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THE CROQUET GAZETTE

Number 152

SUMMER 1979

The Official Organ of the Croquet Association

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

Selection for the Invitation Eight's Week.

Selection is normally made towards the end of the Hurlingham tournament in August. The aim of the selectors is to choose the best available 24 players.

The holder of the President's Cup and the current Open Champion qualify automatically for places in the President's Cup; similarly the holders of the Chairman's Salver and the Spencer Ell Cup are entitled to defend their titles, unless selected for a higher eight.

The selectors base their choice on the following principles:—

- (a). All play during the previous year in Open Events against good class opposition. Handicap play is of minimal significance.
- (b). A player who does not compete in the Caskets or the Open Championship is not thereby excluded from consideration, but these events carry much weight because they attract the strongest opposition. Candidates enhance their prospects by playing in tournaments away from their own clubs.
- (c). The results of previous Eight's Weeks are taken into consideration, but players cannot rely upon being selected by these alone. It would be unfair to other candidates if there were to be reserved places for those who do not expose themselves to the risk of defeat.

The President's Cup is announced in alphabetical order and the Chairman's Salver and Spencer Ell Cup (including reserves for the latter event) in order of merit in the selectors' opinion. When a vacancy occurs after the original acceptances, promotions are made in that order.

D.M.C. Prichard,
Chairman, Selection Committee.

ROVER NOTES.

World Croquet Championships 1980.

A large Industrial concern have offered to sponsor a World Croquet Championship, possibly for five years. The terms and conditions are still being negotiated with the company, but it is reasonably certain that the first World Championships will take place in May or June next year.

This is the most important development in the Game of Croquet for many years and its effect could be far reaching. The best players in the World would be able to meet annually with fares and expenses paid. It is probable that it would be a knock-out contest between eight invited players, divided into two blocks with the firsts and seconds going forward to the Final. They will play for a Trophy and possibly a medal. A lot depends on whether the C.A. can obtain Television coverage and, if they do succeed, the problem will be to find a formula for making the game intelligible to a mass audience in perhaps

a daily half-hour. It is hoped that precise details will be available for the Autumn Gazette together with information as to what arrangements are being made for members of the C.A. to watch play.

Cut Off by Handicap.

A player's handicap has long determined the Class in which he may play but now that three Open events have adopted the principle that, if oversubscribed, they will allocate places according to handicap, it is more important than ever that a handicap shall be a true one. Each year, as the Open Championships approach, strong feelings are aroused as rumours of a cut-off by handicap are circulated. There appear to be two counts on which there is a fear that the entry may be limited to 32.

The first is that sufficient courts may not be available. Obviously if it were to become impossible to accommodate the entry some method of limiting it would be necessary — indeed obligatory. But there is a deep difference of opinion as to the fairest way of eliminating players. Roehampton players have put forward a suggestion that a preliminary round should take place at Roehampton during the weekend immediately preceding the Championships: if five needed to be cut off then ten players with the highest handicaps would be fighting for the last five places. They feel that this would give the improving player at least a chance of getting in by beating someone with a slightly lower 'fossilised' handicap, with the losers being allowed into the Association Plate. Against this the argument is used that a player's handicap is the sum of a series of matches; how can the result of just one match be any fairer? Further, apart from the players whose terms have ended there are many who have to arrange for a precious week's leave and would not want to be left with a week with no — or very little play. Provincial players might feel that such eliminating round was London orientated — and the Council of the C.A. are strenuous in their efforts to avoid even the appearance of conditions favouring London players. Lastly, should the entry be very large two courts at Roehampton would not be adequate. All in all, if handicaps can be made to give an accurate picture of a player's standard of play then a cut off by handicap seems a fairer method.

But the second count has aroused an almost unanimous reaction — and yet it has scarcely been aired. In 27 years up to 1972 there were only four occasions on which the entry exceeded 32 but in the last six years it has been between 36 and 45 every year, and certain top players find that the Championships are becoming more a test of endurance than of skill, especially if they happen to be drawn in the back rounds of singles and doubles. Some argue that the Open Championship is for the best players and conditions should be right for them and therefore the entry should be limited to 32. However, there are more players hoping to arrive than there are established stars and these are the ones who feel most strongly that

The Secretary, the Editor and Assistant Editor.

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Tournament Results and Reports.

To be sent direct, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, to the Assistant Editor, Mr D.R. Foulser, (see p. 2 Spring, 1979). PLEASE WRITE CLEARLY.

Other Contributions.

To be sent to the Editor. They are not acknowledged but are most welcome. Please send EARLY — don't wait for the Deadline.

Deadline.

Copy for the Autumn Issue of the Gazette must reach the Editor not later than SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 22nd.

APOLOGY.

MLM mailings Ltd apologise for delay in the production of this issue. The Editor also regrets that the results of a number of full week tournaments have had to be held over for the Autumn issue, which MLM mailings undertake to produce in October.

such a limitation would be unfair and bad for Croquet. Improving players are ambitious, they want to pit themselves against the top players; they want to enhance their chances of being selected for an eight; they want to learn about openings and leaves and risky shots; and above all they want to do it NOW — in a year or two's time they may be in Newcastle or Nigeria. There are also players who are not as good as they were yet who enjoy every minute of the Championships and who, like the improving players, contribute so much to the atmosphere and enjoyment of the week. For once, those coming up and those going down are in agreement — they do not want the Championships to become too rarified — the top players already have the President's Cup with its more leisurely 14 games in five days. But if the majority of players think one thing and only a few think the other, does it mean that the majority are right?

A Bisque in Time

A few long-bisquers are still not clear about the taking of bisques in a Timed game. Sagittarius pointed out in *C.G. 151, Spring 1979*, that bisques are intended to help the less good player get on with the game and that it is his own fault if he does not use them before time runs out. As soon as time is called the player in play continues his turn and his opponent has one more turn and no bisques may be used: the calling of time has knocked them out. At the end of this time period if the scores are level the game continues until one more point is scored and, to hurry this up, the bisques come to life. But the player who played the last turn in the time period cannot now say 'I will take a bisque' because he has had the one turn to which he was entitled in the time period. He has to wait for his opponent to play, and if the opponent scores a point the game ends immediately and the chance to take that bisque may never arrive. The end of a timed game is tense and the player who knows his rights and Regulation 8 has an advantage. One last thing to remember: you cannot score that last point by pegging out one ball unless both your clips are on the peg.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Fourth Turn.

from Mr R.O. Calder.

Sir,

In *Issue 151* of the *Gazette* an interesting incident is described and we are asked for our views. Law 10 tells us that on the fourth turn Quick should have played Red. He failed to do so and has thus committed some sort of irregularity. The question to be decided is 'What was the irregularity and how should it be corrected?' Law 30(a) is irrelevant since Quick did not play with an adversary's ball which had not hitherto been in play. Law 30(b) is relevant. The only ball which Quick could legally play was Red, he played with another ball and thus 'struck the wrong ball'. His turn ends, the balls are replaced and it is Swing's turn to play. Under Law 11 Swing now has the option to play either ball since both Black and Blue are in play.

Any attempt to construe Law 12 to the effect that Swing must play Black is misconceived. Law 12 (or its equivalent) was presumably introduced in 1914 when the 'either ball' game was introduced in preference to the 'sequence' game. It is quite wrong to read "implications" into a Law and to apply them to incidents totally remote from the general intention of the Law in question. This is something different from implications arising from a player's actions. In 'In the Corner' in the same issue of *The Gazette* the player of Black had by implication accepted that Yellow was correctly placed and so it would have been quite wrong to move it.

An argument might be put that since Law 10 makes it clear that Red should have been played on the fourth turn then if it is not in play by the fifth turn it is a misplaced ball and should be placed by Quick anywhere on either baulk line. This again must be misconceived. A ball which has not been in play cannot be misplaced. Anyone who doubts this should re-read 'A Funny Thing Happened....' in *Issue 142 of the Gazette*. Although written as a jeu d'esprit and not purporting to describe an actual incident, many of us know the anonymous author to be a strict interpreter of the Law who would never misconstrue its intentions even in jest.

We are further asked what we think the Law OUGHT to be? This raises the whole issue of whether Law 30(b) is harsh and oppressive. A number of players feel that playing the wrong ball should be regarded as a similar irregularity to those in Law 29(a), (b) and (c): exceptions to the general rule regarding misplaced balls. If they had their way, things would be sorted out after the wrong ball had been played and the player would continue his turn. It may be that the 'wrong ball' Law is a relic of the sequence game but the offence is in a very different category from irregularities such as, say, taking croquet from the wrong ball. If a player accidentally takes croquet from the wrong ball and the irregularity is not noticed he gains little, if any, advantage whereas if it is noticed it can be corrected immediately. Furthermore, his ball immediately before the irregularity was in hand. In many cases of 'wrong ball' the irregularity is not noticed until the end of the turn when a player finds that he has the 'wrong' clip in his pocket. It is on comparatively rare occasions that the balls can be replaced in the exact positions which they occupied when the irregularity occurred. If the irregularity is not noticed (and this sometimes happens despite the colour of the clip) the offending player may have gained a considerable advantage.

A solution to the difficulty which might be suggested is to have two different limits of claims for 'wrong ball'. The first would be the next stroke but one with a replacement without penalty and a continuation of the turn. The second would retain the existing Law. Surely we do not want to make the Laws more complicated than they already are. I do not put forward this suggestion seriously.

Another solution which might be put forward applying to this particular incident only would be to amend Law 30(a) so that all cases of 'wrong ball' before the fifth turn should be without penalty. This again would never do since players not infrequently make long breaks on the third turn and there can be no case for exonerating them from the due consequences of the Law regarding 'wrong ball' during a break.

Finally we note that the incident occurred in an A Class game. This is irrelevant since the Law must be the same for all players. It is however perhaps relevant to mention that as far as my observations go it appears that playing the wrong ball is more common among A Class players while taking croquet from the wrong ball etc. occurs more frequently in B and C Class games. Perhaps it is appropriate that the harsher penalty should apply to the offence more often committed by the better player.

In the case in question I believe the Law to be as I have stated and I believe that it should remain so.

10 Palmerston Road
Edinburgh. EH9 1TN.

Yours sincerely
R.O. Calder.

from Dr I.G. Vincent.

Sir,

In resolving, under present Law, a situation where, prior to the fifth turn of a game, a ball already in play has been wrongly played, I feel that due weight must be given to Law 10, which requires that the four balls must be played into the game in the first four turns. I would proceed by analogy with the case of playing the wrong ball in a croquet stroke, i.e. replace the balls invalidly moved and require the striker to place the ball he should have played anywhere in baulk, his turn ending.

43 West Crescent,
Beeston Rylands, Nottingham.

Yours sincerely,
I.G. Vincent.

from Mr. A.C. Mason.

Sir,

The problem as presented cannot be resolved by reference to the Laws but the intention of the Laws is quite plain, namely, that each of the first four turns shall begin by bringing a fresh ball into the game, and only after all four balls are in play may the next striker choose which of his two balls to play. (Laws 10 and 12). The answer to the first query then, is that Quick did play the wrong ball. His turn should end and the balls be replaced in accordance with Law 30(b). Now, how should the game proceed, for since Red is not yet in the game Swing cannot exercise his option to play either Black or Blue (Law 12). My suggestion is that before Swing takes the fifth turn Red must be placed anywhere on either baulk line by Quick so that Red is then in the game though it has not yet been struck by Quick. Swing can then exercise his option to play either Black or Blue in accordance with Law 12. Clearly Law 30(a) does not apply since the only ball which "has not hitherto been in play" is Red. Thus if Quick had struck Blue instead of Yellow, it would have made no difference.

It seems that an addition to the Laws is needed to clear up the interesting point raised.

12 Collingham Green,
South Wirral, L66 4NX.

Yours sincerely,
A.C. Mason.

Is an addition to the Laws necessary? Mr Mason shows clearly that Law 10 was infringed. Law 50 covers unpenalised infringements of the Laws. It would certainly 'restore the balance of the game' for Red to be placed anywhere on the baulk line as he suggests and it would 'meet the justice of the case' because Quick would have suffered the penalty for playing the wrong ball and Swing would not suffer the deprivation of the fourth ball in the fifth turn. The above solution was not found on the two occasions when something similar happened.

On the first Quick was required to suffer no penalty: the invalidly moved balls were replaced and Quick shot at them with Red from baulk. On the second Quick was adjudged to have played the wrong ball and his turn ended but Swing had to play the fifth turn with only three balls on the lawn. Ed.

Club Conference

from Mr L. Wharrad, Chairman Publicity and Development Committee.

Dear Sir,

The 1979 Croquet Association Conference of members will be held on 8th December 1979 at the Hurlingham Club. The Conference will begin at 11.30 and end at 5.00 to give members who live a goodly way from London a reasonable chance of being able to travel to and from the conference on the same day.

It is intended to devote the whole conference to Publicity and Recruitment, that is to say how to secure wider public awareness of the great merits of Association Croquet and thus attract an increase in the number of playing members of Croquet Clubs.

1980 should produce a marked increase in publicity for the game; of course if the game comes to be accepted as good television the increase in interest could be startling; every effort is being made to try and get the game televised either in 1980 or 1981.

The final agenda for the Conference has not yet been prepared, but the general shape of the Conference will be to generate the widest possible discussion on four related subjects.

1. Television coverage and its possible effect on Clubs.
2. How most effectively to harness national publicity for the game and local publicity to attract new members. What should the C.A. be doing and what can clubs do to increase public knowledge of Association Croquet.
3. Sponsorship. There will be a sponsored World Championship in 1980 the national publicity of which should be of benefit to the game. What are the prospects for local Sponsorship of an event or tournament? Would this not provide funds and useful local publicity for the club concerned?
4. Development. What has experience proved to be the most effective plan for recruiting new members? What kind of publicity is the most effective? What organisation and what form of coaching is likely to be the most effective in retaining the interest of potential members?

The object of this preliminary announcement is to generate wide discussion of these and related matters among club members before the conference; members attending the conference should thus be well briefed and better equipped to help to work out an effective course of action for clubs and the C.A. to follow.

It would be particularly helpful if Club Secretaries could get their members together before the end of the season if possible to discuss these subjects. I have no doubt that this will generate both ideas and questions. It would be really helpful to me in arranging the conference if Club Secretaries could arrange for one of their members to let me have a brief note of any items, questions or ideas that it would like the conference to discuss. I do not ask for an elaborate document, a brief handwritten informal note is all I need.

I will use these notes to help to draw up the final detailed agenda and to ensure that session Chairmen are aware of the subjects and questions that need to be discussed.

I should of course be glad to hear from any individual member who wishes to contribute to the discussion; I am sure that the Editor of this Journal would welcome letters too.

Old Stable Cottage,
Woking, Surrey.

Lionel Wharrad.

What Happens When the Mallet Hits the Ball — The Problem of Side

from Dr. C.A. Parker.

Sir,

I should like to comment on the problem raised by Mr. Case in the *Spring 1978 Gazette*. I believe that side CAN be imparted in a single ball shot, and the reason becomes clear if one considers what happens during the period of contact between mallet and ball. The first contact is at a point, but as the mallet continues to move forward the ball takes time to accelerate and hence it becomes compressed against the face of the mallet as shown in the diagram. If the ball is hit off-centre as shown, the momentum of the mallet head is directed along a line to the side of the centre of the ball, and this twists the mallet head slightly off line. The mallet continues moving in the original direction and it thus imparts a side spin to the ball. The extra "grip" between mallet face and ball, caused by the ball being flattened against the mallet, increases the degree of spin imparted. This spin is the cause of the ball curving away from its original line of travel towards the end of a long shot hit off-centre.

The fine take-off approximates to a single ball shot, and I find it useful to follow Lord Tollemache's method when approaching a hoop from behind. The method is to hit the ball with the part of the mallet face that is nearer to the hoop. In this case the amount of side is very small because the shot is gentle. Nevertheless if the ball is watched carefully, (and the grass is level), it will be seen to execute a fraction of a turn sideways (i.e. towards the position in front of the hoop) just before it comes to rest.

Now as to off-centre hitting in split shots — the same principles apply, but the ball compression and mallet twisting occur to a greater degree because of the extra inertia of the croqueted ball. Thus, hitting on the side of the mallet face nearer the croqueted ball will cause the striker's ball to deviate towards the croqueted ball, and the split shot will be narrowed slightly. Conversely, hitting on the side of the face furthest from the croqueted ball will give a wider split. These effects are in the same directions as those deduced by Mr Wylie for a different reason (*Winter Gazette 1978*). I agree with him that during the period of contact in a split shot the ball must tend to move across the face of the mallet, and I suggest that both this factor and the mallet twisting contribute to the effects observed.

The compression of the ball against the mallet face is, I believe, important in single ball shots even when hit dead centre. When the ball rebounds from the mallet after being compressed, it rapidly expands to its original shape and is thus set in vibration (much like a tuning fork when it is struck). I suspect that this vibration lasts for a sufficient time to affect the behaviour of the ball significantly, i.e. it helps to increase the amount of "stop" in a stop shot. In a roll shot the mallet continues to sweep forward to a much greater degree after first contact, the time taken to transfer the impulse to the ball is greater, the ball has more time to accelerate, and it is thus compressed to a lesser degree. I suspect that the smooth run of a properly swept ball is due in part to the smaller amount of vibration set up in it by the impact of the mallet.

To demonstrate how much a ball gets compressed against the mallet face, try rubbing chalk on the back of the ball and then hit it hard with the centre of the mallet face. It will be found that the chalk forms a circular patch of ridges about one inch in diameter. If the ball did not compress, there would be only a tiny point of chalk mark on the mallet face. High speed photography would no doubt give an even more convincing demonstration of ball compression. It is the power stored up by this compression that propels the ball along its course.

Orchard Avenue
Poole, Dorset.

Yours faithfully,
Allen Parker.

An Ounce of Practice

from Mr. R.E. Wallis

Sir,

Lt. Col. Alan Nicholls writes (*Gazette Spring 1979*) that he can think of no other game where 'Knock-up' time is not allowed. The answer, Sir, is that in games in which the state of the playing surface materially affects the play, players are not permitted to get the feel of the surface before the game begins. In games such as Snooker, Bowls and Golf, therefore, one is not allowed to practice on the match surface, though in these, as indeed in Croquet, there is nothing to stop anyone warming up on a practice area. Most Croquet managers will allow a warm-up period on a different lawn if available.

43 Woodville Road,
Bexhill-on-Sea.

Yours sincerely,
Roy Wallis.

An Ounce of Practice at Southwick

Following the suggestion made in Rover Notes in the *Spring Gazette*, as Manager of our Spring Tournament, I announced before the beginning of the tournament that, unless any player strongly objected I would permit practising before each game on the lawn when the game was to be played, provided that the time taken for practising did not exceed five minutes and that neither the lawns or the balls were damaged thereby. No players in fact objected and practising was permitted on those conditions. At the end of the tournament I asked each player to answer a short questionnaire concerning practising and I found the answers most interesting.

27 out of 33 questionnaires given out were returned. The first question asked was if they thought their game started better after practice. Eleven said yes, eight did not know and eight gave a definite no. Only four players thought that the total time taken for their game was shortened by practice, twelve thought it was not shortened and eleven did not know or found it impossible to say.

Seventeen of the players thought that the five minutes spent on practice was time well spent, six were doubtful and only four thought their practicing was a waste of time. As many as twenty-one of the players said they would like to be able to practice before games at other tournaments. Only five preferred no practice and one did not know.

I think that a short practice was beneficial to the opening play and seemed to help the tournament as a whole. It appeared to ease the tension and players settled into their game more quickly — "the butterflies had flown" as one of the players put it. A couple of long take-offs and one or two hoop approaches was all that most players wanted.

For Doubles the rules were slightly 'bent' to provide that no practising was permitted after the advertised starting time of the game, namely 9.45 am. The result was an unusually prompt start to the games. Another point advantageous to the manager was that he could require a player to continue with a second game on the same lawn with a new opponent after that opponent had had five minutes practice.

If a majority of tournament players are happier with practice, and settle into their games more quickly, is not that time well spent? The ten hours of court time mentioned in Rover Notes may seem a long time but it is less than 2½% of the total lawn time and there may in fact be a considerable saving especially by some of the less experienced players. The traditionalist seems to be more against than for, and it was said that the real expert needs only one shot to get the exact pace of the lawn but there are not many such experts at Southwick. I believe that anything which helps the players to enjoy their games more fully should be encouraged. Perhaps our Managers at our Summer and Autumn tournaments will permit practicing. — I hope so.

Tristram Owen.

Handicaps. Should they be Raised?

from Rev. W.E. Gladstone. Chairman of the Handicap Committee of the Cheltenham Club.

Sir,

I would like to support the letter in the *Spring Issue* of the *Gazette* from the Chairman of the Handicap Co-Ordinating Committee advocating that, if handicappers thought fit, a player's handicap should be raised whether or not the player wishes it. As Mr Godby points out it is the comparison other handicaps which are generally thought to be correct that is important, not the fact that someone has won an event in a tournament. If there is no general improvement in play, then no reduction should be made. If there is a deterioration in play over a considerable period it ought to be possible to raise a player's handicap. Nobody has a presumptive right to retain a handicap to which he or she cannot play. In other sports competitors have to train hard and compete aggressively to maintain their status. As a player gets older, and perhaps less good, he or she should not feel ashamed of having a raise in handicap, and one could quote a number of instances where such a raise has put new life into a player's game, and general enjoyment of our pastime.

I would, however, like to see a procedure instituted comparable to my own views on the lowering of handicaps, that is, that it is never just on the opinion of one handicapper. At Cheltenham we have a Handicap Committee; when I am the Official Handicapper of a Tournament I seek advice from all other Official Handicappers present, and sometimes make a recommendation against my own view if there is a majority for the reduction. I strongly feel that if this proposal does get the approval of Council, it should be laid down that it should be a Club Handicap Committee decision or the opinion of say three handicappers, to soften any hard feelings that may ensue.

Yours sincerely,
W.E. Gladstone.

Obituary.

Miss G. V. Pirie

All her many friends will share the sorrow with which we at Southwick heard of the death of Grizel Pirie on May 20th, for she was a charming and gracious person who endeared herself to everyone, old friends and new alike. She enjoyed Croquet immensely, and played a good game with finesse and enthusiasm, yet was ever generous in giving time and attention to help new players. During the last years, however, the Club gardens were her main interest, to the advantage of us all. Under her supervision and inimitable touch the flowerbeds surrounding the lawns became a mass of colour and fragrance, and the Rose garden a focal point of admiration and pleasure. She planted the magnificent screen of vigorously growing evergreens at the West border, and last of all, by the door into the verandah, a bush of Rosemary — "that's for remembrance" and for remembrance, we intend to plant the two beds in front of the Clubhouse with flowers to perpetuate her memory. She contributed to the well-being of the Club in countless ways — was responsible for the bar during tournaments, helped with the catering arrangements and meal service, and was always busy on our behalf. As we at the Southwick Club mourn the passing of a much valued friend we extend our deepest sympathy to Marjorie Towers, who has suffered the loss of one who can be truly called, a good companion.

G.P.
E.M.L.

Croquet Handyman.

Repair of Balls.

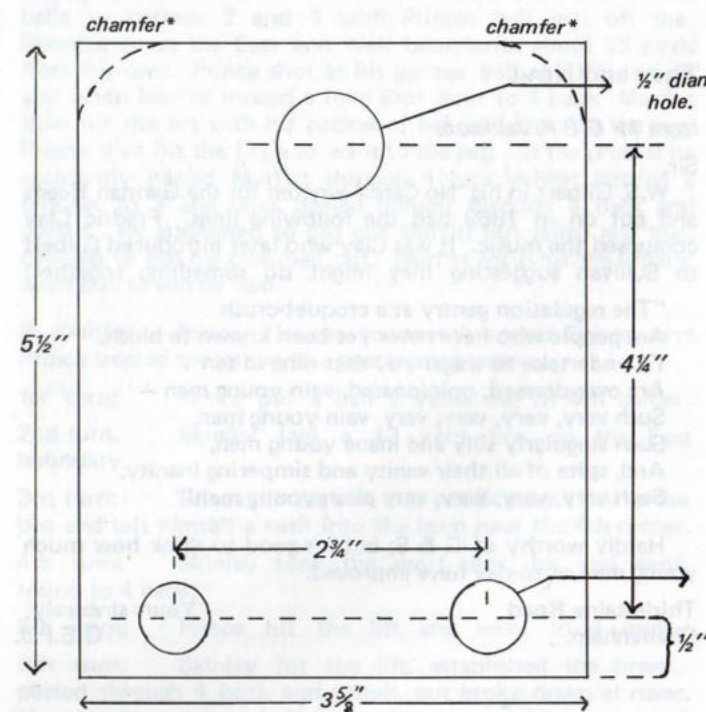
If a piece breaks off the outer skin of a ball, a durable repair can be made using one of the 2-pack epoxy glues (e.g. Araldite) provided one or two small holes are first drilled into the core of the ball. A drill about 1/8th" diameter is suitable and the holes should be 1/4" to 3/8" deep. After the glue has set, it can be trimmed to shape with a file. If the ball is subsequently painted, the repair will seldom be noticed.

Would Club Handyman report on the type of paint they use a) on balls and b) on hoops — and with what success.

Ball Carriers.

The design used at Hurlingham is undoubtedly robust and easy to make. A much smaller and lighter design has, however, given good service for the past five years at the Pretoria Croquet Club and details may be of interest to those who must minimise the space occupied by the balls when not in use. The Pretoria design may seem to be rather flimsy, but only one of the four in use has ever been damaged (someone trod on it) and a repair was easily effected. The design principle is the same as for the Hurlingham carriers — only the dimensions are different. The two ends are made 7/8" thick and 14 5/8" apart. The components were glued together without using any nails or screws. Small grooves should be formed in the surface of the rods where they enter the holes in the end pieces so that glue remains on the rods after they have been pushed into the holes.

**Note from Resident Handyman. The weakness of the Hurlingham design (Gazette Winter 1978) is the narrow apex: if dropped the end can fracture at its weakest point — the side of the hole. On the other hand I think the top corners of the Pretoria design should be chamfered to make them less lethal to the unwary ankle.*



Elementary Maintenance.

Shoes are always interesting: unlike other things the wearer has always chosen them himself; and basic maintenance usually means more in character terms than a military past. The same can be said of mallets. If varnish is permitted to wear off water will penetrate. This can be seen in wet weather and the wood is then more vulnerable to damage. And the same is true of splintering end-grain edges. Do therefore use sandpaper occasionally to remove chipped varnish and rough edges but do not bother with varnish which is firm. Then apply two or three coats of varnish and leave to harden for a week or so. This will not take more than half-hour in total and you will be surprised with the results. Of course, the superstars will say that they invariably hit in the centre; but even their shoes are not above an occasional Kiwi.

H.C.

A Nice Point. Law 8.

You are meticulous in watching the point where your ball first touches the boundary line and equally exact in measuring a right-angled yard. Yellow is on, or very nearly on the yard-line. With Red, you shoot at Yellow and miss. You measure carefully and decide that Yellow is not interfering with the replacement of Red but they will be in contact. You ask a referee can you place your Red ball on either side of Yellow? What will the referee answer?

ALL ENGLAND HANDICAP

429 entries have been received for 1979 (1978: 336). Area Finals will be held at Cheltenham, Colchester, Compton, Edgbaston, Edinburgh, Harrow Oak, Roehampton and Woking over the weekends of 18th/19th August and/or 8th/9th September with the Finals at Roehampton 29th/30th September.

Then and Now.

from Mr G.E.P. Jackson.

Sir,
W.S. Gilbert in his 'No Cards' written for the German Reeds and put on in 1869 had the following lines. Fredric Clay composed the music. It was Clay who later introduced Gilbert to Sullivan suggesting they might do something together!

"The regulation gentry at a croquet-crush
Are people who have never yet been known to blush,
I'll undertake to wager you that nine in ten
Are over-dressed, opinionated, vain young men —
Such very, very, very, very vain young men,
Such singularly silly and inane young men,
And, spite of all their vanity and simpering inanity,
Such very, very, very, very plain young men!"

Hardly worthy of G & S; but it's good to think how much young men of to-day have improved.

Thirlestaine Road
Cheltenham.

Yours sincerely,
G.E.P.J.

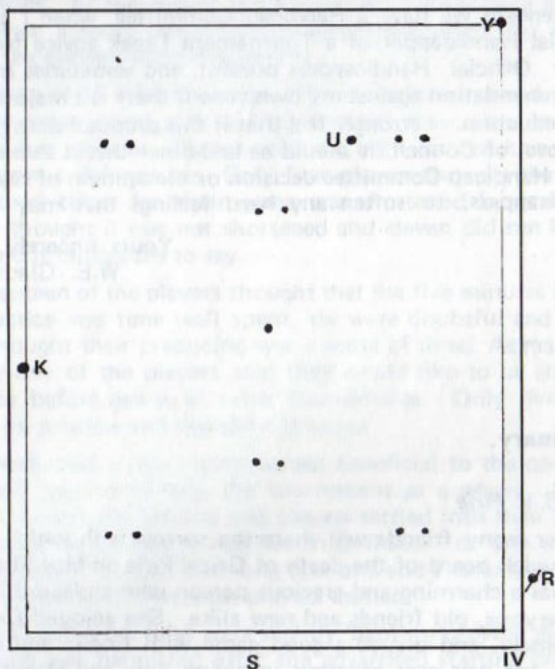
Apps and Steel Bowl Awards 1979.

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

A Question of Tactics. 6.

From Open Doubles 1977.

With Black on 2 back and Yellow on Penultimate, Blue went round and pegged out Red. After a few turns in the course of which Yellow has had two long shots which missed and has cornered twice this is the situation:
Black failed to get position for 4 back and retired to West Boundary. Blue lies about 1 yard west of 4 back, not wired from Yellow. Yellow is in corner III. What should Yellow do? He is wired from Black.



Answer on Page 20.

MAKE A NOTE IN YOUR DIARY NOW.

The 1979 Croquet Association Members Conference will be held on the 8th December at 11.30 at the Hurlingham Club, Ranelagh Gardens, London, SW6.

This will be an important conference to discuss national and local publicity for the game, to consider recruiting campaigns and coaching and to explore the possible effect of televised croquet on clubs.

THE NEW ZEALAND SENIOR INVITATION

EVENT

New Zealand Senior Invitation	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	W i n s
1. Skinley		-5	+10	+18	+15	+17	+24	+18	12
2. Prince	+5		+14	-3	-2	+26	+26	+17	10
3. Hogan	-10	-14		+16	-25	+11	+5	+22	8
4. Murray	-18	+3	-16		-14	+13	+15	+6	8
5. Murfitt	-15	+2	+25	+14		-3	+16	-7	6
6. Anderson	-17	-26	-11	-13	+3		+4	-14	5
7. Openshaw	-24	-26	-5	-15	-16	-4		-16	4
8. Hope	-18	-17	-22	-6	+7	+14	+16		3

New Zealand's equivalent of our Presidents Cup — the New Zealand Presidents Senior Invitation Event was held immediately after the Test series had finished. The players selected were those available from the New Zealand and Great Britain teams plus Andrew Hope who had come out to play in the New Zealand Open Championships. The tournament was played at Papatoetoe (pronounce all the vowels!) Club in a suburb of Auckland, 8 miles to the South of the City. The tournament was due to start on the morning of Monday 19th February. However, it was delayed until late afternoon to allow a shortened version of an International invitation doubles to be played. This had been washed out the previous day when 5½ inches of rain fell in 24 hours! In revised form it was played as a knock-out and was won by Bob Jackson and Paul Skinley who beat William Prichard and David Openshaw in the final.

A start of the Presidents event was made at 3.30 and 2 rounds were completed on the Monday. Four rounds were played on each of the following 3 days with play beginning at 9.00am each day and usually finishing about 6.30 to 7.00pm. Most of those who had followed the Test matches predicted a fight for first place between John Prince and Joseph Hogan but it was Paul Skinley who set the pace winning his first six games — all in a convincing manner. Martin Murray continued his fine form from the tests and had a particularly good win over Prince but he fell to a Skinley triple in round 5. Joseph Hogan whose shooting in the tests had enthralled all who watched, seemed to have lost a little of his magic touch. He lost to Skinley in the 1st round and Murfitt in the 2nd but then recovered to reach 4 out of 7 by the end of the 1st series. John Prince was playing well with beautiful control on the somewhat tricky lawns. It was he who eventually first beat Skinley in a close game in round 7. Prior to this he had however lost two games very narrowly (by -3, -2) to give him a score of 5/7 at the half-way stage. Andrew Hope without the benefit of much practice prior to the event played well to reach 3/7. David Openshaw was playing well below par but had the excuse of a head-on collision (literally) with one of the rather low shelters round the perimeter of the lawns during his first round game.

Scores after first series — Skinley 6, Prince 5, Murray 4, Hogan 4, Murfitt 4, Hope 3, Anderson 2, Openshaw 0.

In the second series Skinley again registered a string of wins and only Prince remained in contention for first place. After Round 12 Skinley had 11 wins and Prince 9 wins. In Round

13 the championship was decided when Skinley beat Openshaw by taking some adventurous shots with his backward ball and Prince lost to a Murfitt triple. It was fitting that in the final round Skinley and Prince should contest a most closely fought and brilliantly played game (see below for details). Of the English players Martin Murray continued to play well and thoroughly deserved to share third place with Hogan. David Openshaw recovered from his disastrous start to score 4/7 in the 2nd series but Andrew Hope, however, did not continue his form from the first series and lost a number of close games.

Highlights of the play

1. Triples. Fourteen triples were completed during the tournament including 5 by Prince and 3 by Skinley. Most notable were two straight triples, one by Murray (v Openshaw) and one by Hogan (v Hope). Murray also completed a triple in the sixth turn against Hope.

2. Murray v Prince. In the second round Murray had a fine win over Prince. Murray was for 1 and 5 when Prince broke down on a triple at 3 back with his other ball for penult. Murray went round with his backward ball double peeling and pegging out Prince and peeling his forward ball through 5 and 6. Prince made nothing from the contact but later had a good chance when he hit a lift shot and got a longish position for 3 back with a ball near 4 back but failed the hoop. Prince did make 2 hoops while Murray reached rover. But the game ended when a 20 yard shot by Prince missed by a fraction and Murray went out.

3. The Shot of the Tournament. In round 4 Murfitt made the hit-in of the year when he aimed at a ball in the fourth hoop from the second corner. He hit the wire of the hoop bounced off and roqueted a ball on the South Boundary.

4. Murfitt v Prince. In round 6 Murfitt and Prince played a very enterprising and interesting game. Murfitt put a ball by the peg on the first turn. Prince also put a ball near the peg a yard from Murfitt's in the second turn. Murfitt shot gently, missed and ended near the peg. Prince then shot from A-baulk but missed. Murfitt then went round to 4 back and left his balls in corners 2 and 4 with Prince's ball just off the boundaries on the East and West boundaries about 13 yards from his own. Prince shot at his partner ball and hit, laid up and when Murfitt missed a long shot went to 4 back. Murfitt then hit the lift with his backward ball and went to the peg. Prince then hit the lift and went to the peg. In the process he accidentally peeled Murfitt through 4 back whilst putting a pioneer to 3 and later peeled himself through 4 back and penult. He attempted to peg out Murfitt but failed and then decided to peg his own ball out. Murfitt again hit the lift and went out to win by two.

5. Skinley v Prince. In the fourteenth round Skinley and Prince treated spectators to a spectacular game.

- 1st turn: Prince put a ball 2 yards out of 4th corner.
- 2nd turn: Skinley laid a 13 yard tice on the East boundary.
- 3rd turn: Prince hit the tice and put Skinley's ball to the peg and left himself a rush into the lawn near the 4th corner.
- 4th turn: Skinley took the short shot, hit and went round to 4 back.
- 5th turn: Prince hit the lift and went to 4 back.

6th turn: Skinley hit the lift, established the break, peeled through 4 back and penult, but broke down at rover. He was attempting a half jump shot to peel his partner ball which was in the jaws of rover. He did peel the ball but his own ball bounced up to the crown of the hoop and back in front of rover.

7th turn: Prince with 4 balls all near rover went out with a triple to win by +3.

Has anyone ever won a game with such a small margin on the seventh turn before?

The New Zealand Dominion Championships 1979

In a normal year the Dominion Championships are the highlight of the New Zealand Croquet season. Usually held in January, and lasting nearly two weeks, they combine the New Zealand Open Championship (played best of three), the Doubles, Men's and Women's Championships (played Draw and Process), together with Men's and Women's Handicap events, a level singles for players of scratch and above, and a plate event. In effect, our Opens, Caskets and Peels run into one huge tournament. Of course 1979 was no normal season, the Tests being held in New Zealand, so some changes had to be made. The Tournament started on Monday, February 19th, based at Mount Hobson Club in Auckland. Since Mount Hobson only has four lawns, other Clubs in Auckland had to be used, particularly the adjacent Remuera Club, also Manurewa and Takapuna. An additional headache for the manager, Mrs Corry, was the fact that the President's Cup (best eight) also started on the same day in Papatoetoe, so the seven players involved in both President's and Dominion were not available for the latter until Friday. This was offset to some extent by the fact that these players were not allowed to enter the Men's or Handicap events.

Unfortunately, the New Zealand Croquet Council's arrangements, which were designed to attract as large as possible an entry from the visiting Test players, only resulted in one entry from the twelve visiting players, that of Martin Murray. This disappointing showing robbed the main events of their potential interest, but was to some extent offset by the entries of Bobby Wiggins, the British team manager, and of Andrew Hope and John Wheeler, who had come out privately. The main strength of the entry was therefore provided by the victorious New Zealand Team. Bob Jackson, their number one and favourite to defend his Open Title, had elected not to play in the President's Cup at Papatoetoe, so seemed certain to win the Men's Championship.

In anticipation of a stronger entry, the New Zealand Council had decided to seed eight players in the Open Singles. Seeding usually of four players, is an accepted feature of the New Zealand Opens, and on this occasion the eight seeds almost selected themselves, the only question being over the eighth place, which was given to Andrew Hope. The ranking of the top three seeds, Jackson 1, Hogan 2, and Prince 3, was also unexceptional, though Martin Murray was a little surprised to find himself seeded at 7 below the three New Zealanders he had beaten in the Tests.

For the first four days of the tournament, while seven of the seeds were busy in the President's at Papatoetoe, the main interest centred round the efforts of Bob Jackson in the early rounds of both Open and Men's. Never seriously challenged, he proceeded to display an exhibition of peeling rarely, if ever, equalled. A completed sextuple peel in the first round of the Men's Draw against William Bulloch set the tone, and was followed two days later by another in the Opens against David Curtis. In between these two feats, both the first ever sextuples in each event, he completed a number of triples. The other notable feature of the first few days play was the fine form being displayed by Bobby Wiggins.

The tournament really came alive on Friday, with the arrival of the seven seeds who had been playing in the President's. Paul Skinley, having played so well to win that event, was expected to mount a strong challenge for the Open Championship, and with players of the quality of Joseph Hogan and John Prince in the field, it was certain that Bob Jackson would not retain his title without a struggle. On Friday and Saturday the seven players were kept very busy catching up with the tournament, demonstrating in the process how much of a gap there is in New Zealand between the top six (the Test team)

and the remaining players. The five New Zealanders of the seven all moved smoothly through two rounds of the Opens in straight games, the most impressive performance coming from Joseph Hogan, who did not concede a point in his four games, completing three triples and a double peel in the process. The two English seeds were less impressive, Martin Murray needing to hit several desperate last shots to win his second game against Keith Woollett +1, and Andrew Hope losing to Cliff Anderson, the New Zealand captain in 1974, after taking the first game +26.

Of the four quarter-final matches, the highlight was obviously that between Jackson and Skinley, many observers feeling that Skinley was playing well enough to beat the holder. In what might have been a managerial mistake, the match was started late on Saturday afternoon, when there was only time for one game to be completed. Jackson was first to 4 back, and when Skinley missed the lift, Jackson started a triple which he failed to complete, and laid up for rover and peg. Skinley now took a long lift shot, hit in the middle, and went to 4 back. Now Jackson missed the lift shot, and Skinley, playing beautifully, started a difficult delayed triple, and was desperately unlucky when a massive split shot from the middle of the east boundary, sending a pioneer to 2 back, left his ball six feet from the peelee at 4 back, but cross-wired. Jackson hit in to take the game. When the match was resumed on Monday morning, Skinley ran a very long and dangerous first hoop, but failed to make further progress; Jackson took control and won the game, again failing to complete his triple.

Of the other quarter-final matches, the father and son confrontation of the Andersons failed to produce the expected fireworks, son Allan winning quite comfortably, as did John Prince against Martin Murray. Joseph Hogan had to concede his first points of the event to Roger Murfitt, but was never seriously threatened, completing a straight triple in the first game.

On form, one might have expected a close match between Prince and Hogan in their semi-final, while Jackson seemed a clear favourite to beat Allan Anderson in the other. Yet in fact Hogan brushed aside Prince's challenge with two brilliant triples, one mistake by Prince in the second game, when he had a chance of winning, proving fatal against a player in such devastating form as Hogan. Meanwhile Jackson was having a tense match against Allan Anderson, who seemed to have recovered the form he had lost in the Tests. He had good chances to win both games, and indeed seemed to be winning the second with a triple when a simple mistake at rover let in Jackson who took the match with another triple.

Joseph Hogan appeared to have an excellent chance of winning the Championship for the first time, Jackson seeming to be a little below his best, but the rest of the New Zealand team were adamant that Jackson would win. "Joe has too much respect for Bob" was the reason given. There seemed little evidence of this as the first game of the final took up a familiar pattern, with Jackson again failing his triple, and Hogan hitting in with the second lift shot. He could not get a triple going on his second break, and when his straight triple attempt ran into trouble, we saw the difference between the two players. Where Jackson would have been content to lay up for penultimate and peg, Hogan persisted with the penultimate peel, got a bad rush to rover as a result, failed, and Jackson grabbed the chance and the first game. In the second game Jackson was again the first to get round, and again failed to complete his triple. Hogan then hit in, but never got his break under control, and got hoop-bound after 1 back. Now he seemed to realise that he was beaten, and took two suicidal shots when Jackson had no real chance of finishing; both missed, and Jackson took the game, match, and title.

There is no doubt that Jackson was a worthy winner of the title. His shooting and hoop-running are both phenomenally good, and did not let him down even when, towards the end of the tournament, his game seemed to have deteriorated a

little. His break play rarely appears very tidy, which perhaps explains his tendency not to complete triples, but he so rarely breaks down, and is so likely to hit in if he does lose the innings, that he is a most formidable opponent.

Hogan, on the other hand, is a superb break player, as his record of six triples in the eight games he won testifies. When things are going his way he is as good as anyone, but when the pressure is on he can falter. This may be a sign of immaturity, after all he is only 20, and if he can overcome this fault he could be as good as any player in the world.

Of the other events, space only allows the briefest mention. The Doubles, being Draw and Process, lacked the atmosphere of the singles, the more so since Jackson and Hogan were playing together and were very clear favourites. Only in two games were they remotely threatened, first by Murray and Hope, who reached 4 back before Hogan's almost inevitable triple, and in the final of one half against Prince and Anderson, where Anderson had a good chance to complete a triple, but again a simple mistake at rover gave the game to Jackson and Hogan +3.

The Men's Championship, as expected, was won easily by Bob Jackson. In eight games he only conceded 26 points and completed five triples and a sextuple peel. The Women's Championship, in the absence of Judith Clarke, at 19 possibly New Zealand's best woman player, was won after a play-off by Susan Grigg, whom the British team had met in Dunedin. Although the best women players in New Zealand are little better than their English counterparts, there are far more of them than we have in England.

In the Plate, played as a single life, and only open to first-time losers, Dennis Bulloch, a personality familiar to English players from his visit in 1975, regained some of the form that earned him a place in our President's Cup in that year, winning comfortably, and completing a triple in the semi-final. This was particularly noteworthy for being the only triple of the Championships completed by a player from outside the New Zealand Test Team, yet another reflection on the large gap between them and the other players in New Zealand.

Both the Men's Handicap and Level Singles (scratch and over) events were won by Peter Couch, a promising player from Christchurch playing in his first Dominion Championship, who had the distinction of inflicting on Bob Jackson his only defeat, singles or doubles, in the final of the Handicap event. The Women's Handicap was won by Mrs Bax.

On comparing these New Zealand Championships with our own similar events, several features stand out. First is the lack of players in New Zealand of a standard comparable to our Chairman's and Spencer Ell players, who can mount a challenge to the top players. Perhaps this is because they have no similar events to encourage such players, but the result is that so many of the matches in the Opens were one-sided, only two of the thirty two going to a third game. Seeding, about which arguments frequently take place in England, certainly seems to be a mistake if, as in these Championships, too many players are seeded. Perhaps having only four seeds would have added a little more interest to the draw, as well as providing a higher standard in the plate. Despite these two factors, the Championships still provided contests of the highest calibre, hardly surprising when New Zealand can claim to have, in Jackson, Hogan, Skinley and Prince, four of the best six players in the world. For the English visitors it was an unforgettable experience, and one which can be recommended to anyone looking for an escape from the snows of January in England.

The 1979 New Zealand Open Championship

First Round: R.V. Jackson bt J. Booth +25 +26.

Second Round: C.E. Anderson bt A.B. Hope (GB) -26 +23 +12. Mrs J. Gehan (Australia) bt C.J. Read +11 +15. Mrs J.N. Ward bt Mrs V. Boyes +22 +11. Dr. A.M. Anderson bt Mrs J. D. Kendall +10 +24. P.J. Skinley bt Mrs J. Booth +25 +26. C.E. Jones w.o. C. Johnston opp. retired, D.W. Curtis bt L.

Ford +19 +9. R.V. Jackson bt D.J. Bulloch +23 +26(TP). J.K. Hogan bt W.R. Bulloch +26(TP) +26(TP). Dr. W.R.D. Wiggins(GB) bt R.F. Hoysted +17 +12. Mrs K. Woollett bt C. T. Wadsworth +18 -19 +7. R.J. Murfitt bt Mrs D.G. Jackson +11 +18. J.G. Prince bt Miss R.J. Elliott +26 +23. J.A. Wheeler(GB) bt Mrs R.A. Johnstone +19 +21. K. Woollett bt Mrs B. Jarden +13 +17. Dr. M. Murray(GB) bt J.W. McNab +24 +21.

Third Round: C.E. Anderson bt Mrs J. Gehan +18 +15. Dr. A. M. Anderson bt Mrs J.N. Ward +2 +17(TP). P.J. Skinley bt C. E. Jones +18 +20. R.V. Jackson bt D.W. Curtis +15 +26(Sextuple peel). J.K. Hogan bt Dr. W.R.D. Wiggins +26(TP) +26. R.J. Murfitt bt Mrs K. Woollett +4 +14. J.G. Prince bt J.A. Wheeler +10 +26. Dr. M. Murray bt K. Woollett +14 +1.

Fourth Round: Dr. A.M. Anderson bt C.E. Anderson +26 +9. R.V. Jackson bt P.J. Skinley +11 +25. J.K. Hogan bt R.J. Murfitt +16(STP) +10. J.G. Prince bt Dr M. Murray +26 +6. **Semi-finals:** R.V. Jackson bt Dr. A.M. Anderson +26 +9. J.K. Hogan bt J.G. Prince +26(TP) +15(TP).

Final: R.V. Jackson bt J.K. Hogan +5 +19.

Roving Eye.

John Solomon won the N.Z. Doubles Championship twice (not once as reported in *C.G.* 151 p.3). The second time was with E.P.C. Cotter in 1963. That makes his tally 39 National Championships — if winning the President's Cup could be counted as a national title, the tally would be an incredible 48! John should also be added to the list of G.B. players who became entitled to the President's Cup Tie before playing in it (*C.G.* 150 p. 13); he played in the MacRobertson Shield in '50-51'.

The Reckitt Club is hoping to play its inaugural match in July — appropriately against the Heley Club. Half the team will come from the victorious 1978 Oxford team and the other half from Oxford Graduates of the past. Ian Bond is still hoping to hear from more possible players (even possible Match Managers) and from Clubs who would like to have a match against them.

Graham Martin and **Ken Schofield** must be well pleased with Harrow Oak Club of which they were founder members not much more than ten years ago. It was because of Graham Martin's coaching and the Club's success in the Longman Cup just after he joined, that David Openshaw had his appetite for croquet whetted. Not many Clubs with such a short history can boast an International, a 2nd and 3rd in the President's Cup, and a winner of the Apps Bowl (all David Openshaw); a winner of the Chairman's Salver (Eric Solomon, twice); two wins in the Longman Cup and the winner of the All England Handicap (J. Bardo). They have not won the Inter-Club yet, but with such a strong string it is not surprising that they have had a number of good wins.

George Noble came into Croquet about eight years ago when he was working at Trawscoed, near Aberystwyth. He was instrumental in getting the 50 other players there to switch from Golf Croquet to Association in their lunchtime sessions — and they became affiliated to the C.A. In 1972 the Prichards took a team to the new Club. The four lawns were quarter-size with one corner missing, radiating round a stone fountain; the undulations were interesting and the grass as lush as one could expect from an Agricultural Establishment. **William Prichard** (-5) who had won the President's Cup the previous week, played at No. 1 and met George Noble (+7) and the Visitor's Captain thought full bisques should be given. It was not long before George had pegged out William's front ball and had cleverly laid up in a hollow quite hidden from sight! William wondered if this constituted a lift! Anyway George duly collected his first scalp. Within a year he had come on a Referee's Course and in 1974 joined Nottingham where he has been a regular winner, blossoming last year into triple-peeling success in the Robin Hood Cup and the Open Singles. And now, on his first visit to the Mens and Womens Championships he collects no less a scalp than Paul Hands in the final. It is the first time for 45 years that anyone living North of London has won the Men's Championship — but having beaten them he is joining them and he is soon moving to London.

WEEK-END TOURNAMENTS

Cheltenham I, 14-16 April

Block A. **D.R. Foulser** (1½) 4 wins (+40), Prof. B.G. Neal (-2) 4 wins (+22), R.M. Hobbs (14), 3 wins, Miss I.M. Rose (5½), 2 wins, Prof. B.G. Weitz (½) 2 wins (-40), P. Alvey (3½) Nil.

Block B. **F.R. Landor** (13) 4 wins (+51), W.J. Sturdy (3½) 4 wins (+21), P.W. Hands (-2) 3 wins, S.G. Garrett (6) 2 wins (-8), J.A. Wheeler (1) 2 wins (-10), Mrs D.M.C. Prichard (1) Nil.

Block C. **D.K. Openshaw** (-2) 5 wins, J. McCullough (6½) 4 wins, Col E.L.L. Vulliamy (2½) 2 wins (-4), Mrs G.T. Wheeler (½) 2 wins (-36), Mrs B.G. Neal (5) Nil.

Block D. **B.C. Sykes** (2½) 5 wins, C.B. Sandford (4½) 3 wins (+22), G.E.P. Jackson (-½) 3 wins (-1), J. Rose (½) 2 wins, Lady Bazley (6½) 1 win (-36), P.A. Dweeryhouse (12) 1 win (-42).

Block E. **Dr. G.K. Taylor** (1) 5 wins, R.D.C. Prichard (2) 4 wins, Rev. W.E. Gladstone (0) 3 wins, L.G. Ayliffe (5) 2 wins, Mrs J.H. Soutter (7) 1 win, A.E. Watkins (13) Nil.

Block F. **Mrs B.C. Sykes** (7½) 5 wins, J.H.J. Soutter (0) 3 wins (+33), P.M. Johnson (4) 3 wins (+5), A.F. Coleman (1½) 3 wins (-11), G. Henshaw (3) 1 win, Mrs A. Warren (10) Nil.

Block G. **S.J.W. Hoole** (10) 5 wins, Lt. Col. D.M.C. Prichard (1½) 4 wins, Mrs B.G. Weitz (3) 3 wins, G.F. Blumer (6) 2 wins, J. Haigh (0) 1 win, Mrs A.J. Bucknall (9) Nil.

Block H. **G.J. Roberts** (0) 5 wins, P.J. Shepperd (10) 4 wins, J. Ruddock (1½) 3 wins, Miss S.G. Hampson (3) 2 wins, A.J. Bucknall (5½) 1 win, Miss J. Wraith (10) Nil.

David Openshaw won his first match in the tournament beating Col. E.L.L. Vulliamy +21 with a splendid triple peel, and then in the afternoon defeated Mrs P.A. Dwerryhouse +18 with yet another triple.

Francis Landor, a high bisquer from Oxford University won his block, and his match against John Wheeler was notable for the fact that he had 8 of his 12 bisques left after emerging the winner +25.

Bryan Sykes, receiving 3 bisques from Edgar Jackson, decided to attempt his first triple peel in a match. Using his one remaining bisque he did the three peels only to find himself hoopbound after making rover due to his having had to do a half jump shot. This left him with the possibility of pegging out by trying a combination peg out but alas he did not realise he could roquet his partner ball again, tried shooting through the hoop at an opponent's ball and missed. Although this gave Edgar a chance Bryan went on to win +17.

Stephen Hoole had an aggregate score of +100 when winning Block G. — is this a record?

Roehampton 19-22 April

Swiss Handicap Singles (8 Rounds, 30 Entries).

6 wins: Mrs D.J. Croker, R.A. Godby, S. Godsi, J.D. Greenwood, S.S. Townsend.

5 wins: Mrs E.E. Bressey, D.J. Croker, Miss B. Duthie, G.B. Martin, C.G. Pountney, Mrs B. Weitz.

4 wins: P. Callan, Miss S. Hampson, C. Hudson, Mrs W. Jones, M.G. Pearson, M.J. Stevens, B. Whitehouse (match between Whitehouse and Pearson unfinished).

3 wins: P. Alvey, R. Gosden, Mrs R. Gosden, J. Haigh, Mrs B. Mansfield, Mrs K. Townsend, Mrs S.S. Townsend (match between Mrs Mansfield and Mrs Townsend unfinished).

2 wins: Mrs J. Healy, K. Townsend, L. Wharrad, Miss J. Wraith.

1 win: Miss P. Shine.

Thames Valley 12 and 13 May.

Probably no-where in England are there seven more beautiful full size Croquet Courts within a radius of twenty miles of

each other than in the Thames Valley. Three are riverside courts, pheasants and moorhens on one and peacocks on another. Phyllis Court Croquet Club arranged a Week-end Tournament on May 12th and 13th on their two courts together with five others. Betts at Crowmarsh, Cranes at Ibstone, Pims at Rotherfield Greys, Tanners at Hedgerley and the Weitz at at Arborfield. Forty two players took part, sixteen members from P.C. and the rest as far afield as Hampstead, Guildford, Abingdon, Oxford, Woking, Bracknell etc. There were seven blocks with six players in each block, handicaps ranging from 0 to 16. Everybody had three games (Double Banking) of 22 points the first day and two games the second day. (Time limit 2 hours).

The Week-end could have turned out as a treasure hunt, car rally and Croquet Tournament, each player was supplied with a timetable and maps of the various courts, as the blocks played on different courts each day, and the Final was at P.C. late Sunday afternoon. Only one car broke down and the 1½ hour delay at Cranes Court was rectified by playing into the dusk on the first evening. One disaster occurred, a herd of bullocks decided to spend the night on Betts Court a week before the Tournament, but by some miracle the court was quite playable on by the week-end. Perfect Summer weather prevailed throughout both days and the croquet was quite high standard for the beginning of the season, many games were finished well within the two hours, and all the players were conscientious about turning up before their appointed time. Each block was won by the lowest handicapped, only one play-off was necessary as two players emerged with five wins each. B. Weitz won Block B. and J. Rose and P. Alvey jointly won Block G. So about 4 pm. on Sunday Bernard and John played a final, watched by many of the participants. John won by seven and he was presented with an engraved Glass Tankard. John will play Peter sometime to see who will keep the Tankard! It was indeed a successful experiment for Thames Valley Croquet.

Block Winner A. **John Soutter** Block Winner B. **Bernard Weitz**
Block Winner C. **David Croker** Block Winner D. **Ian Bond**
Block Winner E. **Terry Wood** Block Winner F. **Bryan Sykes**
Block Winner G. **John Rose and Peter Alvey**

Hunstanton I. 5-7 May.

Swiss Handicap Singles
(6 Rounds, 24 Entries, 3½ hr Time-limit, Double Banking).

6 wins: J.D. Gosden (7).

5 wins: C. Snowdon (4).

4 wins: P.L. Alvey (3½), Mrs H.B.H. Carlisle (2), R.A. Gosden (11), Miss S. Hampson (3), J.D. Meads (2), D. Turner (4), J.A. Wheeler (1), Mrs R.F. Wheeler (3).

3 wins: T. Anderson (4), Miss J.E. Assheton (9), J. Bowman (7), H.G. Drake (2½), Dr. R.F. Wheeler (5).

2 wins: Mrs T. Anderson (11), J. Haigh (0), C.E. Knight (4½), Miss A. Neville-Rolfe (2½), R. Welch (7½).

1 win: H.B. Carlisle (1½), Mrs R.A. Gosden (13), Miss P. Hampson (14).

Double-banking was used throughout and was most successful, everybody having 2 games per day. John Gosden, home from the Seychelles and not having played since last June, played very well and won all his games — perhaps practice is unnecessary.

We were impressed by the way Judy Anderson used her bisques, and she should soon lose some of them. Several players were below their usual form but it was early in the season.

Now that the Club serves lunches, there is no waiting about for players to return from their hotels, and so speeds up the game.

Southport and Birkdale W/E 26-28 May.

Block A; Conditions of advanced play.

B.A. **Keen** 5 wins bt Richardson, Smith, Meads, Haste, Bell.
J.D. Meads 4 wins bt Richardson, Smith, Stoker, Bell.

P. Stoker 4 wins bt Smith, Haste, Bell, Keen.
T.J. Haste 3 wins bt Richardson, Meads, Bell.
D.G. Richardson 3 wins bt Smith, Stoker, Bell.
E. Bell 1 win bt Smith.
T.W. Smith 1 win bt Haste.

Because several of the competitors were committed to travelling to Hurlingham to play in the Inter-Counties the bright sunshine on Sunday was used to the full and play went on into the late evening. T.J. Haste of Southport made his first venture into the Advanced Rules game and had his handicap reduced from 4 to 3.

Swiss Handicap Singles. 14 entries — Jubilee Tankards

It was planned to hold 7 rounds, Double banked, with 3¼ hour time limits; a win on time considered inferior to an outright victory. When the total handicap of both players was 20 or more a 22 point game was played. Sunday's fine weather allowed the programme to be up to schedule and by early afternoon on Monday, at the end of round 6 was:— 5 wins **J.H. Bowman** (7) (1 on time), 4 wins M. Kolbuszewski (5), Mrs A. Hadcroft (10), A. Collin (8) (1 on time), Mrs P. Hague (10) (2 on time), 3 wins, Mrs N. Tyldesley (5), A. Bennet (10) (1 on time), 2 wins, E.L. Gardiner (9), Mrs J.P. Assheton (9), 1 win Dr B.R. Sandiford (6), Mrs I.M. Moorcraft (10). G.B. Binks (6).

The more hardy started the 7th round and John Bowman and Martin Kolbuszewski both won their matches. The rain did not abate and everyone agreed that the other rankings should be at the end of round 6 and happily retired to drier clothes.

Compton I, 10-13 May.

Block A. **E.C. Tyrwhitt Drake** (½) 3 wins, E.J. Tucker (0) 2 wins, Cmdr. G. Borrett (½) 1 win.

Block B. **Dr. B. Yallop** (2) 3 wins (+45), J.C. Ruddock (1½) 3 wins (+8), R. Wallis (3½) 3 wins (1 on time).

Block C. **W. Nicholson** (6½) 4 wins, R. Newnham (7) 3 wins, Mrs E.C. Tyrwhitt Drake (6½) 2 wins (on time), D. Brown (6½) 1 win, P.H. Mann (5½) Nil.

Block D. **Mrs P.H. Mann** (7½) 4 wins (1 on time), Mrs M. Grout () 2 wins (1 on time), Mrs E.J. Tucker (7½) 2 wins (1 on time), H.G.B. Wagnall (7½) 1 win (on time), Mrs A. Millns (9) 1 win (on time).

Block E. **Mrs H.G. Wills** (8) 3 wins (+50), J. Bettley () 3 wins (+34), C. Grout (10) 2 wins, J. van Berckel (11) 1 win (on time), Mrs D. Waterhouse (10) 1 win (on time).

PLAY-OFF.

Quarter-final. **Mrs Wills** bt Yallop +15.

Semi-finals. **Tyrwhitt Drake** bt Mrs Wills +7 (on time).
Nicholson bt Mrs Mann +21.

Final. **Tyrwhitt Drake** bt Nicholson +12.

Wrest Park I, 18-20 May.

Block A. **M.G. Tompkinson** (4) 6 wins (+97), J. Potter (5) 6 wins (+87), B. Harral (6) 4 wins (+38), Mrs J. Neville-Rolfe (2½) 4 wins (-8), E. Bell (1) 3 wins, J.A. Wheeler (1) 2 wins (-36), V. Burgmann (6) 2 wins (-45), Mrs E. Deakin (13) Nil.

Block B. **Dr T. Haste** (5½) 7 wins, H.C. Green (1) 5 wins, Dr. R. Wheeler (5) 4 wins (+24), Mrs H. Potter (12) 4 wins (-18), T.W. Anderson (4) 3 wins (+30), J. Rose (1) 3 wins (-10), P. Stoker (2½) 1 win, Mrs V. Burgmann (9) Nil.

Block C. **Mrs J. Anderson** (11) 6 wins (+76), A.C.W. Davies (4) 6 wins (+57), B.A. Keen (1) 5 wins, E. Audsley (3½) 4 wins, N. Davren (½) 3 wins, G. Binks (6) 2 wins (-27), Mrs D.A.B. Wheeler (3) 2 wins (-41), Mrs V. Tomkinson (12) Nil.

Cheltenham IIA, 25-26 May.

Block A. **G. Blumer** (6) 3 wins (+40), Prof. B.G. Neal (-2) 3 wins (-4), Miss A. Searle (8) 2 wins, Mrs J. Povey (3) 1 win, Mrs M. Langley (14) Nil.

Block B. **J. McCulloch** (6) 4 wins, G.E.P. Jackson (-½) 3 wins, G. Sisum (10) 2 wins, Mrs R.F. Wheeler (3) 1 win, Mrs R. F. Crane (12) Nil.

Block C. **R.L.S. Berkeley** (10) 4 wins, Mrs H. Handley (5) 3 wins, R.F. Crane (3½) 2 wins, Rev. W.E. Gladstone (0) 1 win, Miss M.J. Lodge (6½) Nil.

Block D. **A. Blenkin** (8) 4 wins, M.G. Pearson (3½) 3 wins, Dr. H. Pim (5½) 1 win and D.R. Foulser (1½) 1 win (playing 1 of Dr. Pim's games), Mrs G.T. Wheeler (2) 1 win, Miss J. Wraith (10) Nil.

Block E. **R.E. Adlard** (2) 4 wins, W.J. Sturdy (3½) 3 wins, Lady Bazley (6½) 1 win, D.R. Foulser (1½) 2 wins and Col. G. T. Wheeler Nil (playing as one person — two games each), Mrs V. Worsley Nil.

Block F. **Mrs D. Exell** (10) 4 wins, Mrs B.G. Neal (7) 3 wins, Dr. R.F. Wheeler (5) 2 wins, D.H. Moorcroft (2½) 1 win, W. Morton (11) Nil.

Block G. **C.B. Sanford** (4½) 3 wins (+23), Miss I.M. Roe (5½) 3 wins (+18), F.E. Pearson (3) 2 wins, Mrs H. Pim (7½) 1 win, Capt. P. Read (10) Nil.

Cheltenham IIB, 27-28 May.

ADVANCED and LEVEL PLAY.

Block A. **Prof. B.G. Neal** 4 wins bt Murray +8, Jackson +10, Gladstone +15, Soutter +24; Jackson 3 wins bt Murray +17, Soutter +22, Gladstone +10; Dr' M. Murray 2 wins bt Gladstone +5, Soutter +3; J.H.J. Soutter 1 win bt Gladstone +25; Rev. W.E. Gladstone Nil.

Block B. **D.R. Foulser** 3 wins bt Weitz +26, Pearson +14, Mrs R.F. Wheeler +11; Prof. B.G. Weitz 3 wins bt Mrs Wheeler +23, Pearson +16, Mrs R.F. Wheeler +11; F.E. Pearson 1 win bt Mrs R.F. Wheeler +9; Mrs R.F. Wheeler 1 win bt Mrs G.T. Wheeler +9; Mrs G.T. Wheeler 1 win bt Foulser +3.

Block C. Advanced Play — 22 point game.
R.F.A. Crane 3 wins bt Miss E.H. Arkell +17, Betts +6, Sanford +11; C.B. Sanford 2 wins bt Mrs B.G. Weitz +15, Miss Arkell +10; Mrs B.G. Weitz 2 wins bt Crane +8, Betts +11; Miss E.H. Arkell 2 wins bt Mrs Weitz +2, Betts +4; G. Betts 1 win bt Sanford +9.

Block D. Level Play — 22 point game
Miss I.M. Roe 4 wins; Dr. R.F. Wheeler 3 wins. Dr. H. Pim 1 win, L. Ayliffe 1 win, Mrs H. Handley Nil.

Block E. Level Play — 18 point game.
G. Blumer 4 wins, Miss M.J. Lodge 2 wins (-11), Mrs B.G. Neal 2 wins (-12), Lady Bazley 1 win, Mrs H. Pim Nil and Mrs J. Povey 1 win (playing 2 of Mrs Pim's games).

Block F. Level Play — 18 point game.
P.J. Shepard 3 wins, Miss A. Searle 3 wins, Mrs J.H.J. Soutter 2 wins, G. Sisum 2 wins, Mrs N. Adlam Nil.

Block G. Level Play — 18 point game
R.L.S. Berkeley 4 wins, Capt. P. Reid 3 wins, Miss J. Wraith 2 wins, Mrs R.F. Crane 1 win, Mrs M. Langley Nil.

Although two days of this weekend tournament were played in persistent rain it was enjoyed by most competitors. As the writer was playing he was unable to follow progress of the entire tournament, but in Block A. triple peels were executed by Edgar Jackson against Martin Murray and by Murray against the Rev. Gladstone. In Block B. Mrs G.T. Wheeler won her first match against Foulser by +3 after being behind thanks to some brilliant shooting. Foulser recovered from this defeat in his first match to beat Bernard Weitz by +26 to win the block, without his opponent taking croquet. Block G. was well won by Roger Berkeley, from Bath, who won all his eight matches over the four days.

Colchester, 26-28 May.

SWISS HANDICAP SINGLES
(6 Rounds, 3¼ hr Time limit, Double Banking).

Completed 6 Rounds.

6 wins. **J.G. Phillips** (½). 5 wins. M.N. Avery (14). J.C. Ruddock (1½). 4 wins. Miss S.G. Hampson (3), Mrs R. Stanley-Smith (8), P.L. Alvey (3½), Mrs A.N. Rolfe (2½), C.J. Avery (12), J.S.H. Battison (3). 3 wins. J. Haigh (0), J. Rose (½), E. L. Avery (8), D.B. Wilson (4), 2 wins. G. Cuttle (9), G.S. Digby (2), R.S. Alford (3½), Dr. W. Dean (10). 1 win J. Piper (16).

Completed 5 Rounds.

3 wins. Mrs G.S. Digby (3), Mrs A.A. Zinn (8). 2 wins. G.F. Hallett (2), N.J. Gooch (4), N. Leech (4½), E.A. Locke (5), Mrs H. Abderhalden (11). 1 win. Miss E.I. Wood (10), L. Abderhalden (6½).

Nottingham, 1-3 June.

BLOCK HANDICAPS' 26 Entries.

Block A. G.E.P. Jackson (-½) 5 wins (+38), G. Henshaw (3) 5 wins (+24), R.C. Jones (7) 3 wins (+24), Mrs W. Hague (10) 3 wins (+18), D. de Q. Lenfestey (4½) 3 wins (+1), C. Chamberlain (6½) 2 wins, Mrs A.J. Bucknell Nil.

Block B. I.G. Vincent (1) 4 wins (+49), I.C. Meredith (11) 4 wins (+23), Mrs R.F. Wheeler (3) 4 wins (+23), Mrs C. Chamberlain (8) 2 wins, Mrs D. de Q. Lenfestey (6) 1 win, A.J. Girling Nil.

Block C. T.W. Smith (4½) 5 wins, P. Death (2½) 4 wins, A.J. Bucknell (6) 3 wins, D. Daintree (12) 1 win (-12), S. Thomas (16) 1 win (-30), Mrs L.A. Coombs (4½) 1 win (-45).

Block D. G.W. Noble (½) 5 wins, R.F. Wheeler 4 wins (+23), M.T. Haslam (5½) 4 wins (+6), P.V. Cozens (3) 3 wins, Mrs J. S. Tyldesley (5) 2 wins, R.H. Fletcher (6½) 1 win (-44), Mrs I.C. Meredith (13) 1 win (-55).

Hunstanton II, 8-10 June**Swiss Handicap Singles**

(6 Rounds, 20 Entries, 3¼ hr Time-limit, Double Banking)

5 wins, M.N. Avery (11), Mrs J. Anderson (10), J.A. Wheeler (1). 4 wins, Mrs A.N. Rolfe (2½), T. Anderson (4), H.C. Green (1), V. Burgman (6). 3 wins, Mrs R.F. Wheeler (3), J. Haigh (0) (4 games played), J. Wood (8), Mrs M. Sheldon (10), Dr. R.F. Wheeler (5), Miss S. Hampson (3) (4 games played). 2 wins, R. A. Gosden (11), Mrs H.A. Zinn (8), D. Turner (4), Mrs R.A. Gosden (13). 1 win, Mrs V. Burgman (11), C. Palmer (11). Nil, Miss E. Wood (10).

The winner was decided by 6 shots each at the peg. After first 6 shots, two were still tied. A further 6 shots each saw M.N. Avery the winner.

Southwick, 15-17 June

BLOCK A: P.W. Hands (-2) 5 wins, G.F. Paxham (5½) 4 wins E.E. Rees (1½) 3 wins, R.S. Eades (3½) 2 wins, P.W. Newnham (9) 1 win, Miss P. Shine (10) Nil.

BLOCK B: S.S. Battison (3) 5 wins, Prof B. Weitz (½) 4 wins, H.G. Drake (2½) 3 wins, C.T. Chandler (10) 2 wins (-3 pts), Mrs E. Sturdy (7) 2 wins, (-32 pts), Mrs M. Spear (5) Nil.

BLOCK C: D.C. Caporn (4½) 4 wins (+72 pts), M. Phelps (3) 4 wins (+52 pts), D.R. Foulser (1½) 4 wins (+41 pts), Mrs W. Longman (5½) 2 wins, Mrs E. Lewis (9) 1 win, Mrs M. Rankin (11) Nil.

BLOCK D: A. Coleman (1½) 5 wins, W.S. Sturdy (3½) 4 wins, H. Shepherd (4) 3 wins, Mrs G. Day (8) 2 wins, Mrs N. Adlam (9) 1 win, T. Vale (12) Nil.

Paul Hands, in his first appearance at Southwick, completed a fine triple peel in his first match and followed this in the next match against Smokey Eades with a double peel and peg out on the opponent. His last match, against T. Vale was almost one for the record books. Giving away 14 bisques, Paul went to 4 back on the 4th turn, the opponent took a bisque to separate the enemy balls and then laid up. Paul hit in and established a break but the laws were too heavy too accomplish the very long rush shots required to attempt a triple peel. However, Paul attempted a straight triple which unfortunately failed. Block B was won by Steve Battison who played very steady croquet in all his matches as did Block D winner, Alec Coleman.

Nottingham Jubilee Open W/E 29 June-1 July.

Block A. Conditions of Advanced Play.

Dr I.G. Vincent 5 wins bt Taylor +23, Wheeler +13, Evans +25 (TP), Henshaw +14, Smith +18, P.W. Hands 5 wins bt Taylor +19, Wheeler +6, Vincent +19(TP), Henshaw +25, Smith +13. J.M. Evans 4 wins bt Hands +25, Taylor +25, Henshaw +15, Smith +26. J.A. Wheeler 4 wins bt Taylor +5, Evans +6, Henshaw +24, Smith +5. Dr. G.K. Taylor 2 wins bt Henshaw +13, Smith +12. G. Henshaw 1 win bt Smith +21. Dr. T.W. Smith Nil.

Block B. Conditions of Advanced Play.

D.R. Foulser 5 wins bt Noble +22, Ruddock +13, Meads +2, Death +24, Mrs Wheeler +13. G.W. Noble 5 wins bt Rose +20, Ruddock +13, Meads +23, Death +5, Mrs Wheeler +23. J. Rose 5 wins bt Foulser +5, Ruddock +23, Meads +19, Death +5, Mrs Wheeler +6. P.J. Death 3 wins bt Ruddock +17, Meads +22, Mrs Wheeler +8. J. Meads 2 wins bt Ruddock +6, Mrs Wheeler +16. J.C. Ruddock 1 win bt Mrs Wheeler +12. Mrs D. F. Wheeler Nil.

PLAY-OFF. Foulser bt Vincent. +8.

Block C. Conditions of Advanced Play.

Dr. R.F. Wheeler 5 wins bt Bucknell +16, Chamberlain +9, Fletcher +12, Robinson +5, Burgmann +9. V.D. Burgmann 4 wins bt Bucknell +9, Chamberlain +14, Fletcher +2, Robinson +8. A.J. Bucknell 3 wins bt Chamberlain +4, Fletcher +9, Robinson +11. L. Robinson 2 wins bt Chamberlain +5, Fletcher +17. C. Chamberlain 1 win bt Fletcher +7. R.H. Fletcher Nil.

Block D. Level Play.

(18 point games, 5th Hoop Start, Handicap 8 and over).

G. Cormack 6 wins bt Brabin +16, Mrs Bucknell +9, Mrs Death +16, Thomas +13, Mrs Haworth +17, Mrs Chamberlain +10, Mrs A.J. Bucknell 5 wins bt Brabin +6, Mrs Death +17, Mrs Chamberlain +7, Thomas +8, Mrs Haworth +13. Mrs C. Chamberlain 4 wins bt Brabin +16, Mrs Death +11, Thomas +6, Mrs Haworth +10. S. Thomas 2 wins bt Brabin +5, Mrs Death +9. Mrs L. Death 2 wins bt Brabin +10, Mrs Haworth +6. R. Brabin 1 win bt Mrs Haworth +6. Mrs M.J. Haworth 1 win bt Thomas +3.

Nottingham held their first Open Weekend Tournament as part of the celebrations of their 50th season. The entry, which ranged from present and former Men's Champions to players in their first tournament, was divided into two blocks of equal weight and blocks for middle and high bisquers, the latter playing 18pt games without lifts. Conditions were cool and dry for the most part, with pleasantly fast lawns.

There was plenty of good play in the top blocks, with peeling appearing to be much on competitors' minds: two triples succeeded and several more were reported as "failed, but only just". Games in the third block were often tightly fought (two thirds resulted in single figure margins), but the fourth block was more relaxed and progress correspondingly quicker. An undefeated winner emerged from both the lower blocks but the margin of wins determined who should enter the play-off between the top blocks for the shield presented by Mr G. Birch for the occasion. In the event, David Foulser (fresh from winning the Northern Championship) beat the Manager, Ian

Vincent, in a rather longer, but probably more interesting, game than the latter had anticipated!

The pleasure of the event was increased by visits from the C.A. President and his wife and other friends of the Club. Its success was ensured by Mrs Ward's excellent catering and one hopes rather less than fifty years will elapse before it is held again.

Edgbaston Open Weekend 22-24 June.

Block 1. H. Bottomley (5 wins) bt Hawkins +6, Brown +26(TP) Trafford +20, Jones +9, Mrs Lenfestey +26. H. Hawkins (4 wins) bt Brown +10, Trafford +21, Jones +6, Mrs Lenfestey +22. M.G. Brown (2 wins) bt Jones +13, Mrs Lenfestey +20. P. Trafford (2 wins) bt Brown +6, Mrs Lenfestey +16. R.C. Jones (1 win) bt Trafford +14. Mrs D. de Q. Lenfestey (1 win) bt Jones +5(T).

Block 2. R.F. Rothwell (5 wins) bt Girling +4, Lenfestey +15, Potter +14, Miss Hewitson +17, Townsend +23. A.J. Girling (4 wins) bt Lenfestey +4(T), Potter +18, Miss Hewitson +15, Townsend +13. D. de Q. Lenfestey (2 wins) bt Potter +19, Miss Hewitson +23. J. Potter (2 wins) bt Miss Hewitson +17, Townsend +5. Miss H. Hewitson (1 win) bt Townsend +14(T). K. Townsend Nil.

PLAY-OFF. Bottomley bt Rothwell +25.

Eleven players from the West Midlands plus Richard Rothwell competed in this first ever Open Weekend at Edgbaston. Full use was made of a two day weekend by beginning the tournament on Friday evening and introducing Double Banking in some of the rounds. The convincing winner was Howard Bottomley who played some impressive games including the first triple peel to be completed in a tournament game at Edgbaston for several years. The event was a success and we hope it will become an Annual fixture.

The South of England Championships held at Devonshire Park, 9-21 April.

First Week.

Although the last four days of the second week were certainly too cold for comfort, in all other respects the Devonshire Park fortnight in its new date in the calendar had a most auspicious and enjoyable opening. Seven of the eight lawns were in beautiful condition and a real pleasure to play on. Those competitors who entered for the first week made a wise choice with the weather gradually building up to a superlative weekend. Entries, perhaps predictably, were down on last year's Autumn Tournament but included several newcomers from the North, the Midlands and South-West. The winners of the six events in the first week were members, respectively of: Southwick, Nottingham, Bowdon, Southport, Phyllis Court and again, Nottingham. In the 'Y' handicap singles the winner came from Tunbridge Wells.

Richard Rothwell filled the vacant position of Manager during the first week, and in addition to his duties enjoyed a most successful and consistent week of play, winning the Handicap Singles and being runner-up to Tristram Owen in the Ionides South of England Championship. Owen, by careful and accurate croquet, and the ability to hit the important long shots, deservedly retained the Cup which he had won at Southwick last September. In winning the Devonshire Park Salver and also the Handicap Doubles with her husband, Mrs R.F. Wheeler impressed spectators and opponents alike by her excellent form and will undoubtedly be matching strides with the best women players before long. The losing finalists in these events were Mr & Mrs Tyrwhitt Drake, D.A. Harris in the Handicap Singles, Mrs Asa-Thomas, Dr. C.A. Parker and his Son, Dr. D.A. Parker were others who were busily employed until Fri-

day evening. Two newcomers from the North, J.H. Bowman of Bowdon and G.B. Binks of Southport dominated play in the Luard Cup, each player winning one half of the Draw and Process. In the play-off Bowman proved the stronger and gained a well-deserved victory. The Trevor Williams Cup was played as an American Tournament and was won by Miss I.M. Hawkins of Southport who was undefeated. Miss P.E. Parler was the runner-up in this event. H.G. Drake, playing well at the end of the week took the 'Y' Handicap Singles, Frances Joly being the losing finalist.

Results.

Event 1. The Ionides Challenge Trophy. Championship of the South of England. (7 entries).

DRAW.

First Round. T.F. Owen bt R.F. Rothwell +3, *Miss F. Joly* bt E.C. Tyrwhitt Drake +4, *D.A. Harris* bt D.J.V. Hamilton-Miller +9.

Semi-final. Owen bt Miss Joly +12, *Tucker* bt Harris +7.

Final. Owen bt Tucker +18.

PROCESS.

First Round. Rothwell bt Harris +17, *Miss Joly* bt Tucker +13, *Owen* bt Hamilton-Miller +15.

Semi-final. Rothwell bt Miss Joly +13, *Owen* bt Tyrwhitt Drake +10.

Final. Owen bt Rothwell +17.

Play-off for second place. Rothwell bt Tucker +5.

Event 2. The Devonshire Park Salver (2½ bisques and over) (12 entries).

DRAW.

First Round. R.F. Wheeler bt Dr. C.A. Parker +9, *Mrs E. Asa-Thomas* bt Mrs G.F.H. Elvey +13, *Mrs R.F. Wheeler* bt Mrs E. Temple +22, *C.E. Knight* bt Mrs H.F. Chittenden w.o. opp. scr.

Second Round. Dr. D.A. Parker bt Dr. S.C.R. Malin +8, *Mrs Asa-Thomas* bt Wheeler +1, *Mrs Wheeler* bt Knight +15, *H.G. Drake* bt Prof A.S.C. Ross +16.

Semi-final. Mrs Asa-Thomas bt Dr. D.A. Parker +7, *Mrs Wheeler* bt Drake +10.

Final. Mrs Wheeler bt Mrs Asa-Thomas +22.

PROCESS.

First Round. Malin bt Knight +5, *Dr. C.A. Parker* bt Ross +21, *Dr. D.A. Parker* bt Mrs Chittenden w.o. opp. scr.

Second Round. Malin bt Mrs Elvey +18, *Dr. C.A. Parker* bt Mrs Temple +18, *Dr. D.A. Parker* bt Mrs Asa-Thomas +4, *Mrs Wheeler* bt Wheeler +10

Semi-final. Dr. C.A. Parker bt Malin +12, *Dr. D.A. Parker* bt Mrs Wheeler +5.

Final. Dr. C.A. Parker bt Dr. D.A. Parker +18.

PLAY-OFF. Mrs Wheeler bt Dr. C.A. Parker +21.

Event 3. Luard Cup. Level Singles (5½ bisques and over) (10 entries).

DRAW.

First Round. Mrs H.G. Wills bt E. Strickland +10, *G.B. Binks* bt Mrs E.C. Tyrwhitt Drake +9.

Second Round. G.T. Coates bt Mrs E.J. Tucker +8, *Binks* bt Mrs Wills +12, *R.P. Chappell* bt Miss E.K. Hawkins +19, *J.H. Bowman* bt D.F.T. Brown +6.

Semi-final. Binks bt Coates +4, *Bowman* bt Chappell +3.

Final. Bowman bt Binks +14.

PROCESS.

First Round. Bowman bt Coates +8, Mrs Tucker bt Brown +10.

Second Round. Bowman bt Mrs Tyrwhitt Drake +17, Chappell bt Strickland w.o. opp. scr., Binks bt Mrs Tucker +17, Miss Hawkins bt Mrs Wills +12.

Semi-final. Bowman bt Chappell +3, Binks bt Miss Hawkins +12.

Final. Bowman bt Binks +16.

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

Miss I.M. Hawkins (9) 3 wins bt Mrs A.E. Millns +11, Miss P.E. Parker +15, Mrs D. Waterhouse +21. Miss P.E. Parker (10) 2 wins bt Mrs Millns +10, Mrs Waterhouse +16. Mrs A.E. Millns (9) 1 win bt Mrs Waterhouse +1. Mrs D. Waterhouse (10) Nil.

Event 5. Sussex Challenge Cup. Handicap Singles X (31 entries).

First Round. Miss I.M. Hawkins (9) bt Mrs H.F. Chittenden (3½) w.o. R.P. Chappell (6½) bt Dr. R.F. Wheeler (5) +4, J.H. Bowman (7½) bt G.T. Coates (5½) +20, D.F.T. Brown (6½) bt Mrs G.F.H. Elvey (3½) +12, Mrs E.J. Tucker (7½) bt H.G. Drake (2½) +25, Dr. D.A. Parker (3) bt Miss E.K. Hawkins (8) +18, Miss P.E. Parker (10) bt Mrs A. Millns (9) +9, D.A. Harris (1½) bt G. Binks (6) +16, Mrs H.G. Wills (8) bt Dr. C.A. Parker (2½) +8, Dr. S.R.C. Malin (4) bt Miss F. Joly (1) +21, R.F. Rothwell (1½) bt Mrs D. Waterhouse (10) +16, Mrs R.F. Wheeler (3) bt Mrs E.M. Temple (5) +17, Prof. A.S.C. Ross (5) bt C.E. Knight (4½) +3, T.F. Owen (0) bt Mrs E.C. Tyrwhitt Drake (6½) +8, E.C. Tyrwhitt Drake (½) bt D.J.V. Hamilton-Miller (1) +14.

Second Round. Chappell bt Miss Hawkins +11, Bowman bt Brown +9, Dr. D.A. Parker bt Mrs Tucker +9, Harris bt Miss P. E. Parker +11, Malin bt Mrs Wills +5, Rothwell bt Mrs Wheeler +2, Owen bt Ross +24, Tyrwhitt Drake bt Mrs Asa-Thomas +3.

Third Round. Bowman bt Chappell +13, Harris bt Dr. D.A. Parker +25, Rothwell bt Malin +1, Owen bt Tyrwhitt Drake +26.

Semi-final. Harris bt Bowman +6, Rothwell bt Owen +13.

Final. Rothwell bt Harris +18.

Handicap Singles Y (16 entries).

First Round. Dr. Wheeler bt Miss I.M. Hawkins +7, Coates bt Mrs Elvey +17, Drake bt Miss E.K. Hawkins +13, Binks bt Mrs Millns +13, Miss Joly bt Dr. C.A. Parker +8, Mrs Temple bt Mrs Waterhouse +16, Mrs Tyrwhitt Drake bt Knight +10, Mrs Asa-Thomas bt Hamilton-Miller +19.

Second Round. Dr. Wheeler bt Coates +2, Drake bt Binks w.o., Miss Joly bt Mrs Temple +15, Mrs Tyrwhitt Drake bt Mrs Asa-Thomas +1(T).

Semi-final. Drake bt Wheeler +11, Miss Joly bt Mrs Tyrwhitt Drake +10.

Final. Drake bt Miss Joly +21.

Event 6. Handicap Doubles (14 pairs).

First Round. Ross and Malin (9) bt Dr. C.A. Parker and Dr. D. A. Parker (5½) +15, Miss P.E. Parker and Binks (16) bt Mrs Elvey and Mrs Wills (11½) +13, Harris and Knight (6) bt Drake and Mrs Millns (11½) +2(T), Dr. and Mrs Wheeler (8) bt Hamilton-Miller and Mrs Waterhouse (11) +1(T), Tucker and Mrs Asa-Thomas (4) bt Bowman and Rothwell (9) +2, Mr and Mrs Tyrwhitt Drake (7) bt Strickland and Chappell (13) +3.

Second Round. Ross and Malin bt Miss Parker and Binks +7, Dr and Mrs Wheeler bt Harris and Knight +18, Mr and Mrs Tyrwhitt Drake bt Tucker and Mrs Asa-Thomas +2, Mrs Tucker and Brown bt Misses E.K. and I.M. Hawkins +8(T).

Semi-final. Dr. and Mrs Wheeler bt Ross and Malin +14, Mr and Mrs Tyrwhitt Drake bt Mrs Tucker and Brown +5(T).

Final. Dr. and Mrs Wheeler bt Mr and Mrs Tyrwhitt Drake +15.

Second Week.

Giles Borrett with the continuing assistance of Ed Strickland presided as Manager for the second week's play, of which the most remarkable feature was the gradual emergence of three players who finally won no less than five of the six events between them! Equally remarkable was the fact that for the sixth event, the Women's South of England Championship, there was only one entry — a misfortune which left Frances Joly with far more time on her hands than she would have desired.

So the progress report of this week's play must be mainly concerned with the dominant triumvirate of Ted Tucker, J.S. Maude (4) and D.E. Wood (12). During the first week Tucker's play — like that of the majority, was decidedly variable; but now, suddenly, rhythm, touch and quiet confidence combined to inspire him to achieve a standard of consistency and excellence, quite remarkable in the first tournament of the new season, even by his own standards. Tristram Owen with a fine late challenge, caught and defeated him in the final of one half of the O'Callaghan Cup but the play-off proved decisive in Tucker's favour. In partnership with Giles Borrett he then proceeded to win the Victor Vases defeating Frances Joly and Dudley Hamilton-Miller in the play-off, in which Tucker (as usual, one might say, by the Saturday) was round to 4 back on the fifth turn. After a long period of indecisive play bt the other three participants, Borrett achieved an admirable final turn to finish from 4 back after time had been called. Although the writer was unable to watch the games played by Maude and Wood since I was invariably playing at the same time, I certainly heard the laments (tempered with generous, if slightly faint, praise!) from several of their opponents. And the praise was undoubtedly deserved for Maude won the Handicap Singles final defeating Tristram Owen +26, the Anna Millns Handicap Doubles Salvers in partnership with Wood, and finally the Felix Cup at the expense of his Doubles partner, who in the middle stages of the final had looked to prove the eventual winner.

Congratulations to these two players, who on their current form will certainly continue to catch the eye of the handicapper as the season progresses. E.E. Rees of Southwick was playing some good croquet during this week and scored a notable victory over Owen in one half of the Open Singles. Also by missing two peg-outs, he afforded the opportunity to another opponent, Bryan Sykes, to make an all-round break from the first hoop, with a double peel to snatch victory. This player, fresh from success at Cheltenham, began the week with a beautifully executed failed triple peel — his own ball was unable to run over. While his subsequent play varied to be somewhat erratic, Bryan is obviously a player destined for higher honours in a year or two. Several of the Compton Club players were in evidence this week. Mrs E.J. Tucker, Mrs Tyrwhitt Drake, Dr. B. Yallop, Dr. D.A. Parker and 'Tiny' Tyrwhitt Drake, handicapped by a recurrence of a cartilage knee, were kept busy on the lawns for most of the week. A welcoming sight, not seen for many years, was the new C.A. flag flying at the mast of the centre court; and another innovation came in the provision of Blue and Yellow sentry-box huts, one for each lawn. While these were a protection from wind and rain and quite adequate when singles matches were being played, it was a different matter during the long course of a doubles match.

All in all the fortnight was a great success and at least ten days were much enjoyed. Our thanks to Richard Rothwell and Giles Borrett and a very special word of thanks and congratulations to Ed Strickland, by whose perseverance and devotion to our cause the tournament was held.

Results.

Event 1. The O'Callaghan Gold Cup. Men's Singles Championship of the South of England. (9 entries).

DRAW.

First Round. E.J. Tucker bt E.E. Rees +10.

Second Round. E.C. Tyrwhitt Drake bt G. Borrett +13, Tucker bt D.J.V. Hamilton-Miller +23, B.C. Sykes bt Dr. D.A. Parker +9, T.F. Owen bt Dr. B.D. Yallop +13.

Semi-final. Owen bt Sykes +11, Tucker bt Tyrwhitt Drake w.o. opp. scr.

Final. Owen bt Tucker +4(T).

PROCESS.

First Round. Owen bt Borrett +20.

Second Round. Rees bt Owen +8, Sykes bt Hamilton-Miller +13, Tyrwhitt Drake bt Dr. D.A. Parker +18, Tucker bt Yallop +19.

Semi-final. Sykes bt Rees +2, Tucker bt Tyrwhitt Drake +8.

Final. Tucker bt Sykes +26.

PLAY-OFF. Tucker bt Owen +23.

Event 2. The Franc Challenge Trophy. Women's Singles Championships of the South of England.

There was no competition as only one entry was received.

Event 3. The Felix Cup. Handicap Singles (3½ and over) (Two life variation). (Regulation 20 (d)). (18 entries).

DRAW.

First Round. G.A. Hutcheson (5) bt C.E. Knight (4½) +7, R.J. Smith (14) bt W. Nicholson (6½) +3(T).

Second Round. Mrs E.C. Tyrwhitt Drake (6½) bt Mrs H.G. Wills (8) +2, D.F.T. Brown (6½) bt D.E. Wood (12) +10, R.P. Chappell (6½) bt Mrs D. Waterhouse (10) +25, Hutcheson bt Prof. A.S.C. Ross (5) +21, H.A.C. Evans (10) bt Smith +8(T), Mrs E.J. Tucker (7½) bt Miss E.X. Hodgins (6) +4, Mrs E.M. Temple (5½) bt Mrs A. Millns (9) +5, J.S. Maude (4) bt Mrs H. F. Chittenden (3½) w.o. opp. scr.

Third Round. Brown bt Mrs Tyrwhitt Drake +4, Hutcheson bt Chappell +5(T), Mrs Tucker bt Evans +6(T), Maude bt Mrs Temple +22.

PROCESS.

First Round. Mrs Tyrwhitt Drake bt Mrs Chittenden w.o. opp. scr., Maude bt Mrs Wills +8.

Second Round. Hutcheson bt Mrs Tyrwhitt Drake +13, Chappell bt Mrs Tucker +7(T), Wood bt Nicholson +10, Ross bt Mrs Millns +10, Maude bt Smith +9, Miss Hodgins bt Mrs Waterhouse +19, Brown bt Evans +9(T), Knight bt Mrs Temple +10.

Third Round. Hutcheson bt Chappell +16, Wood bt Ross +11, Maude bt Miss Hodgins +9(T), Brown bt Knight +1(T).

REGULATION 20(d).

First Round. Wood bt Mrs Tucker +6(T).

Semi-final. Maude bt Hutcheson +11, Wood bt Brown +11.

Final. Maude bt Wood +8.

Event 4. The Sussex Union Challenge Cup. Handicap Singles. (25 entries).

First Round. J.S. Maude (4) bt W. Nicholson (6½) +12, R.P. Chappell (6½) bt D.E. Wood (12) +10, Miss E.X. Hodgins (6) bt E.C. Tyrwhitt Drake (½) +16, D.J.V. Hamilton-Miller (1) bt Mrs D. Waterhouse (10) +17, Dr. D.A. Parker (3) bt R.J. Smith (14) +11, T.F. Owen (0) bt Mrs E.C. Tyrwhitt Drake (6½) +18, C.E. Knight (4½) bt B.C. Sykes (2) +2, Mrs H.G. Wills (8) bt Mrs H.F. Chittenden (3½) w.o. opp. scr., D.F.T. Brown (6½) bt Prof. A.S.C. Ross (5) +15.

Second Round. Mrs E.J. Tucker (7½) bt H.A.C. Evans (10) +6, Maude bt B.D. Yallop (2) +24, Miss Hodgins bt Chappell +23,

Parker bt Hamilton-Miller +2, Owen bt Knight +8, Brown bt Mrs Wills +3, Miss F. Joly (1) bt G. Borrett (½) +11, E.E. Rees bt Mrs A. Millns (9) +12.

Third Round. Maude bt Mrs Tucker +7, Miss Hodgins bt Parker +8, Owen bt Brown +20, Miss Joly bt Rees +12.

Semi-final. Maude bt Miss Hodgins +13, Owen bt Miss Joly +13.

Final. Maude bt Owen +26.

Event 5. The Victor Vases. Open Doubles Championship of the South of England. (5 pairs).

DRAW.

First Round. Miss F. Joly and D.J.V. Hamilton-Miller bt Dr. D. A. Parker and B. Yallop +10.

Semi-final. E.J. Tucker and G. Borrett bt Miss Joly and Hamilton-Miller +16, E.E. Rees and B.C. Sykes bt E.C. Tyrwhitt Drake and T.F. Owen +15.

Final. Tucker and Borrett bt Rees and Sykes +11.

PROCESS.

First Round. Rees and Sykes bt Tucker and Borrett +9.

Semi-final. Miss Joly and Hamilton-Miller bt Rees and Sykes +14, Tyrwhitt Drake and Owen bt Parker and Yallop +16.

Final. Miss Joly and Hamilton-Miller bt Tyrwhitt Drake and Owen +5.

PLAY-OFF. Tucker and Borrett bt Miss Joly and Hamilton-Miller +10(T).

Event 6. Handicap Doubles. (8 pairs).

First Round. Mrs E.J. Tucker and Mrs E.C. Tyrwhitt Drake (14) bt Mrs H.G. Wills and Miss E.X. Hodgins (14) +5, R.P. Chappell and H.A.C. Evans (16½) bt R.J. Smith and Prof. A.S.C. Ross (19) +5, D.E. Wood and J.S. Maude (16) bt W. Nicholson and E. Strickland (13) +13, C.E. Knight and G.A. Hutcheson (9½) bt D.F.T. Brown and Mrs A. Millns (15½) +7.

Semi-final. Mrs Tucker and Mrs Tyrwhitt Drake bt Chappell and Evans +16, Wood and Maude bt Knight and Hutcheson +1(T).

Final. Wood and Maude bt Mrs Tucker and Mrs Tyrwhitt Drake +13.

Golf Croquet Championships.
played at Hurlingham 28—29 April.

Event 1. The Ascot Challenge Cup. Open Singles. (13 entries).

Results.

First Round. R.S. Eades bt Mrs H.B.H. Carlisle +2 +1, A.B. Hope bt Mrs S.S. Townsend w.o., H.B.H. Carlisle bt D.R. Foulser +2 —5 +1, Dr. M. Murray bt Mrs W. Longman w.o., S.N. Mulliner bt J.C.G. Phillips +3 +2.

Second Round. D.K. Openshaw bt Eades +5 +4, Hope bt Carlisle —2 +5 +3, Murray bt Mulliner +2 +5, S.S. Townsend bt G.D.P. Solomon w.o.

Semi-final. Hope bt Openshaw +2 +2, Murray bt Townsend +3 +1.

Final. Murray bt Hope +3 +3.

Event 2. The Delves Broughton Challenge Cup. Open Doubles. (5 pairs).

First Round. A.B. Hope and Dr. M. Murray bt R.S. Eades and S.S. Townsend +1 +3.

Semi-final. Hope and Murray bt D.K. Openshaw and D.R. Foulser +2 +2, J.G.C. Phillips and S.N. Mulliner bt Mr and Mrs Mr and Mrs Carlisle +6 +1.

Final. Hope and Murray bt Phillips and Mulliner +1 +2.

Budleigh Salterton. 7-12 May.

An almost maximum entry was present to usher in the Croquet Tournament season at Budleigh. After the very severe winter and very late spring, it was remarkable that the lawns were as good as they were. Some of them were rather rough, and some were rather soft, but considering what they were like only a few weeks earlier, no-one could really grumble.

We were particularly pleased to welcome the Burgmanns from Canberra (Australia) and Frances Joly from Ireland.

The first three days were bright but very cold; Thursday was awful, with rain all day; Friday was quite good; and Saturday was sublime, with a very good crowd watching the finals in the warm sunshine.

With John Cooper not well enough to play, and Bill Perry not quite up to his usual form, the "A" Block fell to Col. Vulliamy, who played beautiful croquet all the week. In Block "B", Regulation 20A (c) had to be invoked, as Joan Simpson and Betty McMillan both had 5 wins and 42 points. In the play-off for the Godfrey Turner Cup, Bunny Vulliamy easily beat Betty McMillan.

The J.K. Brown Cup was won by John McCullough, who is improving rapidly, from F.H. Newman. In the Long Handicap event, Maurice Hawthorn, who was playing in only his second tournament, won the "F" Block, but was not able to cope with R.A. Pierce, who won "E" Block, in the play-off.

The final of the Doubles was a real nail-biter, with McCullough and Hawthorn playing C. Edwards and June Devitt, and receiving 2½ bisques. At one stage, Colin and June had made only 9 hoops against the other's 20 or so, with no bisques taken. Then McCullough used their bisques quite rapidly in an effort to finish the game quickly. Edwards had meantime got to the peg, and McCullough tried several times, unsuccessfully, to peg him out. June Devitt also got to the peg, and with her near to the peg, Colin pegged himself out. McCullough hit in, put June's ball well away, and organised things so that his partner could do rover and roll up towards the peg. June failed to hit in, and that was that, a victory for McCullough and Hawthorn by +1.

AMERICAN HANDICAP SINGLES (41 entries).

Block A. Col. E.L.L. Vulliamy (2½) 5 wins, Miss F. Joly (1) 4 wins (+25), R.A. Simpson (2) 4 wins (+13), A.F. Coleman (1½) 3 wins, R.S. Stevens (1½) 3 wins, B.G. Perry (-½) 2 wins, H.G.T. Bolton (1) Nil.

Regulation 20A(c) applies.

Block B. Mrs N.A.C. McMillan (3) 5 wins (+42), Mrs R.A. Simpson (3) 5 wins (+42), R.F.A. Crane (3½) 3 wins, P.K. Devitt (4½) 3 wins, C. Edwards (3½) 2 wins, Dr. W.R. Bucknall (3) 2 wins, K.S. Schofield (4) 1 win.

PLAY-OFF for The Godfrey Turner Challenge Cup.

Col. E.L.L. Vulliamy (2½) bt Mrs N.A.C. McMillan (3) +18.

Block C. J.R. McCullough (6) 5 wins, H.E. Ovens (5½) 4 wins, V.D. Burgmann (6) 3 wins, Miss I.M. Roe (5½) 3 wins, Mrs P. A. Tunner (5) 3 wins, Mrs C. Bagnall (5) 2 wins, C.J. Waller (5) 1 win.

Block D. F.H. Newman (7½) 4 wins, Mrs G.H. Mapstone (8) 3 wins, Mrs M.J. Goode (7) 2 wins, Mrs S.S. Cruden (7) 2 wins, J.H.T. Griffiths (8) 2 wins, Mrs H.E. Ovens (7½) 2 wins.

PLAY-OFF for The J.K. Brown Memorial Challenge Cup.

J.R. McCullough (6) bt F.H. Newman (7½) +10.

Block E. R.A. Pierce (9) 5 wins, Mrs F.H. Newman (11) 4 wins (+26), Mrs E.M. Pursey (9) 4 wins (+18), Mrs R.S. Stevens (9) 3 wins, Mrs P.A. Dwerryhouse (11) 3 wins, Mrs C.W. Marshall (8) 1 win, Mrs V.D. Burgmann (8) 1 win.

Block F. F.M. Hawthorn (14) 6 wins, S.F. Blackler (16) 4 wins, Mrs S.F. Blackler (15) 3 wins, P.A. Dwerryhouse (12) 3 wins, W. Hewett (12) 3 wins, Mrs M. Hawthorn (16) 1 win, Mrs R.F. A. Crane (12) 1 win.

PLAY-OFF for The L.G. Walters Long Handicap Trophy.
R.A. Pierce (9) bt M. Hawthorn +10T.

HANDICAP DOUBLES (17 pairs).

Semi-final. J.R. McCullough & M. Hawthorn (19) bt R.A. Simpson & H.E. Ovens (7½) +10, C.E. Edwards & Mrs P.K. Devitt (13½) bt Mr & Mrs Dwerryhouse (23) +10.

Final. McCullough & Hawthorn (19) bt Edwards & Mrs Devitt (13½) +1.

Peel Memorials. 14-19 May.

The mercury in the thermometer near the Manager's table climbed into the eighties on the first day of the Peels, and Edgar Jackson's new season's collection of felt-tipped pens added colour to the occasion. While most people struggled in the first rounds to find this year's form, John Exell leaped into top gear, immediately collecting the scalps of Bill Gladstone, Norman Gooch and Sue Sykes. It was a stimulating start as word buzzed round, "he's done it again!" and he became affectionately nicknamed the Giant Killer. It was John's first tournament, playing at 16 which was two below his club handicap. He had bought new shoes and a new hat, but didn't dare wear them for fear his luck might change. By the time he had lost a game and the hat and shoes were worn the gods had scowled in disapproval and hurled hailstones at us, and we were back to normal "summer" weather.

The Men's event was dominated by Stephen Hoole who played a series of immaculate four-ball breaks against progressively more depressed opponents, beating among others, Edgar Jackson, Nick Norman and Bryan Sykes. Bryan also met him in the X, and again never took croquet. When giving bisques he found life less comfortable and was involved in long tussles with Peter Shepard and George Blumer. However, he emerged as winner in both halves, beating impressive newcomer John Gosden in the Process Final and Bryan Sykes in the Draw.

The penalty of success was that he had four games to play on the final day. The last of these, starting well on in the evening, was the final of the big handicap against George Sisum. It was a really well played game on both sides and very even, but unfortunately darkness nearly defeated them both. Car headlights were switched on to floodlight the lawn, and for the last shot a torch had to be held above the object ball. Finally George Sisum won in the nick of time.

In winning the event, Stephen Hoole continued a run of 3 successive winners all employed by Chelsea Building Society, whose administrative Headquarters are only a few hundred yards from the Club. Phil Johnson won it in 1977 and David Foulser in 1978. In all three cases, they were playing their 2nd season of croquet and their first week long tournament - a sort of "triple peels".

On the whole the nearer the eventual singles winners approached their final, the greater were the score margins, showing no doubt how confidence helps, and how it is possible to improve during a tournament. The Doubles was quite different. It was a story of close games and cliff-hangers. One of the most exciting was when John Gosden and Doreen Exell beat John McLaren and Pat Asa-Thomas in their first game, scoring the decisive point almost half-an-hour after time was called. They went on to win by 2 in a tough game against Stephen Hoole and Phil Johnson, then by 5, and in the final by 6 against Betty Prichard and Margery Warren, a tough and well-tried partnership. Doreen Exell, surprising herself and delighting the spectators with the quality of her play all through the week, had had to scratch from the semi-finals of the Women's Process to have time to play in the doubles. So it gave everyone pleasure that she and John Gosden won.

It would surely have pleased the first Secretary of the Assoc-

iation in whose memory the tournament is played to notice that this year nearly every winner has only been playing a few years. Lady Bazley tried hard to be the exception, playing with devastating accuracy in hoop running and nasty length roquets, but Sue Sykes beat her in the Process final. Isobel Roe, winner of the other half, having beaten Betty Prichard by 1 on time, was not going to be out-done by newcomers either, and was in very good form. However, Sue Sykes beat her in the play-off. Sue, after a prudent mallet change on Thursday played increasingly well for the rest of the week, ending with an attempted double peel in the play-off. Although the peeling never really got going it showed a boldness that promises well for the future.

Results.

Event 1. Peel Memorial Silver Challenge Bowl (Men) (22 entries).

DRAW.

First Round. Prof. A.W. Skempton (5) bt W.J. Sturdy (3½) +7, N.A. Norman (3) bt D.S. Jones (9) +17, S.J. Garrett (6) bt F.E. Pearson (3) +14, P. Shepard (9) bt E. Asa-Thomas (7) +11(T), B.C. Sykes (2) bt G.E.P. Jackson (-½) +25, Lt. Col. D.M.C. Prichard (1½) bt Col. G.T. Wheeler (4½) +4.

Second Round. S.J.W. Hoole (8) bt G. Sisum (10) +6, J. McLaren (3) bt W.A. Scarr (6) +19, Norman (3) bt Skempton (5) +13, Garrett (6) bt Shepard (9) +11, Sykes (2) bt Prichard (1½) +21, G. Blumer (6) bt J.D. Gosden (6½) +9, J. Exell (16) bt Rev. W.E. Gladstone (0) +3, N.J.C. Gooch (4) bt J.E. Ross (5) +9.

Third Round. Hoole (8) bt McLaren (3) +19, Norman (3) bt Garrett (6) +18, Sykes (2) bt Blumer (6) +6, Exell (16) bt Gooch (4) +9.

Semi-final. Hoole (8) bt Norman (3) +25, Sykes (2) bt Exell (16) +7.

Final. Hoole (8) bt Sykes (2) +26.

PROCESS.

First Round. Hoole (8) bt Blumer (6) +3, Sturdy (3½) bt Gooch (4) +2, Scarr (6) bt Exell (16) +11, Gosden (6½) bt Sisum (10) +13, Ross (5) bt Skempton (5) +20, McLaren (3) bt Gladstone (0) +15.

Second Round. Hoole (8) bt Garrett (6) +20, Jackson (-½) bt Sturdy (3½) +19, Asa-Thomas (7) bt Scarr (6) +3, Norman (3) bt Wheeler (4½) +18, Gosden (6½) bt Pearson (3) +21, Ross (5) bt Sykes (2) +23, McLaren (3) bt Shepard (9) +3, Prichard (1½) bt Jones (11) +7.

Third Round. Hoole (8) bt Jackson (-½) +20, Norman (3) bt Asa-Thomas (7) +15, Gosden (6½) bt Ross (5) +19, McLaren (3) bt Prichard (1½) +22.

Semi-final. Hoole (8) bt Norman (3) +12, Gosden (6½) bt McLaren (3) +19.

Final. Hoole (8) bt Gosden (6½) +12.

DRAW (22 entries).

Event 2. Peel Memorial Silver Challenge Bowl (Women).

First Round. Mrs H. Handley (5) bt Mrs A.W. Skempton (5) +13, Mrs R. Stanley-Smith (8) bt Mrs D.S. Jones (6) +20, Lady Bazley (6½) bt Mrs W.A. Scarr (7) +12, Miss J. Wraith (10) bt Miss E.H. Arkell (3½) +17, Mrs G.T. Wheeler (½) bt Mrs D. Exell (10) +8, Mrs B. Meachem (½) bt Mrs B.C. Sykes (7) +4.

Second Round. Miss F. Joly (1) bt Miss M.J. Lodge (6½) +6, Mrs D.M.C. Prichard (2) bt Mrs M. Warren (10) +2, Mrs Stanley-Smith (8) bt Mrs Handley (5) +13, Lady Bazley (6½) bt Miss J. Wraith (10) +4, Mrs Meachem (½) bt Mrs Wheeler (½) +22, Mrs F.H.N. Davidson (7½) bt Mrs V. Worsley (12) +14, Miss I. M. Roe (5½) bt Mrs B.G. Neal (5) +24, Mrs P. Asa-Thomas (4) bt Mrs K. Yeoman (9) +9.

Third Round. Mrs Prichard (2) bt Miss Joly (1) +16, Mrs Stanley-Smith (8) bt Lady Bazley (6½) +5(T), Mrs Meachem (½) bt Mrs Davidson (7½) +11, Miss Roe (5½) bt Mrs Asa-Thomas (4) +13.

Semi-final. Mrs Prichard (2) bt Mrs Stanley-Smith (8) +17, Miss Roe (5½) bt Mrs Meachem (½) +23.

Final. Miss Roe (5½) bt Mrs Prichard (2) +1(T).

PROCESS.

First Round. Miss Joly (1) bt Mrs Worsley (12) +17, Mrs Asa-Thomas (4) bt Mrs Skempton (5) +14, Mrs Prichard (2) bt Miss Roe (5½) +6, Mrs Davidson (7½) bt Miss Lodge (6½) +3, Mrs Handley (5) bt Mrs Yeoman (9) +17, Mrs Neal (5) bt Mrs Warren (10) +1(T).

Second Round. Lady Bazley (6½) bt Miss Joly (1) +11, Mrs Asa-Thomas (4) bt Mrs Wheeler (½) +13, Mrs Prichard (2) bt Miss Wraith (10) +19, Mrs Meachem (½) bt Mrs Stanley-Smith (8) +5, Mrs Davidson (7½) bt Mrs Scarr (7) +12, Mrs Exell (10) bt Mrs Handley (5) +6, Miss Arkell (3½) bt Mrs Neal (7) +15, Mrs Sykes (7) bt Mrs Jones (7½) +15.

Third Round. Lady Bazley (6½) bt Mrs Asa-Thomas (4) +11, Mrs Meachem (½) bt Mrs Prichard w.o. opp. scr., Mrs Exell (10) bt Mrs Davidson (7½) +14, Mrs Sykes (7) bt Miss Arkell (3½) +5.

Semi-final. Lady Bazley (6½) bt Mrs Meachem (½) +1(T), Mrs Sykes (7) bt Mrs D. Exell w.o. opp. scr.

Final. Mrs Sykes (7) bt Lady Bazley (6½) +6(T).

Event 3. Lady Murray Memorial Silver Challenge Cups (21 pairs).

First Round. Mrs D.M.C. Prichard and Mrs M. Warren (12) bt D.S. Jones and Mrs Jones (18½) +12, G.E.P. Jackson and E. Asa-Thomas (6½) bt Mrs H. Handley and Mrs B.G. Neal (12) +23, Lt. Col. D.M.C. Prichard and G. Blumer (7½) bt Prof. A.W. Skempton and Mrs Yoeman (14) +1(T), Mrs G.T. Wheeler and Miss M.J. Lodge (7) bt Dr. B.C. Sykes and Mrs C. Sykes (9) +3, J. McLaren and Mrs P. Asa-Thomas (7) bt Mrs B. Meachem and Lady Bazley (7) +3.

Second Round. S.J. Garrett and Miss I.M. Roe (11½) bt Mrs W. Skempton and G. Sisum (15) +12, W.A. Scarr and Mrs W.A. Scarr (13) bt W.J. Sturdy and J. Exell (17½) +4(T), Mrs Prichard and Mrs Warren (12) bt Jackson and Asa-Thomas (6½) +7, Prichard and Blumer (7½) bt Mrs Wheeler and Miss Lodge (7) +25, J. Gosden and Mrs D. Exell (17) bt McLaren and Mrs Asa-Thomas (7) +1(T), P.M. Johnson and S.J.W. Hoole (12) bt F.E. Pearson and Mrs F.E. Pearson (15) +12, Rev. W.E. Gladstone and P. Shepard (9) bt Mrs R. Smith and Miss J. Wraith (18) +10, N.A.J. Norman and J.E. Ross (8) bt Miss E.H. Arkell and Col. G.T. Wheeler (8) +22.

Third Round. Garrett and Miss Roe (11½) bt Scarr and Mrs Scarr (13) +5, Mrs Prichard and Mrs Warren (12) bt Prichard and Blumer (7½) +5, Gosden and Mrs D. Exell (17) bt Johnson and Hoole (12) +2, Norman and Ross (8) bt Gladstone and Shepard (9) +2.

Semi-final. Mrs Prichard and Mrs Warren (12) bt Garrett and Miss Roe (11½) +12, Gosden and Mrs Exell (17) bt Norman and Ross (8) +5.

Final. Gosden and Mrs Exell (17) bt Mrs Prichard and Mrs Warren (12) +6.

Event 4. Open Handicap Singles.

First Round. Lady Bazley (6½) bt Mrs B.G. Neal (5) +22, Miss J. Wraith (10) bt Mrs M. Warren (10) +7, Mrs K. Yeoman (9) bt Mrs R. Stanley-Smith (8) +5, J.D. Gosden (6½) bt Miss F. Joly (1) +15, Mrs F.H.N. Davidson (7½) bt Mrs B. Meachem (½) +1(T), W.A. Scarr (6) bt Miss M.J. Lodge (6½) +13, S.J. Garrett (6) bt G. Blumer (6) +10, Miss E.H. Arkell (3½) bt Mrs W.A. Scarr (7) +4, J. Exell (16) bt Mrs B.C. Sykes (7) +11, N.J.C. Gooch (4) bt Mrs H. Handley (5) +18, Prof.

A.W. Skempton (5) bt Col. G.T. Wheeler (4½) +6, S.J.W. Hoole (8) bt P. Shepard (9) +2.

Second Round. W.J. Sturdy (3½) bt Mrs D.M.C. Prichard (2) +14, E. Asa-Thomas (7) bt F.E. Pearson (3) +2, G. Sisum (10) bt Mrs D. Exell (10) +8, Rev. W.E. Gladstone (0) bt D.S. Jones (9) +20, Lt. Col. D.M.C. Prichard (1½) bt Mrs A.W. Skempton (5) +7, Lady Bazley (6½) bt Miss Wraith (10) +3, Gosden (6½) bt Mrs Yeoman (9) +18, Mrs Davidson (7½) bt Scarr (6) +16, Miss Arkell (3½) bt Garrett (6) +8, Gooch (4) bt Exell (16) +9, Hoole (8) bt Skempton (5) +8, Dr. B.C. Sykes (2) bt Mrs V. Worsley (12) +20, J. McLaren (3) bt Miss I.M. Roe (5½) +13, Mrs P. Asa-Thomas (4) bt Mrs G.T. Wheeler (½) +26, J.E. Ross (5) bt N.A.J. Norman (3) +19, G.E.P. Jackson (½) bt Mrs D.S. Jones (6) +17.

Third Round. Asa-Thomas (7) bt Sturdy (3½) +10, Sisum (10) bt Gladstone (0) +23, Lady Bazley (6½) bt Prichard (1½) +7, Gosden (6½) bt Mrs Davidson (7½) +12, Gooch (4) bt Miss Arkell (3½) +25, Hoole (8) bt Sykes (2) +26, Mrs Asa-Thomas (4) bt McLaren (3) +13, Ross (5) bt Jackson (0) +15.

Fourth Round. Sisum (10) bt Asa-Thomas (7) +11, Gosden (6½) bt Lady Bazley (6½) +13, Hoole (8) bt Gooch (4) +22, Ross (5) bt Mrs Asa-Thomas (5) +25, +16, +8, Semi-final. Sisum (10) bt Gosden (6½) +5(T), Hoole (8) bt Ross (5) +3(T).

Final. Sisum (10) bt Hoole (8) +3.

Men's and Women's Championships played at Cheltenham 18-23 June.

Both the Men's and Women's were Silver Medal events this year but unluckily the draw for both was unbalanced, the top half in each being the stronger, providing an argument for some sort of seeding. It had been laid down, quite rightly in the writer's opinion, that the Mixed Doubles Championships should be Draw and Process, at the expense of the Du Pre Cup if necessary, but one only had to know that G.E.P. Jackson was the Manager to be fairly certain that the Du Pre also would be Draw and Process!

The first game over on Monday morning was Murray who took it from Hope, soon followed by Sykes taking the first game from Gladstone, but both matches went to three games and in both cases the loser of the first game won the match. Bond, Foulser and Noble all had good wins, especially Bond against Jackson — also three games. Hope and Mrs Asa Thomas were in the back round of the Doubles and started their defence of their title by beating the Sykes, welcome newcomers to this event. Gladstone was called on to play a second singles match and Col. Prichard kindly expressed sympathy with his more venerable opponent, nevertheless he played immaculately to dispatch him in two games to ensure that Gladstone did not have to play a sixth! A great struggle went on between Miss Joly and Mrs Asa Thomas, which the latter won in eight hours, the second game being a win on time, so with her 2 hours in the Doubles she was on court for 10 hours that day. Mrs Sundias-Smith and Miss Duthie came all the way from their native Hurlingham to play each other on neutral ground, and notably Mrs Prichard disposed of the reigning lady champion Mrs Carlisle.

Doubles started at 9.30 on Tuesday, the feature of the day being a surprising win for Noble and Mrs Bressey over Godby and Mrs Sundias-Smith. It was unfortunate that two of the strongest pairs, Murray and Mrs Meachem and Hands and Mrs Carlisle should meet in the first round, the former coming out as victors. Wednesday saw the Process Doubles completed with a most exciting game. Owen and Miss Joly were both on the peg and so was Hope with Mrs Asa Thomas on 4 back. Hope hit in and laid his partner up at her hoop. Owen put his ball in corner III. Mrs Asa Thomas went to the peg but failed to peg Hope out and put her own ball out. Miss Joly took her lift and made a brilliant split to get her partner near the peg and her own ball close to Hope's which she dispatched and

then pegged herself out. Two excellent turns with time running out. Hope missed the peg by the traditional coat of paint. Owen and Miss Joly were not so successful in the final against Murray and Mrs Meachem, the game ending with a nice triple by Murray. In the cool of the evening the Sykes notched up a good win over Vincent and Miss Arkell in the Draw doubles. Meanwhile there had been some notable results in the Women's events. Lady Bazley playing in the singles for the first time had beaten Mrs Weitz on Monday, embarked on a titanic struggle with Mrs Lightfoot and with only a little over an hour to play for the last game she kept her head and won it by 6 on time. A most creditable victory for a 6½ handicap. Mrs Sykes, handicap 6, having taken one game off Miss Arkell then played Miss Duthie in the Du Pre and managed to beat this seasoned campaigner by 1 on time.

There were more doubles on Thursday and the Neals had a happy win over Godby and Mrs Sundias-Smith, a strong couple, to compensate them for having had to retire on the peg to Gladstone and Mrs Wheeler on Tuesday because of a professional engagement in London. Hope and Mrs Asa-Thomas has another exciting game, this time against Hands and Mrs Carlisle. Hope tried to triple his partner but only achieved two peels. Hands then started to double peel Hope but failed the Rover peel, thus giving contact and the game to the holders.

Neal and Hope had started their third round singles match on Tuesday and with one game each and with Neal away on Wednesday the deciding game was not played until Thursday. Neal's victory enabled him to play Hands who was in crushing form and won in two games with triple peels. The second which started with Hands, for the second year running, approaching the 1st hoop from the fourth corner — and running it took just over thirty minutes. Meanwhile Noble had run through to the final by beating Hicks in three games and Vincent and Bond more comfortably in two.

In the Women's semi-final Mrs Wheeler started well and took the first game from Lady Bazley but she had a real fight on her hands in the second. She pegged Lady Bazley out and then when she was for peg and Rover she laid up close to Rover with Lady Bazley's ball in the second corner. Lady Bazley, also for Rover, shot and looked as if she were going to run the hoop, but stuck just not through, giving the game to Mrs Wheeler by two and possibly a near heart attack!

In the Du Pre Process, Foulser had had two easy rounds and when he met Soutter he went to the Rover in two turns, his other ball being for the 1st. Perhaps uncharacteristically Soutter went round and peeled him and pegged both Foulser and himself out. With his other ball being on 4 back Soutter soon won the two ball game. There were a great number of walkovers in the Draw but Sykes had a series of good wins (Haigh, Soutter and Vincent, the last with a triple) before trying one triple that failed, to lose to Foulser — who in the Final could not cope with a more fluent Jackson. Owen, in common with those still involved in Doubles was scratched from the Draw and Sykes was his only obstacle in an easy, almost gameless run to the final in the Process. But what a game that was. Sykes was on peg and four back in two turns after Owen broke down at hoop 5. Owen hit the lift with his backward ball and went round to peg Sykes out, giving contact. Sykes made four back but Owen hit in and left Sykes almost on the North Boundary from where he ran his penultimate hoop so cleanly that he ended on the South Boundary and unluckily missed Owen's two balls at Rover to lose probably the highest standard game in the Du Pre by 2.

At 6 pm. on Friday Murray was pegged down in his Du Pre semi-final against Soutter in order to play the Doubles Draw semi-final against Gladstone and Mrs Wheeler. Unfortunately this also involved pegging down the Women's semi-final at a crucial stage. Mrs Meachem was for 4 back and peg, with a rush laid to 4 back in the second game, having won the first. Mrs Sundias-Smith was for Rover and peg. When this game was resumed at 10 am. on Saturday morning it was the latter

who quickly regained the initiative to win that game by 2. But only 70 minutes was left for the third game. When time was called Mrs Sundias-Smith was on 3 back and 2 and in play so she separated into corners. Mrs Meachem was on 2 back, she hit in, made 2 back, then 3 back from the ball in the corner then 4 back from another ball in a corner and by making the penultimate off the same enemy ball she had won by 1 on time. So the final with Mrs Wheeler began but in turn was pegged down for the Doubles Draw Final at 2.30. Meanwhile Murray had completed a rather protracted game against Soutter and a quick one against Owen, with one of his many triple peels of the week to win the Du Pre Process Final. However, it was not until well after tea that the Doubles Draw Final came to life with Murray almost bringing off a straight triple but missed a return roquet after a jump through Rover to the boundary. So Owen and Miss Joly won by 3 and ensured a play-off. This put paid to the Women's Championship being resumed and as both are Cheltenham members they will finish at a later date.

The Doubles play-off was most interesting and exciting. Mrs Meachem got to 3 back and Owen then got in and went to 4 back. Murray triple peeled and pegged Owen and himself out — Mrs Meachem having a six hoop lead. With enterprising play Miss Joly reduced the lead to one but Mrs Meachem won the game by 3 at nearly 8 pm.

There were still a number of spectators hoping to see the Du Pre play-off between Murray and Jackson and remembering past late finishes (a former winner says he never remembers winning it before dusk at around 10 pm.) there was disappointment that they decided to 'divide'.

The highlight of the day was naturally the Men's Final on Court 8. It is no reflection on Noble to say that everyone was astonished to see him beat Hands in two straight games. Hands had played some wonderful croquet during the week but was now below his best — this time his approaches to the first hoop from corner IV did not come off. Noble kept his game simple and played quickly and accurately and his easy style brings him a good proportion of hits in long shots and a near certainty of getting those tricky middle distance shots which win games. Unlike almost all other games reported the match was over too quickly. None would have forecast that there would be a new Silver Medallist in this event and Noble is to be congratulated.

Edgar Jackson managed a difficult tournament time-wise with his usual ability and was late at the Club every evening and must have been tired. A special word of thanks goes to Miss Lodge for so much work behind the scenes as Tournament Secretary, to Mr Whittington, the lawn manager, to all those who help to make the Cheltenham teas so famous, and to the Chairman, George Blumer for the excellent lunches he provided and served — with particular praise for that Blue Cheshire Cheese.

Results

Event 1. The Men's Championships. (19 entries).

First Round: A.B. Hope bt Dr M. Murray -15 +17 +26. J.H. J. Soutter bt B.G. Perry +6 +9. Rev. W.E. Gladstone bt B.C. Sykes -21 +10 +4.

Second Round: D.R. Foulser bt T.F. Owen +10 +15. P. W. Hands bt R.A. Godby +3 +8. Prof B.G. Neal bt D.V.H. Rees +18 +25. Hope bt Soutter +26 +15. Lt. Col. Prichard bt Gladstone +10 +17. I.D. Bond bt G.E.P. Jackson +13 -11 +7. G.W. Noble bt H.O. Hicks +20 -16 +25. Dr. I.G. Vincent bt J. Haigh +26 +7.

Third Round: Hands bt Foulser +13 +26. Neal bt Hope +26 +15. Bond bt Prichard +23 +24. Noble bt Vincent +5 +26.

Semi-final: Hands bt Neal +6 +26. Noble bt Bond +12 +15.

Final: Noble bt Hands +13 +17.

Event 2. The Women's Championship. (16 entries).

First Round: Mrs E. Asa Thomas bt Miss F. Joly +3 +6OT.

Mrs B. Meachem bt Mrs E.E. Bressey +15 +19. Mrs B.L. Sundias-Smith bt Miss B. Duthie +16 +6. Mrs D.M.C. Prichard bt Mrs H.B.H. Carlisle +5 +12. Mrs G.T. Wheeler bt Mrs B.G. Neal +14 +19. Miss E.H. Arkell bt Mrs B.C. Sykes +17 -14 +4. Lady Bazley bt Mrs B.G. Weitz -12 +7 +11. Mrs E.M. Lightfoot bt Mrs J. Povey +16 +5.

Second Round: Mrs Meachem bt Mrs Asa Thomas +24 -10 +12. Mrs Sundias-Smith bt Mrs Prichard +11 +10. Mrs Wheeler bt Miss Arkell +4 +6. Lady Bazley bt Mrs Lightfoot +4 -3 +6OT.

Semi-final: Mrs Meachem bt Mrs Sundias-Smith +12 -2 +10T. Mrs Wheeler bt Lady Bazley +13 +2.

Final: To be finished at a later date.

Event 3. The Mixed Doubles Championship. (17 pairs).

DRAW

First Round: Murray & Mrs Meachem bt Jackson & Mrs Weitz +5.

Second Round: Sykes & Mrs Sykes bt Vincent & Miss Arkell +14. Gladstone & Mrs Wheeler bt Prichard & Mrs Lightfoot +11. Bond & Lady Bazley bt Noble & Mrs Bressey +4. Murray & Mrs Meachem bt Soutter & Mrs Soutter +13. Haigh & Mrs Povey bt Rees & Miss Duthie +10T. Neal & Mrs Neal bt Godby & Mrs Sundias-Smith +3. Owen & Miss Joly bt Perry & Mrs Prichard +16. Hope & Mrs Asa Thomas bt Hands & Mrs Carlisle +13.

Third Round: Gladstone & Mrs Wheeler bt Sykes & Mrs Sykes +2. Murray & Mrs Meachem bt Bond & Lady Bazley +23. Haigh & Mrs Povey bt Neal & Mrs Neal +6OT. Owen & Miss Joly bt Hope & Mrs Asa Thomas +12.

Semi-final: Murray & Mrs Meachem bt Gladstone & Mrs Wheeler +21. Owen & Miss Joly bt Haigh & Mrs Povey +14.

Final: Owen & Miss Joly bt Murray & Mrs Meachem +2.

PROCESS

First Round: Hope & Mrs Asa Thomas bt Sykes & Mrs Sykes +19.

Second Round: Hope & Mrs Asa Thomas bt Jackson & Mrs Weitz +25. Noble & Mrs Bressey bt Godby & Mrs Sundias-Smith +4OT. Prichard & Mrs Lightfoot bt Haigh & Mrs Povey +8OT. Owen & Miss Joly bt Soutter & Mrs Soutter +12. Vincent & Miss Arkell bt Rees & Miss Duthie +16. Bond & Lady Bazley bt Perry & Mrs Prichard +9OT. Gladstone & Mrs Wheeler bt Neal & Mrs Neal (opp. ret. on peg). Murray & Mrs Meachem bt Hands & Mrs Carlisle +22.

Third Round: Hope & Mrs Asa Thomas bt Noble & Mrs Bressey +10T. Owen & Miss Joly bt Prichard & Mrs Lightfoot +14. Bond & Lady Bazley bt Vincent & Miss Arkell +18. Murray & Mrs Meachem bt Gladstone & Mrs Wheeler +8.

Semi-final: Owen & Miss Joly bt Hope & Mrs Asa Thomas +1. Murray & Mrs Meachem bt Bond & Lady Bazley +19.

Final: Murray & Mrs Meachem bt Owen & Miss Joly +12.

PLAY-OFF. Murray & Mrs Meachem bt Owen & Miss Joly +3.

Event 4. The Du Pre Cup.

DRAW

First Round: Vincent w.o. Murray bt Perry +14. Soutter bt Miss Arkell +23. Sykes bt Haigh +9. Rees bt Mrs Neal +21. Mrs Sykes bt Miss Duthie +1. Gladstone bt Mrs Povey +10. Mrs Weitz w.o.

Second Round: Mrs Carlisle bt Mrs Bressey +22. Foulser w.o. Vincent w.o. Sykes bt Soutter +13. Rees bt Mrs Sykes +17. Gladstone bt Mrs Weitz +22. Jackson bt Mrs Asa Thomas +17. Godby w.o.

Third Round: Foulser bt Mrs Carlisle +4. Sykes bt Vincent +24. Rees bt Gladstone +22. Jackson bt Godby +13.

Semi-final: Foulser bt Sykes +8. Jackson bt Rees +4.

Final: Jackson bt Foulser +18.

PROCESS

First Round: Gladstone bt Mrs Bressey +3. Vincent bt Jackson +5. Prichard w.o. Mrs Carlisle bt Mrs Povey +22. Foulser bt Mrs Asa Thomas +13. Miss Joly bt Mrs Weitz +8. Murray bt Godby +26.

Second Round: Gladstone w.o. Rees bt Vincent +26. Sykes bt Prichard +14. Owen bt Miss Duthie +18. Soutter bt Mrs Carlisle +11. Foulser bt Mrs Neal +24. Haigh w.o. Murray bt Mrs Sykes +12.

Third Round: Rees bt Gladstone +22. Owen bt Sykes +2. Soutter bt Foulser +8. Murray bt Haigh +25.

Semi-final: Owen w.o. Murray bt Soutter +4.

Final: Murray bt Owen +23.

PLAY OFF. Jackson and Murray divided.

The Varsity Match 1979, 14 June played at Hurlingham.

Cambridge avenged last year's defeat in the Varsity match with a 5-4 win. Oxford lost a close and exciting match even though they had only two of last year's side in the team. In comparison Cambridge's team remained virtually unaltered.

The top singles match provided a fine game with Wilson round to 4 back on the fifth turn. Sykes hit in and eventually had a ball around to 4 back. Unable to get started with the other ball, he laid up close to the first hoop and Wilson played into the first corner with his second ball, still for hoop 1. Sykes turned and hit the 10 yard shot and finished the game with a beautifully controlled triple peel. The score at lunch was 3-3, Cambridge taking the two time limited games by 1 and 2.

In the doubles Hobbs and Landor won easily against Coward and Parker-Smith but this was counter-balanced by a victory for Hilditch and Hibbs against golfer Rhodes and an off form Dinwoodie. The match depended, as last year, on the final doubles. Atkinson of Oxford reached 4 back and Sykes began another triple but missed an easy roquet after hoop 2. Mac Donald and Wilson made steady progress and Oxford could not get back into the game.

Though they lost the match by the narrowest of margins, the Oxford team can be reassured that they were way ahead of their rivals in sartorial elegance!

Scores (Cambridge names first)

Wilson lost to Sykes -17(TP). Bowen bt Dinwoodie +4. Hilditch bt Landor +1 on time. MacDonald lost to Rhodes -12. Coward bt Atkinson +2 on time. Atkinson lost to Hobbs -23.

MacDonald and Wilson bt Sykes and Atkinson +13.

Hilditch and Hibbs bt Dinwoodie and Rhodes +13.

Coward & Parker-Smith lost to Hobbs and Landor -18.

Cambridge University beat Oxford University 5-4.

What are the odds?

Some people were surprised by the statement in the last *Gazette* that the odds that at least two players out of 36 entrants in the Open Championship should share the same birthday were as short as 5 to 1 on. This gave rise to speculation about the odds that at least three players out of 36 shared the same birthday. This question was more complicated than at first appeared, so resort was made to an eminent but friendly actuary. It took him three foolscap pages of calculations to provide the answer - about 19 to 1 against.

C.A. (England) v C.A. (Scotland). Nottingham. 16-17 June.

The annual match between an English C.A. team and the Scottish C.A. was played at Nottingham under ideal conditions; the result was a win for the English team by 5 matches to 2. Stephen Wright, who was on top of his form on both days, scored a fluent victory over Eric Solomon in two quick games, in which the latter player was never in the picture. George Noble and R.N. MacLean had a close and exciting finish to their third game, both players in turn breaking down in the final stages when each appeared to have victory in their sights.

Result: Saturday.

Dr E.W. Solomon and G.W. Noble lost to S.H.Wright and R.N. MacLean -13 +13 -4.

Dr I.G. Vincent bt I.H. Wright +18 +15.

D.J.V. Hamilton-Miller bt E. Mackenzie Bowie +18 +3.

Sunday.

Dr E.W. Solomon lost to S.H.Wright -26TP -23.

G.W. Noble bt R.N. MacLean -16 +26 +3.

Dr I.G. Vincent bt E. Mackenzie Bowie +17 +9.

D.J.V. Hamilton-Miller bt I.H. Wright +12 +26.

LONGMAN CUP -2nd Round.

Southport and Birkdale bt Bretby 4-1.

Walsall bt Nottingham 4-1.

Edgbaston bt Stourbridge 3-2

Bath bt Harwell 4-1.

Hurlingham bt Ryde 5-0.

Roehampton bt Reigate Priory 4-1.

Oxford University bt Harrow Oak 4-1.

British Airways bt Bentley and Ingatstone 3-2.

INTER-CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP -1st Round.

Hunstanton Bye

Nottingham bt Southwick 6-0 (1 unfinished)

Roehampton bt Colchester Walk-over.

Harrow Oak bt Heley 5-2

Hurlingham bt Compton 8-1.

Cheltenham bt Wrest Park 6-1

Colworth bt Bowdon 4-2 (1 unfinished).

Phyllis Court Bye.

2nd Round.

Hunstanton bt Nottingham 4-3.

Cheltenham bt Hurlingham 5-2.

An Answer to Question of Tactics 6.

A series of long shots which miss can be demoralising. Yellow has the closest shot he is likely to get - about 9½ yards. BUT Yellow has missed two long shots and added to this worry is Blacks clever tactic in guarding the West boundary. There is a strong case for taking a shot if you feel you are likely to hit it - and that you will not get a shorter shot, in spite of the boundary being guarded. However here there are two more factors. 1]. Black has been progressing slowly and if Yellow misses Blue he will end near Black which would make things easy for him. 2]. A lift is imminent. Yellow may then have a reasonable shot or at any rate a free shot at Blue, the Rover ball. Or possibly a chance to take position for Penultimate. On balance Yellow should go near to corner II. From there he can threaten either ball. (What did happen? Yellow shot, missed and Black went out in the next turn, using the three balls).

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held at The Hurlingham Club on Saturday 2nd June 1979.

The President, Mr E.P. Duffield, took the Chair. There were present Mr J.W. Solomon, Vice President, and 32 Associates.

1. The Minutes of the previous meeting, as published in the *Summer issue of the Croquet Gazette*, were adopted.

2. In his address the President congratulated our Test team on their excellent performance in New Zealand and although we did not retain the MacRobertson Trophy, we had fought well and only lost to a very strong New Zealand team who were worthy winners. He suggested that we should get together in very good time our potential team for Australia in 1982.

He commended the entry into the Game of many young men, mainly from the Universities, which could only be of benefit to the Game.

He welcomed the revival of the Northern Championships and referred to the death of Miss Cicely Brumpton who had done so much for Croquet over so many years, particularly for the Nottingham Club.

He then presented the Steel Bowl to Mrs Sue Sykes and congratulated the joint winners of the Apps Memorial Bowl, Bryan Sykes and David Foulser.

3. The report of the Chairman of Council, published in the *Spring 1979* issue of *The Croquet Gazette*, was adopted.

4. The Treasurer, Mr A.J. Oldham, presented the audited Accounts for 1978, published in the *Spring 1979* issue of *The Croquet Gazette*. He mentioned that with the ever increasing cost of administration and printing, he had been forced to recommend to Council increases in subscriptions for 1980. The Accounts were adopted.

5. Proposed by Mr D.C. Caporn and seconded by Dr W.R.D. Wiggins, Mr A.J. Oldham was unanimously re-elected as Treasurer and was warmly thanked for his past services.

6. The Secretary reported that as there were only nine candidates for nine vacancies on the Council there was no necessity for an election and the nine candidates were formally elected, namely, Dr R.W. Bray, Mrs H.B.H. Carlisle, Messrs. A.J. Girling, R.A. Godby, A.J. Oldham, T.F. Owen, K.S. Schofield, E. Strickland, OBE, and Mrs N. Tyldesley.

7. Proposed by Dr R.W. Bray and seconded by The President, Dr W.R.D. Wiggins was unanimously elected as a Vice President. He thanked the Association for the great honour accorded to him which he valued very highly.

8. Dr R.W. Bray, on behalf of the Council, proposed minor alterations to the Rules of the Association as tabled in the agenda which were approved unanimously.

9. Messrs. Nicholass, Ames and Co., were unanimously re-elected as Auditors for the ensuing year.

10. The Secretary read the names recorded in the Benefactors Book.

11. Mr S.N. Mulliner spoke on what he considered unsatisfactory the present method of reducing entries to 32 if necessary for the Open Championships by Handicap, and proposed that there should be a Qualifying event for the last places, and that those taking part in it should be eligible to play in the Plate. He stressed the satisfaction and good experience, as well as being seen by the Selectors, it gave to younger players to play in the Opens.

His proposals were supported by Mr H.B.H. Carlisle, QC, and it was resolved that the proposals should be put before the Council for their consideration.

COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEES 1979 / 1980

Finance & General Purposes

* Dr R.W. Bray, * R.A. Godby, * A.J. Oldham, Mrs E.E. Bressey, D.C. Caporn, Mrs H.B.H. Carlisle, A.B. Hope, c C.B. Sanford, E. Strickland, OBE., S.S. Townsend, L. Wharrad.

Laws

* Dr R.W. Bray, * R.A. Godby, * A.J. Oldham, A.J. Girling, Mrs B. Meachem, Prof B.G. Neal, T.F. Owen, Lt. Col. D.M.C. Prichard, K.S. Schofield, L. Wharrad, c Dr. W.R.D. Wiggins.

Publicity & Development

* Dr. R.W. Bray, * R.A. Godby, * A.J. Oldham, Mrs E.E. Bressey, D.C. Caporn, Mrs H.B.H. Carlisle, A.J. Girling, A.B. Hope, Mrs W. Longman, Mrs B. Meachem, Prof. B.G. Neal, E. Strickland, OBE., c L. Wharrad.

Tournament

* Dr R.W. Bray, * R.A. Godby, * A.J. Oldham, c G.N. Aspinall, D.C. Caporn, Mrs H.B.H. Carlisle, A.J. Girling, Mrs W. Longman, T.F. Owen, Lt. Col. D.M.C. Prichard, K.S. Schofield, E. Strickland, OBE.

Editorial Board

* Dr R.W. Bray, * R.A. Godby, c* A.J. Oldham, G.N. Aspinall, Mrs. H.B.H. Carlisle, Lt. Col. D.M.C. Prichard, A.B. Hope.

Handicap Co-Ordination

Mrs E.E. Bressey, c R.A. Godby, D.J.V. Hamilton-Miller, Prof. B.G. Neal, S.S. Townsend.

Handicap Appeal

Mrs B. Meachem, A.J. Oldham, Lt. Col. D.M.C. Prichard.

Special Appeal

D.J.V. Hamilton-Miller, Prof. B.G. Neal, S.S. Townsend.

* = Ex Officio.

c = Chairman.

Selection Committee

G.N. Aspinall, R.A. Godby, D.J.V. Hamilton-Miller, c Lt. Col. D.M.C. Prichard, S.S. Townsend.

EXTRACTS FROM PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL MEETING, 10th MARCH 1979.

1. Vice President:

Lt. Col. D.M.C. Prichard proposed, Mrs W. Longman seconded, and Council agreed **nem. con.** that Dr. W.R.D. Wiggins be nominated at the A.G.M. as a Vice President of the Association.

2. Committee Reports:

(a) Finance & General Purposes Committee:

The audited accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1978, as published in *Gazette No. 151*, were adopted.

The following subscription and other rates for 1980 were agreed (1979 rates in brackets):

Subscriptions: Standard £7 (£5); Reduced and Junior £3.50 (£2.50); Overseas £4 (£3).

Club registration and overseas affiliation fees: £4 (£3).

Levy: 55p (40p), and 30p (20p) for third and subsequent tournaments.

Tribute: £3.50 (£2.50) per tournament, 70p (50p) per event. Entry fees for C.A. Tournaments are to be raised by 50p per event for 1980.

Council agreed to recommend to the A.G.M. a number of alterations to the rules (see *Gazette No. 151*, page 19, for details) which would enable future A.G.M.'s to be held in April as an alternative to May or June.

The Midlands and Northern Federations are to receive a grant of £50 each for 1979 as a contribution toward their expenses.

(b) Publicity and Development Committee:

The Apps/Heley Award for 1978 is awarded to the Bowdon Club. Council also agreed that a plaque should be given in addition to the cash prize.

The Committee were asked to set up an *ad hoc* group to study and report on the subject of Coaching, which was the cause of much concern amongst members of the Council.

(c) Handicap Co-Ordination Committee:

It was agreed that no wholesale changes in handicaps would take place between the 1979 and 1980 seasons. But the Committee emphasized that there was too great an imbalance between handicap reductions and increases with the present system and consideration may have to be given soon to empower handicappers to increase an individual's handicap on a similar basis to reductions.

(d) Editorial Board:

Council confirmed the appointment of D.R. Foulser as Assistant Editor, Mrs Prichard having agreed to continue as Editor. It also confirmed the change of Gazette printers to MLM Mailings Ltd.

3. Formal Business:

Council noted with deep regret the deaths of W.H. Carlisle, Mrs. L. Cordy, Gurth Kimber and Hugh Hulbert.

The Secretary reported that 11 Associates had resigned. Council elected 29 new Associates. The Secretary also reported that £100 had been received from the Estate of the late W.B.C. Paynter and that his name was being inscribed in the Benefactors Book.

4. The Alteration to Law 5(a)(iv)

published in *Gazette No. 150*, page 23, was agreed *nem. con.* and under rule XIV becomes Law.

5. The Test Tour

was described by Professor Neal, the Captain of our team. He paid tribute to a very fine New Zealand team and praised it for its well deserved victory. The Secretary reported that he had written a letter of congratulations to the President of the N.Z.C.C. on behalf of the C.A.

During the tour representatives of the A.C.C., N.Z.C.C. and the C.A. agreed that the next series would take place in Australia in October/November 1982, and the following Series in England in 1986. Jaques balls would be used for the 1982 Series as the new Australian balls had been found unsatisfactory.

6. Test Tour Fund:

The Treasurer announced that the total sum raised was £2,394.80 which, after deduction of raffle expenses and prizes, left a net sum of £2,225.64. A sum of £417.09 had been carried forward from the 1969 Fund and Interest if £18.17 had been added during the year.

£2,240 had been distributed to the members of the 1979 team and Council agreed that the balance of £420.90 should be carried forward to the 1982 Series.

7. Council Standing Order No. 17

was amended so that the Handicap Co-Ordination Committee, rather than the Tournament Committee, would be responsible for the appointment of Official Handicappers.

8. Sponsorship

of Croquet was discussed at some length. L. Wharrad distinguished between benevolent sponsorship, which could be sought by individual Clubs from local business and industry for Club and regional activities, and commercial sponsorship which was generally for national and international activities

on a much larger scale, and hence more appropriate for the C.A. to seek. Council expressed general approval for sponsorship of Croquet activities and felt that Clubs should be encouraged to seek local sponsors.

9. Mrs. Edna Wills:

Council noted that Mrs Edna Wills was retiring as Secretary of the N.Z.C.C. after 25 years and agreed to send a small gift with their best wishes.

EXTRACTS FROM PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL MEETING, 2nd JUNE, 1979.**1. Membership of Council:**

A.J. Girling serves on Council for one year and the eight candidates re-elected serve for three years.

Council accepted with much regret the resignation from Council of G.B. Martin.

2. Chairman and Vice Chairman:

Dr. R.W. Bray and R.A. Godby were elected Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively for one year.

3. The Ladies Field Cup:

A motion by Lt. Col. D.M.C. Prichard that "in 1979, and until otherwise decided, the Ladies Field Cup be limited to a maximum of six players, the event to extend over five days with each competitor not being compelled to play more than two games per day" was carried *nem. con.*

4. Raising of Handicaps:

R.A. Godby gave notice that at the next Council meeting in October he would move on behalf of the Handicap Co-Ordination Committee a motion to allow handicappers to raise handicaps without the consent of the players concerned.

5. Conference:

There will be a Conference, organized by L. Wharrad, at Hurlingham on Saturday, 8th December, which will discuss three main topics — publicity, sponsorship and development.

6. Sponsorship of a World Croquet Championship:

The Chairman reported that the C.A. had been approached by an industrial concern with a view to their sponsoring a World Croquet Championship in 1980. He had set up a Sponsorship Committee to consider the offer and supervise the negotiations which were now well advanced. The sponsors would cover the cost of travel and subsistence of the players and officials and would present a Challenge Trophy, with small prizes for the winner and runners-up. Council resolved that the offer of sponsorship be accepted in principle. It was noted that, if widescale publicity could be obtained for the Championship, the potential for Croquet was immense and, provided Clubs were geared to exploit the situation, it could well lead to a considerable increase in membership.

SECRETARY'S NOTES**1. NEW ASSOCIATES (All Standard Rate except where shown)**

O Mrs J.B. Armstrong, 10 Oleander Street, Brighton, 5048 South Australia.

A. Bennet, 84 Langham Road, Blackburn, Lancashire, BB1 8DP.

J.N. de B. Bettley, 16 Compton Lodge, Compton Place Road, Eastbourne, Sussex. Tel: (0323) 20631.

H.C. Brooks, 145 London Road, Redhill, Surrey. RH1 2JQ. Tel: (91) 62728.

T.M. Brooks, 145 London Road, Redhill, Surrey. RH1 2JQ.

V.D. Burgmann, c/o The Farmers Club, 3 Whitehall Court, London. SW1A 2EL.

Mrs. V.D. Burgmann, c/o The Farmers Club, 3 Whitehall Court, London. SW1A 2EL.

R Mrs. I'L' Chadwick, 7 Holborough Close, Greenstead, Colchester, Essex. CO4 3LY. Tel: (0206) 860116.

J G.A.R. Cormack, 5 Sherbourne Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham.

Miss D.E. Dennant, 75 Saffrons Court, Compton Place Road, Eastbourne, Sussex. BN21 1DZ.

J Mark Elliott, Hatfield College, Durham University, Durham.

F.J. Exell, Tiltdown House, Near Dursley, Gloucestershire. Tel: (0453) 2469.

Mrs E. Glover, 23 York Avenue, London. SW14.

O Mrs. L. Green, Unit 3, 24 Seville Street, Camberwell, 3124, Victoria, Australia.

Brian B. Hallam, 20 Poynton Drive, Heath Farm, Shrewsbury, Salop.

M.M. Hawthorn, 9 Palmer Court, West Terrace, Budleigh Salterton, Devon. EX9 6ND. Tel: (039 54) 3791

Mrs. M.M. (C.V.L.) Hawthorn, 9 Palmer Court, West Terrace, Budleigh Salterton, Devon. EX9 6ND. Tel: (039 54) 3791.

J P.R. Hardcastle, 9 Lache Lane, Chester. CH4 7LP.

B.B. Harral, 5 Stratford Road, Sandy Bedfordshire.

R F. Harrison, Broomcot, 18 Broomcroft Road, Felpham, Bognor Regis, Sussex.

O D.G. Jackson, 13 Haig Avenue, Mount Roskill, Auckland, New Zealand.

S.E. Lewis, 32 Glastonbury Avenue, Hale Cheshire.

R Mrs N. Lewty, 21 Woodcote Road, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire. CV32 6PZ.

J.R.N. Lisle, Sirel House, Loxford Road, Barking, Essex. IG11 8PE. Tel: (01) 594 4054.

Mrs. G. Maslin, 130 Bath Road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

R N.P. Rhodes, (Balliol College, Oxford), 2 Garden Cottages, Matfield, Kent. TN12 7LG.

F.F. Ross, Barbrona, Coppice Lane, Reigate, Surrey. RH2 9JF.

J.E. Ross 68 Cirencester Road, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

S.P. Walker, 147 Victoria Road, Leeds. LS6 1DU.

Mrs. S.P.Y. Whitby, Chimneys, 9 Druid Stoke Avenue, Bristol. BS9 1DB. Tel: (0272) 682866.

2. DEATHS

R.A. Lewty, Lt. Col. E.D. Tims (NZ), Miss R.M. Allen, Mrs. V.G. Clarke, Miss G.V. Pirie.

3. EXAMINING REFEREE

H.B.H. Carlisle.

4. NEW REFEREES

J.H. Bowman, P.J. Death, Mrs. D de Q. Lenfestey.

5. NEW REGISTERED CLUBS

I.C.L. (Beaumont) International Computers Ltd., (Education & Training) Beaumont, Old Windsor, Berks. Tel: Windsor (075 35) 68181. Secretary: Roy Birkenshaw.

Lilleshall. Lilleshall National Sports Centre, Near Newport, Salop. Tel: Telford (0952) 604253. Secretary: Brian Hallam, 20 Poynton Drive, Heath Farm Shrewsbury, Salop.

6. ALTERATIONS IN THE CLUBS

Cheltenham. New Telephone No: (0242) 512650.

Durham University. New Secretary: Mark Elliott, Hatfield College, Durham University, Durham.

Southwick. New Joint Croquet Secretaries: Mrs. E. Lewis, 5 Hove Lodge Mansions, Hove Street, Hove, Sussex.

Tel: (0723) 731549.

G.F. Paxon, 15 Vallance Gardens, Hove 3, Sussex. BN3 2DB.

7. REPORTING OF HANDICAP ALTERATIONS

When recommending handicap alterations on C.A. Handicap Listing Forms it would be helpful if Handicappers would: (i) List names in alphabetical order, (ii) List names and initials as in the C.A. Directory, and (iii) When listing handicaps different in singles and doubles show them in the traditional way thus: "10 (D9)".

HANDICAP ALTERATIONS

Ellesmere Club (Feb). Mrs. P. Hague, 13 to 11.

South of England (Devonshire Park) (9-16 April). J.H. Bowman 7½ to 7; Mrs. E.M. Temple 5 up to 5½.

Cheltenham Weekend 1 (14-16 April). Mrs. S. Blenkin 13 up to 14; S.J.W. Hoole 10 to 8; F.J.R. Landor 13 to 11; J. McCullough 6½ to 6; Mrs. D.M.C. Prichard 1 up to 2; P.J. Shepard 10 to 9; B.C. Sykes 2½ to 2; Mrs B.C. Sykes 7½ to 7.

Edgbaston Club Recommendation (Nov 1978) M. Granger-Brown 4 to 3½.

Budleigh Salterton 1 (7-12 May). V.D. Burgmann 6* to 6; Mrs. V.D. Burgmann 8* to 9; Mrs P.K. Devitt 10 to 9; M.M. Hawthorn 14(D13) to 13(D12); W. Hewitt 12* to 12,(Non-Associate); J. McCullough 6 to 5; F.H. Newman 7½ to 7; R.A. Pierce 9* to 8; Col. E.L.L. Vulliamy 2½ to 2; J.G. Warwick 5 up to 6.

Home Counties League (May). A.G. Edwards 7½ to 7; R.J. Smith 14 to 12; J.L. Wankling 10 to 9.

Peel Memorials (Cheltenham) (14-19 May). Mrs. D. Exell 10 to 10(D9); F.J. Exell 16(D14); J. Gosden 6½ to 6; S.J.W. Hoole 8 to 6; Miss F. Joly 1 up to 2; Mrs. A.W. Skempton 5 up to 6½; Mrs. B.G. Neal 5 up to 6; G. Sisum 10 to 8; Mrs B.C. Sykes 7 to 6; Mrs M.A.L. Warren 10 to 10(D9); Mrs.G.T. Wheeler ½ up to 2.

Compton Weekend (10-13 May) Mrs. H.G. Wills 8 to 7.

Southwick 1 (21-26 May). N.W.T. Cox ½ up to 1½; J. Gosden 6 to 4; Mrs. M.M. Edwards 7 to 9(Non-Associate); S.A. Jones 11 to 9 (Non-Associate); Mrs. T.F. Owen 16(D14) to 14(D12) (Non-Associate); C.G. Pountney 1½ to 1; E.B.T. Tanner 6½ to 6.

Cheltenham Weekend 2 (25-28 May). Mrs. N. Adlam 9 up to 11; R.L.S. Berkeley 10 to 9; G.F. Blumer 6 to 5½.

Himley Hall (19-20 May). D.G. Arthur 9 to 8; P.J. Barnes 5 to 4½; R. Jones 10 to 9 (Non-Associate); W.C. Weston 11* to 11 (Non-Associate).

Colchester Weekend 1 (26-28 May). M. Avery 14 to 11; J.G.C. Phillips ½ to 0.

Colchester Club Recommendations (June). Mrs J.A. Hetherington 11 to 10; Lt. Col. A.W.D. Nichols 7½ to 8.

Southwick Club Recommendation (June). Mrs N.W.T. Cox 3 up to 3½.

Parkstone 1 (4-9 June). P.L. Alvey 3½ to 3; Mrs E. Asa-Thomas 4 to 3½; L.S. Butler 1 to ½; G. Nelson Leech 4½ to 4; Dr. J.A. McMordie 8 to 7; Mrs D. Mitchell 12 to 11 (D9); Mrs. C.A. Parker 15(D13) to 14(D12); Miss P.E. Parker 10 to 9; Miss A.R. Robertson 11(D10) to 10(D8); P.J. Shepard 9 to 7; Mrs. S.P.Y. Whitby 16(D14).

Hunstanton Weekend (8-10 May). M. Avery 11 to 10; Mrs. J. Anderson 10 to 9.

Challenge & Gilbey (Budleigh) (11-16 June). Mrs. P.K. Devitt 9 to 8; Mrs. P. Derryhouse 11 to 11(D10); M.M. Hawthorne 13(D12) to 12; H.E. Owens 5½ to 5; Mrs. F. Stanley-Smith 8 to 7; C.J. Waller 5 to 4½.

Compton (11-16 June). Mrs. R.F.A. Crane 12 to 11; Mrs C.A. Grout 9 to 8; Dr. B.D. Yallop 2 to ½.