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# THE CROQUET GAZETTE

Number 151

SPRING 1979

The Official Organ of the Croquet Association

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

### A PERSONAL MESSAGE TO ASSOCIATES AND CROQUET CLUBS

*from all the members of the Great Britain International Team.*

The MacRobertson Shield, Held by Great Britain since 1956, has been wrested from us by New Zealand. We guessed, before the tour began, that their team would be very strong, and so it proved. Bob Jackson played some remarkable croquet, including a straight triple at Westport from an almost impossible position and the shooting of Joseph Hogan can rarely have been equalled. John Prince was as formidable as ever, and Paul Skinley became the first player ever to complete a sextuple in the MacRobertson Shield. Allan Anderson and Roger Murfitt added an admirable blend of skill and experience to complete a formidable side. The accounts of the play, together with the scores, reveal how closely contested were the matches against the host nation. The crucial match was the first Test against New Zealand at Westport, which they won 5-4. Several games just went their way, principally as a result of their admirable fighting qualities and attacking play, and this pattern was repeated in subsequent matches. There was no home advantage to New Zealand in this match, as none of their team had ever played at Westport before, and there is no doubt that their win was thoroughly deserved.

In speaking at Wanganui after the final Test, John Prince paid an eloquent tribute to John Solomon, when he said that the development of top-class croquet in New Zealand, and thus the winning of the Shield, owed much to the inspiration provided by John's play against New Zealand in previous contests.

Each member of your team played with great determination and fought as hard as he could. Mistakes were inevitably made, but many of them were due to the pressure exerted by the quality of the opposition. The complete harmony which existed between all of us added considerably to our strength, and I am proud to have been a member of such a fine side.

We all enjoyed the tour immensely, and throughout were conscious of the debt we owed to all those Associates and Clubs who had contributed so generously to the Test Tour Fund. The allocations which were made, together with the Sports Council's travel grant, greatly eased our financial burden. I am very pleased to record our thanks to the organisers of the appeal and the contributors, and also to the Sports Council.

Bernard Neal  
Captain.

### Test Tour Fund

The 1978 Test Fund closed with the total sum raised £2,394.80, which after the deduction of Raffle Expenses and Prizes of £169.16, leaves a net sum of £2,225.64.

The sum of £417.09 (which includes accrued interest) was carried over from the 1969 Test Fund. Further interest of £18.17 was added during the year.

After the distribution of £2,240.00 to the members of the 1979 Test Team, there remains a balance of £420.90 to be carried forward to the 1982 Series. This sum will be invested with a Building Society to accrue interest until required.

The following donations from individuals are acknowledged with thanks in addition to those published on page 3 of the Winter 1978 Gazette:

C.G. Hopewell  
Judge A.D. Karmel  
Dr M. Murray  
A.J. Oldham  
D.V.H. Rees  
J.L. Sanders  
J.W. Solomon

Add to Club donations: £10 Ellesmere (*omitted in error*).

A.J. Oldham, Treasurer.  
R.F. Rothwell, Secretary.

### Chairman's Report 1978-79

The extracts from Council Meetings held during the year have been published in the Gazette and reflect reasonably fully the discussions of Council and its Committees. In this report I will therefore confine my attention to those features of the year which seem to warrant further comment.

New Zealand's resounding victory in the MacRobertson Shield certainly deserves both our warmest congratulations to the N.Z.C.C. and thoughtful reflection. I am sure the result is good for Croquet: for New Zealanders it is the culmination of many years' development of the game in their country and a thoroughly deserved reward; for us it should destroy any sense of complacency and lend determination to strengthen and enliven our game before we send our next team to Australia.

From early comments on the tour, it would seem that some of our players had difficulty with the fast conditions of the courts. In the account of one of our club tournaments last year the writer commented on the rare pleasure of being able to rush the full length of the court. Do fast courts have to be an endangered species in this country? Many argue that fast conditions favour the better player in a handicap game, presumably because they have more control over the balls. Slow courts, however, are equally disadvantageous to the weaker player because they in particular suffer from being unable to rush very far or play big croquet strokes. I would therefore urge all croquet clubs to provide as fast conditions as they are able to do at all times. Croquet is the finer game when it becomes a matter of touch rather than slog.

The magnificent response of Associates, and others, to the Test Tour Fund Appeal was most heartening. It has always been a matter of cautious hope that a truly representative team could be sent (at considerable cost) to the Antipodes two out of every three occasions in which the MacRobertson Shield is played. The very generous donations to the Fund this year, together with a substantial grant from the Sports Council\* not

only enabled us to send our strongest possible team but confirmed our continued support for international events.

*\*£580 per capita (Manager included) towards the fare for the journey to New Zealand.*

The Gazette over the last year has proved a source of both pleasure (for its readers) and considerable worry (for its Editor). I am sure all Associates would wish me to thank Mrs. Prichard for producing a most lively, entertaining and informative set of issues. I feel they are some of the best that have ever appeared. Yet their production has caused much concern. The standard of printing has been of the highest quality, but the time that has elapsed between submission of copy and date of publication has grown to an unacceptable length. We have been assured that our new printers will be much more efficient and we look forward to a much happier year ahead with them.

We are very pleased that Mrs. Prichard is to continue as Editor. Like her predecessors she has spent an immense amount of time editing and typing copy, particularly the accounts and results of tournaments. It is clearly unreasonable to ask one person to shoulder this burden alone and we are most grateful to D.R.Foulser for agreeing to assist her.

For many years the Association has depended on the active help of a relatively small group of its members. I appreciate that most players, in wishing to give something back to the game which has given them so much enjoyment, have rightly and laudibly given their time and labour to their Club. But I would ask Associates generally to consider whether they could help the Association as well. In the Summer of 1978 Gazette it was reported that there were 656 home Associates, a small number compared to the total membership of croquet clubs and a very small base on which to organize a national association. Yet without the C.A. croquet would quickly regress to its back-garden variety. So, please, encourage more players to become Associates and, please, consider whether you could help the Association in coaching, refereeing, managing, handicapping, administration, or in any way in which you feel the C.A. needs help. If you feel you can help write to either myself or the Secretary.

Early in the year two of our Vice Presidents, Hope Rotherham and Gerald Williams, indicated that they would probably not attend future Council meetings. Their contribution to Croquet off court has been immense and their presence and counsel have been sadly missed. We send them both our very best wishes.

Roger Bray.

### The South African National Croquet Championships.

*S.A. Champion.* (6th time) **T. Barlow.**

*Doubles Champions.* **T. Barlow and R.H. James.**

*from the South African Croquet Gazette:*

I would like to state sincerely the pleasure it was to have Richard Rothwell, Secretary of the Croquet Association (U.K.) here with us during our national tournament and that his pleasant manner and knowledge of the game made a big impression on all participants and his advice on croquet matters was always appreciated.

D. Hobbs.

*Richard Rothwell acted as one of the Assistant Managers and also organised an Extra Event — which he won.*

### ACCOMODATION — CHELTENHAM TOURNAMENTS.

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### The Secretary, the Editor and Assistant Editor.

The Secretary of the Croquet Association is Mr R.F. Rothwell The Hurlingham Club, London, SW6 3PR. Tel: 01-736 3148.

The Editor of the Croquet Gazette is Mrs D.M.C. Prichard, Gobion Manor, Abergavenny, Gwent. NP7 9AY. Tel: Gobion (087385) 242.

The Assistant Editor is Mr D.R. Foulser, 17 Moorend Road, Leckhampton, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. Tel: (0242) 21391 Ext 219 (during office hours only).

### Deadline.

Copy for the Summer Issue of the Gazette must reach The Editor not later than Thursday June 28th.

### Tournament Results and Reports.

All Tournament Results (including Week-end Tournaments) and Reports (including any notes on Week-end Tournaments) are to be sent to the Assistant Editor, D.R. Foulser, as soon as possible after the completion of the tournament. If the Report is not enclosed with the results please give the name of the Reporter. (Alterations in handicaps are sent direct to the Secretary C.A.). The initials and rank of a player need only be filled in on their first appearance in any event, and the same applies to handicaps in handicap events. Unless the player is only in that one event the rank and initials need not be included in Doubles but the Handicap must. Where two players have the same surname initials have to be included in every round. A small (t) indicates 'on time' and a capital (TP) indicates Triple Peel. If the result forms are clearly and accurately filled in the printers are willing to accept them without their having to be re-typed — re-typing can lead to errors.

### Week-end Tournaments.

The same as last year. *Handicap Blocks:* Full Name, Handicap and Number of Wins, in order of finishing. Points need only be included if there is a tie for 1st place. There is no need to type the results but if they are typed they should be in the exact form in which they are printed in the Gazette. Notes may be added but only for items of special interest.

*Advanced Play Blocks:* Names to be shown in the order in which they finished, each name being followed by the number of Wins and the Scores of the matches they won and the people they beat. Initials once only (except when two players have the same surname). (see *Autumn Gazette 1978, page 4, Wrest Park II and Compton II*). The Notes on these tournaments are good examples of content and length. Compton was allowed a little extra space because the COWHorn was a new event).

*Swiss Events.* At heading put e.g. 5 rounds. 20 entries, double-banking, 3½ hrs time-limit. Below put e.g. 5 wins: Dr T.J. Haste (7½) and below that 4 wins: A.J. Girling (3½) etc. (see *Autumn Gazette page 5 Colchester II*) followed by notes if any.

### Inter-Counties Championship. 29th May — 1st June.

Eight Counties have entered: Middlesex (Holders) Bedfordshire, Berks and Oxon, Eastern Counties, Midland Counties, Northern Counties, Surrey, Sussex.

Six lawns will be available at Hurlingham and three at Roehampton.

Half the matches will be Double-banked.

Each team will be required to contribute £21.00 towards the cost of lawn hire. This represents 50p per player per game. Team Captains will collect this.

*Will Team Captains please hand a list of all players who played in their team together with a short note on their matches to the Manager before leaving.*

### ROVER NOTES

#### Value for Money

When Clubs put up their subscriptions members are apt to wonder whether they are getting their money's worth. Let us review what a member is getting for his subscription. He arrives to find a lawn ready for him, the six hoops cost \*£49.95; the peg £4.85; 8 corner pegs £4.99; the corner flags £8.65; 4 clips £4.85. He empties the four balls, £32.95, from the Ball Carriage (made by the Club handyman) and realises there is £106 worth of plant — to use the Edwardian word — on his lawn alone. The lawn is mown, marked out, fertilised, levelled with the help of various machines which have to be maintained and replaced. All he has to do is to lift his mallet (which may have cost him between £20 and £40 and which can last a lifetime) and walk on to the court in his flat-soled shoes.

Croquet players have inherited their pavilions and grounds from their forbears in many cases, and whereas in the past benefactors subsidised the game they loved, to-day many members (but not all) give their time and labour freely to improve their Clubs and to keep them going for the next generation. If the playing season is reckoned as 20 weeks and the subscription is £20 per annum that is only £1 per week — even at £40 per annum or £2 per playing week, a member is getting good value for his money. How are Clubs going to raise the money to pay their wages bill, which rises every year? One Club has estimated that to pay a full-time groundsman it would cost every member of that Club £50 a year above what they are now paying. Croquet does not attract sponsors in this country and although a few clubs are supported by their local Councils, the old clubs, which have fostered the game for so long, are not. Apart from the Clubs which provide expensive amenities, Croquet players generally are getting too much for their money; it is dangerous for Clubs to be thinking in terms of shrinking and lowering standards. Twenty years ago the plant for a lawn was about £20 — if your subscription has gone up to five times its 1958 level, then your Club's thinking may be relatively right.

*\*Prices taken from Jaques Price List. February 1979.*

### The Facts behind the Legend

John Solomon is the only Croquet player entitled to be called The Champion of Champions. This title was played for four times — starting in our Centenary year 1967 — and John won it each time.

It had all begun nearly twenty years earlier when John aged 16 won the C Class at Hurlingham — beating Miss Elphinstone Stone, then aged 83. She had been one of the leading lady players in the 1890's and remembered dining with Disraeli. She had played against all the great players before the first Great War — I wonder if she realised in 1948 that the boy who beat her was to become perhaps the greatest of them all? In addition to the 4 Champion of Champions, below is a list of the Championship Events won by John Solomon up to now.

Open Championships. Singles.	10
Doubles Championships (with E.P.C. Cotter)	10
Mixed Doubles (he seldom played in these)	1
Mens Championships.	10
He won the President's Cup 9 times.	
He played in the President's Cup 24 times.	
New Zealand Championships.	2
N.Z. Doubles Championship (with H.O. Hicks).	1

For years most young players modelled their triple peels and lift leaves on John's and he was the early architect of a sextuple peel — though he never completed one in a Tournament game. He did however complete a three ball triple peel in 1964 against Cotter. He had nearly done one in 1959 but he had to touch the fourth ball after doing all three peels.

John has played in 5 Test Series. His first was in 1950/51 in New Zealand which we lost by 2 Tests to 1. The next four G.B. won, without losing a Test match. John Captained the team in 1974. For these achievements all Croquet players thank John — and hope that he can be lured back to the game to add to them.

### An Ounce of Practice....or a Peck of Troubles?

There has never been a regulation against practising before games but, whether for better or for worse, it has become the custom for no practise to be allowed except for a player who has not played that day but whose opponent has. Regulation 12 of the regulations for Tournaments merely says that a player is liable to be disqualified 'if he shall practise on the courts before, during, or after the hours of play, without having first obtained the permission of the Manager.' So as there is nothing against such practise there is nothing for the Council to rescind or alter. If there really is a majority of players who want five minutes practise before every tournament game every day then they must badger their Clubs. Managers work closely with Tournament Committees and their object is to make tournaments enjoyable to the players. They try to fit in as many entries as possible and as many games. In a weekend tournament where four games have to be fitted in on most courts and with ten courts available, 10 hours of tournament play could be lost over the three days. And that is assuming that the practise was honestly restricted to five minutes and no more. There is not an umpire or referee on every croquet court and we have all seen how tennis players like to stretch their allotted time. In sports that require great physical effort the knock-up helps to loosen and warm muscles which might seize up under sudden stress. Many croquet players do loosening exercises and knees bend before a game, while quite a number like to get up and move about a minute before their opponent is likely to end his turn. Would the nervous long bisquer benefit as much from such practise before the game as would the 'tiger'? But if enough players want something they nearly always get it. Then if it works at one Club it will catch on at others. Already a Manager has said that one tournament will experiment with the idea this year, so if you want to practise before you start your match, go to the Roehampton Evening tournament. If you are violently opposed to practising then ...perhaps you still ought to go just to see if you have been right all these years.

### The Fourth Turn.

In an A Class Game Mr Swing wins the toss and plays first. Mr Quick chooses Red and Yellow.

*1st Ball.* Swing plays Black to East Boundary, 3 yards out of corner IV.

*2nd Ball.* Quick, almost simultaneously, plays Yellow to a long tice position.

*3rd Ball.* Following the old precept 'three follows two' Swing lopes back to corner I and shoots hard at the tice. He mishits and Blue goes off only a few feet away from Yellow.

*4th Ball.* This proximity acts like a magnet on Quick and he can hardly wait for Blue to be replaced on the yardline. He roquets Blue with Yellow. His Opponent stops play.

What happens next? Has Quick played the wrong ball? Or are Blue and Yellow replaced without penalty with Quick having the fourth turn again — this time with Red. If he had struck Blue instead of his own Yellow would it have been the wrong ball? And if you think Quick has played the wrong ball can Swing in the 5th turn play with Blue — or is it implied that he must play with Black? What do Laws 10, 11 and 12 and Law 30 tell us? What do you think the answer *ought* to be? On two occasions when this happened at tournaments two totally different decisions were given. What do you think?

## Roving Eye

Changes in Croquet seem to come slowly, but this season has a new start, a new middle and a new end. When you read this **Devonshire Park** will have started; up until now there has been no Opens play — let alone Championships — before June but it is hoped many will take advantage of this pre-term fixture which lengthens our season. Mid-summer sees the re-introduction of the **Northern Championships** at **Bowdon** while **Cheltenham** have stepped in to fill the gap left by the Old Devonshire Park in September. Their five-day tournament with it's new event of Family Doubles has attracted so many entries that there may be space for another Club to slot in an end of season tournament.

**Dr W.R.D. Wiggins** is a philatelist of world-wide renown. While in New Zealand he met a number of philatelists and gave a lecture on the subject at New Plymouth. Another success he had was at Christchurch, the hottest city in the world that day, when he won in the sweep — a thick jersey! He was able to get it on, much to the amusement of the large gathering. Hard winters seem to come every sixteen years: early 1947, 1963 and 1979: thanks to croquet, Bobby Wiggins has missed the last two, but this time he was not going to risk coming home to find snowmen still standing, so after the New Zealand Championships; he and his wife Diana went on to Honolulu for a fortnight.

**Andrew Hope** and **John Wheeler** had planned to fly out to New Zealand to see the last Test but their flight was so delayed both, at Heathrow and en route, that they were too late. However both are playing in the New Zealand Championships, in which **Martin Murray** is also playing. **William Prichard** could only stay on for one day, to play with **David Openshaw** in a special International Doubles but David stayed for the President's Invitation Eight, for which **Martin Murray** and **Andrew Hope** were also invited, which was run concurrently with the Championships this year specially to suit the visiting teams. Results will be in the *Summer Gazette*.

**Nell Tyldesley** adds a postscript to the Northern Federation note (*C.G. Winter 1978*). **Ellesmere B.** did win the Championship but only by one point.

**Cheltenham** are always willing to try something new. This year, in an effort not to turn away entries from their July tournament they have spread the programme to allow play on both Sundays. I have heard from Scotland that this makes it impossible for them because of the second Sunday. With the Open Championships taking place the previous week and the ten day Hurlingham the following week, there is a need for more tournaments during the last ten days of July and the first ten days of August. Both Cheltenham and Hurlingham have been over-subscribed as was the two-day weekend Open at Compton which was inaugurated last year at the end of July. Players with little time available need a new venue for both Open and Handicap play in this period.

The University of Sussex are advertising **The Maurice Reckitt Research Fellowship** which has been endowed for the promotion of research into Christian Social Thinking. The appointment will run for two years with a possible extension for a third. Applicants need to be qualified in Sociology, Economics, Social History or Theology.

**George James** from Somerset West, South Africa writes that during the long (and very hot) Christmas holiday, their Club made a great effort to persuade youngsters to take up the game and ran an eight lesson course of rather light-hearted coaching with a Gymkhana and Golf Croquet Doubles and ending with Racing Croquet — a team game which he has invented. It seems to have been a huge success.

The new **Australian ball** has not turned out to be as satisfactory as they had first thought. Since 1974 there had been no sales tax on Jaques balls but as soon as croquet balls started to be manufactured in Victoria the sales tax on imported balls immediately became applicable. Now they are hoping to get this decision reversed. I am told the tax is 25% In New Zealand it is 40% on imported balls. The 20 sets of Jaques balls used in the Test Matches came through unscathed, but the red paint tends to come off.

## I will never forget.....

But we do: memory all too often drops stitches and picks up different colours. The Gazette should be the reference book to which we can all turn to get our facts right, but the significance of an event only becomes apparent later when it may be too late to record it. All of us have a memory of a match, or a game, or a player, or a break, or a stroke, or even a comment which we recall with pleasure. Many of these memories stem from the days when we first took up croquet and its impact was fresh; some of them may not be of any importance but it would be interesting to read about what other Croquet players 'will never forget', no matter how trivial.

## Croquet in Northern Ireland.

While on a visit to Belfast during the 'summer' of 1978, I called at the Belfast Boat Club to enquire whether croquet is played there. The North of Ireland climate has been described as 'mild, genial and salubrious' but the natives sometimes think that a better phrase is 'cold, wet and miserable' as indeed it was during my visit at the end of June. I braved the weather sufficiently to ascertain that the Club has a croquet lawn (used as the No 1 tennis court during tournaments) but I spent the remainder of the time at the bar talking to some of the young members who play croquet. They are, like my own Club in Pretoria, a long way from any other club so they are keen to receive visitors and would particularly welcome a visit from a team from Scotland or England, or from a Scottish or English Club.

Nelson Leech.

## CORRESPONDENCE

### An Ounce of Practice

from *Lieutenant Colonel A.W.D. Nicholls.*

Sir,

I refrained from writing in support of Norah Adlam's letter, 'An ounce of Practice' (*Gazette Autumn 1978*) as I felt there would be a welter of letters clamouring for publication in the Winter issue that better pens than mine would give expression to a much desired alterations in regulations.

I can attribute the absence of letters only to the shortness of time available for submission of copy. I must therefore stand up and be counted. I can think of no other game where 'knockup' time is not allowed and would suggest that here is a change which would be entirely beneficial, particularly to beginners. There is little more frightening for a long bisquer playing against a 'tiger' in a club handicap competition than to be expected to go on to the court and not be allowed at least to test the speed of the lawn, let alone see if it is possible to hit anything. I tremble to think of the number of bisques that must have been frittered away whilst overcoming initial paralysis.

As for a change of name for the game, did not somebody at some time say something about a rose?

40 Willow Green  
Ingateson.

Yours faithfully,  
Alan Nicholls.

## Handicaps

from *Mr R.A. Godby,*  
*Chairman, Handicap Co-ordination Committee.*

Dear Sir,

The past year started with handicaps raised on a sliding scale and, although strongly criticised in some quarters, seemed to work satisfactorily and changes did not appear to have any appreciable effect on results.

This general raising of handicaps did not deter handicappers from making wholesale reductions as is shown by the following figures.

In 1978 C.A. members in the U.K. and Eire, according to the Directory, numbered 657 of which 361 played in tournaments. During the year 197 players had their handicaps reduced. This means that, allowing for the relatively few "Club recommendations", at least 5 out of every 10 tournament players had their handicaps reduced.

Obviously, many players do improve during the season, particularly those with handicaps above say 5, but are so many of us really improving so much *compared* with other players?

This is the crux of the matter and it is the comparison with other handicaps that is important. The fact that a player wins an event should not automatically bring about a reduction as it seems to do.

If we continue making reductions as in the past we shall see another (unpopular?) overall increase being made and I suggest that to avoid it we might adopt the suggestion in Mr. Humphrey Hicks' letter in the Summer Gazette that if handicappers thought fit, a player's handicap should be raised, whether or no the player wishes it.

138 Copse Hill  
Wimbledon.

Yours sincerely,  
Robin Godby.

## The Name of the Game

from *Mr. A.B. Hope.*

Sir,

How can we criticise the press for saying that croquet is a game played by retired vicars, army officers and old ladies when it is, and often to a very high standard. It is also played to a background of chinking of teacups, soda syphon whooshing and, at one club, Palm Court music.

Why try and play down one of the most delightful facets of our game (the slightly quaint old world image) when it can be used to our advantage to attract new members to our Clubs? We can offer the relaxing atmosphere sadly lacking in most of to-day's activities.

For a sport that has only 800 registered players we can hardly criticize press coverage. The 2nd best (I am writing this in January) daily newspaper regularly publishes tournament results, sometimes I am sure at the expense of baseball which has a far greater following in this country than croquet.

Little Witcombe House.  
Witcombe, Glos.

Yours  
Andrew Hope.

## A Bisque in Time

from *Mr J.H. Bowman*

Sir,

Surely no member of the Laws Committee is needed to answer *Scorpio's* letter (*C.G. 150, p.8*): all that is required is common sense. The main purpose of a time limit, one would suppose, is to finish the game as quickly as possible, but in order to give the players a last chance and to avoid just chopping the game off abruptly each side is allowed *one* extra turn. How could it ever be fair or reasonable for one side to

have one extra turn and the other any number of turns, depending on the number of bisques left? If the receiver of the bisques has not used them when time is called, that is his own fault; he has had ample opportunity. If when the two turns are over and the sides are level and the game is once again in a position when it could go on indefinitely (until a point is scored), again it seems quite reasonable that the bisques should be able to be used.

Longsight  
Manchester.

Yours sincerely,  
Sagittarius.

## A Question of Tactics No 5 (Winter Gazette 1978)

From *Mr W.J. Eggleston.*

Sir,

I wonder whether it would be better for Red to take the cannon from corner I to 1 back? The next three hoop approaches may be a little difficult but they should be within the scope of a top class player. If, as suggested in the original answer, the rush to corner IV were 2.8 degrees off course to the right, Blue would go off the court due south of 3 back, making the next shot hazardous.

12 Paul Street,  
Shepton Mallet.

Yours sincerely,  
W.J. Eggleston.

*If this were the first break the above suggestion might be equally effective but in a peeling break it is vital to have the ball at the next hoop in order well placed. The 'wafer' cannon from corner I to corner IV is the truest rush possible, the only thing which could go wrong is if it was not hit hard enough: that the rushed ball will end in corner IV could be called a croquet certainty.*

## CROQUET HISTORY QUIZ.

The result of the Croquet History Quiz, the answers to which appeared in the Winter Gazette 1978 is:-

Winner	S.S. Townsend	70.4%
Runner-up	N.O. Hicks	55.6%

Jim Townsend is to be congratulated on a remarkable feat of research, involving reading through numerous back numbers of the Gazette and hundred year old copies of *The Field*.

A few comments on the answers:-

- I must apologise for one wrong answer published in the last Gazette. The youngest winner of the Spencer Ell Cup was not S.Tapp in 1978 but S.J. Wright in 1976 when he was only 18 years 11 months.
- Australian Test Match cricketer who was an Associate. Nobody got F.R. Spofforth. Admittedly I only stumbled upon it by chance. He joined the C.A. in 1907 (4 months before Maurice Reckitt) but does not appear ever to have played in a tournament. By profession a tea merchant, he left Australia and lived in Hampstead. He occasionally played for Derbyshire (with qualifications that were disputed) and took a vast number of wickets at a negligible cost in club cricket for Hampstead up to the age of 50 or more.
- Best Ten or Eight competitor who became C.A. Secretary. Everyone got Mrs Apps but nobody remembered Richard Rothwell. *Sic transit gloria!*
- Nobody remembered the three ball triple peels in the Open Championship by G.N. Aspinall in 1974 and K.F. Wylie in 1978.

In view of the interest shown in this Quiz, I hope to publish another before long.

D.M.C. Prichard.

## DEVELOPMENT OFFICER'S REPORT FOR 1978

During the early part of the season six courses were held, a total number of 55 attending. Beginners Courses were held at Bisham Abbey and Lilleshall Hall National Sports Centres; three courses for Middle Bisquers at Ellesmere, Harrow Oak and Parkstone Clubs; and a Laws Course at Hurlingham at which 7 took the Referees Examination and all passed.

Four new Clubs were registered during the year — At the Barbican in the City of London (primarily for residents), Old Bancroftians, who play at Bancroft School, Woodford Green, Essex (primarily for old boys of the School, but hopefully boys still at the School will be encouraged to play); I.C.I. (Plastics) at the works in Welwyn Garden City; and the Reckitt Club for Oxford graduates. Two new Clubs are in the process of being formed — at I.C.L. (Training) at Beaumont, Old Windsor, Berks; and at Lilleshall Hall to utilise the Lawn that is otherwise only used for courses once a year. Other possibilities for 1979 are at Woolwich Arsenal and Woodsome Hall Golf Club (in the Northern Federation's area), also there has been a suggestion to form a permanent Club at Himley Hall (Dudley Teachers Centre) where the West Midlands Federation play their tournaments.

An Exhibition match was played in the Parks at Oxford in late April at which Nigel Aspinall and Robin Godby took part at which there was an attendance of around 50. Croquet at the University is certainly being revived. For the first time Oxford beat Cambridge in the Inter-Varsity match at Hurlingham. A half blue is now awarded for Croquet, and the University Club entered the Longman Cup Competition for the first time, and now the Reckitt Club has been formed as a counterpart to the Heley Club at Cambridge.

Considerable credit must be given to the Northern and West Midlands Federation for the work they do in fostering, encouraging and organising croquet in their areas. Northern Counties entered a team for the Inter-Counties Championship this year and performed with great credit, and maybe West Midlands will soon follow suit.

Our numbers continue to rise year by year, if even but steadily and not spectacularly, and many not so old are taking to the game. This is good but it must be remembered that the large majority of our members are old and Clubs cannot afford to become complacent. There must be many thousands of people of all ages who play croquet of some sort in private gardens. It is up to Clubs and Associates to try and ferret these people out and get some of them at least into Club Croquet. Although many Clubs are finding it difficult to make ends meet financially there is no doubt that belonging to a croquet club is very good value for money.

R.F. Rothwell.

## WEST MIDLANDS FEDERATION OF CROQUET CLUBS.

In 1978 the West Midlands enjoyed another successful season. The annual match against the Northern Federation at Southport resulted in a victory for the West Midlands by 8 games to 1. A Scottish team was entertained at Himley Hall at the end of the season and on this occasion the West Midlands won by 8 games to 4. This match was followed by the Golf Croquet tournament for the Sunday Mercury Rose Bowl, won by Howard Bottomley of Walsall who narrowly defeated Malcolm Smith — one of our Scottish visitors — in the Final. Rosemary Flutter (Sandwell) repeated her success of last year by winning the Tilly Bowl tournament held at Edgbaston for players handicapped 8 and above. The three weekend tournaments at Himley were reported in the Winter Gazette.

The final positions in the West Midlands League were as follows:

	P	W	F	A	Pts
Walsall	10	8	17½*	12½*	16
Stourbridge	10	7	21	9	14
Wolverhampton	10	6	19	11	12
Edgbaston	10	5	18	12	10
Sandwell	8	1	9	19	2
Bromsgrove	8	1	3½*	20½*	2

\*game unfinished.

Congratulations to **Walsall** on winning the trophy in a very unusual way, conceding more games than three other clubs, but losing just two matches — to Stourbridge and Bromsgrove.

The usual full Programme of activities is planned for the coming season, with the addition of an Open Weekend at Edgbaston in June, which Richard Rothwell has kindly agreed to manage. A.J. Girling, Chairman FWMCC.

## Inter-Club Championship. Draw.

**1st Round.** Hunstanton Bye. Southwick v Nottingham  
Roehampton v Colchester. Harrow Oak v Heley Club  
Hurlingham v Compton. Wrest Park v Cheltenham.

**2nd Round.** Colworth v Phyllis Court.  
1st Round to be played by 24th June.  
2nd Round to be played by 22nd July.  
Semi-final to be played by 2nd September.  
FINAL to be played by 8th October.

## OBITUARIES

### W.B.C. Paynter.

Cam Paynter was a much beloved member of the croquet world. When he retired in Australia he came to live near Southwick, where he played croquet for a number of years. His free and easy and apparently casual approach to the game was deceptive, and he was not easy to beat. In his heyday he played twice in what was then the Surrey Cup competition.

In his will he left £100 to the Association, and his name is accordingly being inscribed in the Benefactors Book.

R.F.R.

### William H. Carlisle F.R.C.S. (Ed) F.R.C.O.G.

Bill Carlisle who died in February retired to Sedgford from Wisbech a few years ago. He decided he would like to play croquet and, encouraged by his son Hugh, joined the Hunstanton Club where he quickly mastered the game and with his meticulous attention to detail soon became proficient and was a difficult player to beat. He did a great deal for the Club and would cheerfully undertake carpentry and mowing and anything that needed doing. He was always willing to help beginners and joined in all Club activities. He will be very much missed by all his friends, both in and out of the Croquet world, and especially by those of us at Hunstanton.

J.N.R.

Mr Carlisle went to Wisbech in 1934 and continued in private practice until the establishment of the National Health Service when he became Consultant Surgeon for the North Cambridgeshire Hospital Group. A man of outstanding ability and compassion, his work in obstetry and gynaecology was recognised in 1969 when he was awarded the singular honour of being admitted as a Fellow R.C.O.G. without examination. It is said that he brought well over 5000 babies into the world. He was a member of the Apothecaries Guild, a Freeman of the City of London and, in recognition of his services to local government, he was granted the freedom of the Borough of Wisbech. (from Eastern Daily Press).

## THE MACROBERTSON SHIELD.

### 1st Series.

#### Great Britain v Australia at Christchurch. 8th — 10th January.

##### First Day. Doubles.

**G.N.Aspinall and B.G.Neal** beat W.H.Smith and C. Pickering +10 +7. After an in and out start Neal went from 4th hoop to 4 back on a three ball break. Little progress followed. After lunch Aspinall kept the innings for a number of turns and got to the peg. Many short hoops and roquets were missed before G.B. won +10.

**2nd Game.** Smith ran a risky 1st hoop and went round. Neal tried to peel him out but failed himself at 1 back. Pickering just failed to wire himself behind 1 back and Aspinall hit the quarter ball. He went round in a splendid turn and pegged out Smith and himself. Pickering got from 1st to 1 back before Neal pegged out to win +7.

**M.E.W.Heap and W. de B.Prichard** beat Mrs L.Bray and C.R. Sloane +21 +19. Prichard was first to 4 back and a few turns later Heap played well to go to the peg. Prichard soon pegged out +21 to G.B.

**2nd Game** With good sound play Prichard was soon on 4 back and Heap on Rover; after Australia had made seven points G.B. won +19.

**D.K.Openshaw and M.Murray** lost to **M.Prater and Miss D.M. Wiesner** —12 +26 —2. Prater set up a good break to 4 back and Miss Wiesner started on a triple. She failed at 3rd, letting Openshaw in but he too failed at 3rd. Later Openshaw hit a 'last' shot and went to 6th. A miss saw Murray go to 4 back leaving a wide cross peg. Australia hit the lift to win +12. **2nd Game.** Good play from G.B. saw Openshaw on 4 back and Murray doing the 4 back peel as he went round in a difficult break. The missed lift saw G.B. home +26.

**3rd Game.** G.B. not hitting their shots and mistakes from Australia went unpunished. Prater had a good turn doing the 4 back peel and Murray went well to the peg. Miss Wiesner pegged herself and Murray out (Openshaw 2 back; Prater Rover). Even so Openshaw might have won this game had he not ricocheted off the peg and got bad position for Rover, which he tried only to stick on the wire. Australia won +2.

There were a large number of spectators. Brilliant hot sunshine after 11 am. with a gusty wind which seemed to affect the play.

##### Second Day. Singles.

#### 2. Openshaw beat Prater +4 —26 +10

Openshaw looked like losing this first game after in and out play. Prater hit a lot of long shots, and tried long hoops. There was a tense finish with Prater running on to the peg after pegging out Openshaw. Openshaw had to fight hard to win +4. **2nd Game.** Prater played very well to win this game +26 in two turns with a triple peel.

**3rd Game.** Prater was first to 4 back but went off in a take off. Later he ran 6th from the peg but failed at 2 back. Openshaw fought back going to 4 back with a cross peg leave (wide). After a few mistakes Openshaw played a splendid break to the peg and soon won +10.

#### 4. Prichard beat Miss Wiesner +10 +11

Prichard took what seemed a risky shot when Miss Wiesner was laid up, but he hit and went to 4 back. His triple was foiled by getting wired at 1 back. When he later stuck at Rover, Miss Wiesner went to 4 back. Prichard hit the lift to win +16. **2nd Game.** Another sound game from Prichard after Miss Wiesner had played well to get to 4 back early. He always looked to be in command and won +15.

#### 6. Neal beat Sloane +12 +15

Although Neal was round to 4 back quite early the game was not finished until 3.15 when he won +12. Both players found the lawn tricky and the gusty wind affected them.

**2nd Game.** Neal started well going to 4 back early but he

broke down on his triple at 3 back. With two balls at his hoop Sloane went to 4 back. Neal got to the peg in stages and when Sloane stuck at penultimate Neal laid up cleverly to give Sloane a hampered shot. Neal won +15.

A lovely hot day (95° F) with a gusty wind. We now had an unassailable lead 5 — 1. Both teams were entertained to a Barbecue by Roger Murfitt and his family, in the evening.

##### Third Day.

#### 1. Aspinall lost to W.H. Smith —5 +14 —7.

After a few mistakes both players were on 4 back. Later Aspinall began a triple but broke down at 1 back from which Smith went to the peg, and when Aspinall missed a return roquet Smith went out to win by 7.

**2nd Game.** After both players missed a few hoops Smith went to 4 back. Aspinall made a couple of three ball breaks but was still sticking in hoops. A wired leave at which Smith shot only to stick by the hoop enabled Aspinall to go out to win +14.

**3rd Game.** Smith joined wide tempting Aspinall to shoot: Aspinall did shoot, hit and went to 3 back which he over approached but was missed and went to 4 back laying up. Smith cornered but Aspinall collected the balls for a triple only to break down at the 6th. Smith got to the peg in snatches and when Aspinall hit in — he was not hitting in well — he stuck in penultimate which gave Smith the game +7.

#### 3. Heap beat Pickering +18 +15

Heap got to 1 back early and later to 4 back. Pickering was not hitting in well and Heap took his second ball round in stages to win +18

**2nd Game.** Although Pickering was in first (to 2 back) there followed some patchy play until Heap played accurately to 4 back and then the other ball to the peg, leaving a wide cross peg. He then made a superb rush from corner IV to 4 back and went out to win +15.

#### 5. Murray beat Mrs Bray +9 +26

Mrs Bray took an ill-advised shot at Murray near 1st hoop which missed and he had all four balls well placed, but stuck at 2nd. He retrieved the situation but failed at 3rd. In again, he went to 4 back. Mrs Bray hit the lift and followed to 4 back with a tidy break. She started on a triple peel but stuck in 6th. This let Murray in and he went to the peg with his backward ball doing the 4 back peel and leaving a tight cross-peg. Mrs Bray hit the lift but broke down at 3 back. Murray had to retrieve the innings twice before he won +9.

**2nd Game.** From a mistake by Mrs Bray at the 1st hoop Murray went to 4 back. His second ball stuck at 2 back but his luck was in: Mrs Bray missed from 3 yards and he went on to the peg, doing the 4 back peel. Mrs Bray missed the lift and Murray won convincingly +26.

#### Great Britain beat Australia 7 — 2

Another hot day. The hospitality, as always enormous and the catering all that could be desired. The Official Welcome took place at Lincoln College the following day and after the lunch the team set off in their mini-bus to Westport. They passed through Lewis Pass and over Buller Gorge but there was a thick mist and they did not arrive until 10pm. The mist persisted the next day and there was heavy rain but the team put in some practice on the sodden lawns. Herbie Ford (1962 N.Z. team), Mr & Mrs Devitt, formerly of Compton Club and Dr & Mrs Wheeler (on a flying visit) called in to see the team.

#### Great Britain v New Zealand at Westport 13—15 January

##### First Day. Doubles.

**Aspinall and Openshaw** beat Prince and Anderson +17 +16. After a sparring opening Openshaw hit a long shot but failed at 1st to let in Anderson; he went to 4 back. Aspinall hit and laid Anderson hit and laid. Openshaw hit and went to 4 back. Anderson hit and laid. Openshaw hit and laid; then Aspinall

picked up a difficult break, peeling at 4 back. Anderson missed and Openshaw went out to win +17.

**2nd Game.** A missed cut rush by Aspinall let Prince in but he failed at 6th. Aspinall went to 4 back. Prince soon hit in and went to 4 back. Later Anderson took a risky shot and Openshaw went to the peg. Another good game for G.B. in a good match. +16.

Heap and Prichard lost to **Skinley and Jackson** -16 +15 -4. With a long cut rush to 1st Heap got going to 4 back. After a miss by Prichard, Jackson hit in and went to 4 back. Later Skinley hit and a triple looked likely but he failed at 4th. Prichard took a risky shot which hit but could not progress. Later Skinley did the double peel to win by 16.

**2nd Game.** Heap picked up a break out of nothing to 4 back. Later Jackson approached 1st from side boundary opposite peg, ran a 5 yard hoop and established his break to 4 back. After a few missed chances by Skinley, Prichard went to 4 back and thence to peg. Heap muffed penultimate to let Skinley in on the lift but he could do nothing right in this game. Heap pegged out one and Prichard hit the peg soon to win +15.

**3rd Game.** Prichard started on a three ball break but failed at 4th. Skinley was first to 4 back. Jackson started a triple but failed at 4th. Many failures at hoops ensued, Heap had many attempts at 3rd but when he did make it he did the 4 back peel. Jackson got to the peg in slow stages. Prichard hit and went to peg but failed to peg out Jackson. Heap ran 1 back narrowly, was hampered at 3 back and ran a long 4 back but failed at penultimate. Skinley lifted to his partner in baulk and went out to win by 3.

Murray and Neal lost to **Murfitt and Hogan** -4 +13 -3. Neither side could get going but when Murray was on 6th, Hogan hit a long shot to go to 4 back. Later Neal got a break going with a good split to 2nd and also went to 4 back. Murray went to the peg but got hoop bound after Rover and had to surrender the innings. They regained it but Neal stuck at penultimate to let Murfitt in on the lift and he went out with a fine double peel to win by 4.

**2nd Game.** Murray went early to 4 back. Neal went to peg doing a standard leave. With Murray for Rover, Hogan hit the lift and later had a good break to 4 back. Neal hit. Hogan again hit the 'last' shot and Murfitt looked set when he missed a short shot at 5th. This gift was snapped up by Murray who hit in to win +13.

**3rd Game.** Hogan was first to 4 back. Neal followed after a lucky escape at 2nd. Murray then got going but missed the return roquet after Rover and ended in baulk. Murfitt threw this gift away at 5th. Neal missed at 10 yards but hit the next shot but missed a return roquet at penultimate. Play deteriorated with long hits and short misses and tactical errors. Murray hit the 'last' shot after Murfitt had laid a rush for the peg but Hogan retaliated by hitting the balls laid at Rover (for Neal to go out). The narrowest of victories to N.Z. +3.

**2nd Day. Singles.** (The conditions for the Shield require singles to be played in order of merit on current form. This does not apply to Doubles where the Captain has the option of choosing and changing the pairings and of playing them in any order. The order to be declared to the manager prior to the relevant Test).

1. Aspinall lost to **R.V. Jackson** +12 -3 -17.

Aspinall set a rush on the tice. Jackson shot back at his tice, missed and Aspinall went to 4 back. Starting with his second ball he missed the rush by jumping the ball, and later when he had got going again his ball lurched sideways into a hole at 6th. After Jackson stuck at 3rd Aspinall progressed to 2 back and laid Jackson cross-wired at 2 back (no lift) with the balls behind 3rd. Jackson hit this shot but neither side made much progress until Jackson stuck at 6th when Aspinall went to peg and after a risky lift shot of Jackson's which missed, Aspinall went out from 3 back to win +12.

**2nd Game.** Aspinall looked set on a three ball break but stuck in 6th. On this Jackson went to 4 back, doing a standard leave Aspinall cornered. Jackson broke down twice at 3rd. Aspinall after a few errors went to peg doing the penultimate peel. He hit in again but when set to go out he went off. Jackson from here brought off a spectacular straight triple peel needing a straight eye and cool nerve: the penultimate and Rover peel were very long and a mistake would have given the match to Aspinall. +3 to N.Z.

**3rd Game.** Aspinall got the best of the initial sparring but sent a ball off in a croquet stroke. This was his only mistake in a high class game but when both players were on 4 back Aspinall missed the lift and Jackson went out with a triple peel to win the game +17.

3. Heap beat Dr Allan Anderson +3 +26

Anderson was first to 4 back after Heap stuck at 4th. Heap joined him there with an accurate three ball break. Mistakes, with some progress followed - a missed risky shot by Heap saw Anderson on the peg but a missed return roquet allowed Heap to peg out his opponent's Rover. Heap made his last three hoops with care to win +3.

**2nd Game.** Playing with accuracy and determination Heap went out in three turns (no peels) to win +26.

5. Murray beat R.J. Murfitt +26 +6

Murray took full advantage of Murfitt's inability to hit in and although the odd thing went wrong he kept the innings, did the 4 back peel (although the peelee had lodged on the wire) and won +26.

**2nd Game.** Full of confidence Murray took a risky shot at his own ball which missed and Murfitt went to 4 back. After Murfitt's second ball stuck at 4th, Murray got going but stuck at 5th. Later Murray went to 3 back but failed to wire his leave and Murfitt hit only to stick at 3 back himself. Murray now took command to win +6.

The score was 3 matches all. It was fine all day; play was good.

**3rd Day.**

2. Openshaw lost to **J.G. Prince** -12 -26.

Openshaw made 1st hoop and laid up. Prince hit but was short in his take-off and missed into corner I. From the cannon Openshaw went smoothly to 4 back. Prince hit the standard leave and went to 4 back. Although Openshaw missed the lift, the ball by the peg was unrushable to 1st; Prince over-approached the 1st and resigned the innings. Openshaw let Prince in at 6th who started but abandoned a triple and went to peg. The lift was missed and Prince won +12.

**2nd Game.** Prince got early to 4 back, saving his break with a very long 3rd hoop. In continuous drizzle Openshaw was just missing his lift shots and Prince again played a good tactical game to win by 26.

4. Prichard beat P. Skinley +12 +22.

Prichard set a rush on the tice. Skinley hit but after a remarkable 2nd hoop went off in corner II getting behind his partner ball. Prichard hit and playing extremely well went to 4 back, doing the new leave (Opponents balls tucked behind 2nd and 4th, strikers balls on East Boundary with rush to ball at 4th). Skinley shot at ball near 4th, missed it but went through hoop to boundary. Prichard had a triple set but after 4 back played with the wrong ball. From this Skinley went to 4 back. Play became patchy but Prichard always looked in command and confident. After Skinley failed at 4 back Prichard ran Penult, but his rush to Rover was baulked by peg. He ran a difficult Rover to the boundary and hit the 9 yard return roquet to win +12.

**2nd Game.** The court was waterlogged but an appeal to stop was disallowed. After misses at 1st and 2nd hoops play was stopped. On resumption Prichard took control and completed a fine triple. +22.

The whole Test was in the balance 4 matches each.

6. Neal lost to **J. Hogan** +9 -4 -26

After Hogan shot at Neal and missed in corner II, Neal ended on 4 back doing a tight leave. Hogan hit and went to 4 back well, but failed to roquet his own ball. Hits and misses followed until Hogan started a triple only to miss a roquet at 1 back after the 4 back peel. Neal got to peg and laid at 4 back Hogan hit but went off and Neal went out +9

**2nd Game.** It was pouring with rain and an in and out game resulted. Hogan, who hits the ball exceedingly hard, hit in the better but both missed hoops and roquets. When Hogan missed the short lift with Neal on 3 back and peg it looked over, but Neal missed a roquet and did not make 3 back. When Hogan missed again Neal tried to tidy up the break before running 3 back but again failed to get position, and had to corner. (Neal has replayed those turns in his imagination many times since, quite differently). Hogan took command, mastered the court, and from 6th hoop he peeled his partner at 4 back, back-peeled at penultimate and pegged himself and Neal's Rover out. Neal made 3 back but failed at 4 back while Hogan ran Rover and pegged out at the second attempt, to win +4.

A cool performance for an International debut. Play was abandoned for the day because of heavy rain.

**4th Day. 8.30am.**

The deciding game of this Test was played in bright sunshine with a slight breeze which had dried out the court. Neal took the short shot at Hogan's balls on East boundary with the 4th ball, missed and Hogan went to 4 back. Hogan followed with a confident break to the peg leaving a close cross-peg after doing the 4 back peel. Neal missed and Hogan went out to win +26 in under an hour.

This is the first Test match New Zealand have won against Britain since December 1950 and there was not only delight in their camp but they gained added confidence from the win.

**New Zealand beat Great Britain by 5 matches to 4.**

**Australia v New Zealand at Gore 17-19 January**

Smith and Pickering lost to **Prince and Anderson** -26 -10  
Prince did a Triple peel in 1st game.

Prater and Miss Wiesner lost to **Jackson and Skinley** -26 +10 -26. Jackson did two triple peels.

Mrs Bray and Sloane lost to **Hogan and Murfitt** -12 -25  
Hogan did a straight triple in 1st game.

**Singles.**

1. Smith lost to **Jackson** -14 -3
2. Prater lost to **Prince** -8 -12(TP)
3. Pickering lost to **Hogan** -24 +4 -22
4. Miss Wiesner lost to **Anderson** -17(TP) +11 -26(TP)
5. Mrs Bray lost to **Skinley** -5 -17
6. Sloane lost to **Murfitt** -16(TP) -14

**New Zealand beat Australia by 9 matches to 0.**

*At end of 1st Series.*

**New Zealand 2 wins. G.B. 1 win. Australia 0.**

**Nelson.**

While New Zealand were playing Australia we drove to Nelson which took us through Buller Gorge. A stop at lake Rotoiti and a detour through the lovely forestry areas was well worth it, in spite of untarred roads, - now rare. The party spent the next day with Gordon Rowling who took them to the source of the Wakari river and on the beach at Kaiteriteri in glorious sunshine followed by supper and drinks with the Rowlings. Afterwards they played snooker and admired Croquet groups, covering many years on the walls. The perfect weather lasted

and the team practised at Nelson Club. Lack of rain has made the lawns dry with bare corners and suspect boundaries. There are no trees round this Club to give shade against the sun.

**2nd Series.**

**Great Britain v Australia at Nelson 22 - 24 January.**

**1st Day. Doubles.**

**Heap and Prichard** beat Prater and Miss Wiesner +13 +13

Heap stuck in 4th and from this Miss Wiesner went to 4 back, but the balls at peg and 2nd were too close and she had to give up the innings. Heap picked up a difficult break to 4 back. Prichard later failed at 3 back and Prater got going at the second attempt (he did an enormous pass roll to 1st, giving his own ball too much push) but when he got hoop-bound at 3rd Heap went to peg. Prichard got hoop-bound at 4 back, letting Prater in with the four balls - but he failed at 5th. Prichard went out to win +13.

**2nd Game.** Prater got round to 4 back early. Heap hit the lift and laid. Prichard made 1st and laid for Heap who looked set but he failed at 3rd, letting Prater in. Prater missed the return roquet after 4 back and Prichard double-peeled and pegged him out. With Heap for 3rd the balls were laid, not quite wired behind the hoop. Wiesner hit the fraction but made no progress while Heap made a hoop a turn and then picked up the third ball for a superb break to win +13.

**Openshaw and Neal** beat Smith and Pickering +3 +16

Smith ran 1st hoop after a huge pass roll but at the 2nd he rolled too far. Openshaw was first to 4 back. Pickering hit a double in corner IV but failed at 4th. Neal joined his partner and from this Pickering went to 4 back. Then, in turn, Neal and Smith went to 3 back. The end of the game was poor but it was Smith who made the last mistake at Penult. and Openshaw pegged out to win +3. They were lucky.

**2nd Game.** Early on the Australians had chances, some from hits and some from gifts but they were over-rolling their hoops. Openshaw went to 4 back in two turns and laid Neal, almost wired, at his hoop (2nd). Smith took this shot and hit the hoop giving Neal a set position for the triple peel, which he executed with ease to win +26.

**Aspinall and Murray** beat Mrs Bray and Sloane +26 +20

Aspinall picked up a break out of nothing on a tricky lawn and went to 4 back. Murray followed, got hoop-bound at 3 back but was missed by Sloane. Aspinall went to peg. Murray gave Mrs Bray only one shot after he pegged out his partner's ball. He then pegged out to win +26.

**2nd Game.** G.B. played a scrappy game but their opponents could not take advantage of mistakes; they could not master the tricky lawn. Aspinall played with fine touch to get both balls out of baulk after running 4 back - but in the next turn he stuck in Penult. from good close position. It was that sort of game. +20 to G.B.

**2nd Day. Singles.**

1. **Aspinall** beat Smith +9 +23

Smith started to get going. He was lucky, when going off, just to hit the ball in corner II. He then over-rolled 2nd. Aspinall left the ball by 2nd and laid for 1st. Smith tried the 2nd and stuck. This saw Aspinall to 4 back. Smith soon hit in but again failed at 2nd and then at 3rd. Aspinall joined. Smith ran a difficult 3rd hoop but went off in corner II to give Aspinall another great chance; it evaporated when he stuck at 1 back. Smith now went to 4 back. A period of cornering, laying off and mistakes at hoops followed with Aspinall making better progress. Aspinall ended splendidly going out on a two ball break with Smith's balls in opposite baulks. +9.

**2nd Game.** Aspinall picked up a good break to 4 back after Smith had missed a return roquet at 1st. In spite of the gusty wind Aspinall now played perfectly to go to peg, doing the 4 back peel and doing a N.Z. leave. When Smith missed Aspinall went out +23.

**3. Heap beat Sloane +5 +16**

A slow game with so little progress that only 7 points had been scored by lunch. Eventually Sloane pegged out Heaps Rover and Heap hit the lift (Sloane together) to go out to win +5. after 7 hours 25 mins.

**2nd Game.** Sloane got in with a promising three ball break but stuck at 1 back. Heap stuck in 1st. After similar incidents at subsequent hoops the rest of the party had to leave as they were entertaining the Rowlings to dinner. Heap won eventually +16.

**6. Neal lost to Pickering -1 -1**

Pickering made a fluent break to 4 back after Neal failed at 1st. Neal retaliated a little later after Pickering's second ball stuck at 2nd. In and out play followed featuring a two ball break for Pickering to 1 back. After getting hoop-bound both at 2nd and 3rd Neal was given a real chance when Pickering missed a short roquet and he took his backward ball to the peg. Neal now faltered: he stuck in 4 back after failing position once; then he got hoop-bound at Penult. Finally when Pickering stuck in 4 back, Neal shot with his Rover and hit the peg! He hit Pickering's balls (he had joined) but failed good position for Rover. After making Rover he missed Pickering's balls who then made 4 back with both but stuck in Penult. Neal missed Pickering wired behind Rover (now Rover and peg) and when Neal missed the peg Pickering went out to win by 1 point after 4 hours.

**2nd Game.** Neither player started confidently and only four points were scored in the first hour and a half. Then Pickering went to 4 back. Another series of laying up and failures at hoops ended with Neal's forward ball on 4 back. Pickering hit and took his backward ball to 4 back. A failure at 4 back later let Neal take his 4 back ball to Rover, but he let Pickering back in by going off, and he too went to Rover. Here the party had to leave. The game ended at 9.30 after Pickering had pegged out Neal to win again by 1 point.

**3rd Day. Singles.****2. Prichard lost to Prater -10 +7 -3**

Prichard stuck in 1st hoop but had an escape when Prater missed a 7 yard roquet on the boundary. Prichard was first to 4 back. In and out play continued throughout the game. Prater ended with a rather careless break rescued by some excellent recovery strokes. He did the Rover peel and won +10. **2nd Game.** It started well with Prichard hitting with the 3rd ball and laying a rush on the ball at peg. Prater hit and went to 4 back. Prichard hit the lift and went to 4 back leaving one ball behind Rover and the other wired by 2nd. He then started on a triple but broke down at 3rd. Later Prater had the chance of the triple but he over-rolled 2 back after doing the 4 back peel. After this there was a fair amount of disaster over the last hoops. It ended rather spectacularly with Prichard cannoning one of his balls on to the peg, leaving the other wired from Prater. Prater jumped 4 back and only narrowly missed the one ball at the peg. Prichard won +7.

**3rd Game.** Prater was first to 4 back and after some in and out play Prichard got there too. Prater failed at Penultimate with his second ball and gave up the innings. Prichard now went round to peg and pegged out Prater's Rover and when Prater missed the lift Prichard was all set to go out, but stuck in Rover on Prater's ball! He had nearly pulled the game out of the fire after many errors on both sides. Australia won +3.

**4. Openshaw beat Miss Wiesner +15 +15**

Miss Wiesner had an early chance when Openshaw missed a 2 yard roquet but she over-rolled 4th when she looked set. The play was in and out marked by failure at hoops, mistakes going unpunished. Later Openshaw took command and went to the peg. He accidentally hit the peg in his take-off to the Rover but rescued himself by hitting his partner ball on the side boundary. Miss Wiesner played good defensive tactics and hit in well but her hoops let her down. Openshaw won +15.

**2nd Game.** Openshaw playing now with confidence went to 4 back. After reciprocal misses at 1st and 2nd hoops Openshaw started on a triple but broke down at 2 back. Play became scrappy with missed roquets by Miss Wiesner and hoop failures by Openshaw — especially round 4 back and Penult. A faulty stroke by Miss Wiesner at Penult. finally let in Openshaw +15.

**5. Murray beat Mrs Bray +13 +18**

Mrs Bray missed Murray's balls in the corner and he went to 4 back, doing the new leave. In his next turn he went to the peg doing the 4 back peel and leaving a close cross-peg. Mistakes now crept in and Mrs Bray made spasmodic progress. Murray pegged out one ball but not until Mrs Bray got herself cross-wired at 5th did he peg out the other to win +13.

**2nd Game.** Mistakes in set breaks signalled the start of this game but once Murray got to 4 back he made no mistake and went out in two turns to win +18, playing beautifully.

**Great Britain beat Australia 7 matches to 2.**

Although in past contests the order of play for the singles has been 1.3.5. one day and 2.4.6. the next, the three Captains agreed that players 1 and 2 should toss as to which of them should play on the 2nd day and which on the 3rd, likewise players 3 and 4 tossed and players 5 and 6. Thus players 1.3.6. played one day and 2.4.5. the next. The British order also changed with Prichard playing at No.2 and Openshaw at No.4. The Australian order gave rise to queries. The weather was glorious and the hospitality, as usual, colossal.

**Napier.**

A beautiful drive to Picton after an early start (breakfast at 6.30 and everyone ready!) was slow on a twisting road through the mountains. Some of the party flew but the remainder had a millpond crossing. Queen Charlotte sound is incredibly beautiful; it is a narrow waterway between forest clad hills, until suddenly the open sea presents itself. Wellington harbour is magnificent and here we took over our second minibus — not as suitable as the one we left behind at Picton. The drive to Napier took five hours and the Masonic Hotel is the best appointed accommodation we have yet met. We put in some practice at Marewa Club the following day.

**Great Britain v New Zealand at Hastings 27-29 January****First Day. Doubles.**

Aspinall and Murray lost to **Prince and Anderson** -11 +10 -2. Prince hit the tice and got his break set but failed at 2nd. Aspinall hit and laid up and when Prince cornered made a fine three ball break to 2 back. Murray got going but got himself stymied and had to scatter. Prince got hoop-bound at 5th and then Murray, after running 5th got lodged against the peg. Anderson gave Murray a good chance when he broke down at 4th on a four ball break. Murray failed at 1 back so Anderson resumed his break to 4 back. Prince picked up the four balls after Aspinall missed the lift and went to the peg. This time Aspinall hit but broke down at 3 back and Anderson went out +11.

**2nd Game.** Prince was quickly on 4 back, playing well, but Anderson stuck in the 1st which gave Aspinall a good break to 4 back also, leaving one ball tucked into 3rd and the other behind 2nd. Murray failed to get position at 1st and when Anderson cornered he failed at 3rd, but subsequently got to 3 back. Anderson missed a short roquet and later stuck in 3rd but he was not hit and started a triple, only to stick in 1 back. Aspinall hit and went to the peg in two turns. Murray escaped when Prince missed his balls after he got hoop-bound at 3 back and he went out to win +10.

**3rd Game.** Anderson went quickly round to 4 back. Prince started but took off short after running 1st and missed a boundary ball. After Murray had failed 1st hoop twice Prince got hoop-bound after 3rd. Aspinall hit and accepted the gift

break to 4 back. Anderson missed a short roquet after hitting the lift, Murray stuck at 3rd, but Prince missed the double at his hoop and Murray thankfully went to peg, leaving a wide cross-peg. With the game in his grasp Aspinall stuck in Rover enabling Anderson to go to Rover. Aspinall, perhaps from frustration, took a dangerous shot at the opponents leaving a ball at Prince's hoop — and missed. Prince took full advantage and ended the turn by pegging out Murray and himself and leaving Anderson in position for Rover. Aspinall missed. Anderson ran Rover to boundary, hit Aspinall's ball, took off long and missed the peg! Aspinall missed. New Zealand won +2. This was so nearly a British victory — a safety leave when Prince had no immediate break might have saved this game.

**Prichard and Heap lost to Jackson and Skinley -21 -3**

Jackson picked up a break well but failed at 2nd. Later Heap got a break set with a cannon out of corner III but failed at 3rd, and then got wired at 6th. Skinley failed at 1st. Later Jackson went to 4 back aided by a cannon out of corner I to 2 back and 3 back. Prichard cornered but Skinley got going until he was faulted doing the 4 back peel. When Heap missed this, Jackson attempted a two ball triple but had to scatter. Later he failed at Rover to let Heap in but a mistake at 6th and a missed lift saw Skinley peg out to win +21.

**2nd Game.** After several mistakes round 3rd hoop Skinley hit in and went to 4 back. When Heap hit the lift only to stick at 1st, it looked as though a triple was on, but Jackson failed with his own ball at 4 back. On this Heap went to 3 back. Later when Skinley failed at Penult. Prichard hit and got into the action, only to fail at 6th, and with two balls at his hoop Jackson went to the peg. Skinley stuck in Rover, Prichard hit but again failed at 6th. Jackson peeled Skinley and laid for the peg. Prichard hit this 'last' shot and went to the peg in a splendid turn. New Zealand played good defensive tactics. Heap got through 3 back in two bites and laid for 4 back. He then made 4 back and with two fine rushes made Penult. He looked to be going out but made a bad approach to Rover and with the opponent's in corners I and III he tucked himself behind the hoop. Jackson hit the 9 yard lift and laid up in corner IV. Heap missed and New Zealand won +3.

**Openshaw and Neal lost to Hogan and Murfitt -16 -12**

Hogan picked up a good break to 4 back and Murfitt followed later to the peg, leaving a wide cross-peg. Although Neal missed the lift, he hit when Hogan failed at Penult. and went to 4 back. Openshaw had two chances but failed at 2nd hoop and Hogan and Murfitt made their last few hoops in stages to win +16. **2nd Game.** Hogan converted a three ball break to four and went to 4 back after a 2½ yard angled 3 back! G.B. played defensively until Hogan missed a short shot to give Openshaw a chance — but he failed at 3rd. Later Murfitt hit in and went to Penult, where he stuck. Neal missed a return roquet after 1st and later Openshaw stuttered to 4 back and Hogan got to Peg. Then Neal started on a triple with the balls difficult but failed at 5th on Hogan. He laid for Murfitt who went out in two goes. +12.

So after the 1st day G.B. had their backs to the wall. 0-3 down. The courts were fine and true and fast with the hoops accurate and firm; not too narrow but they 'would not accept rubbish'.

**2nd Day. Singles.****1. Aspinall beat Jackson -23 +25 +12**

Jackson nearly got going on 4th ball but failed position at 1st. He then picked up a break by getting behind a boundary ball from a good distance but got hoop-bound after 1 back, and when Aspinall failed at 4th, he went on to 4 back. Aspinall missed the lift and Jackson went out with a triple peel +23. He never looked like breaking down and is certain of hitting a seven yarder.

**2nd Game.** Aspinall picked up a break from nothing and went to 4 back. Jackson was only in once and a mistake at 2nd saw Aspinall's backward ball on the peg. The wide cross-peg lift

was missed and the game won for G.B. +25.

**3rd Game.** Jackson started spectacularly; he ran the 1st from 2 yards going half way down the lawn — and hit the return roquet to end on 4 back. Aspinall started tentatively and when he underapproached 2nd Jackson started on a triple. A breakdown at the 6th let Aspinall in, and from this he went out faultlessly in two turns with a triple peel to win +12. A great match.

**4. Openshaw lost to Anderson +5 -3 -14**

By 2pm Openshaw was on 4 and 2 back and Anderson was on 1 back and 4 back. Eventually Anderson peeled Openshaw's Rover but failed to peg it out. Openshaw hit the lift and went out after 5 hours to win +5.

**2nd Game.** Anderson went to 4 back after Openshaw had failed at 3rd. He started on a triple but after getting the 4 back peel done he missed a roquet at 3 back. Openshaw then went straight to 4 back. Openshaw had three escapes before Anderson let him in by running on to the wire at Penult. after peeling his partner. Openshaw abandoned his triple and went to the peg, leaving the balls by penultimate and Rover. Anderson hit but got hoop-bound after penultimate, putting this ball to the south boundary. Openshaw missed and Anderson only just got through Rover and failed to hit his partner on the boundary. Openshaw seemed set to go out but sent a ball off. Anderson ran Rover, just nicked the return roquet and pegged out to win +3.

**3rd Game.** With Anderson for 3 back and peg this game was pegged down until 9.15 the following morning. On resumption Openshaw (for 2nd and 4th) could not hit his long shots and although he got to 4 back with one ball, the 3rd baulked the other. Anderson made several mistakes but recovered and won +14.

**6. Neal lost to Murfitt -14 -17**

After Neal went off in corner IV Murfitt went to 4 back. Murfitt started a triple with his second ball but missed the return roquet after running Rover which he had jumped with his partner in the hoop. Neal had an escape when he stuck at 1st and went to 4 back. His second ball stuck at 4th and Murfitt made a difficult Rover with a jump, narrowly hit the roquet and laid in corner III. Neal missed. Murfitt cut rushed on to peg! Neal first stuck at, then made, 4 back but missed his roquet from a few inches. Murfitt won +14.

**2nd Game.** Neither player was hooping well and Murfitt hit his long shots but missed the short ones. They found the pace difficult to gauge and Neal went off three or four times. Murfitt won +17.

**3rd Day. Singles.****Prichard beat Prince. -14 +3 +10**

Prince was first to 4 back. He then started on a triple but broke down at 4 back, on which Prichard went to 4 back. Prichard began to pick up the balls for a triple but missed a roquet after 3rd. Prince got one ball to peg and although Prichard cornered Prince jumped a difficult 4 back and went out to win +14.

**2nd Game.** Prichard went to 4 back after Prince failed at 2nd. He left the new leave which Prince hit from B baulk (the ball at 4th) and went to 4 back. Both players failed at 6th hoop before Prince took his ball to the peg. He then failed at Penult. and Prichard went to the peg, leaving a wide cross peg. Prince hit and later made Penult. and laid for Rover. Prichard hit with the 4 back ball and went out to win +3.

**3rd Game.** Prichard started with great confidence and in spite of hitting the peg when rejoining his partner to lay up, he hit the next shot and went to 4 back. When Prince broke down at 4th Prichard hit in with the forward ball and laid up. Prince took a long (very dangerous) shot — and hit. He tried to triple out Prichard but after this failed twice at penultimate, he left the ball jammed in penultimate and conceded a contact — the first in these Tests. From this Prichard laid up at 1st with one

ball at 2nd and the other in corner IV. Prince hit the corner ball and left a wide cross-wire at 1st hoop. Prichard hit with the forward ball and laid. Prince cornered. Prichard soon got going and went to peg peeling Prince at Rover but rolling on to the peeled ball which he then left by peg. Prince hit the balls near corner IV and rushed Prichards Rover on to the peg! Prichard took position for Penultimate. Prince hit and laid. Prichard hit and made his last two hoops to win the game +10 and a fine match in which there was much good croquet.

### 3. Heap lost to Hogan +16 -9 -20

Hogan went to 4 back but failed with his second ball at 1st and Heap went to 4 back. Hogan hit and laid but Heap hit and went out with a faultless triple +16.

**2nd Game.** Heap went to 4 back after Hogan failed at 1st. Heap seemed to be going round easily but missed a yard roquet after making 5th. Hogan went to 4 back but missed a roquet and ended in baulk. Heap broke down at 2 back. Hogan started a triple but had to abandon it and went to the peg. Hogan then stuck at 4 back and was lucky in that Heap was wired from him. He went on to win +9 for N.Z.

**3rd Game.** Heap broke down at 4 and then at 1 back, whereupon Hogan went to 4 back. Heap hit the lift but again failed at 1 back. Hogan had an escape when stuck in 1st hoop but he went on to win the game, with a superb delayed triple peel, +20 Heaps few errors were severely punished. The Nos 1,2 and 3 matches were of the highest quality, all going to three games.

### 5. Murray beat Skinley +26 -17 +11

Murray made the first six hoops in snatches then hit in with the backward ball and went to 4 back, doing the 1 back peel. Skinley was not hitting his long shots and after Murray got one to the peg Skinley hit 4 back when shooting to give Murray an easy get out +26.

**2nd Game.** Murray stuck at 1st and then at 2nd, on which Skinley went to 4 back. Skinley then stuck at 5th and Murray went to 4 back. Skinley hit the lift and went to the peg doing the 4 back peel. Murray missed the lift and Skinley ran a 3½ yard Penult. down to Rover and went out to win +17.

**3rd Game.** After a mistake each, Murray went to 4 back. Skinley went to the peg in two turns after Murray failed at 3rd. Both players made some progress punctuated with mistakes but two missed roquets of no more than two yards cost Skinley the game and let Murray in to win +11 for G.B. So on the 3rd day G.B. won two out of three matches; it was the Doubles on the 1st Day which lost this vital Test. It was superbly managed by David Curtis who was in the British team in the 1963 tour.

### New Zealand beat Great Britain by 6 matches to 3.

#### Australia v New Zealand at Palmerston North 31 Jan -2 Feb.

Prater and Miss Wiesner lost to Prince and Anderson -26 -7 Prince did a triple peel in first game.

Smith and Pickering lost to Jackson and Skinley -4 -15 Sloane and Mrs Bray lost to Hogan and Murfitt -19 -17

#### Singles.

1. Prater lost to Jackson -26 -22(TP).
2. Smith lost to Hogan -15(TP) -22.
3. Pickering lost to Prince -17 -22.
4. Miss Wiesner lost to Anderson -15 +7 -17
5. Mrs Bray lost to Skinley -15 -16.
6. Sloane lost to Murfitt -16(TP) -8.

### New Zealand beat Australia by 9 matches to 0.

#### At end of 2nd Series.

New Zealand lead with 4 wins.

Great Britain 2 wins. Australia 0.

#### Touring.

While New Zealand were playing Australia our team went to Taupo, the large inland lake where they stayed close to the lake. Close by is Wairaki where steam has been harnessed for electric power. The smell of sulphuretted hydrogen is strong and the holes of boiling water throw mud up a foot high. From there was a long drive over the volcanic area on dusty roads. The hotel at New Plymouth was seedy but we only had to put up with it for two nights. The team walked on Mount Egmont. They went on to Hawera to an excellent 'motor' inn. The beach has grey black sand and lovely rollers. The team practised at Hawera where the lawns are brown after drought for the second year running. Contact was made with the Australian team and their followers - about 30, who were all enjoying themselves enormously.

#### 3rd Series.

##### Great Britain v Australia at Park Club Hawera 5-7 February

#### 1st Day. Doubles.

Aspinall and Openshaw beat Smith and Pickering +14 +24 Pickering did a three ball break to 4 back after Aspinall had gone off. He did the 'new' leave but Openshaw could see the ball at 2nd and hit it going to 4 back. Aspinall stuttered to 2 back while the opponents made little progress. Openshaw got to the peg and Aspinall went out from 2 back to win +14. **2nd Game.** Many mistakes were made at hoops but the British pair escaped many times because the Australians could not hit. At least half a dozen errors went unpunished for G.B. to win +24.

#### Prichard and Heap beat Prater and Miss Wiesner +19 +6

Prichard went straight to 4 back doing the 'new' leave. Prater missed but Heap stuck at 1st, which he did a second time. The Australians came to grief round the 4th hoop and Heap collected the balls for an accurate triple peel to win convincingly for G.B. +19.

**2nd Game.** A patchy start ended with Miss Wiesner doing a splendid turn to 4 back. Prater stuck at 1st and later missed a 3 yard roquet, hit with such force it nearly demolished the corrugated iron fence. Hoops were now made in singles until Prater got to 4 back where he let Heap in who also went to 4 back. When Miss Wiesner got hoop-bound after 4 back Prichard had all the balls and went to the peg doing the Rover peel. His own ball ran on to the peeled ball but he managed a good combination peg out to win +6. A good ending but not such a good game.

#### Murray and Neal beat Mrs Bray and Sloane +19 +14

Murray went confidently to 4 back. Neal stuck in the 6th but went on to fail at 2 back after Sloane missed. Sloane missed and Mrs Bray then hit when Neal stuck in 3 back. She made a hoop at a time but Neal hit in when she stuck at 4th and went from 3 back to peg. Both Austalians stuck at 4th again and Murray went out to win +19.

**2nd Game.** Neal got to 4 back in two turns after Sloane had stuck at 2nd. Murray later started on a triple which went well until he failed at Penult. after doing two peels. Sloane seized this chance to go to 4 back. Neal hit in and laid. Sloane cornered. Murray went to peg, but Neal found the last few points tricky. Eventually he pegged himself out and Murray hit the peg at the first attempt to win +14.

Hurricane 'Henry' had been forecast for the North Island but it came to little - a high wind and a little rain at night. The sun was out with a gentle breeze. Quite delightful.

#### 2nd Day. Singles.

#### 1. Aspinall beat Prater +26 +26

Aspinall collected the four balls from corners and went to 4 back. He then did the first two peels of the triple and left one enemy ball by Rover the other half way down the East boundary. Both Prater's lifts missed and made things easier for Aspinall who won +26 - in devastating form.

**2nd Game.** Aspinall looked to be off again but twice had trouble at the 2nd. Prater shot at him - rather wildly - each time giving Aspinall the four balls - he went to 4 back. Prater hit the lift but missed a roquet at his partner ball. Aspinall took a risky shot which hit and laid at 1st. Prater took a risky shot and missed. Aspinall went to the peg doing the 4 back peel and leaving both balls on the side boundaries. With one hiccup at Rover he pegged out +26.

#### 3. Heap beat Pickering. +14 -4 +25

Heap went to 4 back after Pickering had broken down at 4th. He then started a triple but let Pickering in at 3 back. He approached 1st hoop perfectly from 12 yards and went to 4 back. A spell of in and out play followed with a little progress before Heap collected the balls to go out to win +14.

**2nd Game.** A fine break to 4 back by Heap was followed by an equally fine one from Pickering who did the 'new' leave. But their second balls faltered. Hitting in with his forward ball Pickering went to the peg - his partner being for 2nd. A series of missed hoops, cornering and laying off followed with slow progress until Heap went from 6th to the peg to peg out Pickering. Heap then made 4 back and split but Pickering hit a 25 yard shot at a ball near his 3 back hoop - which he made; a fine diagonal rush to corner II and a good rush to 4 back gave him that hoop but he stuck in Penult. from straight in front. Heap banged at it, hit the wire and stayed there. Pickering made Penult. and had a long roll approach to Rover which he ran to the boundary, hit the return roquet and pegged out to win +4 amid tumultuous applause.

**3rd Game.** Heap hit in to make an accurate break to 4 back. Pickering missed the short lift near corner IV and Heap did the first two peels of the triple but ran Penult. so gently that he only just made it and missed the roquet. Heap made the Rover with both balls in turn but missed the peg out; he put one out and the other was pegged out in his next turn. +25.

#### 5. Openshaw beat Mrs Bray +25 +13

Openshaw started a little stickily and Mrs Bray risked joining, but the second time he went to 4 back, leaving a cross-peg. Openshaw then went to the peg doing the 4 back and Penult peels. A series of errors followed but after Mrs Bray joined close Openshaw made his last four points to win +25.

**2nd Game.** Openshaw got round to 4 back at once but both made many mistakes before Mrs Bray ran the 2nd and collected the balls for a fine break to 4 back. The innings again changed hands many times until Openshaw ran the 6th hoop and set his sights on a straight triple. He did the 4 back peel but only just got through himself and had to roquet his partner. He went to the peg. After Mrs Bray missed the lift Openshaw failed position for Penult. and retired to his partner on a boundary. Mrs Bray joined close and Openshaw went out to win +13.

#### 3rd Day. Singles.

#### 2. Prichard beat Smith +3 +23

Smith was first to 4 back after each had made a mistake. Prichard picked up a good break from the lift and went to 4 back. After some sparring Prichard started a triple with the balls not well placed. He just did the 4 back peel and got wired from this ball after making 4th hoop. A cat and mouse game followed which ended with Prichard pegging out Smith and himself, leaving his other ball in position for Rover. Although Smith got position for Penult twice and hit in once (when Prichard crept to the peg trying to stymie himself and failed) the hoop baulked him and Prichard went out +3.

**2nd Game.** Prichard played well, his croquet strokes and split shots being very accurate. He was soon on 4 back and although he broke down once he did the first two peels of a triple and laid in corner II. Smith shot from the middle and missed and Prichard went out +23.

#### 4. Murray beat Miss Wiesner +21 +4

Murray justified his promotion from No 5 to No 4 by going quickly to 4 back and only just failing a triple peel with a foul stroke at Rover. Miss Wiesner hit in several times but made little progress. Murray made Rover with one and laid for the other but failed to wire and Miss Wiesner shot and missed so Murray went out +21.

**2nd Game.** After both had failed at 1st Miss Wiesner conceded a lift to Murray who missed the 6 yard shot from baulk but hit the 26 yard ball near 2nd! A perfect break from a fluke. However he got hoop-bound after 2nd and turned round and hit the ball near the peg but his luck had not run out. He got hoop-bound at 3rd conceding a lift because he had put Miss Wiesner's ball in 4th - and she missed the 6 yarder. But he only got to 5th. Miss Wiesner then got to 4 back and Murray missed a shortish lift. Miss Wiesner started on a triple peel but it would not run and she failed at 4 back with both. Murray went to 4 back (he had had to give one of Miss Wiesner's balls 4 back). Miss Wiesner took the ball for Penult to the peg and left what looked like a good leave but turned out ill because Murray was awarded a lift. Whereupon he went to the peg and pegged out Miss Wiesner. She did not get in again. Murray played well and confidently for his win +4 and he had any luck that was going!

#### 6. Neal beat Sloane -5 +26 +15

Sloane made his first hoop after 45 mins and Neal after 1hr. Then Neal went straight round to 4 back. Later Sloane went from 2nd to 4 back. When Neal missed the lift Sloane got behind a ball in corner II and he started on a triple peel, but abandoned it and went to the peg, leaving the balls on the side boundaries. Sloane made 4 back and laid but Neal hit and had all four balls. He did the 4 back peel but missed the Rover hoop, hitting the outside wire. Sloane hit the seven yarder but stuck in Penult from 9 inches. Neal missed a four yard shot and Sloane went out to win by 5. A chapter of accidents.

**2nd Game.** A much better game for Neal. He only made a couple of mistakes and went out in about five turns without Sloane getting into the game at all. +26 to G.B.

**3rd Game.** A disjointed start with many errors especially around the 2nd and 4th. However Neal made the greater progress and eventually he back peeled at Rover and pegged one ball out. He had several shots from the side boundary before he pegged out the other to win +15.

### Great Britain beat Australia by 9 matches to 0.

The G.B. team entertained the Australian team to dinner; Ed Hunt and Spencer Buck joined them and so did our faithful supporters Myrtle and Ray Stevens.

#### Great Britain v New Zealand at Wanganui 9-10 February.

#### 1st Day. Doubles.

Aspinall and Openshaw beat Prince and Anderson +25 +7 Aspinall hit Prince's lay in corner I but under approached 1st hoop. Openshaw went to 4 back. Prince missed and Aspinall laid cleverly. Although Prince cornered Aspinall picked up the break splendidly and completed the triple to win +26.

**2nd Game.** Prince was first round to 4 back. Aspinall was the next but only after a couple of missed hoops which did not cost much. Anderson was having a torrid time round 3 back and 4 back and Openshaw had only one chance which he threw away when he missed a roquet after 2nd. Aspinall made Penult and laid for Openshaw, who picked up a good break, doing the Rover peel but failing to peg out. There was quite some play to come before Aspinall pegged out to win +7 in an untypical game full of errors.

Prichard and Heap lost to Jackson and Skinley -3 +8 -3 Heap was first round to 4 back but when Prichard laid up Jackson hit in, and went to 4 back on a three ball break leaving the balls on opposite boundaries cross-pegged and laid in corner IV. After failing at 4th Skinley started on a triple peel

but he ran on to the wire at Penult. Prichard now hit in and went to the peg, peeling Jackson through Rover and pegging him out. Skinley took poor position for Penult and was left there. However he ran it to the peg and thence ran Rover to the boundary and only narrowly missed the peg going 7 yards past it. Things looked set for Heap but he hit hard at 4 back and stuck. Skinley missed the peg. Heap made 4 back and Penult. Skinley hit the 19 yard lift to win +3 for N.Z.

**2nd Game.** Prichard hit with 2nd ball putting one as a short tice from B baulk with his own on first corner spot. Skinley hit the tice but missed the ball in corner I after a split pass roll. Heap had all the balls but got cross-pegged after 1st. A Jackson miss let the break continue to 3 back where a mistake let Skinley in. He made errors at 1st and 2nd which went unpunished. Later after Prichard had reached the peg with Skinley unable to make much progress, Heap had a chance to go out but he first stuck at Penult, then missed a roquet and finally went off by the enemy balls by Jackson's hoops and on this Jackson went to 4 back. Skinley had an escape at 6th but gave the innings back when he went off near 4 back. Heap went out to win +8.

**3rd Game.** After sticking at 2nd Jackson went to 4 back doing the 'new' leave. Heap missed the lift and Skinley got going but stuck at 3 back twice. Heap hit the second time only to go off. Skinley ran a difficult 3 back but got hoop-bound at 4 back. Prichard hit and went to 4 back. Heap then started a triple but abandoned it and carefully went to the peg (55 mins) leaving one ball close to 6th and the other by peg. Skinley took the lift and hit the ball by the peg, but he failed at Penult. Prichard ran 4 back and Penult but under approached Rover. Jackson hit a shortish lift, made 4 back but rushed the ball against the hoop. After running Penult he was wired from this ball but ran the hoop to make the roquet. He made Rover and laid up. Heap missed the lift. Skinley made Penult and Rover and laid a rush for the peg not quite wired. Prichard hit the hoop and Skinley pegged out to win the game +3 - and the match. In both the close games G.B. finishing let them down.

**Murray and Neal lost to Hogan and Murfitt -2 -4**

Many mistakes round the first four hoops ended when Murfitt shot from near the peg and hit the 6th hoop, from which Neal went to four back (from 4th). Murray got started and a miss by Hogan when he failed position at 2nd allowed the break to continue. Trying to set up a triple he went off after making 2 back. Murfitt seized this chance to go to 4 back. Murray hit the lift and playing confidently went to the peg. Murfitt missed the lift but Neal stuck at 4 back. Hogan missed a long shot. Neal was on his way out when he missed a return roquet after Rover. Hogan went from 5th to peg, doing two of the peels. Murray had two shots that missed before Hogan, in spite of a poor rush, pegged out to take the game +2 - after it had looked like a comfortable win for G.B.

**2nd Game.** When Neal failed at 3rd Murfitt ran a good 1st hoop and went on to 3 back where he gave the innings back. After one abortive start Neal went round to 4 back. Hogan missed the lift. Murray, with a lucky escape when he stuck at 5th, went to peg. Murfitt hit the lift and made 4 back and Penult. Neal hit and made 4 back and laid. Hogan hit a shortish lift playing superbly peeled his partner through Rover to win +4 for N.Z.

This evening the Great Britain Team entertained the New Zealand Team and Officials to dinner. A party of 32.

**2nd (and last) Day.** Only three matches could be watched.

**1. Aspinall lost to Jackson -22 -10**

Aspinall made 1st hoop and laid. Jackson hit this long shot and a three ball break took him to 4 back. Aspinall missed the conventional leave and Jackson made 1st hoop - forgetting he was for 2nd! So Aspinall started but a mistake at 4th was fatal as Jackson executed a delayed triple peel in masterly fashion, including a jump at Rover, to win +22.

**2nd Game.** Jackson went immediately to 4 back, and when

Aspinall missed the lift another superb triple followed, but this time when jumping the Rover he could only peg one out. Aspinall undaunted hit the lift and went to the peg on the three balls. Jackson went to the side boundary. Aspinall looked set to repeat this feat but missed a return roquet after 4th hoop. Jackson was wired and went close to the peg. Aspinall missed and Jackson won another wonderful game +10.

**2. Prichard lost to Prince -9 +26 -26**

After a hesitant start from both, Prince went from 1st to 4 back. Prichard hit and went to 4 back. Several turns of laying and missing ensued, then Prichard got his backward ball going but missed a roquet at 1 back. Prince stuck at 2 back with his ball lodged in 4 back. Prichard had to concede this hoop and went to Rover. Prichard failed at 1 back twice while Prince made a few hoops but then Prince got both to the peg and pegged one out. Prichard missed the long shot so it was +9 to New Zealand.

**2nd Game.** Prichard played perfectly to go out on a triple in his second turn. The better the play the shorter the report.

**3rd Game.** Prince hit his tice to 2nd hoop and went easily to 4 back. Prichard cornered. Prince had to run a long 1st hoop but thence had a fine break to peg. He did the 4 back peel but rushed his partner short for Penult. He left this ball in Penult. with Prichard's balls close to peg and Rover, so accurately placed that Prichard had to lift the ball at Rover - and missed. An original leave which was most effective. He won +26. This was indeed a fine match, both players playing well.

**3. Heap lost to Hogan -26 -4**

Hogan won the first game in 47 minutes, from start to finish with a triple peel.

**2nd Game.** Hogan did a straight triple but failed to peg out so put one out. Heap went first to peg and was repeating the process with accuracy and concentration when he was unlucky to get hoop-bound at 4 back. Hogan hit the peg to win +4. A perfect performance by Hogan and a brilliant one by Heap.

**4. Murray beat Anderson +26 +7**

Anderson hit with third ball but Murray hit with the 4th and went to 4 back. The second ball had an escape when it failed at 4th and continued to the peg doing two peels. Next turn Murray went out +26.

**2nd Game.** Murray hit with all four balls in corner II but failed at 1st to let Anderson in to 4 back. Murray missed the lift and after a fortuitous peel at 4 back (on a split shot) Anderson peeled Penult but missed a return roquet after running 3rd. Murray pounced: he went from 1st to peg peeling and pegging out Anderson. From the contact Anderson made two good hoops but with a three ball break set, he missed a long return roquet at 6th. Anderson only hit in once and took position before Murray pegged out to win +7; he played most competently and with confidence. These top four matches were of the very highest order and although G.B. lost three of them the matches were won by good play, not lost by bad.

**5. Openshaw lost to Skinley +7 -17 -2.**

**6. Neal lost to Murfitt -21 -10.**

**New Zealand beat Great Britain by 7 matches to 2.**

**Australia v New Zealand at Rotorua 12-14 February.**

**1st Day. Doubles.**

Smith and Pickering lost to **Prince and Anderson -3 -8.**

Prater and Miss Wiesner lost to **Jackson and Skinley -7**

**+12 -12. SxtP.**

History was made in the 3rd Game. Jackson laid up the Solomon position for a sextuple peel for his partner and Skinley brought it off. The first ever achieved in a Test match and the first in a doubles. A brilliant performance.

Sloane and Mrs Edwards lost to **Hogan and Murfitt -17 -23.** Mrs Edwards was a substitute for Mrs Bray who had been taken



GREAT BRITAIN INTERNATIONAL TEAM 1979

Standing: Martin Murray

Micheal Heap

David Openshaw

William Prichard

Sitting:

Nigel Aspinall

Bernard Neal (Capt)

Bobbie Wiggins (Manager)





**The MacRobertson Shield after the Final Test at Rotorua.**

Australian Team on left: *Standing:* Grace Edwards, Diane Wisener, Colin Pickering, Ron Sloane (player/manager),  
*Kneeling:* Mark Prater, Bill Smith (Captain)  
 New Zealand's Victorious Team on right: *Standing:* Roger Murriff, Joseph Hogan, Bob Jackson, Paul Skirley  
*Kneeling:* John Prince (Captain) Allan Anderson.



*Above left:* Nigel Aspinall (Open Champion) and Veronica Carlisle (Women's Champion) who together won the Hurlingham Mixed Doubles. They beat the Hemsteds in the Final by only three points.



*Above right:* Eric Solomon the 1978 winner of the Chairman's Salver with 13 games. He also won it in 1976 (11 games) and was third in 1977 (9 games).

*Below left:* Stephen Hemsted who won the Top Block in the Wrest Park Opens Weekend and fast becoming one of the most important events in the Calendar.

*Below right:* Andrew Hope who paid a private visit to New Zealand and was invited to play in their Invitation Best Eight.

Photographs by Peter Alvey.





Above left: Time! Barry Keen playing at Wrest Park, where he was also the Manager.

Above right: John Soutter by the 18th Century Pavilion at Wrest Park. Three courts can be seen — the members laid out NINE for one weekend.

Below: Keeping dry at Hurlingham. Hugh Carlisle well prepared to judge whether Roger Wheeler manages to roquet the ball on the wire.



ill and had to have two operations.

**Singles.**

Smith lost to Jackson -24 +17 -5.  
 Prater lost to Hogan -16 +17(TP) -26(TP).  
 Pickering lost to Prince -26(TP) -6(TPO).  
 Miss Wiesner lost to Anderson -12 -23.  
 Sloane lost to Skinley -4 -25.  
 Mrs Edwards lost to Murfitt -10 +14 -26(TP).

**New Zealand beat Australia by 9 matches to 0.**

**Final Result.**

**New Zealand win the MacRobertson Shield with 6 wins.**

Great Britain 3 wins                      Australia 0.

While Australia and New Zealand were playing most of the British team went to Rotorua to see the play — and the geysers, hot springs and bubbling mud. Then they went to Auckland for one night and on to the Bay of Islands in the extreme north. Some visited the old Government house at Waitangi where the original Treaty was signed in 1840, followed by a boat trip through the numerous Islands. Then back to Auckland for the farewell lunch; an impressive occasion with speeches by Sir Keith Holyoake, and the G.B. Manager Dr W.R.D. Wiggins followed by the presentation of the Shield to John Prince who has been waiting for this moment for 16 years — half his life. With speeches from John Prince, Ron Sloane and Mrs Hight the party ended.

**In Retrospect.**

New Zealand fielded perhaps the best side ever seen in this Trophy. Jackson is the most complete player in the world and the surest of shots. He practises an enormous amount — sometimes for many hours a day and he has mastered every stroke and manoeuvre. John Prince has the temperament for the big occasion and he certainly regained his form at the right moment for New Zealand. He was not only steady throughout giving little away when he was in play but was an exciting out-player and was at his most brilliant when it mattered most. Hogan is a fine player and has jumped right to the top class. His peeling turns were masterly especially his straight triples and he was the only player not to lose a match. It is to these three players that New Zealand owe their victory. Skinley did not quite live up to his reputation, being overshadowed by Hogan (who had been placed No 6) but he came into the lime-light with his sextuple in the last Test. The brilliant form of these two twenty-year-olds augurs well for the future of New Zealand croquet. Anderson occasionally reached the form of which he is capable and he combines well with Prince in Doubles while Murfitt played very well at times but made a number of mistakes; neither played up to their 1974 standard.

It must be recognised that Great Britain were up against it. But it was in Doubles that the record is bad. Only Aspinall and Openshaw won a Doubles match against New Zealand and they did not lose a game to Prince and Anderson, whom they beat twice. Heap and Prichard seemed to combine well but their finishing let them down. The Captain, Neal was disappointed at his personal loss of form — he did not win a match against New Zealand — and Openshaw, who lost all three singles, never found the form he had shewn in the President's Cup — he was not able to come to terms with the lawns. Murray had an excellent tour winning his six singles matches. He played with confidence and his carefree speedy play was admired. (Overheard: 'I like that one — he gets on with it. Mind you it's sometimes Sydney or the Bush but that's how croquet should be played.') Heap played beautifully at times but all too often broke down with his break set. He won his six matches against Australia but only one (against Anderson) in the Tests against New Zealand. (Overheard: 'I like watching Michael — you never know what's going to happen. I suppose he can't get shirts long enough to keep them tucked in.') Prichard played consistently well and was promoted to No 2. He won two of

his singles against New Zealand (v Skinley and v Prince) and he seldom faltered when in on a break. Lapses at the end of games let him down. (Overheard: 'I like the guardsman, unusual style you never know when the mallet is going to hit the ball, but why, in this heat, does he play in two sweaters?'). After a shaky start Aspinall played well and if he did not always reach the heights which have come to be expected from him remember that he, as our No 1, was always up against the best opposition in the world.

Unfortunately for many varying reasons the Australians could not muster their strongest side. Their team won the Representative match at Wellington but their successive defeats in the Tests sapped their confidence and they played less well as the series progressed.

As expected the Test matches were superbly organised throughout. The standard of lawns was high and the hoops were correct size and firmly fixed. The provision of lunches and teas everywhere was of the highest standard — nothing was forgotten and they even bent their rules in providing drinks for the players. The general atmosphere of kindness and friendliness will make this a tour which will never become dimmed with the passage of time.

**The end of the story.**

Readers are indebted to Dr W.R.D. Wiggins for his comprehensive reports of the whole series from which the above has been extracted. He spent hours recording everything as it happened and was most prompt in dispatching his bulletins. Mrs Prichard, Dr Bray, Richard Rothwell, S.N. Mulliner and D.R. Foulser have copies of the fuller accounts of matches etc, if anyone would like to read them. As well as becoming an ace reporter Dr Wiggins speeches were a great success. He thought he would spread the load by calling on members of the team to speak (usually without warning) but he was seldom allowed to get away without making a speech himself. Not an easy task when the same people followed the teams around. Myrtle and Ray Stevens have written to say how privileged they felt to travel with the team, which was a very happy party. They have added several bits of colour; after croquet everyone headed for the nearest beach and in the evenings liar dice was wonderful relaxation — and of course there was some bridge. Publicity in New Zealand was good: results of matches were broadcast nationwide sometimes only minutes after they were over. Food was cheap, especially meat and fruit — the nectarines and peaches were luscious and almost the size of croquet balls.

So the party began to split up. Jackie Openshaw was first home, to start her life as a Doctor at St Stephen's, Fulham. Then the Neals (to be greeted by a burst pipe) then Heap — Marianne kept the team up-to-date with the news of snow-bound, strike-bound Britain with her middle of the night telephone calls. She never quite mastered the difference in time — and the hotels never quite mastered which of the team was Mr Heap! On February 18th, the official day of departure, Auckland had the wettest day for 12 years with 5 inches of rain!

**Representative Match. Australia v A New Zealand team.**

**At Wellington 4-6 January.**

*Doubles. (results taken from Australian Croquet Gazette).*

Smith and Pickering beat R.J. Clarke and Mrs V. Boyes +24 +24  
 Prater and Miss Wiesner beat K. Johnstone and M. Ward +9 +9  
 Mrs Bray and Sloane lost to C.E. Anderson and J.Wardle -19 -19

*Singles.*

Smith beat Clarke +16 -9 +3.  
 Prater beat Anderson -7 +20 +26.  
 Pickering beat Johnstone +3 -9 +3.  
 Miss Wiesner beat Mrs Boyes +14 +16.  
 Mrs Bray lost to Ward -22 -4.  
 Sloane lost to Wardle -21 -18.

**Australia beat New Zealand by 6 matches to 3.**

**Distribution of Handicaps.**

The histogram printed in the *Gazette (Summer 1978)* showed the distribution of handicaps at the beginning of the 1978 season. In the schedule below these are compared with the figures for the start of the 1979 season, which are also divided into men and women.

H'cap	1978	1979	Men	Women
-3½	1	1	1	
-2½	3	5	5	
-2	3	3	3	
-1½	5	5	5	
-1	4	2	2	
-½	8	6	6	
0	8	10	10	
½	14	15	12	3
1	16	23	21	2
1½	33	23	22	1
2	14	16	13	3
2½	12	16	14	2
3	31	26	18	8
3½	21	28	24	4
4	17	23	21	2
4½	17	18	13	5
5	68	46	29	17
5½	28	29	21	8
6	15	17	12	5
6½	25	28	18	10
7	13	21	12	9
7½	28	23	13	10
8	42	35	20	15
9	37	37	12	25
10	40	30	11	19
11	15	21	11	10
12	20	14	7	7
13	12	10	1	9
14	11	9	3	6
15	5	3	-	3
16	8	7	1	6

Notes i) Of the 361 men members 72 had one handicap change 32 had two, 7 had three, 1 had six, 1 had seven. 31% of the male membership had at least one change. The lower the handicaps were reduced more frequently than the higher. Taking the middle point of the handicaps of men as 4½, of those of 4 or below 43 had one reduction, whereas of those 5 or more 24 had one reduction.

ii) Of the 189 women members 34 had one handicap change, 13 had two handicap changes. So 25% had a handicap change.

iii) An analysis of the first 16 tournaments in *Croquet Gazette Summer 1978* show that 259 men and 193 women entered for handicap events. There is a disproportionately high number of women compared with the proportion of women to men in the C.A. Yet in 44 events concerned 37 were won by men and only 7 by women.

iv) There were only five raised handicaps during the playing season (up to Amendment list 5). It would seem as though Croquet is a game at which nobody ever gets worse.

L. Wharrad.

**Automatic Handicapping — 1978.**

Locock's system of automatic handicapping was fully explained in *Gazette No 129 (Dec 1973)* and I have drawn it up again on the same lines as last year. Briefly, one point is added or deducted for a win or loss in a handicap game (halved for doubles) while there is a sliding scale according to the handicap differential and to whether the lower bisquer wins or loses in level play. For the first time it has been possible to include results of those week-end or American tournaments whose results were recorded in the new way recommended, giving the total wins of each competitor.

Results are calculated for all players when playing at handi-

cap 3 or better. Minimum qualification 25 games. Players whose handicaps have been reduced during the season are shown separately at each handicap. Percentage plus or minus means net points divided by number of games played multiplied by 100.

**Played at or better than their handicap.**

At hcp.	Name	Games	Percentage plus
1½	J. Rose (1)	8	100
½	B.G. Weitz (2)	6	100
1	Mrs B. Meachem (1)	11	68.2
1½	I.G. Vincent (1)	6	66.7
2	L.S. Butler (1)	9	61.1
-1½	A.B. Hope (2)	6	60.7
2	A.F. Coleman (1)	32	60.3
2	D.R. Foulser (2)	12	59.2
3	D.J. Croker (1)	23	56.5
1	L.S. Butler (3)	11	54.5
3	E.L.L. Vulliamy (1)	14	53.6
1	J.A. Wheeler (2)	17	53
1	J. Haigh (2)	18	51.4
3	Mrs H.B.H. Carlisle (1)	31	50.3
1½	H.C. Green (1)	12	50
1½	J.G.C. Phillips (1)	13	47.7
1½	L.S. Butler (2)	21	47.1
*-1	D.K. Openshaw	48	44.5
1	J.G.C. Phillips (2)	17	44.4
1	G. Roberts (2)	25	42.6
*-½	E.W. Solomon (2)	27	40.7
2½	M.J. Stevens (1)	13	39.4
½	C.H.J. Cousins (3)	14	34.3
-1½	P.W. Hands (1)	44	33.4
-2	P.W. Hands (2)	6	33.3
1	C.H.J. Cousins (2)	12	31.7
1½	G. Roberts (1)	16	28.1
½	T.F. Owen (1)	41	27.9
1½	J. Haigh (1)	54	27.9
2½	E.L.L. Vulliamy (2)	11	27.2
1½	J.A. Wheeler (1)	37	25.7
1	B.G. Weitz (1)	48	25.4
*-½	S.N. Mulliner	79	24.6
*3	G.S. Digby	35	24.3
1½	C.H.J. Cousins (1)	26	23.8
1½	E. Bell (1)	30	23.7
1	I.G. Vincent (2)	34	23.5
-1	S.R. Hemsted	37	23.1
-½	G.E.P. Jackson	75	22
-2	M.E.W. Heap (1)	21	20
*1	S. Tapp	19	19
½	P. Newton	28	16.9
0	G. Roberts (3)	25	16.8
*-1	M. Murray	47	16.2
-1	A.B. Hope (1)	47	14.7
2½	C.A. Parker	28	14.3
0	E.J. Tucker	69	14.1
1½	C.G. Pountney	64	13.7
3	Miss S.G. Hampson	50	13.1
3	D.R. Foulser (1)	14	14
1	J. Rose (2)	30	11.3
1	G.K. Taylor	28	10.7
½	N.W.T. Cox	38	10.5
0	R.A. Godby	55	9.5
1½	A.F. Coleman (2)	12	9.1
½	J.H.J. Soutter	74	7.6
0	J. Haigh (3)	27	7.4
1	H.C. Green (2)	22	7.3
3	G. Henshaw	41	7.1
1	A.V. Camroux	27	5.5
1	W.E. Gladstone (1)	17	4.4
0	E.W. Solomon (1)	13	3.8
-3½	G.N. Aspinall	38	2.5
0	E. Bell (2)	6	0

**Played worse than their handicap.**

At hcp.	Name	Games	Percentage Minus
½	W.E. Gladstone (2)	20	1
1	M. Ormerod	26	1.2
1	Miss F.J. Joly	71	1.3
0	T.F. Owen (2)	56	2.5
1½	D.M.C. Prichard	32	3
0	W.E. Moore	43	4.2
0	W.E. Gladstone (3)	5	5
2½	Mrs A.N. Rolfe	37	5.7
1½	D.R. Foulser (3)	17	5.9
½	J.G.C. Phillips	31	6.8
2	Mrs H.B.H. Carlisle (2)	16	7.8
2	G.F. Hallett	25	8
0	D.V.H. Rees	27	8.5
1	R. Wood	19	9.5
1	Mrs D.M.C. Prichard	61	9.8
2	Miss B. Duthie	25	10.8
1	D.J.V. Hamilton-Miller	26	11
½	H.O. Hicks	29	11.7
3	Mrs N.A.C. McMillan	34	12.1
½	Mrs G.T. Wheeler	47	13.4
½	N.J. Davren	27	14.1
½	J. Rose (3)	16	14.4
-2	B.G. Neal	62	14.8
*-2	W.de B. Prichard	33	16.7
½	G. Borrett	42	19.2
½	E.C. Tyrwhitt Drake	62	22.3
½	Mrs B. Meachem (2)	35	26.3
1	M.J. Stevens (2)	23	27.4
-2½	M.E.W. Heap (2)	13	43.3
-2½	W.P. Ormerod	23	50.4

\* Handicaps subsequently reduced, but have not since played in a tournament. D.M.C. Prichard.

**LATEST SCORE FROM HIGHFIELDS.**

**NOTTINGHAM C.C. 50 Not out.**

"Though old and grey, but certainly not full of sleep" (with apologies to W.B. Yeats), I stand on the pavilion steps and take in a view I first saw 28 years ago. Images and memories overtake me, and I don't seem able to do justice to the situation, where time seems endless. On reflection however, the panorama certainly has not altered, and before me stretch the well manicured lawns, flanked on one side by a magnificent line of Rhododendron Bushes, and what an adornment they are.

On the other side:  
 "MAJESTIC CHESTNUT, LIME TREES FAIR  
 SURVEY BELOW THE SLOW RUN STREAM,  
 OLD FRIENDS AND NEW FOREGATHER HERE  
 AND CHANGELESS IS THE HIGHFIELDS SCENE".

Dare I say it? Almost Arcadian.

While I am in nostalgic mood, and this old Club celebrates its 50th Birthday in 1979, it might be pertinent to touch briefly on the unusual formation of the Club. Sir Jesse Boot (later Lord Trent) — founder of BOOTS — would be regarded by historians as a typical Victorian Entrepreneur, one of the napoleons of industry that transformed the structure and policies of whole industries during the course of the last century. In addition, he was, without doubt the greatest benefactor Nottingham has ever had. It was in 1921, that Sir Jesse instructed Architects and Engineers to prepare plans for developing Highfields. There was to be a new through modern highway (which we know as University Boulevard), a Pleasure Park, Ornamental Lake and Gardens. In the centre of this huge complex, the Nottingham University was to be built together with Students Hostels. The whole scheme was conceived by him as "An essential part of the task of Social Regeneration after the ruin wrought by the War". Late in 1928, a certain Mrs

J. Elliot who was a Croquet enthusiast and played on a private Tennis Court, heard of this huge project and approached Sir Jesse through a friend of hers about a plot of land being allocated to form a Nottingham Croquet Club. In 1929, her request was granted, and as all the land in the Highfields set-up was now under the jurisdiction of the Nottingham Corporation the newly formed Club became a tenant of the Parks Department. Since that time we have paid an Annual Rent to the Corporation which includes maintenance of the Lawns and use of the Pavilion. Mrs J. Elliot became the first trustee of the Nottingham Club, and at the present time, her daughter, Miss K. Elliot who is an ex Councillor and Alderman of this City is also a Trustee, and Vice President.

Several important events are lined up for next year. On Saturday June 2nd, we are having a "Ladies Evening Celebration Dinner" at the George Hotel, when the Guest of Honour will be Miss K. Elliot. I have already had about 50 applications to attend. Should anyone reading this article be interested, please write to me before May 1st, enclosing £1 Booking Fee. On Thursday August 16th, the City Council has granted a Civic Reception and Cocktail Party at the Council House. I still have a few vacancies on my guest list in case anyone is interested. All entrants to our Annual Weeks Tournament August 13th to 18th, are automatically guests and need not apply.

We are the only Major Club in the North Midlands and the North of England capable of promoting Test Matches and first class events promoted by the Croquet Association, and because we exist on the fringe of the Croquet World, we have had to work hard promoting Nottingham as a Croquet Centre. It is no accident that for years, our five lawns are regarded as being as good as any in the country, that we have the enviable reputation of being one of the friendliest Clubs on the circuit, that we are noted for the excellence of our food. For these reasons alone we should be fully supported by every Club and Individual during our Birthday year. Our Club members come from as far afield as Loughborough, Leicester, Burton-on-Trent, Sheffield, Worksop, Stamford, etc, and this seems to indicate that not only are we spreading the Croquet Gospel, but that we are regarded as the Mecca of the North.

We need new members badly, and next year we are going all out for a Publicity Drive. To do this we need the support of all Croquet enthusiasts. Do please, let us have your entries especially for our Jubilee Week End and the August Week.

Buck Bucknell

**CLUBS NEAR AND FAR.**

**Croquet at Tracy Park**

It is surely fitting that Tracy Park Golf and Country Club should add Croquet to the impressive list of amenities which may be enjoyed on the 220 acre estate which it occupies in lovely rolling country, 8 miles East of Bristol and 5 miles North West of Bath.

Last year a croquet lawn was laid out on the previous site of two tennis courts in an ideal position facing the front of the Club's elegant mansion. An appeal for assistance to nearby croquet clubs resulted in a team of six players from the Bristol and Bath clubs visiting Tracy Park early in June for a demonstration and croquet "clinic". This was followed by weekly visits of members of the two clubs. The croquet section was then formally established with a membership of 20 and officers were appointed.

Play continued during the remainder of the season, principally on Wednesday evenings and Saturdays.

With the promise of a second lawn for next season, the future of Croquet in these beautiful surroundings seems assured and yet another club joins the ranks.

W.A. Scarr.

**Ipswich and District.**

Principal Awards in 1978:

Challenge Bowl, Handicap Singles, Mrs A. Zinn.  
Allan Salver, Handicap Doubles, Mr E. Avery and Mr C. Avery.

Miss E.I. Wood retired as Chairman, after 16 years in an executive office. Her drive and unflagging enthusiasm has been of tremendous benefit to the Club.

The new Chairman is: Mr E. Avery,  
The Grange, Prior Road, FELIXSTOWE. Suffolk.**Parsons Green Social and Sports Club (formed 1885).**

In 1909 a few ladies of the Parsons Green Club formed a Croquet section to occupy their time while their husbands played Cricket and Bowls. The Club flourished until World War II when much of their ground was taken over for allotments and Emergency Water Tanks and later this area was purchased compulsorily for a new school. There are now two full size courts and a practice green. It was not until 1956 when we entertained the New Zealand Test team and they gave us a demonstration of how croquet should be played that we were converted to the proper game and became affiliated to the Croquet Association. Then we began to enter outside tournaments and play friendly matches against other Clubs.

We have launched many publicity campaigns and with the help of the C.A. have recruited new members. But our section has never had more than 30 members; we lose them to their careers or they leave London or they find the larger Clubs more attractive. This being our Seventieth year, extra effort is being made to increase our membership: we strive to play a good game and thoroughly enjoy the excellent social side which the Club offers.

# CROKEY

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

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

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

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

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

CROKEY £5.95 plus postage £1.05 in UK.

TACTICAL GAMES 19 NORTHWOLD ELY CAMBS CB6 1BG

**The Handicap Game of 1978.****At Wrest Park Weekend III**

David Openshaw (-2) v Tim Haste (5½)

Haste won the toss and put Openshaw in.

Openshaw 1st Ball: to midway between hoop 5 and Peg.

Haste 2nd Ball: 12 yard tice from B Baulk.

Openshaw 3rd Ball: hit tice and went to Rover — leaving all balls on boundaries.

Haste 4th Ball: using 2½ bisques went to Peg. He left Openshaw's forward ball near 1st hoop, and his backward one near 2nd. His own balls were halfway along East boundary with a rush to hoop 1. (No double).

5th turn. Openshaw shot with the backward ball and went out with a single peel.

*An Olympian, Mentor and Nestor discuss the game with young Hercules.*

*Olympian.* I think it is right for him to put me in but I would have put my first ball 3 to 4 yards North and a little East of Hoop 1 to give myself the easiest possible start if I do get in on the 3rd ball. After all the dice are loaded against me giving 7½ bisques!

*Young Hercules.* Against you?! A minus player can go round in two turns any time — I am the one who needs to make things easier for himself.

*Mentor.* Your bisques are there to make things easier for you. The first thing you must do is to change your state of mind. don't think you are beaten before you start!

*Nestor.* Just concentrate on making it as difficult as you can for him. Even Olympians cannot get going from nothing all the time. No matter where you put the 2nd ball you know he is going to shoot — his placing of his 1st ball advertises that.

*Mentor.* If you leave a tice you give him a free shot, and he does not feel the same sense of pressure.

*Nestor.* In the game recorded the most difficult thing for him is for you to go into corner II.

*Mentor.* Against a lesser mortal corner IV or even a foot out of it would give young Hercules a better chance of getting started.

*Young Hercules.* Right. I go into corner II, What does 3rd ball do?

*Olympian.* I take the 13 yard shot at you in corner II.

*Young Hercules.* It would be nice if you missed. I could shoot and use my ½ bisque if I missed, and with bisques behind me I could soon get the four balls.

*Mentor.* That is the pressure you are putting on him. If he does miss do not try to economise on bisques — use them to make it easy.

*Young Hercules.* Assume he hits and goes to Penultimate or Rover, should I try to peel him and peg him out?

*Mentor.* It is a possibility and adventurous.....

*Nestor.* But not wise. It might take extra bisques and it devalues the remainder — a three ball break would be more difficult for young Hercules. And it would be no use being ultra cautious and using only two balls, Olympian would have too many shots.

*Olympian.* If I were really afraid of being pegged out I would have stopped at Penultimate — or even at 4 back against an immortal.

*Young Hercules.* Where then, when I get to the peg, do I leave the four balls?

*Mentor.* You must give him a long shot and a risky one for him. The longest would be a cross wire at hoop 1 and lay up in corner III.

*Olympian.* I would shoot with backward ball — I have no alternative — and if I hit it would be a doddle.

*Mentor.* And if you miss it would be a doddle for young Hercules — it gives you a shot of over 30 yards, not a bad gamble.

*Nestor.* Young Hercules does not need to gamble. If Olympian does not go out in 5th turn, Hercules is an odds on favourite

to win. I would say a certainty if there were such a thing in croquet.

*Mentor.* An alternative is put to one ball in each corner, making sure to put Olympian's ball for hoop 1 in corner I. *Nestor.* I once spent a sleepless night devising a leave against Taurus Juventus. I discarded the four corners as being too difficult for me to place — I might have to use another bisque. And, even using two bisques, it would be difficult for me to get started should Taurus miss. So I devised the following: Taurus forward ball: Centre North boundary. Taurus backward ball: Centre West boundary. My forward ball: Centre East boundary.

My backward ball: several yards East of Centre of South boundary, (so that it was further from the 1st hoop).

It was reasonably easy to lay and Taurus had no easy shot nor easy break if he should hit. He took the shortest shot available with his backward ball — 21 yards at his forward ball on the North boundary and missed. I went out in the next turn. I remember using the same leave against Spero Africanus. I had fewer bisques by then so he decided to make it more difficult for me by sending his backward ball into corner II, but the leave worked equally well. I have not had the chance to use it since then — oh for those vanished bisques!

*Olympian.* What did I say about the dice being loaded.....

*Young Hercules.* I like it. But as soon as I think I have mastered what to do in a situation, Olympian does something different!

*Constructed from comments from contributors, who wished to remain anonymous, in answer to questions from the Editor.*

**What are the odds?**

There were 36 entries in the Open Championships in 1978. What are the odds that two of the players shared the same birthday?

**Longman Club Team Cup. The Draw.***First Round.*

Ellesmere v Bretby      Southport v Chester.  
Nottingham v Walsall      Bowdon Bye  
Stourbridge v Bristol.      Wolverhampton v Edgbaston.  
Harwell v Cheltenham.      Bath Bye  
Compton v Hurlingham.      Woking v Ryde.  
Roehampton v Southwick.      Reigate Priory v Parsons Green.  
Colworth v Oxford Univ.      Wrest Park v Harrow Oak.  
Colchester v Bentley and Ingatestone.  
Phyllis Court v British Airways.

First Round to be played by 28th May.

Second Round to be played by 1st July.

Third Round to be played by 5th August.

Semi-final to be played by 9th September.

FINAL to be played by 7th October.

The winning team must notify the Secretary C.A. of the result so that the next round can be arranged without delay.

C.A. Office 01-736 3148. Home 0734-475415.

**Stop Press from Auckland.****The President's Invitation Event.**

Skinley was the winner with 12 wins; Prince 10; Hogan 8; Murray 8; Murfitt 6; Anderson 5; Openshaw 4; Hope 3.

*Open Championship Final.* Jackson beat Hogan +19 +5.

W.R.D.W.

**What are the odds? Answer.**

Nearly 5 to 1 on. One pair are known: Stephen Wright and Betty Prichard.

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING to be held at**

The Hurlingham Club on

SATURDAY 2nd JUNE 1979 at 11.30 am.

**1. Minutes of Previous Meeting.**

The minutes of the Meeting held on 29th May 1978 were published on Page 17 of issue No. 148 (Summer 1978) of The Croquet Gazette.

**2. President's Remarks.****3. Chairman's Report for 1978**

This is printed elsewhere in this issue of The Croquet Gazette.

**4. Treasurer's Report.**

The audited accounts for the year ended 31st December 1978 are printed elsewhere in this issue of The Croquet Gazette.

**5. Election of Treasurer. (Rule VIII).**

The retiring Treasurer, Mr A.J. Oldham, offers himself for re-election.

**6. Election of Members of Council. (Rule VI).**

i. The following seven members of Council retire by rotation and seek re-election:—

Dr R.W. Bray, Mrs H.B.H. Carlisle, R.A. Godby, A.J. Oldham, T.F. Owen, E. Strickland, OBE, and Mrs N. Tyldesley.

ii. Mrs B.L. Sundius-Smith retires by rotation and does not seek re-election.

iii. K.S. Schofield retires under Rule XII and seeks re-election.

iv. A.J. Girling, having been proposed and seconded, seeks election under Rule VI (a) (ii).

Thus there are nine vacancies and nine candidates.

**7. Election of Vice-President. (Rule V).**

The Council nominate Dr W.R.D. Wiggins as Vice-President.

**8. Alterations to the Rules.**

The Council propose the following alterations to the Rules:

i. Rule III Amend in 1st line: '28 days' to '24 days'.

ii. Rule III Amend in 5th line: 'May or June' to 'April, May or June'.

iii. Rule VI (a) (i) Amend in 2nd line: '15th March' to '1st February'.

iv. Rule VI (a) (ii) Amend in 3rd line: 'twenty one days' to 'seventeen days'.

v. Rule VII (b) Amend in 5th line: '1st March' to '1st February'.

**9. Election of Auditors.**

Messrs Nicholass, Ames and Co. offer themselves for re-election.

**10. Benefactors.**

The names in the Benefactors Book to be read.

**11. Any Other Business.**

## ATTENDANCES AT COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS 1978/79

Dr R.W. Bray, Chairman,	*C4, T0, F2, P1, L1, Ed2	Total 10/11.
A.J. Oldham, Vice-Chairman and Hon. Treasurer,	*C4, T1, F2, P1, L1, Ed2.	Total 11/11.
G.N. Aspinall,	C4, T1, S2, Ed2.	Total 9/9.
Mrs E.E. Bressey,	C3 P1.	Total 4/5
D.C. Caporn,	C3, T1, F1, Ed.1.	Total 6/9.
Mrs H.B.H. Carlisle,	C4, T1, F1, P0, Ed.2.	Total 8/10.
R.A. Godby,	C4, F2, P1, Hcp3, S2.	Total 12/12.
D.J.V. Hamilton-Miller,	C2, Hcp2, S2.	Total 6/9.
A.B. Hope,	C3, F0, L1.	Total 4/7
Mrs K. Longman,	C3, T0, P1.	Total 4/6.
G.B. Martin,	C3, T1, L1,	Total 5/6.
Mrs B.L. Meacham,	C3, F1, P1, L1.	Total 6/8.
Professor B.G. Neal,	C3,P1, L1, Hcp3.	Total 8/9.
T.F. Owen,	C3,T1, L1.	Total 5/6.
Lt Col D.M.C.Prichard,	C4, T1, L1, Ed.2.	Total 8/8.
C.B. Sanford,	C3' F2.	Total 5/6.
K.S. Schofield,	C3, T0, L1.	Total 4/5.
E. Strickland,	C3, T1, F2, P1.	Total 7/8.
Mrs B.L. Sundius-Smith,	C4, T0, Hcp 2.	Total 6/8.
Dr G.K. Taylor,	C2, L0.	Total 2/5.
S.S. Townsend,	C4, F2, Hcp 3, S1.	Total 10/11.
Mrs N. Tyldesley,	C2, P0.	Total 2/5.
L. Wharrad,	C3, P1, L1.	Total 5/6.
Dr W.R.D. Wiggins,	C2, L1, S2.	Total 5/7.

Attendances at ad hoc Committees, e.g. Test Selection and MacRobertson, are not included.

\*Denotes Ex-officio all Committees except Handicap Co-ordination and Selection Committees.

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

### In the corner

Two players are playing a match without the benefit of a yardstick or an independent referee. Earlier in the game they had had a slight disagreement because one was placing his balls much further into court than the other. They both thought that their yard was the correct one but agreed that the most important thing was that balls which were fairly adjacent must be level. Later Red and Yellow were in corner 1 with Red on the corner spot and Yellow on the yardline about nine inches away. Black took off; roqueted Red; replaced it on the corner spot and took off from the court side of Red to get behind Yellow to rush it to the 4th hoop. He replaced Red on the corner spot measuring it with his mallet. Now he discovers that his Black has not got a good rush because he is hampered by Red. Then he notices that Yellow and Red are not the same distance from the boundary and asks if he may move Yellow level with Red - he will then be able to rush Yellow more easily. His opponent did not agree.

Both players were knowledgeable on the laws which helped to keep the argument reasonable. But such situations can become explosive. Black maintained that Yellow was a ball misplaced and that, as the opponent had not forestalled, his take-off had been a valid stroke but that now Yellow must be placed level with Red. The opponent denied that Yellow was misplaced but held that Red now was, and should be brought back half an inch to be level with Yellow. The rush would then

be quite impossible. The players realised that they were joint referees and they also were conscious that each was putting forward a solution that was to his own advantage. The case is much easier to solve from a distance.

1. Red and Yellow had been carefully placed and were undisputedly level.
2. Black had accepted them as being correct in that he had roqueted one when close to it and had done his take-off from only nine inches away from Yellow.
3. He had replaced Red on the corner spot twice and neither time had he tried to align it with Yellow.
4. If his stroke had not been so poor he would presumably never have looked at the alignment. If a referee had been handy it is doubtful if he would have moved Yellow after Black had done his take-off. But he might well have aligned Red with Yellow. It smacks of someone trying to get an advantage for himself from a technicality, when he claims that a ball is misplaced because he has done a bad shot. A parallel could be drawn with a man who has been cross-pegged and asks for the peg to be straightened because he thinks it might give him a fraction of the ball to hit. If straightening the peg would have given him less of the ball, would he have asked for it to be straightened?

The players in this case did reach an agreement. The opponent was absolutely certain Yellow was correct so it stayed there. The striker was absolutely certain that he had placed Red correctly so, although he was given the option of measuring it again and placing it to his own satisfaction Red stayed where it was. Black decided to risk it and try the rush: a fault resulted. There was no argument about that.

### R.V. Jackson.

(taken from the Australian Gazette).



Feel Free.

You must realise your limitations,  
Or so They say.  
And shackle your game to imitations  
Of how We play.

The subtle spider must not paralyse  
The Dragon-fly,  
Who needs to stretch, feel free, amaze the wise,  
And brush the sky.

For tactics are not all. Give that man praise  
Who sees his fun  
In concentrating less on winning ways,  
More how it's done.

New boundaries depend on him who brings  
A fresh, bright eye.  
Wrens may not soar like eagles on small wings—  
But they can try.

Is Daedalus the one to tell his son  
What he should do?  
Icarus might have soared beyond the sun  
With better glue.

Janus.

### Away from it all.

If you want to read about how to win at Croquet or how to learn the rules, turn from this page. This story all began when Rhona put me up to Three No Trumps, adding "Have you ever thought of going up the Nile in a boat?". This led to first a series of injections for the prevention of some highly unpleasant illnesses and then to an endless complication of trying to get an Egyptian visa from London in time to take off on a Swissair plane to Cairo. However all was achieved and on landing in Cairo we were miraculously found by our courier, Danielli, a blond Spaniard, who rounded up sixteen of us and told us to wait while he ferreted out our heavy luggage. When he returned through the hub-bub of the airport all sixteen of us had scattered, but Danielli, like a prize-winning collie had us rounded up again in the twinkling of an eye and drove us through the throng of Arabs to a waiting mini-bus which was to take us to the Hilton Hotel. As we rattled along we were given a lecture on How to Enjoy Our Holiday and the first requirement was not to be upset if things did not turn out exactly as we had expected or wished. If we started complaining, Danielli said, it would grow like wild fire and we would enjoy nothing. Having digested these pearls of wisdom we were then told what to do if we developed - as we were bound to - Egyptian Tummy. We were to eat nothing for 48 hours and avoid at all costs milk, butter and cheese.

By this time, through the horn-blowing noisy, shouting, congested traffic and pot-holed surface we arrived at the Hilton. Rhona and I had booked separate rooms, but this we were told was quite impossible as the hotel was full and we must share a double room. Remembering the lecture in the bus we said nothing and the lift whirled us up to the 12th floor. As we walked down the mile long passage to room 1,242 I noticed each door we passed had a spyhole in the panelling. I asked Rhona to stay outside our room while I went in to examine her through it. A most horrifying sight I found which was all the more surprising as Rhona is extremely pretty. We stayed in Cairo for three days during which time we were shown the Museum, the Pyramids and the Sphinx and went to the *son et Lumiere* on the last two, mostly spoken by a recording of Richard Burton which was impressive in the inky blackness of the icy cold night.

Danielli believed in early rising so the following morning after breakfast at 5.30 we returned to the airport and set forth

for Luxor where we were to board our boat. On arrival we found our cabins were still occupied by the tour we were replacing, so our luggage was left on the bank and we waited four hours on shore for them to depart. Again thoughts of our mini-bus lecture passed through our minds and we examined Luxor very thoroughly. Four days later we arrived at Aswan where we were to disembark and stay in a hotel. This hotel had been intended to rise as high as the Hilton but halfway through its construction the money ran out and the only full height was achieved by the lift buttons which went up to 14 but the hotel only rose to 6 floors. Having wondered what would happen if one inadvertently pressed No. 14, this very thing happened, and we waited for our launch into space in fear and trembling. The lift, quite unperturbed stopped at floor 6 but to our surprise the side panelling opened and in stepped an Arab. I asked him where he had come from and he explained that the other lift was broken and he was mending it. One should never let one's imagination run wild.

One of the scheduled trips our tour had arranged was a visit to a Nubian village. We were to cross the Nile in a Felucca and one of Danielli's friends - whom I christened Tweedledum - was to bring us for tea to his house. We all climbed into his boat, including the eldest member of our party, Muriel by name and well over eighty, who had taken the trouble to put on a large white lace hat in honour of the occasion. Tweedledum had brought his brother Tweedledee, and the 'crew' was Mahomed, aged 12, who was to row us across in spite of all the sails being hoisted. Mahomed's progress was slow as his little hands could only get round one oar at a time. However, having got half way across there was a tiny puff of wind which lifted Muriel's hat high in the air and carried it down the Nile where it eventually settled looking like an exotic water-lily. Mahomed was ordered to ship his oar and get it, so, removing his dressing gown, his purple polo-necked shirt and shorts, he dived in and swam for the hat. At last we arrived at the opposite bank to be greeted by about forty screaming children who instantly seized our hands and proceeded to drag us across the rough ground to the village to the accompaniment of 'Madame, Madame, Baksheesh, Baksheesh'. As I stumbled along I found I was exclaiming at each near fall 'Woopsey, so the refrain became 'Madame, Madame' Baksheesh, Woopsey'. After a time this got very confusing and I was the one who was shrieking for Baksheesh while the children were yelling Woopsey. Thankfully we arrived at Tweedledum's mud hut which was built in the form of a small hollow square with the centre open to the sky. Here we were introduced to Mrs Tweedledum, aged 17 and expecting her fourth child. We were put sitting on a length of matting with our backs to the wall while Mr Tweedledum lit his hubble-bubble pipe in the centre of the square and we were given cups of mint tea to drink. When we got to our feet to depart the children were again waiting for us and the same procedure began as on our arrival. Eventually we reached the boat and got home.

Our next flight was back to Cairo and this time Rhona and I got our single rooms. The electricity in my room wasn't working so I went to the reception desk to ask for a box of matches as I had found a candle. This was at 3pm and I was assured that the electrician would settle the lights and I was given no matches. At 6pm we went through the same procedure - and again at 10pm. Eventually Rhona lent me a torch and I locked my door, set my alarm clock for the usual 5.30am and went to bed. That night I got Egyptian Tummy.... We had a good flight back to London, said good bye to Danielli and I trudged off to Terminal 1 to get the plane to Dublin.

If you have persisted in reading as far as this, all you will have learnt is how to be beaten in five minutes by a Mr Solomon or a Mr Aspinall, and as for learning the rules, take my advice and don't even discuss them with Colonel Prichard.

Frances Joly.

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1978.**

<b>Year to 31-12-77</b>		<b>£</b>
	<b>INCOME</b>	
2,786	Subscriptions	2,959.00
,645	Affiliation Fees and Overseas Members	414.84
560	Levy	569.20
21	Tribute	26.00
368	Sale of Books, Laws etc.	677.49
702	Income from Investments (net)	651.90
5,082		5,298.43
57	<b>Less:</b> Deficit on Tournaments (net)	10.23
5,025		5,288.20
	<b>Less Expenditure</b>	
2,013	Magazine, less income from Advertisements	2,696.50
3,012		2,591.70
	<b>General Overheads</b>	
601	Office Rent, Lighting, Heating and Cleaning	798.98
3,348	Staff Salaries	3,727.06
92	Committee Travelling Expenses	136.32
412	Postage and Telephone	384.84
1,012	Printing and Stationery	1,014.55
245	Insurance	252.41
105	Sundry Expenses	245.90
185	Audit and Accountancy Charges	200.00
201	Maintenance of Office, Furniture and Equipment	124.65
6,201		6,884.71
580	Expenditure on Development Scheme (net)	147.43
6,781		7,032.14
4,608	Development Grant	4,601.00
2,173		2,431.14
839		160.56
	<b>Surplus of Income over Expenditure</b>	<b>160.56</b>

**INVESTMENTS HELD AT 31st DECEMBER, 1978.**

Nominal Value £	Cost £	Market Value £
<b>QUOTED INVESTMENTS</b>		
141.75	Drayton Premier Investment Trust Limited Ordinary Shares of 25p each	1,021
1,260.00	Grand Metropolitan Hotels Limited 8½% Unsecured Stock 1978/80	1,191
168.00	Midland Bank Limited Ordinary Shares of £1 each	596
550.00	Temple Bar Investment Trust Limited Ordinary Shares of 25p each	2,046
400.00	The New Throgmorton Trust Limited Income Shares of 25p each	320
218.15	3½% War Stock	65
2,500.00	9½% Treasury Stock 1983	2,200
		7,439
<b>UNQUOTED INVESTMENTS</b>		
10.00	Roehampton County Club — £1 Shares	10.00
	Abbey National Building Society	3,750.00
	Britannia Building Society	5,489.03
		15,953.28

**STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1978.**

<b>As at 31-12-77</b>		<b>£</b>
	<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>	
200	Office Furniture and Equipment at written down value	200.00
7,000	Trophies, estimated to realise	7,000.00
15,802	Investments, as per attached schedule	15,953.28
23,002		23,153.28
	<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>	
623	Sundry Debtors and Prepayments	955.82
800	Cash in Hand and at Bank	645.93
1,423		1,601.75
24,425		24,755.03
	<b>LESS: CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	
191	Subscriptions Received in Advance	187.50
3,103	Accrued Expenses	1,576.00
78	Taxation	87.18
3,372		1,850.68
£21,053		£22,904.35
	<b>REPRESENTED BY:—</b>	
12,382	Accumulated General Fund, as at 1st January 1978	13,221.02
839	Add: Excess of Income and Expenditure for year	160.56
£13,221		£13,381.58
1,585	Life Membership Fund	1,755.00
216	Apps. Healey Memorial Fund	215.50
367	Dominion Tour Fund	505.90
5,054	Benefactors Fund	5,384.27
610	Tournaments and Trophies Fund	1,662.10
£21,053		£22,904.35

R.W. Bray, Chairman of the Council  
A.J. Oldham, Hon. Treasurer

We have examined the books, vouchers and other records maintained by the Croquet Association for the year and obtained such further information as considered necessary. To the best of our knowledge and belief the above Statement of Accounts and annexed Income and Expenditure Account give a true and fair view of the state of affairs as at 31st December 1978 and of the Profit earned in the year to that date.

Kipling House  
43 Villiers Street  
London WC2N 6NJ

1st February 1979.

NICHOLASS, AMES & CO.  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS.

**TREASURER'S COMMENTARY ON THE 1978 ACCOUNTS**

The Benefactors' Fund has continued to accumulate income and has had a legacy of £100 from the late W.B.C. Paynter added to it.

The Tournaments and Trophies Fund has received the proceeds of sale during the year of the Gilbey Cup and the Inter-Counties Cup.

The Expenditure account shows the amount which has been reimbursed to some members of Council who have considerable travelling costs in attending meetings. Payment on a modest scale is made in accordance with the Council decision of 16th November 1974 but the amount has not been previously shown as a separate item in the accounts because it has not totalled more than £100 in any year. The cost is relieved by a 75% grant from the Sports Council.

The reduced net expenditure on the development scheme in 1978 is the result of our recovering a higher proportion of the costs of courses from the fees charged for them and from the charges made for hire of Croquet Association equipment.

The continuing inflation of the costs involved in tournaments, the Gazette and running the Croquet Association office efficiently leads inevitably, in the absence of any significant increase in the number of Associates, to a falling margin of income over expenditure and I am consequently recommending to Council a general increase in subscriptions, levies and entry fees to be effective from 1980.

10th March 1979.

A.J. OLDHAM  
Hon. Treasurer.

## HANDICAPPING PROCEDURES

There will be no change in the handicapping procedures for the current year and they therefore remain as set out on page 8 of the Spring Gazette 1978. No. 147.

Now that handicappers have powers to suggest and to recommend to players that a handicap should be raised there is no reason for them to state "at own request" when writing out Handicap listing forms. From now on this form of words will not be printed in the Gazette.

R.A. Godby.

Chairman, Handicap Co-ordination Committee.

## EXTRACTS FROM PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL MEETING, 9th DECEMBER, 1978.

## 1. Committee Reports.

## (a) Finance and General purposes Committee.

The C.A. no longer being able to obtain silver and bronze medals from Messrs Turner and Simpson, the Secretary was directed to seek another supplier and to make enquiries about possible alternative materials. An order would be placed both for home and overseas and for a stock sufficient for some years ahead.

The Secretary now holds stocks of the C.A., President's, Chairman's and Spencer Ell ties. Messrs Lewins have ceased to hold stocks of the Eight ties.

Subscription rates, Tribute and Levy charges for 1979 are to remain at the 1978 levels. Hire charges payable to Clubs holding C.A. events are to be raised for 1979 to £2.00 per day for lawns and £1.50 per lawn per week for balls.

The Hunstanton Club has been offered a loan for the purchase of a new mower.

Council agreed to propose to the next A.G.M. that rule III be amended to allow future A.G.M.s to be held in April as well as May or June.

## (b) Editorial Board.

The new Chairman, A.J. Oldham, reported that the Board had persuaded Mrs Prichard to withdraw her resignation as Editor on condition that an Assistant Editor be appointed. Editorial work presently involves a considerable amount of work and worry and the Board appreciated that Mrs Prichard could not be expected to continue unaided in the present conditions.

## 2. Selection for Invitation Eights.

A discussion was initiated by D.J.V. Hamilton-Miller on the advisability of candidates for Invitation Eights providing comparable evidence by playing in major tournaments. He spoke particularly in the context of players hoping for selection for the first time. The debate was resolved by asking the Selection Committee to publish in the Gazette a note for the guidance of players.

## 3. The Apps and Steel Bowl Awards.

After Council had empowered the Handicap Co-ordination Committee to make joint awards, the Committee announced that the Apps Bowl for 1978 was to be awarded to D.R. Foulser and B.C. Sykes. Mrs B.C. Sykes was to receive the Steel Bowl.

## 4. The Test Tour.

On behalf of Council, the Chairman wished the Team bon voyage and a successful retention of the MacRobertson Shield. He thanked warmly all those who had made the Tour possible, especially the Test Fund Appeal Committee, the Secretary and Dr W.R.D. Wiggins who had been responsible for most of the travel arrangements.

## PRIZE LIST 1978.

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

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

## A.

**Aberhalden, C.** (7½, 6½) Colchester RHSC1  
**Adams, L.D.** (3½, 2½) Budleigh Salterton 11 HD1  
**Adlam, Mrs. N.** (9) Colchester RHSC2  
**Alford, R.S.** (3½) Colchester W/E 1 HD1, Colchester W/E 11 HD1  
**Alvey, P.L.** (5, 3½) Budleigh Salterton 11 HD2, Hurlingham MHD1  
**Anderson, Mrs J.** (14, 11) Wrest Park W/E 111 BW  
**Anderson, T.W.** (6, 4) Wrest Park W/E 111 BW  
**Asa-Thomas, E.** (8, 7) Cheltenham RHSD1  
**Asa-Thomas, Mrs. E.** (5, 4) Mixed Doubles Championship 1, Devonshire Park 1 HSX2  
**Aspinall, G.N.** (—3½) Open Championship 1, Doubles Championship 1, Hurlingham OMXD1, President's Cup 1  
**Avery, E.P.** (9) Colchester W/E 1 HD1

## B.

**Bagnall, Mrs. C.** (5) Budleigh Salterton 11 RLSB2, Cheltenham W/E V BW  
**Bardo, J.** (3½) All England HS1  
**Battison, S.** (5, 3) Wrest Park W/E 11 BW  
**Bazley, Lady.** (9D8, 6½) Peels HD1, Cheltenham W/E 11 BW, Hurlingham RHSD1  
**Bell, E.** (1½, 1) Bowdon W/E HS2  
**Binks, G.B.** (10, 6) Carrickmines 1 RHSB1, HS1, HD2  
**Birch, G.** (1½) Ryde OS1, HSX=1, HD1  
**Blumer, G.** (6½, 6) Cheltenham HSY1  
**Bolton, H.G.T.** (1½, 1) Challenge and Gilbey HD2, HSX1, Budleigh Salterton W/E BW  
**Bolton, Mrs. H.G.T.** (12, 13D11) Challenge and Gilbey HD2  
**Bond, I.D.** (7½, 2½) Roehampton Evening RLSB2, HS1, Cheltenham RHSC1, HSX2, Wrest Park W/E 111 BW  
**Borrett, Cdr G.** (½) Compton HD2  
**Bowie, E.M.** (5, 3½) Edinburgh OS1, HSY1  
**Bowman, J.H.** (14, 7½) Bowdon W/E HS1  
**Bressey, Mrs. E.E.** (5, 4½) Roehampton HD1  
**Brown, Lt—Col D.F.T.** (7½, 6½) Compton RHSC2, Veterans HSY=1  
**Brown, Mrs. E.G.** (12) Ryde RHSC2, HD2  
**Bucknall, B.G.** (7½, 6) Budleigh Salterton W/E BW  
**Bucknall, Dr. W.R.** (2½, 3) Parkstone 1 HSZ2  
**Bull, D.M.** (8, 4½) Southwick 11 HD2  
**Butler, L.S.** (2, 1) Parkstone 1 OS1, HS1, Parkstone 11 HSX2, HD1, Devonshire Park 11 OD1

## C.

**Calder, R.O.** (4) Nottingham HSY2, Edinburgh HD1  
**Callan, P.E.** (11) Carrickmines 1 RHSB2, HS2  
**Camroux, A.V.** (1) Spencer—Ell Cup 6  
**Carder, R.D.C.** (5, 4½) Parkstone 1 HSZ1  
**Carlisle, Mrs. H.B.H.** (3, 2) Peels WHS2, Ladies Championship 1, Hurlingham OMXD1  
**Caporn, D.C.** (3½) Devonshire Park 11 RHSB1  
**Cave, Mrs. G.E.** (5½) Challenge and Gilbey HSY2  
**Chappell, Lt—Col R.P.** (9, 7) Compton W/E 1 HS2, Veterans RHSB1  
**Coates, G.T.** (6, 5½) Southwick 11 RHSC2, Devonshire Park 1 RLSC1  
**Coleman, A.F.** (2, 1½) Hunstanton W/E 1 HS2, Compton OS2, HD1, Parkstone 11 OS2  
**Colls, T.G.S.** (5) Veterans HD2  
**Cooper, A.J.** (½) Challenge and Gilbey OS1, HD1, Budleigh Salterton 11 OS2  
**Cousins, C.H.J.** (1½, ½) Doubles Championship 2, Hurlingham MHD2, Spencer—Ell Cup 2  
**Cox, N.W.T.** (2) Devonshire Park 11 HSY1  
**Cox, Mrs. N.W.T.** (3) Southwick 111 HD1, Ladies Field Cup 6, Devonshire Park 1 RLSB2

**Crane R.F.A.** (4½, 3½) Southwick 1 HDY2, Challenge and Gilbey HSY1 Colchester RLSB1  
**Crane, Mrs. R.F.A.** (12D10) Southwick 1 HDY2  
**Croker, D.J.** (3, 1) Roehampton W/E HS1, Roehampton Evening RLSB1 HS2, HD1, Cheltenham HD2, Hurlingham RLSB1, Spencer—Ell Cup 3  
**Croker, Mrs. D.J.** (10, 8) Roehampton Evening HD1, Cheltenham RHSD2, HD2, Hurlingham RHSD2  
**Cross, D.C.** (11\*, 9D8) Ryde HSY1, HD2

## D.

**Davidson, Mrs. F.H.N.** (7½) Hurlingham WHD2, Hunstanton RHSC2  
**Davies, Mrs. L.A.** (11) Parkstone 1 HSY2, Parkstone 11 RHSC1  
**Davren, N.J.** (½) Spencer—Ell Cup 4  
**Death, P.J.** (4½, 3) Nottingham W/E 1 BW, Nottingham W/E 11 HS2, All England HS=3  
**Devitt, P.K.** (8, 4½) Budleigh Salterton 11 RLSB1  
**Digby, G.S.** (3, 2) Challenge and Gilbey RLSB2, Colchester W/E 11 HD2 Colchester HD2, Cheltenham HD1  
**Digby, Mrs. G.S.** (4, 3) Challenge and Gilbey RLSB1, Colchester HS2, HD2, Cheltenham HD1, Ladies Field Cup 5  
**Dinwoodie, C.L.** (6½) Colchester W/E HD2  
**Doughy, G.E.J.A.** (5, 4) Hurlingham HSY1  
**Duthie, Miss B.** (2) Hurlingham WHD2  
**Duven, Mrs. L.L.** (8) Parkstone HSY2  
**Dwerryhouse, Mrs. P.A.** (14D13, 11) Budleigh Salterton RHS1, Challenge and Gilbey RLSD1

## E.

**Eades, R.S.** (3½) Wrest Park W/E 11 BW

## F.

**Foulser, D.R.** (7½, 1½) Peels MHS1, Cheltenham W/E 11 BW, Cheltenham RLSB1, Hunstanton HSX1, HD2, Awarded Apps Bowl (jointly)

## G.

**Garrett, S.J.** (7½, 6) Cheltenham W/E 1 BW, Budleigh Salterton W/E BW  
**George, R.L.** (12D10) Ryde HD1  
**Girling, A.J.** (5, 2½) Colchester W/E 11 HS2, Cheltenham W/E IV BW  
**Gladstone, R.B.W.** (6, 5) Cheltenham W/E 111 BW  
**Gladstone, Revd W.E.** (1, 0) Peels HS2, Cheltenham W/E 11 BW, Cheltenham W/E 111 BW  
**Godfree, D.L.** (11, 10) Hunstanton RHSC1  
**Godsi, S.** (14, 8D7) Roehampton Evening RHSC2, HD2, Roehampton RHSC1, HD1  
**Gooch, N.J.** (5, 4) Colchester W/E 1 HS2  
**Godby, R.A.** (0) Chairman's Salver =3  
**Green, H.C.** (1½) Hunstanton W/E 11 HS1  
**Gresswell, Air—Cmdr. J.H.** (5, 3) Parkstone 1 RLSB1, HSY1, Parkstone 11 RLSB2  
**Griffiths, J.H.T.** (8) Parkstone 11 HSY1

## H.

**Haigh, J.** (1½, 0) Colchester W/E HS1, Hurlingham OS2, HSY2, Hunstanton OS1, HSX2, HD1, Chairman's Salver =6  
**Hampson, Miss S.G.** (3) Hurlingham WHD1, Hunstanton RLSB1, HD1, Ladies Field Cup 4  
**Hands, P.W.** (—1½, —2) Men's Championship 1, Cheltenham W/E 111 BW  
**Haste, Dr. T.J.** (8, 5½) Colchester W/E 11 HS1, HD2  
**Heap, M.E.W.** (—2, —2½) Ascot Cup GCS1, Colchester OS1, Open Championship 2, President's Cup 3  
**Hemsted, S.R.** (—1) Wrest Park W/E 11 BW, Hurlingham OMXD2  
**Hemsted, Mrs. S.R.** (4½, 4) Hurlingham OMXD2  
**Hicks, H.O.** (½) Carrickmines 1 OS1, Colchester HD1  
**Hodgens, Miss E.X.** (6½, 6) Southwick 111 WHSY1  
**Hope, A.B.** (—1, —1½) Ascot Cup GCS2, Delves Broughton Cup GCD2, Mixed Doubles Championship 1, Du pre Cup 1, President's Cup =4  
**Hopkins, Miss G.** (6½) Carrickmines 1 HD1  
**Hutcheson, G.A.** (7, 5) Southwick 1 HDY1, Compton HD2, Veterans RHSB2, Devonshire Park 11 HD1

## J.

**Jackson, G.E.P.** (—½) Peels HSY1, Men's Championship 2, Budleigh Salterton 11 OS1, Cheltenham OS2, Chairman's Salver 2, Devonshire Park 11 MOS1, HS2

**Johnson, P.M.** (5½, 4) Cheltenham W/E 1 BW, Peels HSX1, Cheltenham W/E IV BW  
**Joly, Miss F.** (1) Women's Championship 2, Ladies Field Cup 1  
**Jones, Dr. R.C.** (9, 7) Nottingham RHSC2, HSX1  
**Jones, Mrs. W.** (10, 9) Roehampton Evening RHSC1, Roehampton RHSC2

## K.

**Keen, B.A.** (1½, 1) Wrest Park W/E 1 BW  
**Knight, C.E.** (5, 4½) Southwick 1 HDY1, Compton HD1, Southwick W/E BW, Southwick 11 HSY=1, Southwick 111 HD2, Devonshire Park 11 RHSB2, HD2  
**Kolbuszewski, M.** (6½, 5) Southport and Birkdale W/E HS2

## L.

**Latham, L.V.** (1½, 1) Hunstanton OS2, HD2, Cheltenham W/E V BW  
**Lenfesty, D de Q.** (4½) Nottingham RLSB2, HD2  
**Lenfesty, Mrs. D de Q.** (6) Nottingham HD2  
**Lindley, A.** (5, 3½) Roehampton HSX1, RLSB1, All England HS6  
**Locke, E.A.** (5) Colchester RLSB2

## M.

**McMillan, Mrs N.A.C.** (3) Parkstone HD1  
**McMordie, Dr. J.A.** (11, 8) Parkstone 1 RHSC1, HSX2, HD1  
**Malin, Dr. S.R.C.** (4) Edinburgh OS2  
**Mallinson, Lt—Col E.H.P.** (6½, 6) Southwick 111 RHSC1  
**Mallinson, Mrs. E.H.P.** (5) Devonshire Park 11 HD1  
**Martin, G.B.** (3½, 3) Hurlingham RLSB2, Roehampton HSY1  
**Maude, J.** (5, 4) Wrest Park W/E 111 BW  
**Meredith, I.C.** (12, 11) Nottingham W/E 1 BW  
**Moore, W.E.** (0) Southwick 11 OS2, HSY=1, HD2, Southwick 111 MHSX1 Devonshire Park 11 OD2  
**Mulliner, S.N.** (—½, —1½) Cheltenham W/E 1 BW, Delves Broughton Cup GCD1, Du Pre Cup 2, Roehampton Evening OS1, Association Plate 1, Hurlingham OS1, MHD1, President's Cup =4  
**Murray, Dr. M.** (—1, —1½) Delves Broughton Cup GCD2, President's Cup =4

## N.

**Neal, Prof B.G.** (—2) President's Cup =4, Cheltenham W/E IV BW  
**Newham, R.W.** (8, 7) Ryde HSX =1  
**Newton, P.** (½) Veterans OS2, Devonshire Park 11 MOS2, OD1  
**Nicholson, W.** (7½, 6½) Compton W/E 1 HS1  
**Noble, G.W.** (3, ½) Nottingham HS1, OS1  
**Norman, N.A.J.** (3) Cheltenham W/E 1 BW, Cheltenham RLSB2, Cheltenham W/E V BW

## O.

**Openshaw, D.K.** (—1, —2) Cheltenham W/E 1 BW, Doubles Championship 2, President's Cup 2  
**Ormerod, M.** (1) Challenge and Gilbey OS2  
**Ormerod, Dr. W.P.** (—2½) Doubles Championship 1, President's Cup 8 (retired)  
**Ovens, H.E.J.** (5½) Budleigh Salterton 11 HSY2  
**Ovens, Mrs. H.E.J.** (9, 7½) Budleigh Salterton 1 RHS1  
**Owen, T.F.** (½, 0) Southwick 1 HSX2, Veterans HD1, Southwick 11 OS1, HSX1, Southwick 111 OS2, MHSY2, Spencer—Ell Cup 5, Devonshire Park 1 OS1, HSX1, Devonshire Park 11 HS1, OD2

## P.

**Parker, Dr. C.A.** (2½) Parkstone 1 OS2, HD2, Budleigh Salterton 11 HSX2  
**Parker, Dr. D.A.** (5, 3) Southwick 111 RLSB1, MHSX1, HD2  
**Phelps, M.** (5, 3) Southwick W/E BW  
**Phillips, J.G.C.** (1½, ½) Delves Broughton Cup GCD1, Roehampton Evening OS2, Compton W/E OS1, Hurlingham MHD2, HSX1, Southwick 111 HD1, Spencer—Ell Cup 7  
**Pountney, C.** (1½) Southwick 1 HDX1, Ryde OS2  
**Povey, Mrs. J.** (3) Devonshire Park 11 WOS2  
**Prichard, Mrs. D.M.C.** (1) Mixed Doubles Championship 2, Devonshire Park 11 WOS1  
**Prichard, W de B.** (—2, —2½) Mixed Doubles Championship 2  
**Pursey, Miss E.M.** (11, 9D8) Parkstone 1 RHSC2, Challenge and Gilbey RLSD2, HD1

R.  
**Read, Mrs. H.M.** (5, 4½) Carrickmines 11 RHSY2, HD2  
**Read, T.O.** (—½) Cheltenham OS1, Carrickmines 11 OS1, HD1  
**Reed, A.A.** (1½) All England HS2  
**Rees, D.V.H.** (0) Chairman's Salver =3  
**Rees, E.E.** (2, 1½) Cheltenham HSX1  
**Roberts, G.J.** (1½, 0) Peels MHS2, Wrest Park W/E 11 BW, Association Plate 2, Chairman's Salver 5, Cheltenham W/E V BW  
**Robertson, Miss A.R.** (13D12, 11D10) Parkstone 11 RHSC2, HD1  
**Roe, Miss I.M.** (6½, 5½) Cheltenham HSZ2, Cheltenham W/E V BW  
**Rose, J.** (1½, ½) Southwick 1 HS1, Compton W/E OS2, Nottingham OS2, Parkstone 11 HD2  
**Rothwell, R.F.** (1½) Ryde W/E BW  
**Ryan, Miss A.M.** (11, 10) Southwick 111 RHSD2

S.  
**Sanford, C.B.** (5, 4½) Hurlingham RLSC1, Cheltenham W/E IV BW  
**Scarr, W.A.** (7½, 6) Peels HD2, Challenge and Gilbey RLSC1, Southwick 11 RHSC1, HD1, Parkstone 11 RLSB1  
**Scarr, Mrs. W.A.** (10D9, 8) Peels HD2, Southwick 11 RHSD1, HD1  
**Schmieder, C.M. von** (4, 3) Budleigh Salterton 1 RHS1, HD2, Carrickmines 1 HD2  
**Schofield, K.S.** (5, 4) Parkstone 1 RLSB2  
**Sheppard, H.A.** (4) Southwick 11 RLSB2  
**Shine, Miss P.** (12, 10) Southwick 11 RHSD2, Southwick 111 RHSD1, Devonshire Park 1 RHSD2  
**Simpson, R.A.** (2½, 2) Budleigh Salterton 1 HD2  
**Smith, Dr. T.W.** (4½) Edinburgh HSY2  
**Snowdon, Dr. C.B.** (5½, 4) Hunstanton W/E 1 HS1, Cheltenham W/E 11 BW  
**Solomon, Dr. E.W.** (0, —1) Chairman's Salver 1, Roehampton OS1  
**Soutter, J.H.J.** (0) Chairman's Salver 8, Parkstone 11 OS1  
**Soutter, Mrs. J.H.J.** (9, 7) Parkstone 11 HD2  
**Staddon, Mrs. F.F.W.** (5½, 5) Southwick 111 RHSC2, WHSY2  
**Steen, Prof R.E.** (5½) Carrickmines 11 HD1  
**Stevens, M.J.** (2½, 1) Cheltenham W/E 11 BW, Roehampton Evening HD2  
**Stevens, R.S.** (2, 1½) Budleigh salterton 1 RHS2, Challenge and Gilbey HSX2, Budleigh Salterton W/E BW  
**Stevens, Mrs. R.S.** (10, 9) Budleigh Salterton 11 RHSC1, Carrickmines 11 RHSY1  
**Stoker, P.** (2½) Southport and Birkdale W/E OS2  
**Strickland, E.** (7, 6½) Veterans HD1  
**Sturdy, W.J.** (4, 3½) Cheltenham W/E 111 BW  
**Sundius-Smith, Mrs. B.C.** (½) Ladies Field Cup 7  
**Sykes, Dr. B.C.** (10, 2½) Cheltenham W/E 1 BW, Colchester W/E 1 HD2, Budleigh Salterton 11 HSX1, Devonshire Park 1 HD1, Awarded Apps Bowl (jointly)  
**Sykes, Mrs. B.C.** (13, 7½) Devonshire Park 1 RHSD1, HD1, Awarded Steel Bowl

T.  
**Tanner, E.B.T.** (6½) Devonshire Park RLSC2  
**Tapp, A.E.C.** (1) Devonshire Park OS=2, HD2  
**Tapp, M.** (3, 1½) Southwick 11 RLSB1, HSX2  
**Tapp, S.A.** (1½, 0) Spencer—Eil Cup 1  
**Tomkinson, M.G.** (5, 4) Wrest Park W/E 1 BW, Ryde W/E BW  
**Tucker, E.J.** (0, —½) Southwick 1 HS2, Compton OS1, Veterans OS1, HSX1, Cheltenham HSY2, Chairman's Salver =6, Devonshire Park 1 OS=2  
**Tucker, Mrs. E.J.** (8, 7½) Southwick 1 HDX1  
**Tucker, Capt F.** (9) Challenge and Gilbey RLSC2  
**Tucker, Mrs. R.E.** (5, 4½) Compton HS2, Southwick 111 WHSX2  
**Turner, Mrs. P.A.** (5) Budleigh Salterton 1 RHS2  
**Turner, D.S.** (4½, 4) Hunstanton RLSB2, HSY1  
**Tyrwhitt—Drake, E.C.** (½) Veterans HSX2  
**Tyrwhitt—Drake, Mrs. E.C.** (8, 6½) Compton RHSC1, Veterans HSY=1, HD2, Devonshire Park 1 HSY2

V.  
**Vincent, Dr. I.G.** (1½, 1) Nottingham W/E 1 BW, Nottingham HS2, HSX2  
**Vulliamy, Col E.L.L.** (3, 2½) Parkstone 11 HSX1

W.  
**Wagnell, H.G.B.** (8, 7½) Ryde RLSB2  
**Wallis, R.E.** (5, 3½) Compton RLSB2, Southwick 111 RLSB2  
**Warren, Mrs. A.** (12D10, 10) Cheltenham W/E V BW

**Waterhouse, Mrs. D.** (10D9) Devonshire Park 1 HD2  
**Weitz, Prof B.G.F.** (1, ½) Southwick W/E BW, Cheltenham W/E III BW, Budleigh Salterton 11 HSY1, HD2, Southwick 111 OS1, MHSX2  
**Weitz, Mrs. B.G.F.** (3½, 3) Southwick W/E BW, Southwick 111 WHSX1, Devonshire Park 1 RLSB2  
**Wharrad, L.** (6, 3½) Ryde RLSB1, Cheltenham RHSC2, Roehampton HD2, RLSB2  
**Wharrad, Mrs. L.** (15, 14) Roehampton HD2  
**Wheeler, Mrs. G.T.** (½) Ladies Field Cup 3  
**Wheeler, J.A.** (1½, 1) Cheltenham W/E 1 BW, Hunstanton W/E II HS2, Wrest Park W/E 111 BW  
**Wheeler, Dr. R.F.** (6, 5) Hurlingham RLSC2, Nottingham HD1, Hunstanton HSY2  
**Wheeler, Mrs. R.F.** (4, 3) Cheltenham HSZ1, Hurlingham WHD1, HSX2, Nottingham HSZ1, HD1  
**Wood, Dr. R.** (1) Spencer—Eil Cup 8  
**Wright, I.H.** (1) Edinburgh HD2  
**Wright, S.J.H.** (0, —½) Colchester OS2, HS1, HD1

Y.  
**Yallop, Dr. B.D.** (4, 2) Compton RLSB1, HS1  
**Yoeman, Mrs. K.** (10, 9) Peels HSY2

Z.  
**Zinn, Mrs. A.A.** (8) Colchester W/E 11 DH1

## SECRETARY'S NOTES.

### 1. NEW ASSOCIATES.

12 S Mrs M.G. (V.Y.) Tomkinson  
 50 Love Lane, Pedmore, Stourbridge,  
 West Midlands, DY8 2LD.  
 Telephone; Stourbridge (038 43) 21277.

S A.G. Edwards  
 9 Maple Drive, Crowthorne, Berks, RG11 6SQ.  
 (Secretary: Maidenhead C.C.)

S L.B. Barnes  
 S Mrs L.B. Barnes  
 South View, Church Road, Penn, Bucks.

13 J C.J. Newman  
 Quintons, 188 The Street, East Horsley,  
 Surrey, KT24 6HS.  
 Tel: West Horsley (048 65) 4144.

J R.M. Hobbs  
 Pembroke Collège Oxford.

16 S S.F. Blackler  
 15 S Mrs S.F. Blackler  
 5a Fore Street Hill, Budleigh Salterton,  
 Devon, EX9 6PE. Tel: (039 54) 2688.

12 S Mrs W.J. Browne  
 4 Ponsonby Road, Roehampton, London,  
 SW 15 Tel: 01—788 5319.

S D.J. Kelly  
 10 Barkers Lane, Sale. M33 1RG.

S R.A. Pierce  
 Clyro, Cottingham Mead, Sidmouth, Devon.  
 EX10 8HB. Tel: (039 55) 4103.

S D.A. Dwerryhouse  
 Lime Parc, Bickwell Valley, Sidmouth, Devon.  
 EX10 8SG. Tel: (039 55) 4985.

R Lady Evelyn Barbirolli  
 28 Ivor Place, London, NW1 6DA.

S A.C. Mason  
 12 Collingham Green, Little Sutton,  
 South Wirral, L66 4NX Tel: (051 339) 4587.  
 (Secretary: Chester C.C. and Northern Federation).

J J.C. Straw  
 18 Barrasford Road, Newton Hall, Durham.  
 DH1 5NB.

S R.G. Barrett  
 16 Frinton Court, Hardwick Green, London,  
 W13 8DW. Tel: 01—998 5453.

S G.C. Roy  
 30 Wayside Mews, Maidenhead, Berks. SL6 7EJ.

S Mrs E. St John  
 11 North Parade, Bath Avon.  
 Tel: (0225) 66728.

J Mark Avery  
 7 Winston Avenue, Ipswich, Suffolk.

J John MacDonald  
 Reed's School, Sandy Lane, Cobham, Surrey.

S L.A. Coombs  
 Town Farm House, Hatfield Broad Oak, Essex.  
 CM22 7HT. Tel: (027 977) 252.

J S.J. Hobson  
 St Edmunds Hall, Oxford.

O J.K. Hogan  
 44 Cook Street, Gisborne, New Zealand.

O C. Pickering  
 Adelaide University Sports Association,  
 Adelaide, South Australia, 5000.

S Mrs D.M. White  
 Flat 2, Longwood, Fairfield Road, Eastbourne,  
 Sussex.

### 2. RESIGNATIONS.

Lady Abbey, Mrs R.H. Alexander, L.J. Batchelor (31-12-79)  
 L.F.W. Burton, Mrs L.F.W. Burton, Mrs D.E. Craib (South  
 Africa), Mrs W.F. Morton, Mrs C. Sebestyn, Miss E. Walker,  
 Miss H. Webb.

### 3. DEATHS.

L.M. Bromfield, W.H. Carlisle, Mrs L. Cordy, G. Kimber.

### 4. NEW HANDICAPPER.

A.J. Girling.

### 5. NEW REGISTERED CLUB.

Reckitt Club (Graduates of Oxford University).  
 Acting Secretary: I.D. Bond.  
 123 Bickenhall Mansions, Bickenhall  
 Street, London.  
 Tel: 01—935 6150.

### 6. CHANGES IN THE CLUBS.

**Harrow Oak.** New Secretary: J. Bardo, Flat 8,  
 85/87 Westbourne Terrace, London.  
 W.2. Tel: HOME 01—723 6167.  
 WORK: 01—242 9984.

**Hurlingham.** New Croquet Chairman:  
 C.B. Sandford, 109 Abingdon Road,  
 London. W.8. Tel: 01—937 3026.

**Old Bancroftians.** Corrected address of Secretary,  
 M.J.N. Bennett, 347 Aldborough Road,  
 Newbury Park, Essex.

**Oxford University & O.U.L.T. & C.C.** Dr B.C. Sykes, Aldoth, Hamels Lane,  
 Boars Hill, Oxford.  
 Tel: Oxford (0865) 735257.

**Roehampton.** New Croquet Secretary:  
 S.N. Mulliner, 36 Regent House,  
 Wellington Place, London. NW8 7PG.  
 Tel: 01—586 1537.

**Sidmouth** New Secretary: Mrs C. Verity,  
 Trow Lodge, Sidford, Sidmouth,  
 Devon. EX10 0PW.

**West Midlands Federation.**

Chairman: A.J. Girling, 59 Lodge Hill  
 Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham, B29 6HL  
 Secretary and Treasurer: K.F.W.  
 Townsend, 11 Knights Avenue,  
 Tettenhall, Wolverhampton. WV6 9QA.  
 Tel: Wolverhampton (0902) 752975.

**Northern Federation.**

New Secretary: A.C. Mason,  
 12 Collingham Green, Little Sutton,  
 South Wirral. L66 4NX. Tel: (051 339)  
 4587. (also Secretary Chester C.C.)

### 7. HANDICAP ALTERATIONS.

**Ipswich Club Recommendations — January.**

Avery, E.C. from 9 to 8, Day, Miss M.E. from 10 to 9  
 Gould, H.E. 12, Palmer, C.R. from 11 to 12,  
 Sinclair, Miss C.M. from 10 to 12.

**Parsons Green Club Recommendations — January.**

Campion, Paul. from 9 to 8, Healy, Mrs P. from 11 to 10.

### 8. MATCHES WITH C.A.

Clubs are reminded that the C.A. is pleased to arrange matches  
 with Clubs. Applications should be made to Mrs H.B.H. Carlisle  
 at 18 Ranelagh Avenue, London. S.W. 6.

These matches are intended for Clubs who otherwise would  
 not get many matches and whose members do not get to many  
 tournaments. The C.A. teams will be selected so as to match  
 the handicaps of the Club teams. All that is asked is that the  
 Club provides lunches and tes for the C.A. team.

### 9. MOSS IN TURF.

An interesting article on MOSS IN TURF AND ITS CONTROL  
 appeared in the January/March Bulletin No 124 of the Sports  
 Turf Research Institute (Bingley, Yorkshire).

The Secretary C.A. has made duplicated copies of this article  
 and he will be pleased to forward a copy to any Club or  
 individual interested upon request.

### 10. COURSES 1979.

A list of Courses to be held this Spring appeared on Page 22 of  
 the Winter Gazette. Application Forms and details will be sent  
 on application to the Secretary C.A.

### 11. SUBSCRIPTIONS 1979.

Some Associates Subscriptions and Club's Registration Fees  
 for 1979 (due on 1st January) remain unpaid. Will those  
 concerned PLEASE pay without further delay and thereby  
 save the Secretary unnecessary work in having to send  
 reminders.

### 12. INTER—COUNTIES 1979.

The same eight Counties have entered for the Championship as  
 for 1978, to be played at Hurlingham 29th May to 1st June,  
 namely, Middlesex (holders), Berks and Oxon, Bedford,  
 Eastern Counties, Midland Counties, Northern Counties, Surrey,  
 and Sussex.

### 13. ADDRESSES.

Starting with this issue Gazettes are now being addressed and  
 sent out by our new printers, MLM Mailings Ltd., from  
 information fed into their computer. It is hoped that yours is  
 correctly addressed. Any errors or subsequent alterations  
 should be sent to the Secretary C.A.

### 14. APPS/HELEY AWARD.

The Apps/Heley Award (£15.00), for the Club showing the  
 most progress in 1978, has been awarded to the Bowdon Club.