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# THE CROQUET GAZETTE

Number 154

WINTER 1979

The Official Organ of the Croquet Association

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

### CALENDAR 1980

7-12 April	South of England Championships 1 (Devonshire Park)
14-19 April	South of England Championships 2 (Eastbourne)
28 April to 4 May	Southwick 1
3-5 May	Cheltenham 1
5-10 May	Budleigh Salterton 1
12-17 May	Peel Memorials at Southwick
27-30 May	Inter-Counties Championship at Hurlingham & Roehampton
2-7 June	Parkstone 1
9-14 June	Challenge & Gilbey at Budleigh Salterton
9-14 June	Carrickmines 1
9-14 June	Compton
16-21 June	Men's & Women's Championships at Cheltenham
16-21 June	Ryde
22-29 June	Roehampton Evening
23-28 June	Northern Championships at Bowdon
23-28 June	Veterans Championships at Compton
30 June to 5 July	Budleigh Salterton 2
5-10 July	Woking (3 separate tournaments)
7-12 July	Colchester
7-12 July	Southwick 2
14-19 July	Open Championships at Hurlingham & Roehampton
21-27 July	Cheltenham 2
31 July to 9 August	Hurlingham
11-16 August	Nottingham
11-16 August	Carrickmines 2
18-22 August	Ladies Field Cup at Roehampton
18-22 August	Ladies 2nd Event at Southwick
25-30 August	Edinburgh
25-30 August	Southwick 3
25-30 August	Hunstanton
1-5 September	Chairman's Salver at Colchester
1-5 September	Spencer Ell Cup at Cheltenham
2-6 September	President's Cup at Hurlingham
8-13 September	Parkstone 2
15-20 September	Roehampton
24-28 September	Cheltenham 3
27-28 September	All England Handicap Finals at Roehampton

### Weekend Tournaments

5-7 April	Cheltenham 1	4-6 July	Wrest Park 2
24-27 April	Roehampton 1	11-13 July	Woking
26-27 April	Southport & Birkdale 1	26-27 July	Compton 2
3-5 May	Hunstanton 1	22-25 August	Bowdon
8-11 May	Compton 1	23-25 August	Cheltenham 3
10-11 May	Golf Croquet at Harrow Oak	23-25 August	Colchester 2
16-18 May	Scottish C.A. 1	23-25 August	Hurlingham
24-27 May	Wrest Park 1	30-31 August	Roehampton 2
24-26 May	Cheltenham 2	12-14 September	Cheltenham 4
24-26 May	Colchester 1	12-14 September	Ryde
24-26 May	Southport & Birkdale 2	13-14 September	Scottish C.A. 2
30 May to 1 June	Nottingham 1	19-21 September	Nottingham 3
6-8 June	Hunstanton 2	19-21 September	Budleigh Salterton
13-15 June	Southwick	19-21 September	Wrest Park 3
27-29 June	Nottingham 2	10-12 October	Cheltenham 5
28-29 June	C.A. v Scotland at Edinburgh		



**The Secretary & Editor.**

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**All Contributions** should be sent to the Editor. They are not acknowledged but are most welcome. Please send EARLY — do not wait for the deadline.

**All Correspondence** concerning non-delivery of Gazettes or incorrect addresses must be sent to the SECRETARY C.A. and NOT to the EDITOR.

**Deadline**

Copy for the Spring Issue of the Gazette must reach the Editor not later than SATURDAY March 8th.

**EDITORIAL**

This Gazette is the first for which, I as the new Editor, have been solely responsible, and I hope all readers will find it interesting. I have given an undertaking to the C.A. Council that I shall continue as Editor for at least two years, and during that period I shall endeavour to produce Gazettes that are both informative and absorbing. I hope that they will prove to be at least the equal of the standard of the Gazette during recent years. I think it appropriate that I record, what I am sure is the feeling of most, if not all, readers of the Gazette during the last two or three years — that is our appreciation of the great effort and enthusiasm put into the Gazette by my predecessor, Betty Prichard.

I feel a certain amount of trepidation at the rather daunting prospect of being Editor of such an established tradition as the Gazette and hope that many readers will send me articles, poems, letters and the like for consideration for inclusion in future issues. I would particularly like comments on what ideas Associates have for improving the Gazette, always bearing in mind that costs have to be kept to a minimum. For instance, in the Spring issue each year, there are normally four pages of photographs. Some people have mentioned to me that this could possibly be increased. If this was done, the issue would have to contain eight pages of photos, and as there appears to be no shortage of photographic contributions, this could probably be done.

The writer has only been playing croquet for three years, and although I have enjoyed some considerable success, I think it is perhaps a difficult task for someone so young (in croquet terms) to take over as Editor. However, I am fortunate to have made many friends, whom I am sure will offer assistance whenever it may be required.

D.R.F.

**Rover Notes****SOLOMON MARK II**

It is a paradox that, in the very first year of John Solomon's retirement from Croquet, a new Solomon should play in the President's Cup for the first time and win it. Eric Solomon is only four years younger than John but he did not have the advantage of having croquet playing parents. He had played some old-fashioned croquet as a boy and at Reading University but he had been in London for ten years before he discovered the real thing. He and some friends had regularly played croquet of a sort on the fairways of Woodford Green Golf Course; it was a game for strong men with no boundaries and trying to make 80 yard hits with a two foot long mallet! In 1971 two of them visited Harrow Oak as they wanted to start a croquet section of

the London Inter Varsity Club. They met, played and, to their surprise, beat Graeme Martin and John Ruddock. Fired with enthusiasm they visited Hurlingham to see the great 'minus' players in action. Someone came up and tried to explain the finer points of the game and how one of the players might have done a triple peel. The fact that he did not understand one word helped to convince Eric Solomon that here was a new world to be explored. He later discovered that the someone was Ian Baillieu!

The croquet world began to hear the name of the new Solomon on 1972, mainly from competitors at Roehampton who found the raiders from Harrow Oak impossible to beat. Almost at once, Solomon, like his namesake, became obsessed by the mechanics of triple peels and did his first triple in 1974 in a Swiss Handicap, and refused to be daunted by those who told him that triples in handicaps were mere 'embroidery'. By 1976 when he played in the Championships for the first time he was among the best of the triple peelers and got to the semi-finals. He jumped straight into the Chairman's Salver and won it. By now he was a name in his own right and people had stopped asking him if he is a relation of John's — which he is not.

Eric Solomon is a thinking player and could well be one of the few players who bring a new dimension to the game. He is already the inventor of six board games on the market throughout the world, the best known of which is 'Black Box'. He has written many articles on games and has published a book 'Games with Pencil and Paper'. On the court he is an experimenter; he has done many sextuple peels in practice and although he has never succeeded in doing one in a tournament game he has gained in skill and accuracy because of that practice. The strongest points in his game are split rolls and shooting — in winning the President's Cup he never shot at the tice but always at his ball in the fourth corner and only missed it once!

**PRECIOUS MEDALS**

With the soaring prices of gold and silver, anyone who is interested in the past cannot help wondering what has happened to the countless Gold and Silver awards in Croquet. Are they collector's items? Were they melted down in a former Gold rush, or for the War effort, or are they lying in a drawer of souvenirs — forgotten? About 800 Silver Medals have been awarded to winners in certain top class events since 1896 but of these only 200 have been won since 1919. I have not seen the early ones, perhaps Major G.F. Stone still has his which he won in 1912, but up to 1976 all the medals were made of silver. The more recent ones have the Birmingham hallmark and weigh about 11 dwt, while those of ten to twenty years ago are just under 10 dwt but were claimed by Spink to be of the higher Britannia standard (95.8% as against 92.5% silver content).

In addition many other Silver medals have been presented over the years: to Australia and New Zealand; to first-time winners of the Men's and Women's Championships etc. They were mainly awarded in prestigious level events but when the All England Handicap was inaugurated in 1923 eleven players in the play-off at Roehampton and each one was given a silver medal. Tom Todd, the Tennis historian, found one of these medals some years ago and kindly gave it to me. It is larger than a crown and has a deeply embossed croquet player on the face. The Irish grip can be seen clearly and, with the trouser turn-ups slightly above the ankles, it looks as though it might have been modelled on Duff Mathews. It weighs 1oz 5½dwt and is a handsome medal. The following year only the runner-up got the Silver medal but the winner got a Gold one and this continued right up to 1938.

Gold was not so lavishly awarded but there were Scottish and Irish Gold Medals, Riviera Gold Medals, Gold Mallets and the winners of the Men's and Women's Championships, up to

the year 1935, were given a gold medal. Mrs Longman won the last. Parkstone and Southwick still have Gold Challenge Cups, then there is the embossed Ranelagh Cup (thought by some to be the most beautiful cup in croquet). The handsome Coronation Cup was presented in 1912; Lord Doneraile organised the fund-raising and wrote: "In all I have received the sum of £128 10s., which has been sufficient to provide a gold cup, plinth, case and a replica in silver gilt, and to cover expenses of engraving and collection". The most recent gold trophy is the Riggall Trophy for the South African equivalent of our President's Cup. In 1978 it was reported to be worth £3,500 but by this year nobody had the courage to take it out of the vault where it lives!

**WHAT'S NEW — 1980**

May 3 — 5 Cheltenham. This is not one of the normal Cheltenham week-ends but a three day tournament of level play. If it is as big a success as the Wrest Park and Compton advanced play tournaments are it is likely to be oversubscribed, so enter early. 7 games are guaranteed.

August 18 — 22 Southwick. After the best six women players have been selected for the LADIES FIELD the next best available women (number unspecified) will play in a similar competition at SOUTHWICK. This is an experimental event and its success will depend on the quality and the quantity of players who are willing, and it is hoped enthusiastic, to make themselves available.

**CHANGE OF VENUE**

May 10 — 11 Golf Croquet Championships. HARROW OAK. The entry at Hurlingham last year was disappointingly small, which may have been because the date was chosen so late. This year full details are in Fixture List — including the exact location of the Club. So make a point of supporting this much underrated game and at the same time encourage Harrow Oak's initiative in holding their first Calendar Fixture. Entries close: Singles April 30; Doubles 11 am May 10.

May 12 — 17 Peel Memorials. SOUTHWICK. This is the best tournament in the calendar for improving players. As well as three handicaps (plus a consolation event) there are separate events for Men and Women. There was an entry of 44 at Cheltenham last year — an even number of men and women — compared with 16 when they first had it 11 years ago. It is a pity for numbers to fall off every time it moves because it can only be because of ignorance as to what an excellent tournament it is.

**FROM THE BEGINNING .....**

John Solomon has written a personal Croquet History and he calls it From the Beginning to the End. This authentic record of his feats in the world of croquet covering more than thirty years is a valuable addition to the annals of the game. Further, John Solomon has included many personal opinions on such burning topics as Sponsorship and Publicity as well as thoughts on tactics and developments, in the game, and the Gazette hopes to publish extracts from time to time. The Secretary C.A. has two copies which Associates may borrow — it provides about two hours compulsive reading.

**FROM THE SOUTH AFRICAN GAZETTE;**

The Riggall Gold Trophy 1979. T. BARLOW 12 wins. F.X.V. Norton 7 wins; C. Carter 6 wins; S.J. Wright 6 wins. R. McLean 5 wins; D. Nicholls 4 wins; B. Stalker 2 wins.

**Hard Hitters**

One cannot recall, until recently, more than a few players who hit the ball really hard. Freddie Stone was renowned for breaking hoops and certainly on one occasion reputedly lost a ball through it jumping over a bank into an adjoining garden from which it was never found. Neil Spooner, playing for Australia in the Test Match at Colchester in 1964, managed to

break two new balls in his first match.

In recent years, however, there have emerged a number of players who, in the opinion of many, hit the ball very much harder than is necessary even to hold a ball on course on an in-different court. Perhaps they do not realise the present day cost of equipment which they stand to damage by such action. A new hoop costs about £9 and a new ball about £8. Timber too is very expensive and not so young wood surrounds do not take kindly to being hit by a rocket out of hell.

These hard hitters are getting a bad reputation and if they hit so hard as to put equipment at risk, not to mention players and spectators, they may eventually find Clubs refusing their entries at tournaments. The general conditions for tournaments do permit Tournament Committees to refuse an entry without giving a reason. Maybe they should take a leaf out of William Prichard's book who demonstrates so well how a ball hit correctly can hold its course though only just "stroked". They don't have to be named. They know who they are.

**OBITUARIES****Maurice Benington Reckitt**

Maurice, as he was affectionately known to his many friends worldwide, died peacefully in his sleep at his Roehampton home at 8 am on the 11th of January in his 92nd year. With his passing the world of croquet has without doubt lost the most colourful and influential character it has ever known.

He was born in Beverley, Yorkshire on the 19th of May 1888, the oldest of three children, grandson of the founder of the Hull firm that later merged with Colman's of Norwich. Delicate health (which also prevented him from serving in the Great War, and of course he was too old for the Second) meant that most of his early schooling was spent at home. He went to Wellington College in 1903 and then up to St. John's College, Oxford in 1906 to read Modern History. There he developed the twin interests of his life, Christian Sociology and Croquet. On leaving Oxford he briefly earned his living (for the only time in his life) as a schoolmaster at Ipswich Grammar School. In 1978 a new Club was formed for graduates of Oxford (equivalent to the Heley Club at Cambridge). He was very pleased and flattered that the Club asked him if it could be called The Reckitt Club.

In the field of Christian Sociology he wrote alone or jointly over 50 books, the most important being 'Faith and Society' in 1934. He was editor of the quarterly 'Christendom' throughout its life from 1931 to 1951. He lectured widely on the subject for many years. His great cry was that the Church had three functions: to worship God, to bind up the wounds of the world, and to prophesy.

His prolific pen extended into the world of croquet. His many Reviews of the Year, his reports on the Open Championships and the President's Cup, his contributions to 'Rover Notes' (which he invented) and his poems under the pen names of 'M. Bear' and 'Ember' embellished the Croquet Gazette over many years and are filed therein as a record of his prowess. His book 'Croquet Today' published in 1954 surprised its author by its success, selling as it did over 2,000 copies in England and Australasia. Maurice, while naturally pleased by this did not observe that it had done much to raise the standard of play amongst those who bought it and may have been presumed to have read it, but he was probably wrong on this point. Alas, the book has long been out of print and copies as they become available are still much sought after.

In 1969 he completed in typescript (if it had been in his well known spidery handwriting it surely would have been illegible) his mammoth 'History of Croquet' which David and Betty Prichard are presently editing into a suitable form for publication.

In his Will he bequeathed the Croquet Association a legacy of £2,000, to which he added the words 'and I desire if this is feasible (but without imposing any legal obligation or trust) that not less than £1,000 of this sum shall be set aside for the



writing and publication of an adequate history of the game. Any surplus after the above provision I should prefer to be allocated to expenses in connection with matches for the International Trophy. This provision in his Will accentuates another field in which he was particularly interested. The energy and enthusiasm he put into ensuring the continuation of these international contests, particularly their renewal after the Second World War was considerable. To him a lot of credit must be accorded to the fact that they did continue and with such success. Maurice did get two 'caps' (or perhaps one should say 'blazer pockets') playing for England (as it then was, not Great Britain as now) in two winning series, both in England, against Australia in 1937 and against New Zealand in 1956. He also followed our team when it played abroad in Australia or New Zealand.

As an administrator his contribution to the game was also very considerable. He served on the Council as an elected member from 1929 until 1962, being Chairman 1937 to 1939. From 1962 until 1967 he was a Vice President. In 1967 he succeeded Sir Compton Mackenzie as President which eminent position he held with great distinction until 1975 when he voluntarily retired, as he said 'to make way for a younger man' - he was then 87. During the period 1962 until 1975 he was, of course, an ex officio member of the Council when he played a very useful part. On his retirement he was made an Honorary Life Associate together with the unprecedented privilege to attend and take part in meetings of the Council. This he did regularly until about a year ago when increased blindness and frailty made it impossible. He thus served actively on the Council for over 50 years. During this time he was a great committee man and perhaps his greatest contribution was as Chairman of the Tournament Committee for a countless number of years, before Council Standing Orders forbade any individual from chairing a committee for more than four years consecutively.

As a player he was never among the really great players: he was notoriously inconsistent and somewhat temperamental. He admitted that he had no natural gifts for the game and he only got as far as he did, so he said, by perseverance (certainly not by patience). From long experience he acquired considerable talent for tactics (latterly perhaps rather too defensive), although he himself considered his reputation in this matter was apt to be somewhat exaggerated and believed that it had arisen by contrast to the low level in this respect of which tactical mastership of the game had fallen since its earlier days.

He reckoned that the best thing he did for the game was to introduce his younger brother 'G.L.' to it. Geoffrey had a natural swing and a perfect style. He rapidly got to the top and became one of the greats. The brothers played in frequent partnership at tournaments from 1912 until 1926 when Geoffrey gave up the game to allow more time with his young family, but he came back in 1947 and the partnership was renewed culminating with their winning the Open Doubles Championship in 1950 and so held for a year the beautiful pair of silver porringers which they had jointly presented in 1924. Geoffrey went on to win the Open Championship in 1951, just a year before his untimely death.

A great many players would have been satisfied with a small proportion of Maurice's achievements on the court. He joined the Association in 1907 with a handicap of 10. At his peak he reached -2½. As age crept on he set himself the strange target of finishing up with the same handicap at which he had started. This he just managed to do. He won his Silver Medal at Southwick with Budleigh Salterton, Devonshire Park and Woking were his favourite tournaments where he won the Open Singles at least once at each in addition to many handicap events.

He won the Man's Championship in 1935 and 1946; the Mixed Doubles Championship in 1937, 1946, 1948, 1952 and 1958 (the last 4 times with Miss Lintern); the Doubles Championship in 1933, 1934, 1946 and 1950; the Association Plate in 1946, 1953, 1954 and 1955; the Du Pre Cup in 1947 and 1953, and the New Zealand Doubles Championship in 1958 (with Ashley Heenan). In the South of England Championships

at Devonshire Park he was Men's Champion in 1957 and 1962, The Championship in 1950 and the Doubles (with Miss Warwick) in 1959 and 1961.

He played in the Beddow Cup and its successor the Presidents' Cup on 18 occasions between 1934 and 1958. He never quite won it, but was 2nd in 1934 (to Miss Steel) and 3rd in 1935 (to Lt. Col. Du Pre and D.J.V. Hamilton-Miller). He played for Surrey no fewer than 40 times, often as Captain, and between 1922 and 1966 Surrey won 16 times and in the Inter-Club Championship he played in the Woking Club's team that won the trophy 6 times between 1924 and 1937.

In 1920 he married Aimee (nee Peppercorn). The marriage was a blissfully happy one (they hardly spent a night apart) but unhappily not blessed with children. She became a croquet player of no mean ability, having in her younger days been a Wimbledon tennis player. She accompanied Maurice round his extensive annual tournament circuit. She was not allowed to watch Maurice from the court side, but was often seen to be watching from afar from some half hidden vantage point. They did occasionally play together and did win the Murray Cups handicap event in 1936. She died in 1968 which left an irreplaceable gap in his life, but he soldiered on alone very gallantly.

In his autobiography 'As It Happened' written in 1941 he wrote: 'Dancing, walking through the countryside, running the Villars Show (Villarsur-Bex, Switzerland) and playing tournament croquet have been the chief leisure activities of a life in which pleasure has perhaps bulked disproportionately large. No doubt there are better ways of spending one's time; yet when I look back at the labours and the pleasures of the Majority of men it is far more obvious to me that there are many worse ones.'

Not just in England but wherever Association Croquet is played he left his mark and his passing will be mourned. A unique personality has gone from our midst and surely we shall never see the like again.

R.I.P.

His funeral was held at his parish church the Holy Trinity, Roehampton on the 19th January when many of his friends in the Croquet Association (as well as many others) paid their last respects. There were present our President, three Vice Presidents, the Chairman and Vice Chairman of Council, the Treasurer and many other members of the Council and Associate as well as myself and my predecessor Bande Robinson.

Maurice was a great admirer of G.K. Chesterton and he requested that a quotation from one of his works be engraved on his tombstone in Putney Vale Cemetery: 'One must somehow find a way of loving the world without trusting it.'

The writer is fully aware of his shortcomings in attempting to pay tribute and summarise in writing the life of such a personality as Maurice, despite having known him for over 40 years since we first met at Budleigh in 1937. I am grateful to have been able to take extracts from Jim Townsend's 'Profile of a president' published in the Gazette in April 1970 (and which was based largely on Maurice's own draft obituary); from Christopher Martin's obituary notice in The Times (14.1.80.) and for some personal notes provided by Noel Hicks.

R.F.R.

Alan Jones

Alan Jones who died very suddenly on 8th October 1979, was President of the Hunstanton Club for five years and a member of the Club for many years. He took part in many tournaments but latterly had to give up playing in competitions. He was a skilled engineer and could turn his hand to anything and many are the pieces of equipment he has made and repaired for the Club. His business acumen was most useful and his advice always sound.

Hunstanton Croquet Club will miss him very much and we extend to Audrey Jones, our accommodation Secretary, our deep Sympathy.

J.N.R.

## RETROSPECT 1979 - THE END OF THE SEVENTIES

At the risk of offending the pedants 1979 seems the right moment to look back on what has happened during the seventies. A feeling of marking time has pervaded the past season: for one thing the highpoint of the year came in New Zealand in January and February and for another the huge step towards Sponsorship and World Championships was halted in mid-air. We sent very much the same team to New Zealand which had been so successful in England in 1974 (Heap and Openshaw replacing Solomon and part-timers Ormerod and Wylie) but we lost the MacRobertson Shield which we had held since 1956. The armslength view is that the six New Zealanders, who played unchanged throughout, formed a brilliant and dedicated team. Yet the English players are almost as brilliant so perhaps they are a little less dedicated.

The young men of the sixties took over the seventies, and ousted Solomon, Cotter and Hicks from their twenty-year reign. Aspinall and Wylie became the great names but it is the former who has amassed the most wins: 6 Presidents Cup to Wylies 1; 4 Open Championships to 2 and 6 Doubles Championships to Nil - and that only in the 10 years of the seventies. This year Aspinall withdrew his name from the Presidents Cup because he was far from satisfied with his own standard of play and Wylie was hardly seen. Other young men from the sixties who came to the top like Prichard (W de B), Heap, Hemsted and Hope were prevented from playing much because of pressure of work or young families or in two cases both. The absence of these six players from the 1979 Presidents Cup left it open for a new winner, whom the knowing ones expected to come from the four Internationals Hands, Murray, Neal or Openshaw, but it was the new-comer Eric Solomon, he started badly and finished strongly, who stole it from Neal - who started brilliantly but foundered in the middle. It is said of bull-fighters that it is their finishes which make them famous; if this department of Mulliner's game could be less evanescent he and Solomon will both carve their niches in those fickle halls in the 80's. Murray has his already, and his fluent sextuple (on narrow hoops) makes one wonder why it is the first in a major event since Wylie broke the ground in the final of the Open Championship as long ago as 1971. Can some of the blame be put on those smae knowing ones who draw attention to the games lost because of this risky manoeuvre? Sextuples do not come singly in New Zealand but by the dozen.

Perhaps this is enough for the moment of the Grand Masters. The strength of croquet depends on infusions of new blood and where better can one monitor this than by following the progress of winners of the Apps Bowl (now 20 years of age) awarded for the most improved player of the year. Rose (1971) and Wood (T.I. 75) sprinted down to the A class in one season and have stayed there. Vulliamy (70) came from a famous croquet family but has never quite maintained that year's 'careless rapture'. Prichard (W.deB. 72) - a winner of the Presidents Cup and a double International. Wright (74) then 16, was the youngest winner of the Spencer EII two years later and is the leading Scottish C.A. player (which was also founded in the seventies). Croker (76) was then only known because he was Perry (B.)'s son-in-law, but he went on improving and this year he had the ambivalent distinction of putting Aspinall out of the Championships and Neal only escaped the same fate by a chance indirect peel coupled with sheer grit. Croker was only one game behind the two leaders in this years Chairman's Salver and enjoyed a number of successes round the Clubs. Openshaw (77) did not do himself justice in the 79 Tests but he made up for that by winning the Open Championship without dropping a game, only Prichard (C.H.L.) and Hemsted pinned him to single figures. In 77 it might have been hard to choose between Openshaw and Mulliner who also had a strong claim but in 78 the selectors were unable to divide Foulser and Sykes. Despite further reductions in handicap, their wins in both A level and Handicap games have scarcely diminished. Foulser won the newly resuscitated Northern Championships and was

equal first in the Chairman's Salver but lost the play-off to Phillips, another fine player from the Harrow Oak stable. The first three were new-comers to this event which was lacking the big names which have featured through the seventies and in particular Jackson. Jackson IS the Charimans Salver. Since it started in 1966 he has not missed an Eight's week but in this decade he has been kicked upstairs four times, albeit rather unwillingly, where he collects his statutory two games and comes down home again. His placings are: 2,1,2,2,2,3,4,6, and back up to 2 in 1978. Sykes won the Spencer EII in fine style, doing four triple peels. Vincent tied 1st with 11 wins but lost the play-off and both he and Noble did a triple. Noble was 3rd and the fact that he is the 1979 Men's Champion (when he beat Hands in the Final - an honourable scalp) show that, in spite of its new look this Cup was of a high standard. In the Chairman's the only triple peels was done by Foulser, and Graeme Roberts. Lander (79) is yet another product of the revitalised Oxford Club - he has great promise.

The Steel Bowl for the most improved Woman was only introduced in 1966 and the first four winners Mrs G.T. Wheeler, Mrs Sundius-Smith, Mrs Prichard and Mrs Meachem have, with Miss Joly been the leading women players in the seventies. None of the Steel Bowl winners stayed the course, that is until 1977. Mrs R.F. Wheeler has won her way down the handicaps and is still winning them and in 79 she broke into the Ladies Field Cup (for the first time only six players) and came 2nd. Her temperament is ideal and she shows signs of eschewing a cautious approach and emulating the peeling skills of her namesake. There can be no argument that Mrs G.T. Wheeler was the leading woman player in England for the first half of this decade. 1971 being a particularly wonderful year for her: she won the Ladies Field, The Surrey Cup, The South of England Open and Women's Championship, The Veterans (in its very first year) and was runner-up to Mrs Sundius Smith in the Women's Championship. Mrs Sundius Smith also won the Surrey Cup (72) but it is a sad fact that no woman has appeared in Eights Week since Mrs Prichard and Mrs G.T. Wheeler in 1975 (Chairman's Salver). This year Mrs Meachem has edged to the front and won both the Ladies Field Cup and the Women's Championship. Another younger player who will stay at the top is Mrs Carlisle, she could not repeat her 78 success in the Women's Championship but played noticeably fine croquet this year. Suddenly there is the promise of more challengers from the B class, Mrs Hemsted, Mrs Sykes, Mrs Chard (the 76, 78 and 79 winners of the Steel Bowl) and Lady Bazley and Mrs Asa Thomas who have been steadily improving for some time and this year produced some brilliant play in the Women's Championships and elsewhere. Many other Cheltenham women players are improving but they may well be challenged by an enthusiastic nucleus of rapidly improving players from Budleigh - and that is good news for the eighties.

The seventies has seen Solomon (J.W.) put an end to his fantastic career, Cotter retired from the C.A. and Ormerod's play curtailed on grounds of health. But Humphrey Hicks celebrated sixty years of tournament play this year. What pleasure watching him has given to hundreds of croquet players and what encouragement he has given to so many of them. And Dudley Hamilton-Miller will be doing the same in a couple of seasons, this year he has been playing with great success and much of his old authority. Young men may dominate the major events, but looking at Club results how often one sees the names of Tucker, Borrett and Tywhitt Drake from Compton; of Owen and Moore from Southwick; Perry, Cooper, Stevens and Bolton at Budleigh where Godby and Newton also feature. Ormerod and Butler have dominated Parkstone (Newton unselfishly Manages) but now Wylie has arrived there. Two more names should be added to the host of Cheltenham winners Gladstone and Whittington - the brothers-in-law - and Soutter has won many games there as well as everywhere else. Camroux and Godby have been being "selected for 18 and 16 years respectively". Turning to handicaps and returning to the younger generation,



the most remarkable feat was for Aspinall to win the ALL ENGLAND HANDICAP off -5 and Heap won it the following year off -2. Coutts won it 2 years running since when there have been four young winners: Parr, Tapp, Bardo and West who will surely be names for the eighties. Matthew Tapp and his elder brother Simon will be at the top if they can find time to play while Bardo looks a carbon copy of Openshaw. Read has won the Championship of Ireland 8 years running. Who will be topped first, Read of Heap (who has won Colchester 7 years running)? In consolation events Prichard (C.H.L.) won the Du Pre three years running and the following year won the Association Plate. One final record which is unlikely ever to be, equalled was that Neal, who has played so well throughout the decade he won the Open Championship twice - and they were the two years he was Chairman of the C.A. This year he won the Doubles Championship with Hemsted and was runner up in both Presidents Cup and the Open Championship.

The Inter-Club Championship seems so firmly established that it is hard to believe it was only restarted in 1971 after a break of more than 30 years. Since then Hurlingham have won it four times. Cheltenham were dilatory about entering but in 75 four young men took matters into their own hands and this year won it for the second time. Now Cheltenham are thinking of entering a B team! This event and the Wrest Park Open week-end in July are the success stories of the top class game. The Longman Cup continues to read like a catalogue of the smaller Clubs which have contributed so much: Bowdon (70) Wrest Park, Harrow Oak (twice), Stourbridge, (twice) Daten, Harwell, Walsall (in its first season and in 79 Oxford) - a most encouraging success for adventurous croquet.

The seventies has seen great development in the spread of croquet in new areas - the number of affiliated clubs has trebled and there must be more players, yet the increase in membership of the C.A. has been disappointingly small. The number of week-end tournaments has gone from ten to thirty and gives many of these new players a chance to enjoy tournament play. There is nothing like winning something for getting hooked. The greatest contribution has undoubtedly come from the Sports Council and without it, Coaching schemes and Laws Courses could not have taken place and subscriptions would have had to soar to cover Headquarters Administration. Altogether the game seems to be on a sound basis, a spring-board for the eighties. Our aim should be to make the game fun to catch new players; to keep them interested once they are caught; to continue to foster new Clubs and above all to get our older Clubs on a sound financial footing. But a survey on what we want and how we ought to get it done must come from a younger pen than mine.

The eighties start sadly with an end - the end of what was almost a reign. Maurice Reckitt has forged a link between us and the hey day of croquet. Thinker, writer (certainly the most valuable contributor the Gazette has ever had), talker (and a wonderful listener too), poet, friend - perhaps friend most of all. Watching croquet with such a knowledgeable and amusing companion was almost equalled by watching him play - when he shared every emotion with the gallery he invariably drew. "I cannot approach a hoop uphi-ill" he would declaim with that expressive upward lilt. We will miss his wisdom and his humour and the picture of him pulling his hat well down before shooting with a shrug will be remembered with affection.

E.A.M.P.

#### ROVING EYE

What would you think of someone who threw a ball of fire onto a court where Humphry Hicks was in play? It happened at Roehampton. There was an old ball in a large ash tray in the pavilion and within seconds of a dying match being thrown into the ash tray there was a column of flame right up to the ceiling. Speed being imperative someone grabbed it and threw it out of the door. Imagine the consternation when, flaming

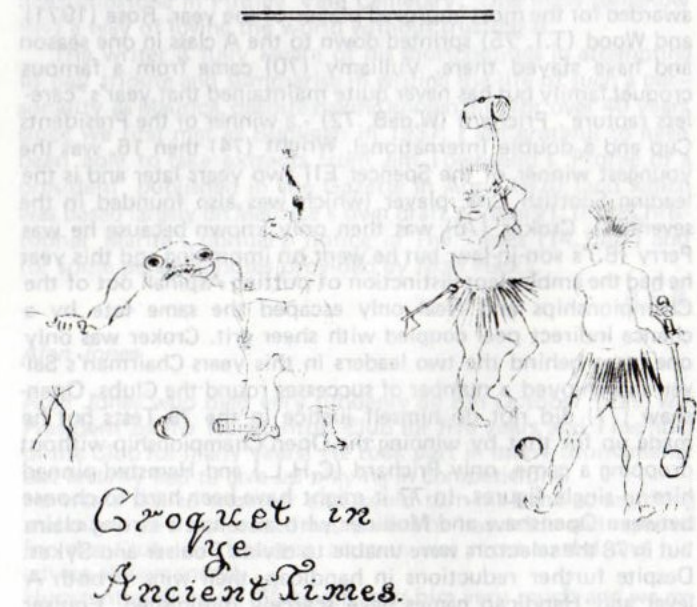
furiously, it rolled half way across the court towards the peg. When the opponent dashed on to kick it away Humphrey Hicks's only comment was "I'm still in play".

From the Croquet Gazette October 1946: "Labour costs have gone up. With an agricultural wage of £4 10s a week the Clubs cannot hope to employ as much labour as they did in the past".

Talking of Money: Douglas Fairbanks Jnr on his 70th birthday last year said: "I have never known a time when people were not talking about the Good Old Days, but there were always frustrations and usually they amount to money." While Alec Bedser, Manager of our Cricket Team on the Pax/Packer tour this past winter said "that what mattered more than anything was that the integrity and standards which he cherished should not be compromised for the sake of money".

The opportunity of a 4 ball cannon comes so seldom that it seems criminal to waste it. In recent games Barry Keen was presented with one when Bernard Neal missed a three ball target; he looked bewildered and opted for getting two balls away and laying up; it was all very well done but what a waste. In another it was Martin Murray who missed the target and Terence Read who was left with four balls in contact. He stopped one ball out four yards, left another on the boundary and rushed the third to the 1st hoop which he made - then separated the other two balls and laid up. It would save anguish to players and spectators alike if a student of cannons would send in their solution of the 4 ball cannon. This might encourage others to send in their favourite cannons - it is high time that the mystique was removed from yard-line cannons; some are exceedingly simple and well within the scope of all classes of players. The wafer cannon from the fourth corner to the 1st hoop is far easier than the little worm cannon (followed by a rush) favoured by beginners.

In the interests of accuracy a correspondent writes that the report of the Women's Championship semi-final is not accurate (C.G. Summer 1979). It was between Mrs Sundius-Smith and Mrs Meachem. When Time was called at the end of the 3rd game: a) S-S was for 3 back and 3; b) B.M. was for 2 back and 1; c) B.M. did not hit in: Blue and Black were together near corner 1 d) 4 back was not made off an enemy ball but off partner ball. e) Penult was not made off enemy ball, but by taking off from the North boundary. (That was the winning point. This again highlights the speed with which hoops are made in the last turns after Time is called. Would that such daring could be shown during the game - then Time would never expire).



#### Weekend Tournaments

##### Cheltenham 14 - 16 September

Block A: MRS H. HANDLEY (5) 4 wins +35, Mrs D.J. Croker (7½) 4 wins +16, R.E. Adlard (2) 3 wins +14, Dr R. Jones (5½) 2 wins -15, Mrs J.H.J. Soutter (7) 1 win -12, W.J. Sturdy (3½) 1 win -38.

Block B: G. HENSHAW (3) 3 wins (27), Dr G.K. Taylor (1) 3 wins +20, Dr C.B. Snowdon (4) 3 wins +9, P.J. Shepard (7) 3 wins -1, Mrs D. Exell (10) 2 wins +19, Lady Bazley (5) 1 win -36.

Block C: D.J. CROKER (0) 5 wins +77, D.H. Moorcraft (2½) 3 wins -6, Mrs G.T. Wheeler (3) 3 wins -21, G.F. Blumer 2 wins -5, Mrs G.H. Mapstone (7) 2 wins -9, Mrs M. Warren (10) 0 wins -36.

Block D: MISS I.M. ROE (5½) 5 wins +57, C.B. Sanford (3½) 3 wins +28, Mrs E. Asa-Thomas (3) 3 wins +17 L. Ayliffe (5½) 2 wins -7, Rev. W.E. Gladstone (0) 2 wins -28, Mrs N. Adlam (11) 0 wins -67.

Block E: N.J. GOOCH (4) 5 wins +49, Miss M.J. Lodge 3 wins +46, J.H. J. Soutter (0) 3 wins +6, Mrs J. Povey (3) 2 wins +20, Mrs D.H. Moorcraft (10) 1 win -26, G.H. Mapstone (8) 1 win -55.

Block F: J. EXELL (14) 5 wins +47, M.J. Evans (1½) 4 wins +16, Mrs C. Bagnall (4½) 3 wins +4, Mrs W.J. Sturdy (7) 3 wins -11, E. Asa-Thomas (7) 1 win +1, F.E. Pearson (3) 0 wins -57.

##### Ryde 14 - 16 September

(18 entries) (Handicap Blocks)

Block A: C.G. POUNTNEY (1) 4 wins 51 pts, M.G. Tompkinson (3) 4 wins 45 pts, R.B.W. Gladstone (5) 4 wins 3 pts, Miss J. Wraith (9) 2 wins P.H. Mann (7) 1 win, Mrs M.J. Haworth (14) 0 wins.

Block B: J.S.H. BATTISON (2½) 4 wins, Mrs M.G. Tompkinson (11) 3 wins, G. Birch (1) 3 wins, V. Burgmann (5½) 3 wins, R.L. George (12) 1 win H.G.B. Wagnell (7) 1 win.

Block C: T.J. HASTE (2) 5 wins, A. Rowlands (\*16) 4 wins, R.W. Newham (6½) 2 wins, R.F. Rothwell (1½) 2 wins, Mrs P.H. Mann (7½) 2 wins, Mrs V. Burgmann (11) 0 wins.

##### Nottingham 21 - 23 September

Nottingham's final week-end tournament took place with a distinct touch of autumn in the air. Double banking was used on 4 of the 5 lawns and rather too shortened games for the 21 competitors meant that several of them had finished for the day by early afternoon.

The lawns were fast and true and though one or two triple peels were attempted, none quite succeeded. I think only one ball finished up in the river though there were some near misses.

It was nice having a good mix-up of talent from the best to the not quite so good in each block. Block winners were Julian Straw, who played with intelligence and confidence, Peter Barnes and Roger Wheeler.

Roger and Dab Wheeler managed the tournament admirably and were busy working out percentages for the final scores.

The catering as usual, was superb and Mrs Ward is to be congratulated on running the meals singlehanded. I heard one competitor saying he only came for the lunches.

Altogether, a very enjoyable week-end with a budding infant prodigy James Death, not quite 2, already wielding his mallet with the Solomon grip, and some skill.

To avoid time limits, the length of each game played (26, 22 or 18 points) was determined by the sum of the players' handicaps. When competitors had won an equal number of games, their net scores were expressed as percentages of the total possible points and their position in the block determined by their average percentage performance.

Block A: J. STRAW (8) 5 wins +28.5%, Dr I.G. Vincent (½) 5 wins +22.0%, P. Trafford (7) 4 wins, C. Chamberlain (8) 3 wins, Mrs J. Rolfe (2½) 2 wins, Mrs A. Bucknell (10) 2 wins, S. Thomas (15) Nil.

Block B: Dr R.F. Wheeler (5) 5 wins, P.J. Death (2½) 4 wins +30.3%, D. Arthur (8) 4 wins +21.6%, Rev P.D. Hallett (1) 4 wins +19.5%, Dr J. Hiller (14) 2 wins, R.H. Fletcher (7½) 2 wins, D.Newbury (14) Nil.

Block C: P.J. Barnes (4½) 5 wins +32.0%, J. McCullough (2½) 5 wins +28.2%, Mrs D.A. Wheeler (2½) 5 wins +19.4%, S. Hare (6) 3 wins, A.

J. Bucknell (7) 2 wins, G. Cormack (11) 1 win, Mrs E. Chamberlain (10) Nil.

##### Budleigh Salterton 21 - 23 September

(entries 30) (5 Blocks of 6) (3 Hr. Time Limit) (Handicap Singles)

Block A: P.A. DWERRYHOUSE (12) 3 wins +25 pts, F.T. Moores (8) 3 wins +23 pts, J.H.J. Soutter (0) 3 wins +8 pts, P.K. Devitt (4½) 3 wins Dr W.R. Bucknall (3) 2 wins Mrs C.W. Marshall (9) 1 win.

Block B: Dr T.J. Haste (2) 4 wins +32 pts, R.S. Stevens (1½) 4 wins +21 pts, R.A. Peirce (8) 3 wins Mrs E.M. Pursey (9) 2 wins H.E. Ovens (5) 1 win, M.Hawthorn (12) 1 win.

Block C: H.G.T. Bolton (2) 4 wins Mrs D. Wallace (14) 2 wins B.G. Bucknall (6) 2 wins, Mrs D. Exell (10) 1 win, Mrs R.S. Stevens (8) 1 win.

Block D: E.L. Gardiner (9) 5 wins, Mrs J.H.J. Soutter (7) 4 wins R.A. Simpson (2) 3 wins, C. Edwards (3½) 2 wins Mrs P.A. Dwerryhouse (11) 1 win, Mrs M. Hawthorn (16) 0 wins.

Block E: Mrs C. Bagnall (4½) 4 wins, S.F. Blackler (12) 3 wins F.J. Exell (12) 3 wins, N. Morrison (7½) 3 wins, H.G. Drake (2½) 2 wins, Dr C.W. Marshall (9) 0 wins.

##### Wrest Park 21 - 23 September

Block A: B. HARRAL (6) 6 wins, P.M. Johnson (3½) 4 wins, S. Battinson (2½) \* 3 wins, A.B. Hope (-1½) 3 wins, Mrs P. Hague (10) 2 wins, B. A. Keen (1) \*\* 1 win, G. Roy (8) \* 1 win.

\*\*played 4 games, retired sick. - \*played 5 games.

Block B: J.A. Wheeler (1) 5 wins, S.J.W. Hoole (4½) 4 wins, A. Girling (2) 3 wins, Dr H. Webb (11) 3 wins, T.W. Anderson (4) 2 wins, D. Wood (9) 2 wins, P.W. Hands (-2) 1 win.

Block C: Dr R.C. JONES (3½) 4 wins (38), E. Audsley (3½) 4 wins (7), J. Rose (½) 4 wins (3), N.A.J. Norman (3) 3 wins, M.J. Wilson (12) 2 wins, M. Kolbuszewski (5) 2 wins, D. Openshaw (-2) 2 wins.

Block D: R. SMITH (10) 5 wins, E. Bell (1) 4 wins, A.G. Dumont (5) 4 wins, P. Stoker (2½) 3 wins, Mrs C. Chard (8) 2 wins, G.E.P. Jackson (-½) 2 wins, Mrs N. Tyldesley (5) 1 win.

Block E: D.R. FOULSER (0) 5 wins (37), J. Meads (2) 5 wins (29), H. C. Green (1) 3 wins, Mrs J. Anderson (9) 3 wins, A. Watkin (11) 3 wins, J. Maude (3) 2 wins, A.C.W. Davies (3½) 0 wins.

From the social point of view this was a successful tournament. There was a rendezvous in the Lord Nelson on Thursday evening and a dinner in the Waggon and Horses for most of the competitors and some of their wives on Saturday night.

The minus players had to work hard for a win, but Paul Hands one win against Dave Wood included the only triple peel of the tournament. Brian Harral beat Andrew Hope by 25 with 4½ of his 7½ bisques still standing. He finished the game with a straight double peel without using a bisque.

##### Cheltenham 12 - 14 October

Block A: J. ROSS (5) 5 wins +44, N.J.C. Gooch (4) 4 wins +26, J.A. Wheeler (1½) 4 wins +20, Rev. W.E. Gladstone (0) 3 wins -15, Mrs M. Warren (10) 3 wins -10, Mrs D. Croker (7½) 2 wins, Mrs D.H. Moorcraft (10) Nil.

Block B: I.C. MEREDITH (11) 6 wins +81, B.C. Sykes (½) 4 wins +4, J. Meads (2) 3 wins +34, P.W. Hands (-2) 3 wins -23, R. Newham (6½) 2 wins (-20), Mrs T. Anderson (9) 2 wins (-21), Mrs B.G. Weitz (3) 1 win (-55).

Block C: G.E.P. JACKSON (-½) 6 wins (72), Mrs B.C. Sykes (5) 3 wins +22, T. Anderson (4) 3 wins -5, Prof. B.G. Weitz (½) 3 wins -18, M.J. Evans (1½) 3 wins -27, A.E. Watkins (11) 2 wins -15, Mrs J. Asheton (12) 1 win -30.

Block D: G.F. BLUMER (5½) 4 wins +48, A.F. Coleman (1½) 4 wins +21, Dr G. Roberts (0) 4 wins +2, Mrs P. Hague (10) 3 wins +32 C.B. Sanford (3½) 3 wins -8, H.C. Green (1) 3 wins -32, Mrs J. Exell (10) Nil.

Block E: D.R. FOULSER (0) 5 wins +47, Mrs C. Chard (8) 4 wins +57, J. Exell (11) 4 wins +23, S.J. Garrett (5½) 3 wins +19, R.E. Adlard (2) -40, L. Latham (1) 2 wins -71, Mrs J.S. Tyldesley (5) 1 win -35.

##### PARKSTONE, 10-15 SEPTEMBER

The conditions for Parkstone's second tournament were idyllic; it was one of those glorious sunny weeks that one is sometimes fortunate to enjoy in early September.



The tournament, smoothly organized by Margaret McMordie and efficiently managed by Pat Newton, was leisurely and gracious, with double-banking used only in some of the Y games late in the week. This unhurried progress, however, did mean that one competitor had to withdraw from an event when he became a blocker and several other players only escaped a similar fate by conveniently losing a crucial game.

Singles games were played to a 3-hour time limit and there were one or two amusing scrambles as time approached. It was unfortunate that the semi-finals and finals of the B and C class events were all decided on time, as were two other finals. A novel and interesting variation on the time limit was, however, introduced in the A and B class events. This decreed that 'if a player has pegged out an opponent's ball, the manager reserves the right to add an extra ½ hour'. This rule opens stimulating new tactical possibilities, with a player striving - not always wisely - to get to a position where he can peg out an opponent in order to secure this concession and the opponent tempting him to do just that in the hope that a fragile break will disintegrate to his advantage.

A game, however, in which the value of this flexibility was well exemplified was the semi-final of the Draw in the Opens, much enjoyed by the spectators. As time drew near, Dab Wheeler was for peg and 4-back, while William Ormerod, because of some unforced errors, found himself languishing on hoops 5 and 1. William, in play with his backward ball, blue, in the turn in which time was called, did an elegant and apparently effortless all-round break, pegging out Dab's red ball and thereby earning the extra ½ hour bonus. Unfortunately, red hit the peg on the roquet stroke, so that blue and black were both in the middle of the lawn when contact was taken. Dab, after running a perilously long 4-back and making penultimate, was long on her take-off and missed the ball at rover. Two further long shots by yellow were also missed but, after black had organized a promising 3-ball break, William unaccountably failed hoop 5 on his ball and this time Dab hit and went out. But it could have easily gone the other way.

Both the Draw and Process of the Opens were won by Ted Tucker, who played steadily throughout the competition and earned a well-deserved victory. The play-off for second place and the Ashton Cup took place after most spectators had gone home but turned out to be a most entertaining game for the onlookers. John Phillips and Dab Wheeler were the protagonists and fortunes fluctuated many times as attempts were repeatedly made to peel first the player's own and then the opponent's ball through various hoops.

The B level final (single life) was a ding-dong battle between Alan Hutcheson and Alec Rushbrooke, which Alan eventually won by 2 on time. In the C handicap final between two local players, Beryl Saunders (15) used her bisques very effectively to beat Netta Robertson (10). Beryl's success earned her a reduction in handicap: her defeated opponents probably all wished it had been greater!

John Phillips, who arrived at Parkstone fresh from his victory in the Chairman's Salver, fell victim to Ted Tucker in the Opens on the Monday morning but recovered to win the X handicap despite now being a minus player (- ½), beating Jeff Greswell in the final. The Y was won by Frank Newman. There was an exciting game in the Y semi-final between Allen Parker and 'Tiny' Tyrwhitt Drake. Using his bisques, Allen had got both balls round to rover, whereas Tiny had hardly started. A missed roquet gave Tiny the innings and he promptly took one ball to penultimate. Another missed shot saw Tiny going round again on the following turn, successfully executing the double peel but accidentally rushing his partner ball on to the peg. This let Allen in again and he eventually won by 1.

The doubles cups were won by Dab and Roger Wheeler who, in the final, sat and watched their early lead steadily eroded by Alec Rushbrooke and Beryl Saunders, while they repeatedly tried to go out from a position of peg and rover and only won, rather unsatisfactorily, by 3 on time.

The success and enjoyment of the Parkstone tournament was in no small measure due to the excellence of the catering. The lunches must surely be the best value anywhere on the tournament circuit and the teas also were a daily delight. Your reporter was particularly asked not to single out any of the ladies for special mention and this is a tribute to the harmonious way in which the enthusiastic caterers worked as a team and earned the gratitude of all the players.

One other unusual innovation at Parkstone is worth recording. A player is requested to hold his mallet vertically to call for a referee and horizontally above his head to call for an umpire. This is an ingenious convention that could well be universally adopted.

#### *Event 1. Bournemouth Bowl and Ashton Cup. Open Singles (entries 10).*

##### DRAW

*First Round:* E.J. Tucker bt J.G.C. Phillips +19, Mrs R.F. Wheeler bt Air Cmdr. J.H. Greswell +18.

*Second Round:* L. Wharrad bt Dr C.A. Parker +2T, Tucker bt L.S. Butler +26, Mrs Wheeler bt E.C. Tyrwhitt Drake +6, Dr W.P. Ormerod bt Col. E.L.L. Vulliamy +26.

*Semi-Final:* Tucker bt Wharrad +17, Mrs Wheeler bt Ormerod +10.

*Final:* TUCKER bt Mrs Wheeler +5T.

##### PROCESS

*First Round:* Parker bt Ormerod w.o. opp. scr., Vulliamy bt Wharrad +23.

*Second Round:* Tucker bt Parker +4, Butler bt Greswell +11, Vulliamy bt Mrs Wheeler +1T, Phillips bt Tyrwhitt Drake +12.

*Semi-Final:* Tucker bt Butler +15, Phillips bt Vulliamy +22.

*Final:* TUCKER bt Phillips +16.

Play Off: Mrs Wheeler bt Phillips +5.

#### *Event 2. Deshon Cup. 'B' Level Singles (entries 15) (4-9 bisques).*

*First Round:* Mrs C.W. Marshall bt Miss P.E. Parker +2T, Mrs F.H.N. Davidson bt J.H.T. Griffiths +10, G.A. Hutcheson bt Mrs F.H. Newman +24, Mrs L.N. Bishop bt Dr C.W. Marshall +1T, R.H.C. Carder bt Mrs E. J. Tucker +17, Dr R.F. Wheeler bt I.H. Newman +11, A. Rushbrooke bt S.G. Kent +13.

*Second Round:* Mrs Davidson bt Mrs Marshall +11, Hutcheson bt Mrs Bishop +14, Dr Wheeler bt Carder +21, Rushbrooke bt Mrs E.C. Tyrwhitt Drake +8.

*Semi-Final:* Hutcheson bt Mrs Davidson +3T, Rushbrooke bt Wheeler +8T.

*Final:* HUTCHESON bt Rushbrooke +2.

#### *Event 3 Halse Salver Handicap Singles (entries 5) (10 bisques and over).*

*First Round:* Mrs B. Saunders (15) bt Mrs D. Mitchell (11) +14 Miss A. R. Robertson (10) bt Mrs D.G. Waterhouse (10) +16.

*Semi-Final:* Mrs Saunders bt Mrs Wharrad +6T, Miss Robertson bt Mrs Parker +2T.

*Final:* MRS SAUNDERS bt Miss Robertson +13.

#### *Event 4X. Bishop Cup Handicap Singles (unrestricted) (entries 31).*

*First Round:* Col. E.L.L. Vulliamy (2) bt Dr C.A. Parker (3½) +13, Mrs E.J. Tucker (7½) bt Mrs D. Mitchell +5, L.S. Butler (½) bt Mrs E.C. Tyrwhitt Drake +15, E.J. Tucker (0) bt J.H.T. Griffiths (8) +9, Mrs R.I. Wheeler (2½) bt E.C. Tyrwhitt Drake (½) +23, Mrs L. Wharrad (13) bt Mrs C.A. Parker (14) +5, J.G.C. Phillips (½) bt Miss A.R. Robertson (10) +16, Mrs N.A.C. McMillan (3) bt Dr R.F. Wheeler (5) +17, Mrs F.H. Newman (9) bt Mrs L.M. Bishop (9) +17, Dr C.W. Marshall (9) bt Miss P. E. Parker (7½) +8, L. Wharrad (3½) bt Mrs D.G. Waterhouse (10) +22, R.H.C. Carder (4½) bt Mrs C.W. Marshall (9) +5, G.A. Hutcheson (4½) bt S.G. Kent (4) +3, A. Rushbrooke (6½) bt Mrs F.H.N. Davidson (7½) +6, Mrs B. Saunders (15) bt I.H. Newman (6½) +7T.

*Second Round:* Vulliamy bt Mrs Tucker +6, Butler bt Tucker w.o. opp. scr., Mrs Wheeler bt Mrs Wharrad +16, Phillips bt Mrs McMillan +7, Mrs Newman bt Marshall +19, Carder bt Wharrad +3T, Rushbrooke bt Hutcheson +5, Air Com. J.H. Greswell (3) bt Mrs Saunders +14.

*Third Round:* Butler bt Vulliamy +4, Phillips bt Mrs Wheeler +10, Mrs Newman bt Carder +7T, Greswell bt Rushbrooke w.o. opp. scr.

*Semi-Final:* Phillips bt Butler +3, Greswell bt Mrs Newman +6.

*Final:* PHILLIPS bt Greswell +11.

#### *Event 4Y. Handicap Singles.*

*First Round:* Dr C.A. Parker (3½) bt Mrs D. Mitchell (11) +12, Mrs E. C. Tyrwhitt Drake (6½) bt J.H.T. Griffiths (8) w.o. opp. ret. peg, E.C. Tyrwhitt Drake (½) bt Mrs C.A. Parker (14) +13, Dr R.F. Wheeler (5) bt Miss A.R. Robertson (10) +12, Miss P.E. Parker (7½) bt Mrs L.M. Bishop (9) +4T, Mrs C.W. Marshall (9) bt Mrs D.G. Waterhouse (10) +17, Mrs F.H.N. Davidson (7½) bt S.G. Kent (4) +1.

*Second Round:* Parker bt Mrs Tyrwhitt Drake +12, Tyrwhitt Drake bt Wheeler +9, Mrs Marshall bt Miss Parker +9, F.H. Newman bt Mrs Davidson +1T.

*Semi-Final:* Parker bt Tyrwhitt Drake +1, Newman bt Mrs Marshall +13

*Final:* NEWMAN bt Parker +17.

#### *Event 5. Handicap Doubles (3rd Hoop Start) (entries 14).*

*First Round:* R.H.C. Carder, Dr C.W. Marshall (13½) bt J.G.C. Phillips Mrs C.W. Marshall (8½) +5T, A. Rushbrooke, Mrs B. Saunders (20½) bt L.S. Butler, Mrs D. Mitchell (9½) +2T, Air Com. J.H. Greswell, J.H.T. Griffiths (11) bt Dr and Mrs C.A. Parker (15½) +5, Dr and Mrs R.F. Wheeler (7½) bt Mr and Mrs L. Wharrad (15½) +6, E.C. Tyrwhitt Drake Mrs E.J. Tucker (8) bt Mr and Mrs F.H. Newman (14) +16, Mrs N.A.C. McMillan, Miss A.R. Robertson (11) bt S.G. Kent and Miss P.E. Parker (11½) +6.

*Second Round:* Carder and Marshall bt G.A. Hulcheson and Mrs J.H.N. Davidson +4, Rushbrooke and Mrs Saunders bt Greswell and Griffiths +9, Dr and Mrs Wheeler bt Tyrwhitt Drake and Mrs Tucker +11, E.J. Tucker, Mrs E.C. Tyrwhitt Drake (6½) bt Mrs McMillan and Miss Robertson +7.

*Semi-Final:* Dr and Mrs Wheeler bt Tucker and Mrs Tyrwhitt Drake +3, Rushbrooke and Mrs Saunders bt Carder and Marshall +10.

*Final:* DR and MRS WHEELER bt Rushbrooke and Mrs Saunders +3T.

#### **Roehampton — September 17 — 22**

An experiment of limiting all games to 3 hours and starting the Handicap Singles and doubles and "C" class events at the 3rd hoop owing to the number of entries and the fading of the day-light around 7.30 p.m., proved, in the end, an undoubted success. Comparatively few games were concluded "on time" and Graham Martin, our Manager, is certainly the first person to be congratulated and thanked for the hours which he spent with pen and paper and also travelling to and from his home in Harrow.

In the open singles four different players figured in the finals of the Draw and Process. Robin Godby, outstanding in the earlier part of the week, defeated Dudley Hamilton-Miller in a close finish, marked by mistakes on both sides after a steady downpour of rain intervened. In the Process, Lionel Adams, maintaining his excellent form all through this week, scored a fine victory over Veronica Carlisle in a game of good croquet by both players. Finally in winning the play-off convincingly against Godby - and with it the Ranelagh Gold Cup - Adams would indeed seem to have turned the clock back to the distant days when at the age of 18 he held a handicap of ½ at Carrickmines!

In the B singles, S. Garratt, from Bath, and J. Greenwood had shown themselves to be the strongest players in their class and duly contested the final, in which Garratt recorded an impressive victory. Mrs W. Browne, a rapidly improving player, reversed an earlier defeat by R. Gosden to take the C singles, while J. Greenwood scored a decisive win both in the X Handicap singles and also the Handicap Doubles in partnership with Robin Godby. Mrs Gosden after a struggle against M.J. Stevens in the Y Handicap finally gained the verdict.

Mrs E.E. Bressey, who had been responsible for much of the organisation, was unfortunately unable to preside at the prize-giving owing to a sudden migraine and Mrs K. Longman deputised in her place. All in all, a most enjoyable week with four good lawns and two not so good, fine weather most of the time and the excellent Roehampton Snack Bar available for lunch and tea. It was interesting to learn from S.S. Townsend that exactly 60 years ago Humphrey Hicks began his illustrious ca-

reer playing in his first tournament here at the age of 15 with a Handicap of "Star 5".

#### *Event 1. Level Play (3 hr. Time Limit) (entries 12).*

##### DRAW

*First Round:* Mrs H.B.H. Carlisle bt S.S. Townsend +15, R.A. Godby bt E. Tyrwhitt Drake +5, A.D. Karmel bt Mrs B. Weitz +3, D.J.V. Hamilton-Miller bt L. Wharrad +3.

*Second Round:* M. Stevens bt L. Adams +7, R.A. Godby bt Mrs Carlisle +2, Hamilton-Miller bt Karmel +17, H.O. Hicks bt C. Hudson +20.

*Semi-Final:* Godby bt Stevens +24, Hamilton-Miller bt Hicks +21.

*Final:* GODBY bt Hamilton-Miller +7.

##### PROCESS

*First Round:* Adams bt Wharrad +18, Townsend bt Hudson +13, Stevens bt Doughty +1, Mrs Carlisle bt Hicks +8.

*Second Round:* Adams bt Tyrwhitt Drake +3, Townsend bt Karmel +17, Godby bt Stevens +8, Carlisle bt Mrs Weitz +8.

*Semi-Final:* Adams bt Townsend +15, Mrs Carlisle bt Godby +16.

*Final:* Adams bt Mrs Carlisle +9.

*Play-off:* ADAMS bt Godby +18.

#### *Event 2. Level Singles (entries 9) (Semi-Advanced) (3rd hoop start) (3hr. Time Limit).*

*Final:* GARRETT bt Greenwood +19.

#### *Event 3. Handicap Singles (entries 13) (3rd Hoop Start) (3 hr. Time Limit).*

*Final:* MRS BROWNE bt R. Gosden +13.

#### *Event 4X Handicap Singles (entries 32) (3rd Hoop Start) (3 hr. Time Limit).*

*First Round:* Mrs Carlisle (1½) bt C. Hudson (3½) +7, Mrs B. Weitz (3) bt G. Doughty (4) +10, R. Gosden (10) bt Mrs L. Wharrad (13) +16, R. A. Godby (0) bt A.D. Karmel (1½) +20, H.O. Hicks (½) bt P. Campion (9) +15, E. Tyrwhitt Drake (½) bt Mrs R. Gosden (11) +5, L. Adams (2½) bt Mrs Bressey (4) +14, L. Wharrad (3½) bt Mrs K. Townsend (10) +3, O.T. Mrs Mansfield (7) bt Mrs Tyrwhitt Drake (6½) +12, S. Garrett (6) bt Miss Shine (10) +15, J. Greenwood (5½) bt Mrs S.S. Townsend (13) +4, Mrs Browne (11) bt E. Tanner (6) +11, S.S. Townsend (1½) bt Miss Wraith (9) +12, K. Townsend (8) bt M. Stevens (1) +11, Mrs Jones (9) bt Mrs Longman (5½) +13, G.B. Martin (3) bt Mrs Healy (10) +10.

*Second Round:* Mrs Weitz bt Mrs Carlisle +4, Godby bt Gosden +10, Hicks bt Tyrwhitt Drake +15, Adams bt Wharrad +25, Mrs Mansfield bt Garrett +6, Greenwood bt Mrs Browne +4, S.S. Townsend bt K. Townsend +16, Mrs Jones bt Martin +10.

*Third Round:* Mrs Weitz bt Godby +14, Adams bt Hicks +11, Greenwood bt Mrs Mansfield +6, S.S. Townsend bt Mrs Jones +7.

*Semi-Final:* Adams bt Mrs Weitz +13, Greenwood bt S.S. Townsend +7.

*Final:* J. GREENWOOD bt Adams +21.

#### *Event 5. Doubles (3rd Hoop Start) (3 hr. Time Limit)*

*First Round:* Mr & Mrs L. Wharrad (15½) bt Mr & Mrs E. Tyrwhitt Drake (7) +1, D.J.V. Hamilton-Miller and Mrs W. Browne (12) bt Mrs Carlisle and Mrs S.S. Townsend (14½) +9, M. Stevens and Mrs K. Townsend (11) bt L. Adams and Mrs Mansfield (9½) +1, O.T. R.A. Godby and J. Greenwood (5½) bt Mrs Bressey and S. Garrett (10) +16, Miss Shine and Mrs Weitz (13) bt Mrs E.P. Callan and P. Campion (16) +10, R. Gosden and Mrs Gosden (21) bt Mrs Jones and H.O. Hicks (9½) +6, O.T. K. Townsend and Miss Wraith (17) bt Mrs Healy and E. Tanner (16) +10.

*Second Round:* Hamilton-Miller and Mrs Browne bt Mrs & Mr L. Wharrad (15½) +8, Godby and Greenwood bt Stevens and Mrs Townsend +8, Miss Shine and Mrs Weitz bt Mr & Mrs Gosden +15, C. Hudson and Mrs A. Solomon (17½) bt K. Townsend and Miss Wraith +10.

*Semi-Final:* Godby and Greenwood bt Hamilton-Miller and Mrs Browne +3, O.T. Miss Shine and Mrs Weitz bt Hudson and Mrs Solomon +14.

*Final:* GODBY and GREENWOOD bt Miss Shine and Mrs Weitz +13.



## CHELTENHAM OPEN 26 - 30 SEPTEMBER 1979

The general opinion seemed to be that this new 5 day tournament was a success. People liked having a handicap doubles in the mornings and a singles after lunch. They also liked the cloudless skies so thoughtfully provided. But perhaps the highlight of the week (almost) was the invention of Family Doubles. An introduction into the Calender comparable perhaps with Giles Borrett's creation - the Veterans. Twelve husbands and wives entered - brother and sister, aunt and nephew, etc, equally would have qualified. Regretfully, three had to scratch, the Newtons, through illness, even after they had got to Cheltenham: such bad luck.

The winners were John and Doreen Exell, a 12 and a 10, he in his first tournament season. They beat the blue shirted Tyrwhett and Kitty Wheeler in a desperate final. Mrs Wheeler had pegged out Mrs Exell leaving Exell on rover and Wheeler on 3 back. Time was running out when the Colonel with 4 minutes to go embarked on his break. He ran penultimate just as TIME was called and instead of trying for rover, laid at the peg for their forward ball to peg out next turn to leave the well known Wheeler variation, a double pegged out end game! Alas arithmetic went awry. Forgotten was the fact that a pegged out enemy counted one for their side. So, amid confusion, the first Family Doubles Event ended. Leslie Bourke, an erstwhile Chairman of the club gave away the prize. To the winner a handsome Silver spoon in a festooned case, most kindly presented to the Club by Betty Prichard. She and D.M.C. happily were among the family contenders. Mrs Prichard in giving this trophy asked that it should commemorate the long service of Winnifred Allardyce as General and Tournament Secretary. So the prize will be known as the Secretaries Spoon.

It is hoped at Cheltenham that the cult of matrimony will continue and so perpetuate this testimony to the competitiveness of that hallowed state.

## Event 1: 1A. Handicap Doubles - Family Pairs

Block A: COL. & MRS G.T. WHEELER (7½) bt F.E. & Mrs Pearson (15) +5, Lt. Col. & Mrs D.M.C. Prichard (3½) +13, J. & Mrs Exell (19) +1 (T) J. & Mrs Exell bt F.E. & Mrs Pearson +1 (T), Lt. Col. & Mrs Prichard bt F.E. & Mrs Pearson +13.

Block B: (part Swiss) D.de.Q. & MRS LENFESTEY (12) bt H.E. & Mrs Ovens (12½) +5 (T), B.C. & Mrs Sykes (5½) +4, W.J. Sturdy (10) +1 (T) B.C. Sykes & Mrs Sykes bt A.J. & Mrs Bucknell (17) +16, H.E. & Mrs Ovens +17, W.J. Sturdy & Mrs Sturdy bt A.J. & Mrs Bucknell +15.  
Play-off: Col & Mrs Wheeler bt B.C. & Mrs Sykes +10, J & Mrs Exell bt D.de.Q. & Mrs Lenfestey +7.  
Final: J. & MRS EXELL bt Col. & Mrs Wheeler +1 (T).

## 1B Handicap Doubles - other pairs

Block A: R.O.B. WHITTINGTON & MISS E.H. ARKELL (5) bt G.E.P. Jackson & G. Henshaw (2½) +19, L. Ayliffe & Miss J. Wraith (14½) +1, G. Blumer & Mrs M. Warren (14½) bt R.O.B. Whittington & Miss E.H. Arkell +8, L. Ayliffe & Miss J. Wraith +8, Mrs B. Meachem/sub L. Ayliffe & Miss J. Wraith bt G.E.P. Jackson & G. Henshaw +9, G.E.P. Jackson & G. Henshaw bt G. Blumer & Mrs M. Warren +8.

Block B: (part Swiss) A.B. HOPE & MRS C. CHARD (6) bt Miss I.M. Roe & Lady Bazley (10) +7, G. Sisum & Mrs K. Yeoman (15½) +3, Rev. W.E. Gladstone & Miss M.J. Lodge (6½) +7, Mrs J. Povey & P. Shepard (10) +16, G. Sisum & Mrs K. Yeoman bt Mrs J. Povey & P. Shepard +15, Miss I.M. Roe & Lady Bazley +1 (T), J. McLaren & Mrs G. Bawden (17) +5, Miss I.M. Roe & Lady Bazley bt J. McLaren & Mrs G. Bawden +5 (T) Rev. W.E. Gladstone & Miss M.J. Lodge +9, Rev. W.E. Gladstone & Miss M.J. Lodge bt J. McLaren & Mrs G. Bawden +5, Mrs J. Povey & P. Shepard +8, Mrs J. Povey & P. Shepard bt J. McLaren & Mrs Bawden +2 (T).  
Play-off: G. Sisum & Mrs Yeoman bt R.O.B. Whittington & Miss E.H. Arkell +22, A.B. Hope & Mrs Chard bt G. Blumer & Mrs M. Warren +8  
Final: A.B. HOPE & MRS CHARD bt G. Sisum & Mrs Yeoman.

## Event 2: Class A Advanced Play

Block A: (part Swiss) A.B. HOPE bt B.C. Sykes +21, P.W. Hands +1, Mrs D.M.C. Prichard +25, Sykes bt R.O.B. Whittington +21, Hands +11, Mrs Prichard bt Hands +2, Mrs B. Meachem (sub P. Newton) bt Whit-

tington +6.

Block B: G.E.P. Jackson bt D.R. Foulser +2, Rev. W.E. Gladstone +14 Lt. Col. D.M.C. Prichard +26, Gladstone bt Foulser +17, Foulser bt Prichard +20, Prichard bt Gladstone +2.

Play-off: Hope bt Gladstone, Sykes bt Jackson +15.

Final: HOPE bt Sykes +11.

## Event 2: Class B Handicap play - Full Games

Block A: W.J. STURDY (3½) bt F.E. Pearson (3) +9, Mrs B.C. Sykes, (5) +11, Mrs D.de.Q. Lenfestey (6) +11, Pearson bt Mrs Lenfestey +8 Mrs Sykes bt Pearson +4, Mrs Lenfestey bt Mrs Sykes +1 (T).

Block B: A.J. Bucknell (7) bt Mrs H. Handley (4½) +13, Mrs G.T. Wheeler (3) +6, J. McLaren (3) +7, Mrs Handley bt Mrs Wheeler +5, J. McLaren +9, McLaren bt Mrs Wheeler +9.

Block C: MISS E.H. ARKELL (3½) bt Mrs W.J. Sturdy (7) +16, G. Sisum (6½) +9, Mrs Sturdy bt Sisum +3, G. Blumer (5½) +8 (T), Sisum bt G. Blumer +18, Blumer bt Miss Arkell +12.

Block D: D.de.Q. Lenfestey (6) bt H.E. Ovens (5) +12, Lady Bazley (5) +1 (T) Lady Bazley bt Ovens +10, Mrs J. Povey (3) +1 (T) Mrs Povey bt Lenfestey +3, Ovens bt Mrs Povey +5 (T).

Block E: G. HENSHAW (3) bt L. Ayliffe (5½) +6, P. Shepard (7) +12, Ayliffe bt Miss M.J. Lodge (6½) +11, Shepard +3, Miss Lodge bt She-Shepard +6 (T) Henshaw +7.

Play-off: Ayliffe bt Miss Arkell +7, Mrs Sykes bt Lenfestey +14, Lady Bazley bt Sturdy +11 (T), Ayliffe bt Mrs Sykes +14, Henshaw w.o., Bucknell bt Mrs Sturdy +3 (T), Ayliffe bt Lady Bazley +26, Bucknell bt Henshaw +11.

Final: AYLIFFE bt Bucknell +1 (T).

## Event 2: Class C Handicap game - 18 points

Block A: Mrs K. Yeoman (9) bt Mrs J. Exell (10) +9, Mrs H.E. Ovens (7½) +14, Mrs A.J. Bucknell (10) +12, Mrs Exell bt Mrs Ovens +8, Mrs Bucknell +9, Mrs Ovens bt Mrs Bucknell +14.

Block B: MRS C. CHARD (8) bt Miss J. Wraith (9) +10, Mrs M. Warren (10) +7, J. Exell (12) +8, Exell bt Miss Wraith +14, Mrs Warren +14, Mrs Warren bt Miss Wraith +14.

Play-off: Mrs Yeoman bt Exell +9, Mrs C. Chard opp. ret.

Final: MRS YEOMAN bt Mrs Chard +9.

## Federation of West Midlands Croquet Clubs

## Himley Tournaments 1979

The West Midlands Federation staged 3 short Week-end Tournaments at Himley Hall, in May, June and July 1979, repeating the general pattern evolved in 1978, so that every-one had four games in each event. Local Clubs were well-represented throughout, and visitors from Nottingham and South Wales provided spice and variety, though failing to reach any Finals.

The Doubles Final was fought out in a steady downpour of rain by two pairs from Walsall, with victory to the 1977 winners, Peter Barnes and David Arthur. Walsall also triumphed in the Handicap Singles, when Howard Bottomley vanquished Ivor Meredith from Bromsgrove. Alan Girling carried the torch for Edgbaston in the 'A' Class Singles beating Jim Potter of Stourbridge, while Helen Hewitson and Ernest Gardiner added Wolverhampton to the lists in the 'B' and 'C' respectively.

Thanks are due to all who assisted with lawns preparation and in the running of these Tournaments.

## Results

## Handicap Doubles 19 - 20 May (11 Pairs)

Semi-Finals: P.J. Barnes & D.G. Arthur (14) bt G.E.P. Young & T.C. Young (14) +10, P. Trafford & R. Titchener (190 bt G.W. Noble & W.C. Weston (11½) +2.

Final: BARNES & ARTHUR bt Trafford & Titchener +6.

## Handicap Singles 9 - 10 June (20 entries)

Quarter-finals: A.E.R. Watkins (13) bt R.C. Jones (7) +6(T), I. C. Meredith (11) bt R.A. Jones (9) +24, H.J. Bottomley (3) bt M.J. Evans (1½) +19, D. de. Q. Lenfestey (4½) bt E.L. Gardiner (9) +3(T).

Semi-finals: Meredith bt Watkins +1(T), Bottomley bt Lenfestey +15.

Final: BOTTOMLEY bt Meredith +8.

## Class Singles 14 - 15 July

## Group A (2½ to 5½ bisques) Advanced Play (9 entries)

Semi-Finals: A.J. Girling bt Mrs R.F. Wheeler +18, J. Potter bt J. Coutts +10.

Final: GIRLING bt Potter +14.

## Group B (6 to 9 bisques) Advanced Play (9 entries)

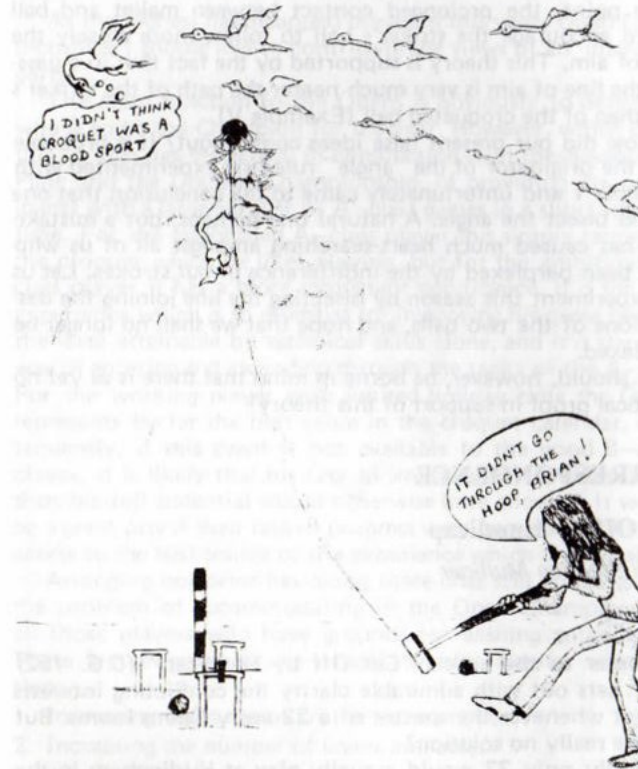
Semi-Finals: Miss H. Hewitson bt R.C. Jones +15, S. Hare bt Mrs D.de. Q. Lenfestey +17.

Final: MISS HEWITSON bt Hare +17.

## Group C (9 to 16 bisques) Handicap Play (10 entries)

Semi-Finals: A.E.R. Watkins (13) bt Mrs K.F.W. Townsend (10) +4 (T), E.L. Gardiner (9) bt I.C. Meredith (11) +1 (T).

Final: GARDINER bt Watkins +4 (T).



## Reminiscent Roquets

It is intended that this feature becomes a regular item in future Gazettes if it proves to be popular. The purpose is to reproduce items from old Gazettes, which most present day readers will not have seen before.

## "Croquet Bullets"

(reprinted from Croquet Gazette - September 1921)

Example: CLIP "Carelessly Left In Pocket."

Quite a considerable bombardment; though not too many marksmen engaged! We award a first prize (Ten shillings) to "Revolver" and second prizes (Five shillings and sixpence each) to "Greta" and "Pessimist" for the following contributions:—

## FIRST PRIZE

HANDICAPPER - Harbours A Noxious Delight In Curtailing A Promising Player's Exceptional Record

## SECOND PRIZES

BISQUE - Best If Saved Quite Until End

CRUSH - Call Referee. Umpires Simply Hopeless!

A number of others are worthy of mention, and we publish the following contributions from "Good Egg", "Hiawatha", "Pessimist", "Popgun", "Revolver", "Starveling", "Tantalus", "Tea Basket" and "Vi":—

CORNER - Coward's Only Refuge: Nowadays Easily Retrieved  
GILCHRIST - Great In Ladies' Competitions: Holds Record In Such Tournaments.

FOUL - Frequently Only Unskilled Labour.

HOOPS - How Often One Persistently Sticks!

PEG OUT - Painful Experience Generally. Opponent Usually Triumphs.

BISQUES - Best In Succession: Quite Useless Economised Sparingly.

AUNT EMMA - An Undoubtedly Nervous Tactician Ever Maintaining Minimum Audacity.

MINUS - Manifestly Indicates Numbers Under Scratch.

RUSH - Rotten Unless Squarely Hit.

WINNING PEG - What I Never Need Is No Good. Please Excuse Grousing.

CROQUET - Curious Recreation Of Quaint Unemployed English Tribes.

DOUBLES - Deliberations, Often Unnecessary, Boringly Lengthen Endless Struggle.

BEATONS - Brilliant Execution And Tactics Obtained Notable Successes.

TICE - Tempting Invitation Constantly Effective.

TOLLEMACHE - Teacher Of Leading Lights Enthusiastically Makes Artistic Croquet His Endeavour.

CORNERS - Cannons, Only Reminiscent Now, Exhibited Real Skill.

FOUL - Found Out. Umpire Looking.

GILCHRIST - Gilchrist Is Lady Champion. Handicap Reduced I Should Think.

MINUS - Men I Never, Understudy Sufficiently.

BALLS - Best - Ayres Lot, Likewise Slazengers'.

O'CALLAGHAN - Overcoming Countless Antagonists, Leaves, Long-shooting And Generalship Have Achieved Notoriety.

MANAGER - Monotonous Adulation! Notice Adjective 'Genial' Every Report.

ESCOTT - Electrical Spurts Can Often Turn Tables.

RUSH - Rabbits Usually Succumb Here.

LOCOCK - Lives On Columns Of Croquet Knowledge.

GILBEY - Gives In Liberal Bounty Every Year.

TIME LIMIT - This Irritating Measure Enrages: Let Intelligent Managers Interpret Tip.

DOUBLES - Do Omit Unnecessary But Lengthy Exchanging Sentiments.

\* \* \* \*

The Editor would welcome similar "Croquet Bullets" from present day reader.

## The Split Shot

by J.W. Solomon (reprinted from Croquet Gazette April 1960)

From the time of his croquet birth until he has been finally weaned from his instructor's care (if indeed he has been fortunate enough to have one) the novice is taught the golden rule of split shots - one might almost say the first commandment of croquet - "Bisect the angle." Accepted blindly and without question since its first utterance, how does this dogma stand up under scientific analysis?

Here we strike a difficulty, since the laboratory testing of croquet strokes is an advantage which unhappily is still denied

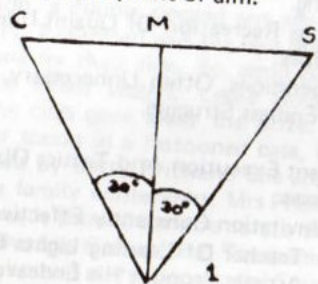


us. An analysis of split shots made by a mallet actuated by homo sapiens would hardly prove (or disprove) anything, owing to the multiplicity of factors which can cause a mallet to twist, even by a hundredth of an inch from its intended direction of aim. It should not, however, be beyond the wit of man to devise a machine which will dispense croquet strokes of a uniform and consistent pattern at the drop of a mallet, one might say.

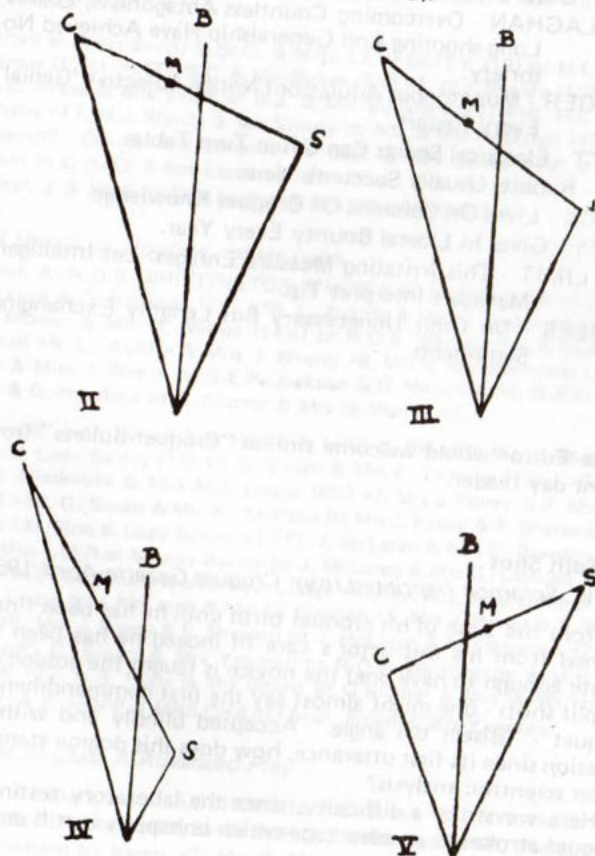
Assuming such a machine were in existence a machine which could not only maintain a mallet in a consistent direction throughout the swing but could also be adjusted to produce different degrees of follow-through, what would be the result of our researches?

Accepted practice must surely break-down under analysis in that it does not take into account the distance each ball has to travel. It is at this point that we should state a new "golden rule" for split shots. Instead of "Bisect the angle," it becomes "Bisect the line joining the ultimate destination of each ball." This point is our new line of aim.

If we take the case of a split shot where each ball has to travel the same distance, it will be seen that the old and the new theory produce the same point of aim.



Here, C is the destination of the croqueted ball, S that of the striker's ball, and M is the middle point of the line CS, and the point of aim is the same as bisecting the angle. But what happens when the striker's ball is not intended to travel as far as the croqueted ball? In the following examples, B indicates the old point of aim (bisecting the angle) and M indicates the new point of aim (midway between C and S).



In all the examples given, the angle of split is the same.

It will be seen that the difference becomes considerable as the distance the striker's ball must travel diminishes. At this point no doubt diehards of the old school of thought are exclaiming triumphantly, "I have made split shots like these successfully for years by bisecting the angle. Therefore this theory is sheer nonsense." But have they? This does not imply that they have not made split shots accurately, but that perhaps they have not always bisected the angle. That subconsciously they have not always (indeed, hardly ever) apply, and have automatically adjusted their way of thinking to compensate for what in theory should be right but what in practice proves not to be so. They have no doubt been devotees of the "new rule" without ever having thought out what that rule was.

Can we now find some proof that the "new rule" has more to commend it than the old? In the more extreme example, No. IV, it can logically be argued that the absence of follow-through necessary for this stroke allows the striker's ball to be pushed out at a wider angle by the opposition of the croqueted ball. If the shot were played with follow-through, aiming at the same point, the prolonged contact between mallet and ball would encourage the striker's ball to follow more closely the line of aim. This theory is supported by the fact that in a pass-roll the line of aim is very much nearer the path of the striker's ball than of the croqueted ball (Example V).

How did our present false ideas come about? It is probable that the originator of the "angle" rule first experimented with Example 1 and unfortunately came to the conclusion that one should bisect the angle. A natural one perhaps, but a mistake that has caused much heart-searching amongst all of us who have been perplexed by the indifference of our strokes. Let us all experiment this season by bisecting the line joining the destinations of the two balls, and hope that we shall no longer be perplexed.

It should, however, be borne in mind that there is as yet no practical proof in support of this theory!

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**Cut Off by Handicap**

From Stephen Mulliner

Dear Sir

I refer to the article "Cut Off by Handicap" (C.G. 152) which sets out with admirable clarity the conflicting interests present whenever the spectre of a 32 entry Opens looms. But is there really no solution?

Ideally only 32 would actually play at Hurlingham in the Opens, Doubles and Plate (to satisfy those who detest endurance trials) but a far larger number would have a chance to get into the 32 (to satisfy the rightful ambitions of the improving or the not quite top class). A reduction in numbers is required and can be achieved by qualifying competitions reminiscent of the successful All-England Handicap format but in which all entrants participate except for the lowest-handicapped 16 or so. Such qualifying competitions would be held at three or four clubs around the country (to avoid accusations of London bias and to avoid long journeys) on a weekend at least six weeks before the Opens (to allow the unsuccessful time to re-arrange holidays). The first weekend in June would seem quite suitable. The qualifying competitions would be single-life knock-outs consisting of best-of-three matches (to overcome the criticism that a single game is an inadequate test and to make the qualifying competitions worth entering for their own sake). The competitions would not need to be completed in the sense of producing a winner if, say, all the semi-finalists qualify (but could be completed if time allowed). The qualifiers then go into the draw for the Opens proper with the exempt entrants.

There seem to me to be two major benefits accruing from such a system. There would be no ill-feeling about the status of those who had just survived a handicap cut-off. All those who played at Hurlingham would do so on merit. Secondly many more people in the upper range of the B class would be encouraged to enter the Opens. Initially their ambitions might not extend to getting to Hurlingham but they would gain best-of-three experience while playing someone whose ability was not seemingly greater than their own.

In conclusion may I say that I look forward to a time when there are 60 or more entrants for the Opens. Then a qualifying system would be essential. Both would be good for Croquet let the latter bring about the former.

Queen Elizabeth Building  
Temple London EC4  
Yours sincerely  
Stephen Mulliner

from Mr Peter Alvey

Sir

As the highest handicapped player in this years Open Championships I should like to contribute the views of an 'interested party'.

The main function for the Opens is obviously to determine who is to be the Champion for the year. However, whilst doing this, it also has the effect, in conjunction with the Association Plate and the Doubles Championship, of providing the participants with a large number of A-class games in a short space of time. For the established A-class player this simply represents the croquet which he likes playing, but for the ambitious B-class player it has a more important significance. It is the very experience which is so essential for improving his game beyond the level attainable by technical skills alone, and it is the only way of entering and ascending through the ranks of the A-class. For the working player with limited holiday time the Opens represents by far the best value in the croquet calendar. Consequently, if this event is not available to the good B-class player, it is likely that his rate of improvement will be slower than his full potential would otherwise have allowed. It would be a great pity if their rate of progress were impeded by limited access to the best source of the experience which is so vital.

Arranging our priorities along these lines still leaves us with the problem of accommodating in the Open Championships all those players who have grounds for wishing to compete. There are several measures which I would offer for consideration:

1. Increasing the duration of the tournament.
2. Increasing the number of lawns available.
3. Limited seeding for players who are entered only in the singles to allow some doubles matches to be played early.
4. Seeding to reduce the total number of games of the eventual winner.
5. Limiting entries by chronological order of receipt.
6. Finding a new venue with more lawns.

These ideas will not appeal to everyone, nor are they likely to provide a complete answer to the problem, but I think the important point is that each one is preferable to the easy way out of limiting the experience of those who wish to improve.

3 Sunleigh Court  
Mount Pleasant  
Alperton  
Middlesex  
Yours sincerely  
Peter Alvey

**Croquet Honours**

Dear Sir

I have pleasure in informing you that the Immediate Past President Mrs Grace Edwards, received the Australian Order of

Merit award in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours for "Service to the Sport of Croquet".

Information received from the A.C.C. Secretary.

**Mallet Repairs**

Sir

Last winter I attempted to get repairs effected to a second-hand mallet I had just bought. The only place I knew to approach was Jacques, via my local sports shop. They said nothing could be done, they even refused to put a brass ring on one end where there was little damage.

I have now obtained another mallet, in a much better condition and I wonder if the Gazette could publish (or invite offers from) other repairers names and addresses to help me repair other club mallets that are damaged or my own if I suffer a future accident.

Also, are there any tips Croquet Handyman could give on looking after mallets?

100 Queensdown Gardens  
Bristol

Yours sincerely  
John McCullough

**Fishy Tale**

Dear Sir

On Hurlingham's No. 6 court last year during the August tournament, during play I stooped to remove an ordinary leaf from the lawn as I thought but behold! a small dead flat fish! A present from an excited spectator seagull perhaps.

Seacrest, Seaview  
Isle of Wight

Yours sincerely  
Cyril Pountney

**Fixed Interest**

from Mr Bryan Sykes

Sir

One unfortunate aspect of croquet when compared to other games is the number of top-rate players who, apparently, become bored with it. This is clear from the many players who, once outstanding, no longer play or who, if they do, rarely find it necessary to devote effort and concentration to any but a handful of games during the season. Though a newcomer and by no means outstanding dare I suggest that at the higher levels the game is too easy, that unexciting play is too often rewarded by results and that triple peels are generally thought of as either a dangerous liability or, at best, an unnecessary extravagance. How often A-class players seem to take one ball to 4-back then plod round to the peg with the second, perhaps allowing themselves an attempt at a 4-back peel toward the end of the turn. And why not - as things stand it rarely pays seriously to attempt triple peels and many very successful players could never dream of doing so in an important match.

May I thus propose a simple alteration to the rules of advanced play which could, I think, make peeling a more attractive match-winning alternative. I suggest that lift AND CONTACT be conceded WHENEVER the striker's ball scores 1-back and 4-back in the same turn, not only when the partner ball has not scored 1-back.

The effect would be that without a triple and without conceding a contact a player would find himself with both clips on 4-back. This position is considerably worse, both strategically and psychologically, than having his second clip on the peg. Not only would he have to concede an additional lift he would still feel a long way from home and, not least, the position of



his clips would advertise his cautious approach.

On the other hand the triple-peeler would find life slightly more interesting. He must decide whether to take his second ball through 4-back and risk giving a contact if the other peels are not yet completed. Should he succeed he will have gained a greater advantage than at present by completing his play in two breaks rather than four.

Surely, shifting the advantage from the cautious to the adventurous by this means can only improve the game and may help to retain the interest of skilful top-class players a little longer.

Ardoth  
Boars Hill Oxford

Yours faithfully  
Bryan Sykes

**SPONSORED TOURNAMENT AT CHELTENHAM**

from Andrew Hope

Sir

Following the decision of the C.A. to encourage local sponsorship of Croquet Tournaments, a Cheltenham based firm of Chartered Surveyors has offered to sponsor a new three day Level Tournament - The Cheltenham Open Championship.

This is to be held in May each year and will be open for all members to apply - from whom the lowest 32 handicaps will be chosen. The basic format of the Tournament is a Knock Out Event - Rounds 1 to 3 will be single games, the semi-final and final, each best of 3 games.

The original draw will also form the basis of a Swiss Event - losers at each stage of the Championship will take part. Any wins gained in the Championship prior to being knocked out will be counted as wins in the Swiss (e.g. a Third Round loser in the Championship will enter the Swiss with 2 wins.

As well as supplying the trophy, the sponsor will also provide local advertising in the hope of attracting members of the public to watch the tournament.

The purpose of the exercise is to increase Club membership and to this end present members of Cheltenham will be asked to mingle with spectators to explain the game of Association Croquet and actively encourage them to join.

However, regardless of the effort that members at Cheltenham put into the venture, the success or failure of sponsorship may well depend on the enthusiasm of all croquet players.

Cheltenham Croquet Club therefore appeals to all low handicap players to enter this important new event and also invites other associates to visit the Club this week-end to swell our numbers and perhaps to learn whether sponsorship in this form is likely to assist their own Club in recruiting new members.

May we look forward to a large attendance and support from you all in a venture that could be of tremendous benefit to the game of Association Croquet and, in return, Cheltenham can assure you of an excellent weekend of first class croquet.

Little Witcombe House,  
Witcombe, Glos.

Yours faithfully  
Andrew Hope

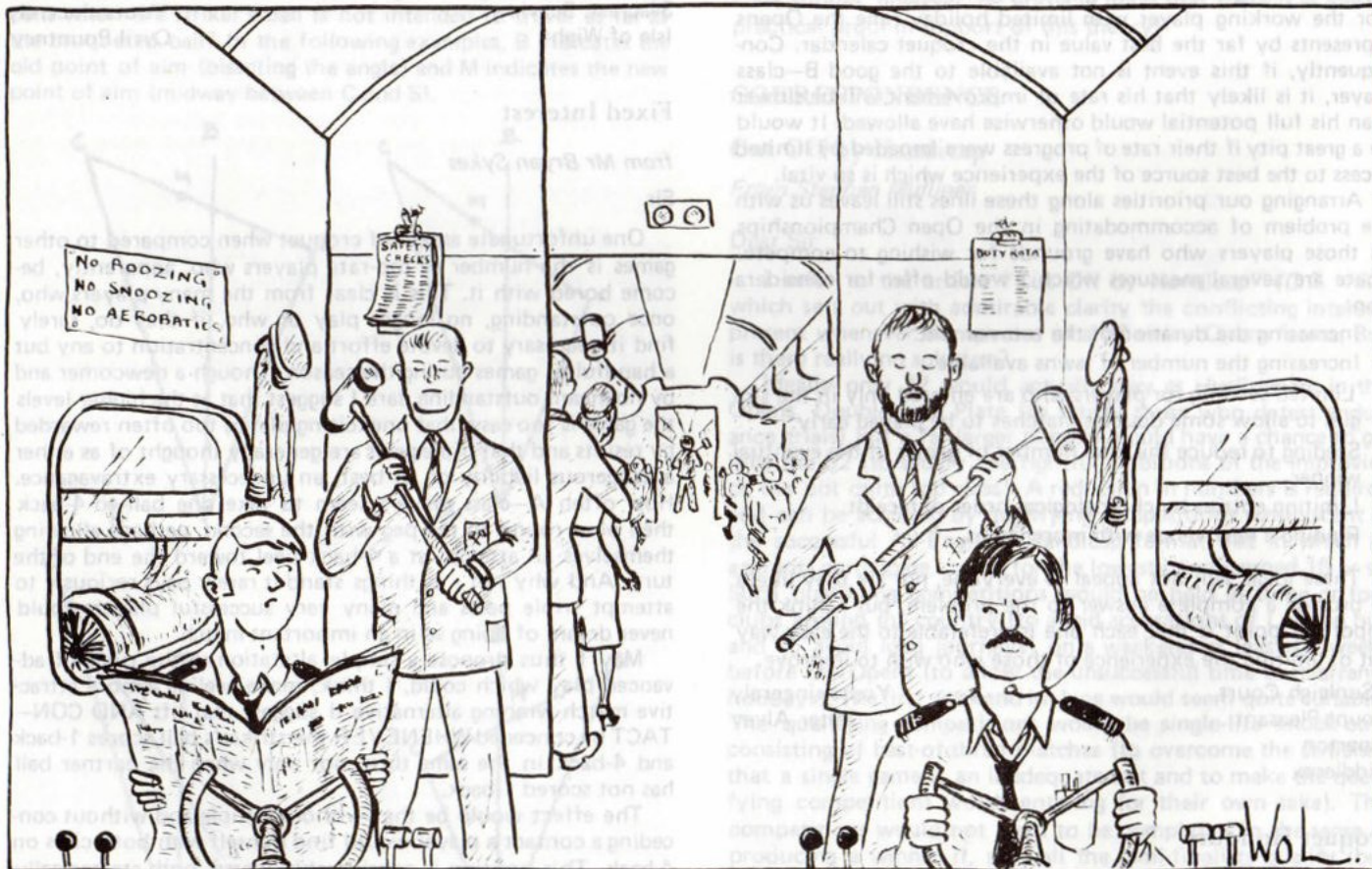
**HANDICAP ALTERATIONS**

**Bowdon (24-27 August)**  
A.J. Collin 6½ to 6, K. Cotterill 14 to 10 (Non-Associate)

**Hurlingham (Club Recommendation: September)**  
Mrs F.H.N. Davidson 7½ to 7.

**President's Cup (Hurlingham 4-8 September)**  
Dr E.W. Solomon -1 to -2

**Chairman's Salver (Compton 3-7 September)**  
J.C.G. Phillips 0 to -½, D.R. Foulser ½ to 0.



**"TAKE US TO CHELTENHAM!"**

(The artist had his mallet confiscated on a recent international flight)

**Spencer Ell Cup (Nottingham 3-7 September)**  
Dr B.C. Sykes 1½ to ½.

**Nottingham (Club Recommendation September)**  
R.H. Fletcher 6½ to 7½.

**All England Handicap (Cheltenham Area Final 8-9 September)**  
Dr P. West 10 to 7 (Non-Associate)

**Edinburgh (20-25 August)**  
E. Mackenzie Bowie 3 to 2½, R.M. Milne 2 to 1½, R.O. Carder 4 to 5½.

**Ryde W/E (14-16 September)**  
H.B.G. Wagnell 7 to 8, A. Rowlands 16 to 15 (D14) (Non-Associate)

**Parkstone (10-15 September)**  
G.H. Hutcheson 4½ to 4, A. Rushbrooke 6½ to 5½.

**Cheltenham W/E (14-16 September)**  
J. Exell 14 (D12) to 12 (D10), Mrs H. Handley 5 to 4½, Miss I.M. Roe 5½ to 5.

**Roehampton (17-22 September)**  
L.Adams 2½ to 1½, Mrs W. Browne 11 to 9, S.J. Garrett 6 to 5½, J.D. Greenwood 5½ to 4½, R.A. Gosden 10 to 9, Mrs R.A. Gosden 11 to 10, Miss P. Shine 10 to 9.

**Budleigh Salterton W/E (21-23 September)**  
S.F. Blackler 12 to 11, P.A. Dwerryhouse 12 to 11, E.L. Gardiner 9 to 8, Mrs J.H.J. Soutter 7 to 6½.

**All England Handicap Final (Roehampton 29-30 September)**  
Dr P. West 7 to 6 (Non-Associate), K.E. Jones 5 to 4½ (Non-Associate)

**Nottingham W/E (21-23 September)**  
J.C. Straw 8 to 7.

**Cheltenham W/E (26-30 September)**  
F.J. Exell 12 (D10) to 11 (D10), H.E.J. Ovens 5 to 6, Mrs H.E.J. Ovens 7½ to 9, Mrs K. Yeoman 9 to 8.

**Longman Cup (Final) (Cheltenham 6 October)**  
N.P. Rhodes 9 to 8, R. Barnes 10 to 9 (Non-Associate)

**Woking (Club Recommendations - October)**  
C.J. Caesar 7½ to 7, J.C.F.S. Smithies 16 to 15, L. Wharrad 3½ to 3.

**Clubs Near and Far**

**WOKING**

OUR 4 TOURNAMENT "IRISH" WEEK will be held from 5th to 13th July. This is SOMETHING NEW in the world of croquet.

The first weekend and the four evenings following will consist of level events, the Monday to Wednesday from 9.30 am to 6.25 pm will be similar and on the Thursday these will be a One day handicap doubles finishing with our usual American Handicap Singles Weekend from 11th to 13th. What a feast of Croquet. Priority will be given in the first tournament to working players up to 10th May and likewise for those retired in the second Tournament but you can enter for both in which case you will be accepted in one and on the reserve list for the other until 10th May. Entries are limited, please enter early. If you are accepted for 4 tournaments you are guaranteed 15 games! There are valuable cups etc to be won. Give us a boost by visiting this friendly club with the "sporty" lawns.

**NOTTINGHAM**

As part of the 1979 JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS, a Ladies Evening Dinner was held at the George Hotel, Nottingham, on the Saturday evening of our first week end tournament. This was an unqualified success with more than 50 guests attending. Our first week end this year commences on Friday May 30th, and on Saturday evening May 31st, the dinner will be held, again at the George.

I anticipate and hope that all competitors to the tournament will attend, and should any friends of the Nottingham Club

wish to come along, they will be more than welcome. In order to reserve your place, and give me an indication of numbers, please send your booking fee - £2.00 per person - before May 1st. I look forward to hearing from you.

10 Sunridge Court, Cyprus Road, Buck Bucknell  
Mapperley Park, Nottingham.



**Abrahamsby - Sweden**

from Mr Roland Grip

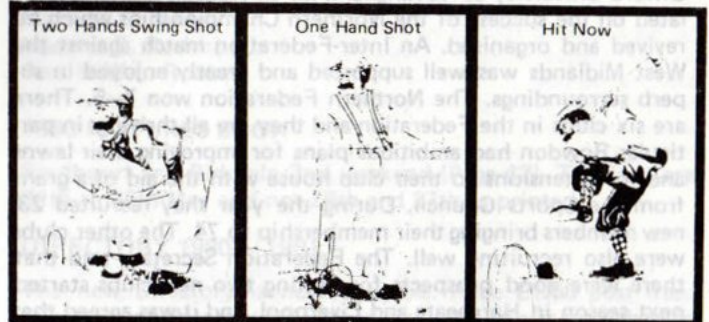
Dear Sirs

We are seven boys or men (36-40 years old), friends since the childhood, who 1975 founded some sort of croquet club called The Croquet Society of Abrahamsby. Abrahamsby is a little village, where I and my brother have a summerhouse, situated about seven Swedish miles from Stockholm. We meet once a year (in the end of August) for four days to play croquet, talk about old days and the future.

Every year we have a championship in croquet.

Why do I write to you about this?  
It's because I think my friends would be very happy and surprised if they got some kind of greeting from you.

Yours sincerely  
Roland Grip



**Federation of West Midlands Croquet Clubs**

The annual match between the West Midlands and Northern Federation took place at Himley Hall on Saturday September 29th and resulted in a well-deserved victory for the North by a narrow margin.

On the following day Howard Bottomley won the Sunday Mercury Rose Bowl for the third successive year in the West Midlands Golf Croquet tournament, also at Himley. In fact he has won this event every year that it has been played!

These events concluded another successful season for the Federation during which the League continued to flourish - success going this year to Stourbridge who finished level on points with Edgbaston but with a greater number of games won. The second division was an innovation designed to give more play to larger bisquers.



**Match Results (West Midlands names first)**

**Singles (Advanced):** A. GIRLING bt J. Meads +7, J. Potter lost to MRS N. TYLDESLEY -19, P. Barnes lost to M. KOLBUSZEUSKI -11, Miss H. Hewitson lost to A. COLLIN -6.

**Singles (Handicap):** K. TOWNSEND (8) bt Miss P. Ogden (10) +10, Miss S. Willetts (8) lost to MRS P. HAGUE (10) -3, R. Jones (9) lost to G. COLLIN (12) -11, A. Watkins (11) lost to A. MASON (12) -1 (T).

**Handicap Doubles:** BARNES & MRS WILLETTS (12½) bt Meads & Mason (14) +13, POTTER & JONES (13) bt Kilbuszeuski & Mrs Hague (15) +19, GIRLING & WATKINS (13) bt A. Collin & Mrs Ogden (16) +1 (T), Townsend & Miss Hewitson (16) lost to MRS TYLDESLEY & G. COLLIN (17) -13.

**RESULT:** West Midlands 5. The North 7.

**DIVISION LEAGUE TABLES**

	P	W	Games
Stourbridge	4	3	8
Edgbaston	4	3	7
Wolverhampton	4	1	6
Walsall	3	1	4
Sandwell	3	1	2

**Division 2 (9 bisques and above)**

	P	Pts (= games won)
Wolverhampton	4	6
Bromsgrove	4	4
Edgbaston	4	4
Stourbridge	4	3
Walsall	4	3

**Autumn Meeting of the Federation of Northern Croquet Clubs**

In her Chairman's Report, Mrs Nell Tyldesley noted that all the Northern League matches had been played off successfully and that they provided the opportunity for pleasant contacts between clubs. Chester and East Riding tied for first place and they will hold the cup jointly. The team to represent the North in the Inter-League Shield will be decided by a match to be played early next season on neutral ground. This year Ellesmere B had a walk-over into the final of the Shield and then lost to Oxford University at Nottingham. Mr C. Hudson was congratulated on the success of the Northern Championships which he revived and organised. An Inter-Federation match against the West Midlands was well supported and greatly enjoyed in superb surroundings. The Northern Federation won 7-5. There are six clubs in the Federation and they are all thriving; in particular Bowdon had ambitious plans for improving their lawns and for extensions to their club house with the aid of a grant from the Sports Council. During the year they recruited 23 new members bringing their membership to 74. The other clubs were also recruiting well. The Federation Secretary said that there were good prospects for getting two new clubs started next season in Harrogate and Liverpool, and it was agreed that every effort should be made to initiate clubs in the North East. Publicity is all important and some useful short items on croquet had been broadcast by the B.B.C. on radio and television.

Plans are in hand for improving the tournaments to be held next year at Southport and Bowdon and, especially, it is hoped that the Northern Championships will draw many more entries from the South.

The Spring Meeting will be held at Ellesmere Club on Saturday, 14th February 1980 when next season's programme, and amendments to the constitution, will be decided.

A.C.M.

**Croquet Quiz No 2.**

A £5 prize is offered for the best solution (entry free). Answers to Lt-Col D.M.C. Prichard, Gobion Manor, Abergavenny, Gwent NP7 9AY by 15 November 1980.

1. Which Australian or New Zealand MacRobertson Shield internationals have competed in (a) Best Ten or Eight (b) Chair-

man's Salver (c) Surrey/Spencer Ell Cup.

2. Name all the different venues at which the following have taken place:- (a) Open Championships (b) Womens Championship (c) Peel Memorials.

3. Who played or wrote under the following pseudonyms:- (a) Bonham Carter (b) Cavendish (c) A. Bolde (d) M. Bear (e) I.M. Keen (f) Mrs E. Peel (g) Stonehenge.

4. At which Croquet Clubs are or were the following the groundsmen:- (a) West (b) Adams (c) Grey (d) Proudfoot (e) Wilf Wooller (f) Hartshorn (g) Vorat (h) Hobbs (j) Baker (k) Doody O' Tipperary.

5. In 1979 which Calendar Fixtures (excluding Ireland) were the furthest (a) North (b) South (c) East (d) West.

6. In 1979 which Calendar Fixtures (excluding Ireland) were the second furthest (a) North (b) South (c) East (d) West.

7. What would the answers to Question 5 above have been in:- (a) 1913 (b) 1938.

8. State the first:- (a) Croquet Club to be started in England (b) Woman to compete in the Open Championship (c) Player to complete a sextuple peel in the President's Cup and when (d) Use of the Bagnall Wild system in croquet (when and where) (e) Use of Draw and Process in English croquet (when and where).

9. At which Calendar Fixtures in England in 1979:- (a) Are the courts the highest above sea level (b) Has croquet been played for the longest time on the same site.

10. What is the longest span between a player winning the same C.A. event for the first and second time? What event and who?

11; When and why did the Council pass a resolution that no man could play in a woman's event nor a woman in a man's?

12. Which C.A. Associates are or have been members of:- (a) House of Commons (b) House of Lords.

13. Name any C.A. Associate who competed in the Olympic Games?

**C.A. Promote Membership Drives**

The C.A. very much wants to see a substantial increase in the number of croquet players in 1980. The December Club Conference, held at Hurlingham, clearly indicated that most clubs urgently wish to increase their membership. The ideas generated at the conference and the experience of clubs who have held successful membership drives have been incorporated in a recruitment guide which the C.A. have prepared, copies of which have recently been distributed to all registered clubs.

The Publicity and Development Committee of the C.A. is currently considering ways in which the C.A. can best use its resources to provide further help - ie organising, publicity, coaching/demonstrating and the provision of newly designed posters (which can be obtained from the C.A.).

The recruitment guide is a 17 page dossier and deals with all aspects of recruitment including:- (a) How many members could a club comfortably maintain; (b) How many new members could a club cope with in 1980? (c) What membership concessions can a club offer in 1980 as a means of attracting new members? (d) How long should the recruiting period last?; (e) What organisation will the club need to cope with beginners?; (f) Can the club provide adequate subsequent follow up to retain the interest of new recruits?; (g) What is the best time for a recruitment campaign?; (h) What type of members by age, sex etc. does the club ideally wish to recruit?; (i) Likely sources for new members?; (j) Securing free publicity?; (k) What paid publicity should be used?; (l) Persuading tennis and bridge club members to try croquet?.

The guide contains a great many ideas and any Associates who wish to help their clubs in a recruitment drive should ask their Club Secretary if they can read it.

**Secretary's Notes****NEW ASSOCIATES**

S David Willey, Dutch Cottage Knaith, Gainsborough, Lincolnshire, DN21 5PE.

J Lieut. J.H. Lyle, Royal Naval College, Greenwich, London SE10 9NN.

S Angus I. Milne, 27 Keswick Road, London, S.W.15.

S Miss A.E. Bone, 606 Bryer Court, Barbican, London, E.C.2.

O Mrs T.H. Devlet, P.O. Box 886, Fort Lee, New Jersey 07024, U.S.A.

S Mrs M. Speer, 31a Hova Villas, Brighton, Sussex.

R J. Sanz-Tonnelier, Mayfair Hotel, Berkeley Street, London, W.1.

O L.E. O'Brien, 107 Dittmer Drive, Palmerston North, New Zealand.

S Major T.M. Vale, OBE, 26 Glebe Close, Southwich, Brighton, Sussex, BN4 4TF.

O Miss D.K. Donovan, 3/1 Panmure Place, Woodville North 5012, South Australia.

J M.A. Holford, 104 Brookmans Avenue, Brookmans Park, Hatfield, Herts.

O Mrs M. Testerow, 12 George Street, Hawthorn 5062, South Australia.

O Mrs T. Hunter, 4 Crawley Avenue, Crawley 6009, West Australia.

S I.P.M. MacDonald, 74 Lowther Road, Barnes, London SW13 9NU. Tel: 01-748-5483.

S Mrs I.P.M. MacDonald, same address.

S Mrs B.R. Saunders, 13 Harbour View Road, Parkstone, Poole, Dorset.

S S.M. Ballard, 179 Norbury Crescent, Norbury, London SW16 4JX. Tel: 01-764-7598.

R Dr P.D.B. West, 1 Norman Avenue, Abingdon, Berks.

S I.G. MacDiarmid, 14 Claremount Avenue, Working, Surrey, GU22 7SG. Tel: (048 62)67708.

R I.B. Cook, 39 Danes Court, Dover, Kent, CT16 2QF. Tel: (0304)201663.

S A.G. Gordon, 34 West Ella Way, Kirk Ella, Hull, HU10 7LW. Tel: (0482)653392.

S F.L. Shergold, Lakelands, 40 Dorset Lake Avenue, Lilliput, Poole, Dorset, BH14 8JD. Tel: (0202)707369.

S Mrs Joan Bonser, 193 Sullivan Court, Broomhouse Lane, London SW6 3DN. Tel: 01-736-6391.

S K. Cotterell, 26 Edwin Road, Didcot, Oxon, OX11 8LE. Tel: (0235)813718.

S Mrs K. Cotterell, same address.

S David G. Higgs, 35 Shirley Avenue, Old Coulsdon, Surrey, CR3 1QY. Tel: 01-668-6525.

O Mrs H.L.M. Dekock, 42 Walter Street, Takapuna, Auckland 9, New Zealand.

S Group Captain R.S. Ryan, CBE, 36 Leckhampton Road, Cheltenham, Glos, GL53 0BB. Tel: (0242)45100.

S Miss D.J. Marston, 6 Elm Lodge, Woodleigh, The Park, Cheltenham, Glos., GL50 2RY.

R G.W.R. Goodwin, 16 Pinewood Close, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol, BS9 4AJ.

S Mrs G.M. Bawden, Park Gate, 61 St Stephens Road, Cheltenham, Glos. Tel: (0242)22653.

S S.G. Jones, 27 Innsworth Lane, Longlevens, Glos.

S D.C. Wallace, Grasshoppers, West Terrace, Budleigh Salterton, Devon, EX9 6LD. Tel: (039 54)3192.

S Mrs D.C. Wallace, same address.

S F.A. Rowlands, Keats House, 5a Queens Road, Shanklin, Isle of Wight, PO37 6AN.

S Dr J.R. Woodwork, 15 Woodland Grove, Claverton Down, Bath, Avon, BA2 7AT. Tel: (0225)60924.

S Colonel W.R. Gealing, 1 The Dial House, Budleigh Salterton, Devon, EX9.

S M.T. Paddon, 2 Warwick Crescent, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham, Glos., GL52 6YZ.

**NEW REFEREE**

Mrs E. Asa-Thomas, JP.

**ALTERATIONS IN THE CLUBS**

**BATH** New Secretary: Mrs V. Garrard, 10 Royal Crescent, Bath, Avon.

**BOWDON** New Secretary: P.L.H. Walters, 28 Winton Road, Bowdon, Cheshire. Tel: (061 928) 7564.

**BROMSGROVE** Secretary: Mrs E. Watkins, 84 Old Station Road, Broom Park, Bromsgrove. Tel: (0527) 71734.

**EAST RIDING** New Ground: Costello Playing Fields, Pickering, Road, (off A63 Fiveways roundabout), Hull (2 Lawns).

**HARWELL** New Secretary: K. Cotterell, 26 Edwin Road, Didcot, Oxon, OX11 8LE. Tel: (0235)81378 Office: (0235)4141 Extn. 5001.

**HOVE LAWNS** New Secretary: Mrs R.E. Bruce, 37 Ventnor Villas, Hove, Sussex, BN3 3DA.

**IPSWICH** New Secretary: M.J. Newport, 65 Arundel Road, Ipswich, IP3 8QF.

**WOKING** New Croquet Secretary: Mrs I MacDiarmid, 14 Claremount Avenue, Woking, Surrey, GU22 7SG. Tel: (048 62)67708.

**WREST PARK** New Secretary: B.B. Harral, 5 Stratford Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire, SG19 2AA. Tel (0767) 81289.

**DEATHS**

Mrs D.C. Caporn  
A.H.C. Jones  
Major R.R. Penney  
Maurice B. Reckitt  
Rev. W.W.L. Rooke

**1980 FIXTURES BOOK**

Southport and Birkdale 2nd weekend (Page 42). The dates are 24th to 26th May and not 26th and 27th as printed.

**DIRECTORY 1980 - 1981**

The new Directory is now available. Price £1.50 post free. Amendment Sheets will be forwarded post free as published to enable holders to keep their copies up-to-date for £1.50 post free on application to the CA Secretary.

**CA OFFICE TELEPHONE**

A telephone answering machine has now been installed on the CA office telephone (01-736-3148) which will record incoming messages when the Secretary is not in the office. Incoming messages must be limited to 30 seconds, so please keep your messages short and concise.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Payment of annual subscriptions are coming in well, but at the time of writing quite a large number have not yet been paid. They were due on 1st January. The rates have been increased for 1980 - Standard £7.00; Reduced (Non-Tournament) and Junior £3.50; Overseas £4.00. Those wishing in future to pay by Bankers Order can obtain a form from the Secretary.



## SECRETARY'S HOLIDAY

The Secretary will be on holiday in South Africa from 4th March until 3rd April. During his absence Robin Godby and Jim Townsend have kindly agreed to call in at the office periodically to deal with urgent business.

## ADDRESSES

Associates are asked to notify the CA Secretary of any changes of address as soon as possible so that the addresser computer can be amended so that Gazettes are sent to the correct address. Recently a Gazette was returned with a note from the Post Office as reason for return "house demolished" (A.F.P. Barnes).

## CLOSING DATES FOR C.A. FIXTURES 1980

Inter-Club Championship )	
Inter-Counties Championship )	Tuesday 26 February
Longman Club Team Cup )	

All England Handicap (entry numbers and fees) Tuesday 21 May

With entries for the Inter-Club Championship and the Longman Cup should be details of the Club Organiser(s) ie, name, address and telephone number. Please do not leave your entry until the last moment. Why not enter NOW

## C.A. TIES

Stocks of C.A. Ties are available from the C.A. Office to those entitled to wear them at the following prices (post free).

Association Tie (in crimpolene)	£3.50
President's Cup Tie (in silk)	£4.50
Chairman's Salver ) silk	£6.50
Spencer Ell Cup )	
Association Brooches	£1.10

(Note: Association Ties only are also available from T.M. Lewin & Sons Ltd., 106 Jermyn Street, London. SW1Y 6EQ).

## INTER-LEAGUE SHIELD

A new trophy, to be known as The Secretary's Shield, has been presented by Mr R.F. Rothwell for competition annually between the various Leagues played throughout the country. For 1979 it was played for by the winners in 1978 of the four leagues as follows:-

London League (West) v London League (North) - Oxford University beat Harrow Oak.  
West Midland Federation v Northern Federation - Ellesmere 'B' beat Walsall (walk-over).

FINAL (played at Nottingham on 15 September)

OXFORD UNIVERSITY beat Ellesmere 'B'.

## ALL ENGLAND HANDICAP

This, the most important handicap competition in the Association's Calendar, attracted a record entry of 429, nearly 100 more than in 1978. Preliminaries in 34 Clubs produced 76 to take part in the Area Finals. As an experiment, mainly in order to reduce the numbers involved in each Area Final, the number of Area venues was increased to eight, seven in England and one in Scotland. Thanks are due to those eight Clubs who undertook to stage and manage these Area competitions: Cheltenham, Colchester, Compton, Edgbaston, Edinburgh, Harrow Oak, Roehampton and Woking.

The eight Area winners (each of whom had been presented with a commemorative shield), duly met at the Roehampton Club on 29/30 September. Grateful thanks are due to this Club for their kind hospitality and for producing four excellent lawns for our use. Time would not have permitted every competitor to have played everyone else, so the tournament was played as a Swiss one, each player getting five games, with a 3 hour time limit - although only 3 of the 20 were decided on time.

Thanks largely to Nigel Aspinall's efficient but firm management the tournament was a complete success. The weather, too, was kind - fine all the time and sunny for most of it. There was one unusual fact to record in that no less than half the finalists were non-Associates, although one (the winner) intends joining for 1980.

From early on, to the writer, two of the eight looked to be in contention for the winner's and runner-up's trophies, and this forecast

proved to be accurate. Peter West lost his first game to Coles but won the next three, and Ken Jones was going very strongly to win his first four. These two met in the fifth and final round. Jones could afford to lose but by not less than five points, whilst West had to win. In the event Jones went slightly "off the boil" and West won on merit by 15 to win the coveted trophy, although Jones won the smaller version, both trophies having been presented by the late Robert Tingey. The winner's Club (Oxford University) hold the New Zealand tray presented by the New Zealand Croquet Council in 1956 to commemorate their Test team's visit to England that year.

The other six contestants did not play up to their full potential, but the whole tournament was played in the best spirit and all games were keenly contested.

**First Round:** CALLAN bt Digby +20, Jones bt Rees +18, Coles bt West +5, Gunn bt Mrs Rowe +15.

**Second Round:** JONES bt Callan +4, Digby bt Rees +1 (T) West bt Mrs Rowe +21, Gunn bt Coles +22.

**Third Round:** REES bt Mrs Rowe +16, West bt Digby +21, Jones bt Gunn +16, Coles bt Callan +10.

**Fourth Round:** MRS ROWE bt Digby +17, Jones bt Coles +20 Rees bt Callan +7, West bt Gunn +1 (T).

**Fifth Round:** MRS ROWE bt Callan +17, West bt Jones +15, Digby bt Coles +3, Rees bt Gunn +1 (T).

## LONGMAN CLUB TEAM CUP

## 1st Round

BRETRY bt Ellesmere 3-2.

SOUTHPORT & BIRKDALE bt Chester 4-1.

WALSALL bt Nottingham 5-0.

STOURBRIDGE bt Bristol 3-2.

EDGBASTON bt Wolverhampton 4-1.

HARWELL bt Cheltenham 4-1.

RYDE bt Woking 3-2.

ROEHAMPTON bt Southwick 4-1.

REIGATE PRIORY bt Parsons Green 3-2.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY bt Colworth 5-0.

BENTLEY & INGATESTONE bt Colchester 3-2.

BRITISH AIRWAYS bt Phyllis Court 4-1.

## 2nd Round

SOUTHPORT & BIRKDALE bt Bretby 4-1.

WALSALL bt Bowdon 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 & Ingatestone 3-2.

## 3rd Round

SOUTHPORT & BIRKDALE bt Walsall 3-2.

BATH bt Edgbaston 4-1.

HURLINGHAM bt Roehampton 4-1.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY bt British Airways 4-1.

## SEMI-FINALS

BATH bt Southport & Birkdale 3-2.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY bt Hurlingham 5-0.

## FINAL (at Cheltenham)

OXFORD UNIVERSITY bt Bath 4-1.

## INTER-CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

## 1st Round

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).

## 2nd Round

HUNSTANTON bt Nottingham 4-3.

HARROW OAK bt Roehampton 4-3.

CHELTENHAM bt Hurlingham 5-2.

PHYLLIS COURT bt Colworth 6-1.

## SEMI-FINALS

HUNSTANTON bt Harrow Oak 4-3.

CHELTENHAM bt Phyllis Court 6-1.

## FINAL (at Wrest Park)

CHELTENHAM bt Hunstanton 7-0.

## PROPOSED ALTERATIONS TO REGULATIONS

In accordance with Rule XIV the following alterations to Regulations for Tournaments, having been passed by the Council at their meeting on 20th October 1979, are published in the Croquet Gazette. After such publication the resolutions will be reconsidered by the Council at the first available occasion and will become law if passed by a majority of six to four.

## Regulation 11(b)

The word "reduction" in the third line of 11(b) to be amended to the word "alteration".

## Regulation 23(d)

Existing Regulation 23(d) to be deleted and substitute: "To make alterations in handicaps after play, and to inform the players concerned before they leave the tournament."

## EXTRACTS FROM PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL MEETING, 20th OCTOBER, 1979.

## 1. Membership of Council:

Under Rule XII G.B. Martin and Dr R.F. Wheeler were co-opted onto the Council to fill two casual vacancies.

## 2. Increases in Handicaps:

On behalf of the Handicap Co-ordination Committee R.A. Godby proposed the motion "that Handicappers be empowered to increase handicaps in the same way as they can at present reduce them under the Regulations". This was passed by 18 votes to 2 and Council agreed to amend the Regulations for Tournaments appropriately (see the separate notice in this Gazette for details).

## 3. Committee Reports:

(a) Editorial Board: The resignation of Mrs D.M.C. Prichard as Editor was accepted with much regret. Council were unanimous in their praise and thanks for all the valuable and hard work she had done. D.R. Foulser was appointed as Editor with effect from December, 1979.

(b) Sponsorship Committee: The Chairman of the Executive Sub-Committee, L. Wharrad, outlined the negotiations for sponsorship of a proposed World Croquet Championship which eventually proved abortive. The Sub-Committee (L. Wharrad, J.W. Solomon and E. Strickland) was asked to continue to pursue possibilities of future sponsorship.

(c) Tournaments Committee: Following a suggestion of Mrs W. Longman, it was agreed to hold for a trial period of one year a second Ladies Six. It was also agreed to alter the conditions of the Inter-Club Championship to allow a Club to enter two teams provided each player played in only one team throughout the competition. Under Rule XIV Council agreed to a temporary variation in the Regulations for Tournaments for 1980 to allow "Foursome Doubles" in which players of a side take alternate strokes.

## 4. Annual General Meeting:

Once again Council found it impossible to fix a date for the next A.G.M. so that it did not clash with at least one tournament. The Finance and General Purposes Committee were asked to examine the possibility of amending Rule XVI to the effect that the Annual Accounts need not be published in the Gazette or circulated to all U.K. Associates before the meeting, but should be available before the meeting and sent on request to individual U.K. Associates. This would enable the A.G.M. to be held in April.

## EXTRACTS FROM PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL MEETING, 24th NOVEMBER, 1979.

## 1. Committee Reports:

(a) Publicity and Development Committee: The Chairman, L. Wharrad, outlined initial plans for a recruitment drive in clubs in 1980. The Committee intended to formulate detailed plans following the discussions to be held at the December Conference. The C.A.'s main role would be to act as a catalyst: encouragement, advice and a limited amount of financial and other help would be given but much of the effort must come from the clubs themselves.

(b) Finance and General Purposes Committee: An initial grant of up to £500 was allocated for the recruitment drive in 1980. The date of the next Annual General Meeting was fixed for 19th April. Council also agreed to call a Special General Meeting for 8th March to propose an alteration to Rule XVI which, if passed, would become effective for 1980. (See the Autumn issue of the Gazette for details.)

(c) Laws Committee: It was agreed to ask the A.C.C. and N.Z.C.C. to approve the draft of a number of alterations to the MacRobertson Shield Conditions for 1982 (their substance being already agreed). The alterations are designed to cover the eventuality of a casualty being suffered by a team.

## 2. Awards for 1979:

The Apps/Heley Award goes to the Nottingham Club for its magnificent efforts in publicity, recruitment and sponsorship in its jubilee year; the Apps Bowl goes to Francis Landor (Oxford University and Cheltenham) whose handicap was reduced from 13 to 3 in 1979; and the Steel Bowl goes to Mrs C. A. Chard (Cheltenham) whose handicap was reduced from 16 to 7 in 1979.

## 3. The Second Ladies Six:

Mrs W. Longman presented a handsome cake tray as a trophy for the Second Ladies Six and was warmly thanked for her generous gift.

## SNAILING

How nice it must feel, the sun on her back  
As she strolls about on the lawn,  
Her mallet trails as it follows her track,  
The day is all hers - and I yawn.

(Bill hit a twenty yard ball on a wire,  
Kitty has fluffed a hoop I fear.  
Bryan and Dave have one burning desire -  
To do the most peels for a beer.)

Which ball will she play - she's coming back,  
No, she turns to see where I've laid.  
I know in the end she'll play the Black,  
It's too short a shot I'm afraid.

(Paul's pegged one out and splintered the wood,  
The crack woke me up with a shock.  
The Arkell's round twice, as only she could,  
It's only eleven o'clock.)

She is standing on the boundary now .....  
Does she know that we stop at one?  
She's tapping her foot and wrinkling her brow .....  
I'll watch someone else, it's more fun.

(Edgar has started, he turns with a sweep,  
While Martin's impatient to play.  
Steve's waiting to pounce - he's never asleep.  
Is Andrew here to-day?)

A voice broke into my thoughts like a whip.  
It was sharp and not very low.  
She was standing by me with narrowed lip  
"This game is timed you know" !!