to 14; M.G.Tompkinson 5 to 4.

*Parkstone: 11–16 September.* L.S.Butler 1½ to 1; Air-Comm. J.H.Greswell 5 to 4; Miss A.R.Robertson 12 to 11 (D10); A.Rushbrooke 7½ to 7; Col E.L.L.Vulliamy 3 to 2½.

*Edinburgh: 21–26 August.* E.Mackenzie Bowie 4½ to 3½; G.Anderson 6 to 4 (Non-Associate); Rev. A.D.Lamont 9 to 8 (Non-Associate); Mrs M.Lauder 7 to 6½ (Non-Associate); M.P.W.Smith 8 to 6 (Non-Associate).

*Spencer-Ell Cup (Budleigh Salterton): 4–8 September.* S.Tapp ½ to 0.

*Cheltenham weekend: 15–17 September.* A.J.Girling 3 to 2½; P.M.Johnson 4½ to 4.

*All-England Area Final (Cheltenham): 9–10 September.* S.Hare 8 to 6.

*Jealotts Hill Club Recommendation: September.* R.J.Smith 15 to 14.

*Nottingham weekend: 22–24 September.* P.J.Death 3 to 2½; B.Hallam 11 to 8 (Non-Associate).

*Budleigh Salterton weekend: 22–24 September.* B.G.Bucknall 7 to 6; S.G.Garrett 6½ to 6; F.T.Moores 9\* to 8 (Non-Associate).

*Roehampton: 18–23 September.* L.D.Adams 3 to 2½; Mrs E.E.Bressey 5 to 4½; Mrs W.Browne 13 to 12 (Non-Associate); S.Godsi 9 to 8 (D7); Mrs W.Jones 10 to 9; A.Lindley 4½ to 3½; L.Wharrad 4 to 3½.

*South of England Championships (Southwick): 16–23 September.* Mrs P.Asa Thomas 5 to 4; G.T.Coates 6 to 5½; B.C.Sykes 3 to 2½; Mrs B.C.Sykes 10 to 7½; Professor A.S.C.Ross 3½ to 5.

*Wrest Park weekend: 22–24 September.* T.W.Anderson 5 to 4; Mrs J.Anderson 13 to 11; I.D.Bond 3½ to 2½; C.Cumming 6 to 5.

*Cheltenham weekend: 13–15 October.* Lady Bazley 7 to 6½; Miss I.Roe 6½ to 5½; J.E.Ross 5½ to 5 (Non-Associate).

*Woking Club Recommendations: October.* C.J.Caesar 9 (D7) to 8 (D7); R.A.Gosden 12 to 11; F.H.Newman 8 to 7½; Mrs F.H.Newman 12 to 11.

*Budleigh Salterton Club Recommendations: October.* H.G.T.Bolton 1½ to 1; Col W.R.Healing 1½ to 1; G.H.Mapstone 9 to 8; Mrs G.H.Mapstone 9 to 8.

*Phyllis Court Club Recommendations.* Dr C.A.Boucher 4½ to 3½; Miss A.Searle 9 to 8.

*Parkstone Club Recommendations: October.* Air-Comm. J.H.Greswell 4 to 3; Mrs D.Mitchell 13 (D12) to 12; Miss P.E.Parker 11 to 10; A.Rushbrooke 7 to 6½.

*Wolverhampton Club Recommendations: October.* L.H.Hawkins 5 to 4½; Miss H.Hewitson 7½ to 6½.

*Bristol Club Recommendations: October.* Mrs V.Jupe 12 to 11; J.McCullough 6½ (new handicap); Mrs M.Scott 9 (new handicap).

*Scottish C.A. weekend: 16–17 September.* R.N.McLean 2 to 1½.

*Handicap Co-ordination Committee: November.* G.B.Martin 2½ to 3 (on appeal).

*Compton Club Recommendations: October.* J.van Berkel 12 (D10) to 11 (D9); Lt-Col D.F.T.Brown 7 to 6½; R.A.Chappell 7 to 6½; G.A.Hutcheson 5½ to 5; H.A.C.Evans 11 to 10; C.E.Knight 5 to 4½; Dr B.D.Yallop 2½ to 2.

*Colchester Club Recommendations: November.* H.A.Cross 6½ to 6; Mrs J.Cross (H.A.) 14 to 13; G.S.Digby 3 to 2; Mrs G.S.Digby 3½ to 3; Mrs J.Kimber 12 to 11; K.H.Paterson 4 to 3½.

*Cheltenham Club Recommendations: December.* Miss R.Allen 4½ to 6; D.H.Moorcraft 1½ to 2½; Mrs D.H.Moorcraft 9 to 10; G.Sisum 12 to 10.

## Solution. Cross Figure Puzzle

B W O N + 3.

5	0	9	1	0	5	0	1
2	7	31	5	0	2	2	2
0	3	2	3	4	0	3	2
8	4	2	2	0	2	1	1
9	9	2	2	9	0	2	2
2	2	5	1	2	1	8	1
6	8	2	3	2	1	6	1
2	4	7	4	4	1	6	1

## Alterations to the Laws

1. In accordance with Rule XIV, the following proposed alteration to the Laws, having been passed by the Council on 21 October 1978, is published in *Croquet* before coming before Council for reconsideration.

*Law 5(a)(iv)*

Delete sub-paragraph (iv) namely: 'A ball which has to be repositioned after a fault or irregularity'.

2. In accordance with Rule XIV, having been passed by the Council on 10 December 1977 and having been published in *Croquet* (Summer 1978), the following alteration to Law 2 (c) was reconsidered by the Council on 21 October 1978 and passed *nem. con.*, and so becomes law:

*Law 2(c)*

The second sentence to be replaced by: 'They shall be 3⅞ inches plus or minus 1/32nd inch, in diameter, and of even weight 16 ounces, plus or minus ¼ ounce'.

3. In accordance with Rule XIV(b) under which the Council has power to authorise the adoption of temporary variations in the Laws, the following **temporary variation** in Law 2(a) was passed by the Council on 21 October 1978 and takes effect **immediately**:

*Law 2(a)*

Add 'or aluminium' after the word 'iron' in line 1.

## An Answer to a Question of Tactics: 4

What Red did do was to rush Yellow somewhere between the peg and rover, took off to Blue and Black and then failed to make her hoop. I think that you give yourself an extra chance if you take the rush straight away to penultimate. If you don't hit it well and find yourself with an awkward approach, then you can take off to the adversary and try again to approach penultimate off Blue or Black. If a second time you are unnerved by the approach stroke, you can send the enemy ball away and come back to your partner, which this time is near your hoop (compared with miles away when the play actually occurred).

G.N.A.