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**THE CROQUET GAZETTE**

Number 156

SUMMER 1980

The Official Organ of the Croquet Association

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

**Pimm's Association Croquet Internationals 1980**

The Pimm's Association Croquet Internationals came about as a result of a telephone call from Pimm's Public Relations Consultant Geoffrey Godbert of Counsel Ltd, Gloucester Place London, in March of this year. Lionel Wharrad, Chairman of the Sponsorship Committee and John Solomon during discussions with Geoffrey Godbert came up with the idea of a series of international matches. The one snag was that Pimm's wanted the event to take place in 1980 and with the opening of the season imminent the prospects for fitting in a new major event looked slim – but not to the Sponsorship committee. Within a remarkably short space of time, in croquet terms, venues and dates had been arranged, nationalities of the leading players established, an agreement between Pimm's and the C.A. was approved by the Council and the teams were selected. The agreement is for a three year period subject to annual renewal by both parties.

Pimm's, the Croquet Association, and the three clubs involved should be reasonably satisfied with the result. The amount of publicity secured was very gratifying, local press coverage was good and at last some national coverage of the game was achieved particularly in the Daily Telegraph and the Sunday Telegraph. Croquet players have every good reason to be grateful to the Daily Telegraph which alone amongst the national dailies records tournament results throughout the season, but it was good to see at least the result of the international at Nottingham being recorded in other nationals. Thames T.V. interviewed Bernard Neal and David Openshaw who jointly gave a demonstration for the cameras on the lawns kindly lent by the Parsons Green Club for the occasion. A minute or two was screened to London viewers on the 29th May. An article on Association Croquet will be appearing in The Field, probably in July.

The one problem at the outset was to ensure that there were sufficient Scottish and Welsh players to provide worthwhile competition for England's great strength in depth. In the event the organisers need not have worried – England beat Wales, Wales drew with Scotland and Scotland beat England thus winning the Pimm's Rose Bowl trophy, which was presented by Alistair Simpson, the Managing Director of Pimm's after the Nottingham match. In addition Pimm's presented glass goblets bearing the national emblem and engraved with the player's name to all players and reserves. It looks as though these will become much sought after trophies in the years to come.

Next year's matches should arouse even greater interest – England will be keen to demonstrate that they have overwhelming strength and to avenge their defeat by Scotland, Scotland will be determined to protect the trophy from capture and Wales no doubt will be keen to register their first win – perhaps they should insist on playing England at Cardiff Arms Park thus to be assured of victory.

**Editor's Comment**

As many Associates will not have known much about the international matches, sponsored by Pimm's Ltd. until reading this gazette, perhaps I should mention that prior to each of the three matches taking place, Pimm's Ltd. issued a nicely presented colourfully printed press release. In order that you can see what form these took I am publishing a combined version of the first two press releases.

*Combined version of first two press releases*

**Players named for Pimm's Association Croquet Internationals**

A university professor, barristers, scientists, lecturers, stock-brokers and an inventor of mathematical games are among the players officially selected today (May 21) for the first Pimm's Association Croquet Internationals between England, Scotland and Wales which take place in May and June.

The opening match, between England and Wales is at Compton Croquet Club, Compton Place Road, Eastbourne, on Saturday May 31.

Subsequent games are at Cheltenham Croquet Club, Old Bath Road on Saturday, June 7 (Scotland v Wales), and Nottingham Croquet Club, Highfield, University Boulevard, on Saturday, June 14 (England v Scotland).

Each match will commence at 11.00 am and will consist of four best-of-three games.

Pimm's awards will be made to each player and also to the team winning the greatest number of matches.

Commenting on the players who have been selected by the Croquet Association and the Scottish Croquet Association, Lionel Wharrad of the Croquet Association, said: I know of no other sport which attracts such highly qualified people. Without unduly stressing the intellectual pleasures of the game, it is certainly true that Association Croquet – above all other outdoor games – poses uniquely interesting tactical problems requiring the most delicate skills to solve.

"This new series of internationals will also provide further evidence of a widening interest in the game, played, as it will be, by the outstanding exponents of Association Croquet in each of the three countries. Association Croquet is very much an active and highly-organised game of today and no longer merely the sunny afternoon pastime of yesteryear – though it still remains great fun to play. Pimm's collaboration is greatly welcomed and provides further evidence of the growing interest in the game."

Commenting on the sponsorship, Alastair Simpson, Managing Director of Pimm's Ltd, said: "Association Croquet is a subtle, fascinating and increasingly popular game, whose summer overtones make it an ideal companion to Pimm's. We have been most impressed by the success of the Croquet Association in putting the modern game seriously on the map, and are happy and privileged to have this opportunity to support a new tournament in this developing sport."

Anon.



**The Secretary & Editor.**

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

The Editor of the Croquet Gazette is Mr D.R. Foulser. 61 Hales Road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. G152 6SL Tel: Cheltenham (0242) 580295 (Home).

**All Contributions** other than tournament results should be sent to the Editor. They are not acknowledged but are most welcome. Please send EARLY — do not wait for the deadline. **All Tournament results** to be sent to the Secretary C.A. but **all tournament reports** to the Editor

**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 Autumn Issue of the Gazette must reach the Editor not later than SATURDAY September 13th.

**TEAMS****England**

**Bernard Neal (Captain)** — Sc.D., F.I.C.E., F.I. Struct. E., F. Eng. Aged 58. Born in Wembley. Head of Engineering Department at Imperial College of Science & Technology. Address: 32 Napier Court, Ranelagh Gardens, Fulham. Croquet Clubs: Hurlingham, Cheltenham, Harrow Oak. Open Champion 1972 and 1973. Runner-up 1979. Doubles Champion 1979. Also a Wimbledon tennis player.

**Nigel Aspinall** — Aged 34. Bristol University. Born in Reading. Computer Programmer. Address: 6 Rivermount, Walton, Surrey. Croquet Club: Roehampton. Open Champion four times; President's Cup six times; Doubles Championship eight times.

**David Openshaw** — M.A., M.Sc. Aged 34. Born in Nelson, Lancashire. Supply and Distribution Manager. Address: 23 Hornton Street, Holland Park. Croquet Clubs: Harrow Oak, Roehampton. Winner Open Championship 1979. Member of Great Britain Team 1979. Runner-up Men's Championship 1977.

**Eric Solomon** — B.Sc., Ph.D., F.B.C.S. Aged 45. Born in Sutton Coldfield. Computer Applications Consultant. Address: 3 Clissold Court, Greenway Close, Greens Lane, London N4. Inventor of mathematical games now on the market. Croquet Clubs: Harrow Oak, Inter Varsity Club (London). Winner Chairman's Salver 1976, 1978. Winner President's Cup 1979.

**Reserve**

**Steve Mulliner** — M.A., LL.B. Aged 26. Born in Manchester. Barrister. Address: 36 Regent House, Wellington Place, St John's Wood. Croquet Clubs: Parkstone (1976), Roehampton (1977) Hurlingham Open Winner 1978, 1979. Association Plate Winner, 1978.

**Wales**

**Robin Godby (Captain)** — Born in Penarth, Glamorgan. Retired member of the Stock Exchange and Stockbroker. Address: 138 Copse Hill, Wimbledon. Croquet Club: Hurlingham. Chairman of the Croquet Association.

**David Croker** — B.Sc., M.Sc. Aged 35 Born: Porth Rhondda, Glamorgan. Senior Lecturer in Biochemistry. Address: 218 Greys Road, Henley, Oxford. Croquet Clubs: Phyllis Court, Cheltenham and Wallingford. Semi-Finalist Singles and Doubles Open Championship, 1979.

**Colin Prichard** — A.I.B. Aged 31. Born: Middlesex. Stock-Broker. Address: Plasridge Oast, Frittenden, Cranbrook, Kent. Croquet Club: Hurlingham. Mixed Doubles Champion 1975, 1976. Mr Prichard's father re-drafted the laws of Croquet.

**Reserve (v Scotland)**

**Tristram Owen** — M.A. Aged 71. Born: Dove, Derbyshire. Address: 18 Radinden Manor Road, Hove, East Sussex. Retired legal adviser to the Film Industry. Croquet Club: Southwick.

**Reserve (v England)**

**Vic Rees** — M.I. Ag.E. Aged 54. Born: Llanelli. Agricultural Researcher. Address: 70 Station Road, Flitwick, Beds. Croquet Club: Wrest Park. Chairman's Salver 1973-75 and 1978.

**Scotland**

**Stephen Wright (Captain)** — M.A. Aged 23. Born: Wolverhampton. Student Chartered Accountant. Address: 81 Boundary Road, Balham. Croquet Club: Roehampton. Scottish Championship 1974, 1976, 1978-79.

**Andrew Hope** — Aged 34. Born: Cheltenham. Farmer. Address: Little Witcombe House, Glos. Croquet Club: Cheltenham. Mixed Doubles Champion 1978. Runner-up President's Cup 1978. Toured New Zealand, 1979.

**Martin Murray** — M.A., Ph.D. Aged 37. Born: Aberfeldy, Perthshire. Research Associate, Bristol University. Address: 13 Colston Dale, Bristol. Croquet Clubs: Cheltenham, Bristol, Bath. Winner Men's Championship 1974, 1976. Winner Mixed Doubles Championship 1979.

**Keith Ross** — M.A., B.Sc., Grad. Cert in Ed. Aged 36. Born: Kingston-on-Thames. College Lecturer. Address: 46 Bakewell Street, Coalville, Leics. Croquet Clubs: Nottingham (formerly). Former Captain Oxford University Croquet Team. Runner-up Doubles Championship 1975.

**Reserve**

**N.J. Davren** — B.Sc. Aged 42. Born: Edinburgh. Scientific and technical translator. Address: Colworth House, Seabrook, Bedford. Croquet Clubs: Colworth, Wrest Park. Chairman's Salver 1976, 1977.

**Press Release — 1st June 1980****Enterprising Play At Pimms Internationals**

England beat Wales in the first of the series of Pimms Association Croquet Internationals at the Compton Club at Eastbourne.

In the top match, England's Nigel Aspinall, 4 times Open Champion, had a convincing first game against Colin Prichard. He appeared to be going out with a triple peel for a maximum score when he unaccountably stuck in 3 back from only inches away. Prichard appeared to have difficulty finding the pace of the court and Aspinall soon got both balls to the peg, and later pegged out one. Prichard only managed to make 2 hoops before Aspinall hit the peg.

In the second game Prichard took the initiative and went to 4-back, but only got to the 5th with his second ball after the lift had been missed. Aspinall went to 4-back and later started a triple peel but missed a short roquet at the fourth. Prichard had a brave attempt at a straight triple, including a very effective promoted cannon to the penultimate, ending the turn for peg and rover. Aspinall hit the last lift and went out from the 4th hoop.

In the second match England's David Openshaw completed a fine triple peel in the first game to win by the maximum score. In the second game he started another triple but at the penultimate peel his ball rebounded from the hoop and interfered with his striker's ball, giving him a long approach to 4-back which he failed. Tristram Owen had started the game by getting round to 2-back and was now able to take his forward ball to rover but Openshaw hit in and finished with a straight-forward break.

The third match between Eric Solomon and David Croker was an even contest throughout. Croker has never been in the Championship stakes but could have won either of the games. Solomon played well but tended to finish poorly. In the second game Solomon did 2 peels of a triple but stuck in 1-back. Croker couldn't make the most of the advantage and Solomon managed to finish.

The two Captains played themselves in 4th place, and most pundits would have lost money on the outcome. England's Captain Bernard Neal, twice Open Champion and a former tennis international, would have been firm favourite but only managed two hoops before Robin Godby got possession and finished the game in two steady breaks. In the second game he completed a triple peel and Neal never even took croquet.

Two completed triple peels, five attempted, is above average. Although none of the matches went to 3 games the issue was never certain and England's win was not as convincing as the scores may indicate.

**RESULTS**

**G.N. Aspinall** (England) bt **C. Prichard** +24 +3, **D.K. Openshaw** (England) bt **T.F. Owen** +26 +13, **Dr.E.W. Solomon** (England) bt **D.J. Croker** +13 +14, **R.A. Godby** (Wales) bt **Prof. B.G. Neal** +24 +26.

J.W. Solomon

**Scotland v Wales at Cheltenham 7 June**

The second Pimms International at Cheltenham on 7th June between Scotland and Wales did not produce the standard of play expected from two teams whose members all have considerable ability.

The top match between William Prichard, brought in at almost the last minute to strengthen the team considerably, and Martin Murray, started with a fine pick-up by William, but he failed at 1-back. Both players produced many good shots, but failed to finish the breaks. No intricacies were attempted and Martin emerged the winner of the first game. In the second, both players got to 4-back and William, in his second break had both his partner and his opponent's forward ball at the 3rd hoop. Although technically possible to peel his partner he elected to peel his opponent, which he achieved but stuck in the fifth, leaving Martin a simple double peel which he completed easily to win the match.

In the second match between Andrew Hope and Colin Prichard, Colin got in first but made little progress and Andrew went to 3-back. The rest of the game however proved difficult to finish although both players had many opportunities. All was redeemed in the second game, for Scotland at any rate. Colin made the first hoop in the 3rd turn, Andrew went to 4-back in the 4th and, the lift having been missed, Andrew finished with a fine triple in the 6th.

Both the remaining matches were hard-fought struggles. The tension of the match, Scotland by now being 2 matches up, both in two games, was increased when the remaining matches reached game all. The standard of play was not as high as might have been expected, with many breakdowns and missed roquets. In the 3rd game of each match the Welsh players elected to peg out their opponent whose partner in each case was for penultimate but the single ball left did not manage to hit in. Wales won each match to draw 2-2.

**Dr. M. Murray** (Scotland) bt **W. de B. Prichard** +10 +12.

**A. B. Hope** (Scotland) bt **C. H. L. Prichard** +12 +25.

**D. J. Croker** (Wales) bt **S. J. H. Wright** -9 +15 +3.

**R. A. Godby** (Wales) bt **K. A. Ross** -13 +15 +3. J.W.S.

**England v Scotland at Nottingham 14th June**

The third and final match in the Pimms' series, between England and Scotland at Nottingham was, like its predecessors, dogged by rain. Indeed, upon arrival the courts were waterlog-

ged and the rain still bucketing down. But the downpour ceased, an early lunch was taken, and play began about 2 o'clock.

At this stage the state of play was that England had beaten Wales, Wales and Scotland had halved their match, so that England had only to halve the match against Scotland to emerge the winners — and on paper they seemed certain to do so. Indeed some well-informed minds were predicting a clean sweep.

In the top match between Nigel Aspinall and Martin Murray, Martin was first to 4 back, leaving the opponents close wired from baulk at the 2nd and 4th hoops. This leave has failed to impress the writer as being of any value since more often than not the 4th hoop ball is unrushable to the 1st hoop and because the in-player has to leave his balls some 8 or 9 yards from the 4th corner it leaves a free shot through to that corner from B baulk. If the 2nd hoop ball is lifted one might get a break by rushing the 4th hoop ball to the corner. If the 4th hoop ball is lifted (which is more unlikely) one must rely on the rush straight to the 1st hoop, with the 4th hoop as an obstacle to avoid. In the writer's view, the best leaves for the lift demand that the in-player's balls are both yard-line balls.

However, Nigel lifted the ball at the 4th hoop, although it didn't seem easily rushable, but missed. Martin got the 4th hoop, when Nigel hit and went to 4-back, leaving Martin's forward ball in front of 2 back. The lift was missed and Nigel finished with a straight triple which was remarkable for the fact that he had no supporting ball at 4-back, but managed to peel and get a rush to penultimate.

In the 2nd game Martin took off from the 2nd corner to get a rush on a yard-line ball beside the 4th hoop to the 1st, but his break only took him to 3-back. Nigel profited by this to go to 4-back when Martin hit the lift and completed his earlier break. After a couple of unproductive turns Martin over-rolled the 1st hoop with an opponent ball in the 1st corner which he had not roqueted. He hit and with a stop-shot approach went round with a standard triple to win by 17.

The third game started in Nigel's favour again with a break to 4-back. Martin hit the lift and followed him. He started his second break but missed a roquet after the first hoop. Nigel made the first but with no other opportunity laid behind the 2nd hoop on the yard-line, with Martin's backward ball at the 3rd and his other in the 1st corner. If Martin shot at the opponents and missed it could have been his last shot, although it would have demanded a 3-ball triple to begin with, but at least the probability that Nigel would end up on peg and penultimate. If he hit he had little opportunity of finishing himself as he could hardly bring his partner out from the 1st corner until the 4th or 5th hoop.

The experts were confounded yet again, as he did shoot, and went to the peg, and, Aspinall having missed the left, went out from 4-back to win the first match for Scotland.

Without detracting in any way from the skill of the players the courts after the first half hour or so were at that extremely easy pace which allows long approaches, long take-offs and so on to be played without fear. But nevertheless very few mistakes were made in a match of a very high standard of play.

Does Nigel's new grip for shooting and hoop strokes seem quite right? The standard grip he now employs for these in it's perfect state demands that the hands should be close together (Pat Cotter was a very fine example of this grip). Does Martin stand too far back from the ball and therefore have to lunge to reach it? Or is his stance too rigid with feet level, not allowing his body to move with the stroke? Perhaps none of these, for if it feels comfortable to the player, it must be right.

In the second match David Openshaw went to 4-back early on, quickly followed by Andrew Hope. David missed the lift and Andrew completed a triple peel in which he had to jump peel his partner at the rover and then "promoted" it some 10 yards towards the peg for the peg-out.



David again took the initiative in the second game and was round first. Again Andrew followed, and David seemed likely to get his revenge but missed a roquet after 3-back. Andrew profited by going to the peg and soon after finished the game to put Scotland on at least a tie situation.

In the fourth match the two Captains had quite a struggle. It was too frequently a case of breaks not being finished or opportunities not being made the most of. Stephen Wright was first to get to 4-back but Bernard Neal got going, only to fail his approach to 1-back and have to depart to the 3rd corner. He regained the innings but unfortunately failed to shake the croqueted ball while taking off from the pivot after 3-back, and Stephen soon completed the game.

The second game was an equal battle in which either side could have emerged victorious. In the end, though, it became a 3-ball affair in which Bernard failed to hit the couple of shots he was given and Stephen emerged the victor.

The third match between Eric Solomon and Keith Ross looked as if it might go Scotland's way, as Keith was first round to 4-back. However, Eric soon followed him and before long had completed the game with a triple peel to win by 16.

The second game started in the reverse order, with Eric first round, but Keith soon followed. Some less expert, but nonetheless interesting, play followed, at the end of which Keith got to the peg, and was pegged out, being at that time for 3-back. Eric had left his peg ball by the peg and his other (also for the peg) in the second corner.

Again, the experts' opinion was divided. To shoot at the peg ball (with a lift) meant that Keith would have (a) another shot, after Eric had pegged out his ball 2 feet from the peg, and thereafter threatening the trickle to the peg from the second corner, or, a lesser alternative, to "guard" the peg, which could have produced a stalemate position.

To shoot at the other peg ball in the second corner meant certain death if missed, although a possible victory if hit, Keith of course took the risk, hit the ball in the second corner, and finished the game to level the match.

At this point Scotland had already won the match, and the series, and owing to the lateness of the hour, the final game of this match was abandoned.

The concluding ceremonies consisted of a most welcome speech by Alastair Simpson, Managing Director of Pimms, who had attended the matches at Compton and Nottingham, in which he indicated that he hoped very much that their sponsorship would continue next year, and that he was not too undeterred by the bad weather, and therefore the poor attendance, which had dogged all three matches.

Very fine goblets, engraved with their names, including their National coat of arms, were presented to the players, and a similarly engraved rose bowl was presented to Stephen Wright, Captain of the Scottish Team, who now has the problem of what to do with it. Perhaps it is no problem.

This first sponsored C.A. croquet event has been an interesting experience, clearly for the players, but perhaps more particularly for the sponsorship committee who will have to evaluate the benefits which may have accrued. Initial responses are that we should be encouraged by our first efforts, strive to improve upon them, and to be heartened by the fact that a number of further enquiries from sponsors are being received.

J.W. Solomon

### Pimms for Association Croquet

Have you noticed that sponsorships are not often apposite? Cigarettes and Cricket? Contraceptives and Racing Cars? It is pleasant therefore to record a new sponsorship which appears to be delightfully related to the sport its sponsors. Pimms Ltd make that delicious drink which somehow I always associate with summer sun and drinks in the garden — its delightful long cool and stimulating properties seem to be the perfect accompaniment to croquet. Now that the relationship has been established by Pimms agreeing to sponsor international matches between England Scotland and Wales, I find it difficult to understand why I have ever in the past played croquet without a glass of this delicious beverage close at hand.

I promise you, and I have thoroughly tested the concept, that it improves your game enormously . . . of course I always play my best croquet from the depths of a chair near the pavilion (except on one occasion when I did a completed septuple against Wylie in my bath after a hard day's gardening) but phantasing with a Pimm's handy I have never lost a game against Aspinall, Neal, Solomon (either variety) or any of the other luminaries. Of course I have lost every now and again as a player, but even in such circumstances it is remarkable how the sight of my victorious opponent ordering a Pimm's for me goes far to assuage the defeat.

Scorpio

### Editorial

If the Croquet Gazette is to continue to interest its readers, it is vital that Associates send the Editor information. No editor can publish what he does not receive, and contributions have not been received in sufficient quantity during the past six months. I would welcome any tactical problems for insertion in the gazette, articles on tactics or strokeplay which would be of interest to high or middle bisquers, croquet crosswords, cartoons, a croquet quiz, correspondence or in fact anything connected with the great game of croquet. I would also welcome any suggestions as to the content and format of the gazette.

### Request from the Editor

During the past couple of years I have been endeavouring to collect as many old issues of the Croquet Gazette as possible. I was fortunate enough to be able to purchase many from David Prichard but still need a great many more. Would anyone who has any of the issues detailed below, who is prepared to sell them please write to me with details. Those issues which I require are as follows:—

Any before 1940 other than Nos. 368, 389–392, 395–397, 399–404, 407–426, 428–433, 537:

War Emergency issue No. 1; Any 1945 other than 24th Nov; any 1946–1949; Nos. 1, 2, 4 & 8 of 1950; No. 8 of 1951; any 1952 other than No. 4; any 1953 and Nos. 2, 3, 9, 10, 11, 13, and 14 (No. 1 started in April 1954).

### Recruitment 1980

The drive for new members of registered croquet clubs was pioneered by the paper on recruitment written by Lionel Wharrad and sent to all clubs in January of this year (extracts from which will appear in future gazettes)

A large number of clubs decided to have a membership drive in 1980 although there was naturally a considerable difference between clubs in the intensity of their approach and in the choice of publicity channels.

All clubs are shortly to be asked to give details of their efforts and to say how many new members they were able to attract. The total effect on the clubs' membership will be published in the Gazette as soon as the results have been analysed.

In the meantime it is known that a number of clubs have been very successful in attracting the interest of potential new members. Colchester, for example, with a very vigorous and extensive campaign attracted 150 people to its introductory sessions — 60 of these are now attending coaching sessions. Southwick attracted about 80 enquiries and 40 people joined the club for the month of June in order to receive coaching. We shall not know until later how many of these enquirers finally decide to take up the game and become club members, but it seems clear that these two clubs will most certainly retain sufficient of their original enquirers as full members to

have amply justified the cost and effort of their recruitment campaigns.

There will undoubtedly be many other success stories to emerge from the club's replies to the questionnaire about to be circulated. These will be published when all club reports have been received and consolidated.

Anon.

### WEEKEND TOURNAMENTS

#### Cheltenham 1, 5–7 April

Block A. **J.S.H. Battison** (2½) 4 wins (+29), W. de B. Prichard (–2½) 4 wins (+9), D.R. Foulser (0) 3 wins (+50), G.F. Blumer (5) 3 wins (+20), Miss E.H. Arkell (3½) 1 win, Miss J. Wraith (9) Nil.

Block B. **P.M. Johnson** (3½) 4 wins, Mrs B.G.F. Weitz (3) 3 wins (+23), A.J. Collin (6) 3 wins (–3), Lady Bazley (5) 2 wins (+8), Prof. B.G. Neal (–2) 2 wins (–32), E.L. Gardiner (8) 1 win.

Block C. **T.W. Anderson** (4) 4 wins (+49), Dr. M. Murray (–2) 4 wins (+17), Prof. B.G.F. Weitz (½) 3 wins, J. Exell (10) 2 wins, Mrs B.G. Neal (6) 1 win (–24), Mrs G.T. Wheeler (3) 1 win (–26).

Block D. **Mrs J. Anderson** (9) 4 wins (+67), Dr. C.B. Snowdon (4) 4 wins (+48), G.E.P. Jackson (–½) 3 wins, F.R. Landor (3) 2 wins (–9), R.D.C. Prichard (2) 2 wins (–32), A.J. Bucknall (7) Nil.

Block E. **S.J.W. Hoole** (4½) 5 wins, Dr. G.K. Taylor (1) 4 wins, Mrs P. Asa–Thomas (3) 2 wins (+9), Mrs A. Croker (7½) 2 wins (–18), J.G.C. Phillips (–½) 2 wins (–47), Mrs A.J. Bucknall (10) Nil.

Block F. **W.J. Sturdy** (3½) 4 wins, P.J. Shepard (7) 3 wins, Mrs M. Warren (10) 2 wins (+1), R.M. Hobbs (4½) 2 wins (–7), J.H.J. Soutter (0) 2 wins (–12), J. Rose (½) 2 wins (–21).

Block G. **Dr. G.J. Roberts** (0) 4 wins, E. Asa–Thomas (7) 3 wins (+33), J.A. Wheeler (1) 3 wins (+17), A. Warren (10) 3 wins (+9), Mrs J. Povey (3) 2 wins, Mrs S. Soutter (5½) Nil.

Block H. **D.J. Croker** (0) 5 wins, Mrs S. Sykes (5) 4 wins, Mrs D.M.C. Prichard (2) 2 wins (+11), G. Henshaw (3) 2 wins (–24), A. Blenkin (8) 1 win (–42), A.E. Watkins (10) 1 win (–49).

After a long spell of indifferent weather the opening tournament of the season began in bright sunshine which lasted the whole weekend. The entry for this handicap weekend was particularly strong — containing 5 minus players, 4 scratch players and 14 more with handicaps of 3 or less. Because it was the beginning of the season when many players have not touched their mallet for five or six months, there were many surprise results and only two players, Steven Hoole and David Croker managed to win all their games. The former was in commanding form beating John Phillips and Geoffrey Taylor +26, Audrey Bucknall +18, Pat Asa–Thomas +11 and Audrey Croker +11. Steven's handicap was duly reduced by a half.

On the first morning of the tournament David Foulser executed a fine triple peel against Edith Arkell to win +19. He followed this up in his next game, against Jean Wraith, with another triple peel winning +18. The only other triple completed successfully was by Martin Murray on the last day when beating John Exell +17.

William Prichard attempted a three ball triple peel in one of his games, but having done two peels failed to run an easy 2–back. Andrew Collin from Chester, visiting Cheltenham for the first time impressed and duly had his handicap reduced too. Kitty Wheeler only won one game in her block but she did beat the block-winner Tom Anderson who won all his others. Sue Sykes was prevented from winning her block when she was beaten +1 by David Croker in an exciting match. Only one match went to time when Tony Watkins beat George Henshaw +1 OT.

### Southport and Birkdale W/E 26–27 April

Conditions of Advanced Play

Block A: **D.K. Openshaw** 5 wins, J.S. Meads 4 wins, Dr. T.J. Haste 3 wins, B.A. Keen 2 wins, E. Bell 1 win, P. Stoker Nil.

Block B: **E.E. Scott**, T.W. Smith, A. Bennet and A.J. Collin 3 wins each, M. Kolbuszewski 1 win.

The Jubilee Tankard was awarded to David Openshaw, winner of the lower handicap block, who did one triple peel. The second prize went to E.E. Scott, winner of the higher handicap group.

### Roehampton 24–27 April

Swiss Handicap Singles (8 rounds, 26 entries)

7 wins. **Miss J. Assheton**

6 wins. C. Hudson, D.J. Croker, R.A. Godby, R.C. Jones 5 wins. S.S. Townsend, F.H. Newman, Mrs D.J. Croker, P.L. Alvey

4 wins. Mrs B. Weitz, M.J. Stevens, Mrs E.E. Bressey, Mrs B. Mansfield, G.W. Noble, L. Wharrad, Mrs K. Townsend, K. Townsend, Mrs W. Jones

3 wins. Mrs S.S. Townsend, Mrs F.H. Newman, R.A. Welch 2 wins. Mrs J. Healy, P. Macdonald

1 win. Mrs P. Macdonald

After 7 rounds: 1 win. Miss P. Shine: Nil. Miss J. Wraith

### Hunstanton 3–5 May

(OPEN. 20 Entries, 3¼ Hr. Time Limit Double Banking).

Block A. **Mrs H.B.H. Carlisle** bt J. Haigh +2 and J.D. Meads +16, and lost to C. Cousins –14 Miss S. Hampson –5T Mrs J.N. Rolfe –15T Mrs R. Wheeler –5T.

**C Cousins** bt Mrs Carlisle +14 J. Haigh +6 Miss Hampson +10 J.D. Meads +1, and lost to Mrs A.N. Rolfe –17 and Mrs R. Wheeler –21.

**J. Haigh** bt Mrs A.N. Rolfe +2T, and lost to Mrs Carlisle –2 C. Cousins –6 Miss Hampson –6 J.H. Meads –18 and Mrs R. Wheeler –11.

**Miss S. Hampson** bt Mrs Carlisle +5T J. Haigh +6 Mrs A.N. Rolfe +8 Mrs R. Wheeler +7T, and lost to C. Cousins –10 and J.D. Meads –8.

**J.D. Meads** bt J. Haigh +18 Miss Hampson +8 Mrs Rolfe +22 and Mrs Wheeler +12, and lost to Mrs Carlisle –16 and C. Cousins –1.

**Mrs A.N. Rolfe** bt Mrs Carlisle +15T C. Cousins +17 and Mrs Wheeler +3, and lost to J. Haigh –2T Miss Hampson –8 J.D. Meads –22.

**Mrs R. Wheeler** bt Mrs Carlisle +5T C. Cousins +21 J. Haigh +11, and lost to Miss Hampson –7T J.D. Meads –12 and Mrs Rolfe –3.

Block B. **A. Bennett** bt J.H. Bowman +4 J. Gosden +3, and lost to Dr. M. Kolbuszewski –8 Dr. C. Snowdon –20 D. Turner –15 and Dr. R. Wheeler –12.

**J.H. Bowman** bt J. Gosden +7 Kolbuszewski +20 Dr. Wheeler +12, and lost to Bennett –4 Snowdon –11 and Turner –13.

**J. Gosden** bt Dr. M. Kolbuszewski +3 Snowdon +5 Turner +4, and lost to Bowman –7 Bennett –3 Wheeler –2T

**Dr. M. Kolbuszewski** bt Bennett +8 and Wheeler +1T, and lost to Bowman –20 Gosden –3 Snowdon –2 Turner –16.

**Dr. C. Snowdon** bt A. Bennett +20 Bowman +11 Kolbuszewski +2 Wheeler +24, and lost to Gosden –5 and Turner –16.

**D. Turner** bt Bennett +15 Bowman +13 Kolbuszewski +16 Snowdon +16 Wheeler +1T, and lost to Gosden –4.

**Dr. R. Wheeler** bt A. Bennett +12 J. Gosden +2T, and lost to Bowman –12 Kolbuszewski –1T Snowdon –24 and D. Turner –1T.

Block C. **B. Barnett** (Non – Ass.) bt Mrs L. Batchelor +24 Mrs B. Gosden +15 Miss P. Hampson +13T Mrs P. Sheldon +3T, and lost to R. Gosden –12.

**Mrs L. Batchelor** lost to B. Barnett –24 R. Gosden –22 Miss P. Hampson –1T Mrs Sheldon and scratched to Mrs R. Gosden.



Hampson -1T Mrs Sheldon -22 and scratched to Mrs R. Gosden. **Mrs R. Gosden** bt Miss P. Hampson +4T, and lost to B. Barnett -15 R. Gosden -5T Mrs Sheldon -2T, and W.O. Mrs Batchelor scr.

**R. Gosden** bt B. Barnett +12 Mrs Batchelor +22 Mrs Gosden +5T Miss P. Hampson +4T Mrs Sheldon +12.

**Miss P. Hampson** bt Mrs Batchelor +1T, and lost to B. Barnett -13 Mrs Gosden -4T R. Gosden -4T Mrs Sheldon -22.

**Mrs P. Sheldon** bt Mrs Batchelor +14 Mrs Gosden +2T and Miss P. Hampson +22, and lost to B. Barnett -3T and R. Gosden -12.

### Cheltenham Open Championship May 3-5

The first ever sponsored Croquet Tournament in Britain took place at Cheltenham over the May-day bank holiday. A local firm of Chartered Surveyors and Estate Agents - COLES - offered to sponsor the tournament for this and the next two years, donating not only money to the club but also a handsome trophy for the winner.

Advanced-play weekends are becoming increasingly popular, and the standard of the entry for this one can only be described as magnificent - such stars as Nigel Aspinall, Keith Wylie, William Prichard, David Openshaw, Martin Murray, Steve Mulliner, Bernard Neal, and Andrew Hope, can rarely (if ever) have been seen before all gathered at a provincial tournament. In fact the highest handicap accepted at the entry closing date was +2.

For two main reasons; (a) because Messrs. COLES had presented a cup to be played for, and (b) American blocks do not (in my opinion) produce the level of competitive play we wanted, I decided to run the weekend as a knockout. This allowed for an entry of 32, the first three rounds to be single games, then the semi-finals and final to be best of three games. I was also keen to use seeding, which, after consulting several of the competitors, was introduced. (No doubt the whole issue of seeding - which according to Regulation 20 should not be used in a first-class level event - will now come up for further discussion at Council Level). Those knocked out of the main competition took part in a sort of "progressive Swiss" - any wins having been gained in the Championship to count as a win in the Swiss. (eg William Prichard won two games in the Championship before losing to Steve Mulliner - so William joined the Swiss at round three with two wins).

But enough of the asides, let's get down to business of recording what happened.

Saturday. Nigel Aspinall was first to finish, beating David Croker +26 (TP). This despite Nigel sticking in hoop one on David's ball, only for David to hit the hoop instead of Nigel's ball from a couple of yards. As others were soon to find out, you have got to make the most of any chances Nigel gives you. Keith Wylie produced a beautifully controlled turn in his second round game against Bryan Sykes, doing all seven peels of a septuple, including the last five straight, but was unable to run rover without roqueting his partner ball, and he narrowly missed the peg out from this position. Bernard Neal wasn't feeling very well, and decided to drop out of the tournament - retiring from his game with John Phillips. (I took Bernard's place in the Swiss). Dave Foulser and William Prichard had contrived a four-hour game in the recent Easter weekend here - and they tried hard to repeat this before William edged home by five. The upset of the day was undoubtedly Eddie Bell's fine victory over Martin Murray (one of the eight seeds) in the second round. Eddie played very accurately in getting to four-back and peg in two turns, and although Martin got one ball round Eddie was not to be denied. A particularly good win considering he had just finished a 4½ hour struggle with Cyril Pountney! Other notable successes were Robert Prichard's +19 win over Graeme Roberts, and Bernard Weitz's +16 victory over Ian Bond - both in the first round.

The only quarter-final played on Saturday evening saw Nigel Aspinall beat Andrew Hope +17 with another triple peel.

Sunday. The three remaining quarter-final games each made interesting viewing. Keith Wylie struggled for a while against John Phillips (both players giving and missing chances) but got home +12. Steve Mulliner looked in good form and brought off a straight-triple to reach the semi-finals at the expense of William Prichard. David Openshaw beat "gaint-killer" Eddie Bell +16 to claim the other semi-final spot.

David could then offer only token resistance to Nigel Aspinall in their best-of-three semi-final, being beaten +26, +16(TP). Nigel was now playing particularly well and proving difficult to play against. (you can occasionally win the toss against him though - if that's any consolation!). Meanwhile Keith Wylie and Steve Mulliner were engaged in a tense battle. Steve won the first game +20 but Keith roared back with a triple peel to win the second game +24. After tea Keith quickly won the third game +25 with another triple to reach the final.

The Swiss was also well under way by now, with more people in each successive round as they departed from the Championship. Humphrey Hicks won an exciting game against me +2, after I had tripped one of Humphrey's ball's only to miss the peg out on his ball but peg out myself instead! Having already beaten Steve Hemsted in the first round of the Swiss Humphrey was in good form, and he confirmed this by beating Graeme Roberts in the third round. John Evans joined Humphrey at the top of the Swiss with a fine win over David Croker.

During the afternoon there were a fair number of spectators, which pleased the club immensely, as we had tried to publicise the event as much as possible with our ultimate aim being a larger club membership. (19 new faces to the club turned up for coaching the following Thursday - now it's up to us to keep them interested).

Monday. The Championship Final between Nigel Aspinall and Keith Wylie was the one everyone wanted to see (a sort of "High-Noon" for two of the great players of the '70's to start us off nicely for the '80's). In the event, however, it proved rather easy for Nigel. Keith stuck in hoop two in the first game, and Nigel was soon one-up by +25 with a triple-peel. In the second game Keith failed an awkward two-back hoop. This time Nigel got only one peel done, ending on peg and penult - leaving one of Keith's balls very close to the peg, and the other on the east boundary. Keith decided against the lift and shot at the ball by the peg. Unfortunately it hit the peg and stayed in mid-court. That (as they say) was that. It was good to see Nigel back to something like his best form (now using the standard grip for single-ball shots), and it is always nice to have Keith gracing the lawns. We certainly hope they return next year!

During the day the Swiss also reached its climax, being organised so that there would be "semi-finals" and a final: Before these though, the losing semi-finalists of the Championship, Steve Mulliner and David Openshaw, met in Round four. David was always in command and won +20. Eddie Bell notched up another good win beating John Phillips +18. Dave Foulser was feeling depressed with his form - but bounced back to beat Alan Girling +22 with a triple peel. Dave also provided great entertainment for the crowds around lawn eight in an exciting +2 win over Robert Prichard. Robert had looked set fair for victory until Dave pegged out one of Robert's balls. Despite one hit in Robert didn't quite make it. John Wheeler did a fine triple peel to beat Andrew Hope +25.

In the Swiss semi-finals John Evans (having beaten Humphrey Hicks in Round four) gave William Prichard a tough game before going down by twelve. Martin Murray beat David Openshaw +16 with a straight-triple to reach the final. (This could be a psychological boost for Scotland with the England v Scot-

land international at Nottingham looming up). Martin narrowly failed a triple-peel (he reckons narrowly - never looked on to me!) against William Prichard in the final. William got to four-back with one ball but failure to get position for hoop two with his second ball gave Martin one shot too many.

Mention should be made of those players out of the prizes but who did well - Steve Hemsted played badly in his first two games but battled on to win his last five, and should be a match for the best again this year. Lawrence Latham, now resident in Somerset, lost his first three games but won the last four, finishing his tournament with a good win by four over David Croker. Sue Sykes (who stood in for David Prichard's last three rounds) didn't win a game but ran her opponents close - losing by six, six, and three to Alan Girling, Barbara Meachem, and Geoffrey Taylor respectively. She will be challenging strongly for the Women's Title before long.

At the prize-giving ceremony the Cheltenham Club's new President - Edgar Jackson - thanked all those who work so hard behind the scenes in an effort to make the tournament a success. Nick Norman - representing our sponsors COLES - thanked the players for coming to this new tournament, and hoped that all would return next year. As manager of this tournament may I also say thanks to those who took part, for you certainly made my job as easy as it could be.

Paul Hands.

Footnote. Edgar Jackson takes over the role of Club President from Dorothy Daniels who, we are pleased to say, has kindly consented to become Patron of our Club.

**Winner:** G.N. Aspinall bt D.J. Croker +26 (TP), Dr. G.K. Taylor +25, A.B. Hope +17(TP), D.K. Openshaw +26, +16 (TP), K.F. Wylie +25(TP), +19.

**Runner-Up:** K.F. Wylie bt S.R. Hemsted +21, B.C. Sykes +15, J.G.C. Phillips +12, S.N. Mulliner -20, +24(TP), +25(TP).

All other players took part in the Swiss, entering it as soon as they were knocked out of the Championship. Any wins gained in the Championship counting as a win in the Swiss. Results preceding the asterisk (\*) were gained in the Championship, those following the asterisk (\*) in the Swiss itself.

**6 wins:** Dr. M. Murray bt M.J. Evans +9 \* R.A. Godby +15, Prof. B.G. Weitz +23, J.A. Wheeler +10, D.K. Openshaw +16 (STP), Capt. W. de B. Prichard +16.

**5 wins:** Capt. W. de B. Prichard bt D.R. Foulser +5, R.D.C. Prichard +16 \* J.G.C. Phillips +8, A.B. Hope +10, M.J. Evans +12.

**5 wins:** D.K. Openshaw bt Lt. Col. D.M.C. Prichard +21, R.A. Godby +18, E. Bell +16 \* S.N. Mulliner +20, M.J. Evans +14.

**5 wins:** S.N. Mulliner bt L.S. Butler +25, J.A. Wheeler +12, Capt. W. de B. Prichard +12(STP) \* H.O. Hicks +22, Dr. G.J. Roberts +10.

**5 Wins:** J.A. Wheeler bt L.V. Latham +20 \* R.D.C. Prichard +7, G.E.P. Jackson +18, A.B. Hope +25(TP), E. Bell +19.

**5 wins:** S.R. Hemsted bt \* A.J. Girling +23, D.R. Foulser +10, C.G. Pountney +17, R.A. Godby +15, Prof B.G. Weitz +9.

**4 wins:** M.J. Evans bt \* C.G. Pountney +14, Mrs D.M.C. Prichard +20, D.J. Croker +13, H.O. Hicks +14.

**4 wins:** Dr. G.J. Roberts bt \* D.R. Foulser +2, L.S. Butler +4, D.J. Croker +13, Prof. B.G. Weitz +17.

**4 wins:** E. Bell bt C.G. Pountney +5, Dr. M. Murray +14 \* J.G.C. Phillips +18, I.D. Bond +9.

**4 wins:** G.E.P. Jackson bt A.J. Girling +3 \* B.C. Sykes +12, D. J. Croker +7, R.A. Godby +11.

**4 wins:** I.D. Bond bt \* Mrs B.M. Meachem +7, Mrs D.M.C. Prichard +10, L.S. Butler +22, A.B. Hope +14.

**4 wins:** B.C. Sykes bt H.O. Hicks +14 \* R.D.C. Prichard +18, J. Rose +15, P.W. Hands +3.

**4 wins:** L.V. Latham bt \* A.J. Girling +4, Mrs B.M. Meachem +13, C.G. Pountney +8, D.J. Croker +4.

**3 wins:** H.O. Hicks bt \* S.R. Hemsted +10, P.W. Hands +2, Dr. G.J. Roberts +4. (from 6 games).

**3 wins:** J.G.C. Phillips bt Prof. B.G. Neal opp. ret'd., G.E.P. Jackson +10 \* L.S. Butler +21. (from 6 games).

**3 wins:** Prof. B.G. Weitz bt I.D. Bond +16 \* Dr. G.K. Taylor +22, G.E.P. Jackson +19.

**3 wins:** A.B. Hope bt Mrs B.M. Meachem +24(TP), Prof. B.G. Weitz +6 \* E. Bell +5.

**3 wins:** R.A. Godby bt Mrs D.M.C. Prichard +10 \* Dr. G.K. Taylor +15, B.C. Sykes +9.

**3 wins:** P.W. Hands bt \* A.J. Girling +21, Mrs D.M.C. Prichard +26(TP), Dr G.K. Taylor +23. (from 6 games).

**3 wins:** L.S. Butler bt \* L.V. Latham +14, P.W. Hands +18, J. Rose +1.

**3 wins:** Dr. G.K. Taylor bt J. Rose +9 \* R.D.C. Prichard +8, Mrs S. Sykes +3.

**3 wins:** D.R. Foulser bt \* L.V. Latham +23, A.J. Girling +22 (TP), R.D.C. Prichard +2.

**2 wins:** C.G. Pountney bt \* Lt. Col. D.M.C. Prichard +3, J. Rose +5. (from 6 games)

**2 wins:** Mrs B.M. Meachem bt \* Lt. Col. D.M.C. Prichard +16, Mrs S. Sykes +6. (from 6 games).

**2 wins:** D.J. Croker bt \* J. Rose +17, I.D. Bond +10,

**2 wins:** J. Rose bt \* Mrs B.M. Meachem +24, D.R. Foulser +5.

**2 wins:** R.D.C. Prichard bt Dr. G.J. Roberts +19 \* Mrs D.M.C. Prichard +6.

**2 wins:** Mrs D.M.C. Prichard bt \* Lt.Col. D.M.C. Prichard +14, A.J. Girling +2.

**1 win:** A.J. Girling bt \* Mrs S. Sykes +6.

**0 wins:** Mrs S. Sykes (from 3 games).

**0 wins:** Lt.Col. D.M.C. Prichard (from 4 games).

### Thames Valley Tournament

Hedgerley, Crowmarsh, Rotherfield Greys, Ibstone, Arborfield and Terriers Green are not names to ring bells in the minds of croquet players. They are all names of villages in that Southern middle of England of Oxfordshire Berkshire and Buckinghamshire. They were the scenes of a unique sporting experience on the 10th and 11th May when the Phyllis Court club staged an Association Croquet tournament on its own two lawns and six beautiful private courts in these six villages.

Forty eight players took part all drawn from various clubs within about a 50 miles circle. They all played three games on Saturday and two games on Sunday in lovely sunshine. The owners of the courts offered splendid hospitality to their guests and transformed the tournament into a social event combining as it did a car rally and a croquet tournament. Elizabeth Weitz of Arborfield ran this tournament last year as an experiment and its success as a really enjoyable happening should ensure that it becomes a regular part of the croquet enthusiasts calendar.

Drivers were provided with detailed programmes and route maps, because everyone had to play on different lawns each day - it was really delightful to relax in the gardens of these generous owners and to play friendly if still competitive croquet.

All players gathered at tea time on Sunday in the grounds of the Phyllis Court club on the Thames at Henley where there was a play off between block winners. The four top scorers out of the eight blocks were selected on the basis of the number of games won and then ranked in order of net points achieved. This brought Dudley Hamilton-Miller (1) to play Robert Smith (8) for 1st and 2nd places, and Steve Battison (2) and Robert Harris (5½) to play for 3rd and 4th places.

Bob Smith looked as though his bisques were going to help him to victory when with his yellow on 1 back he pegged out Dudley's blue ball, his black being on penultimate. Dudley, as usual remained totally imperturbable, and gave the game a proper finish by hitting in after time was called and going out to win by 8. He earned himself a very elegant engraved glass tankard, Bob Smith earned himself a handicap reduction and Betty Weitz earned the warmest ovation of the day for all her work in pioneering and organising such an interesting and enjoyable week-end.



**Southport and Birkdale W/E II, 24–26 May**

Playing on what must have been the greenest lawns in the country, a small but select group of players contested the Jubilee Tankards and the Scotch Trophy. The very high standard of play embarrassed the Manager who saw over a third of the games finished in ninety minutes or less.

The highest handicap player, George Collin from the Chester club, showed his prowess with bisques and won Block 'A' in the Tankards, only losing one game. During his winning run he completed at least four all-round breaks without using a bisque to sustain them, thus showing the handicappers his lack of need of them.

In the 'B' block Eddie Bell unfortunately had to retire, and a hurried reconstruction was made with Paul Stoker narrowly winning from a rapidly improving Carol Chard. In the resulting block play-off George Collin won by +25 in 55 minutes.

The Scotch Trophy was a spirited event made interesting by an early game between Andrew Hope and Bell, when Hope never played on the lawn when all four balls were present. Hope won with a three ball and then a two ball break after Bell had performed the appropriate peg-outs. This event was again won by George Collin in a final against his brother Andrew. The result of this match enabled the handicappers with some justification to reduce George's handicap from 10 to 8. Finally a word about the lovely easy playing conditions of the Southport lawns which must make their tournaments a pleasure to attend.

**Nottingham 30 May – 1 June**

At their Spring W/E Tournament Nottingham welcomed 16 Visitors amongst the 28 Competitors.

In one of the more interesting finishes Dab Wheeler pegged out John McCullough's first ball soon after he started with the second. Both then plodded on steadily, largely ignoring each other, John passing Dab when she failed at 3 back and going on to make Rover with little trouble. He then missed his roquet on the boundary half way to 4 back, but used his ½ bisque, separated and took position against the peg ready for peg-out in his next turn.

On the Saturday evening Eddie Bell (both balls on Rover) had a mild shock when his opponent (having made only three hoops on 4 bisques) surprisingly proceeded from hoop 2 to Rover in his next turn. Bell then made Rover but accidentally pegged out his forward ball and twice failed relatively short peg-outs with his second. Chamberlain then made hoop 3 and at this point the game had to be pegged-down to allow the players time to change and get to the Club's Annual Dinner. On resumption next morning he failed at hoop 5 and Bell soon hit in to finish.

In the final game of the Tournament Ron Welch and Hyacinth Coombs battled doggedly for well over three hours but Ron eventually triumphed and robbed Edgar Jackson of first place by 7 points, both having 5 wins.

Pat Hague played consistently well in all her games and thoroughly deserved her first place and subsequent handicap reduction.

Block A: P.J. Death (2½) 6 wins, E. Bell (1) 4 wins (+10), Dr. R. Jones (5½) 3 wins (+1), Miss J. Assheton (7) 3 wins (-1), S. Thomas (15) 2 wins (-25), Mrs N. Lenfestey (6) 2 wins (-42), C. Chamberlain (8) 1 win (-28)

Block B: J. Mc Cullough (2½) 6 wins; J. Straw (7) 4 wins (+52), Mrs D. Wheeler (2) 4 wins (+33); Mrs N. Tyldesley (5) 2 wins (-14), K. Townsend (10) 2 wins (-27), Mrs E. Chamberlain (10) 2 wins (-28), R.H. Fletcher (7½) 0 wins.

Block C: R.A. Welch (7½) 5 wins (+29), G.E.P. Jackson (-½) 5 wins (+22), Dr R.F. Wheeler (5) 3 wins (+23), G. Henshaw (3) 3 wins (+13), Mrs H. Coombs (4½) 2 wins (-22), Mrs F. Townsend (10) 2 wins (-27), Mrs A. Bucknell (10) 1 win (-38).

Block D: Mrs P. Hague (9) 5 wins, A.J. Girling (2) 4 wins (+13), G.W. Noble (0) 4 wins (+6), D.de Q. Lenfestey (6) 3 wins (+7), Dr M.T. Haslam (5½) 3 wins (-10), A.J. Bucknell (7) 2 wins (+1), Mrs J. Haworth (15) 0 wins.

**Edgebaston 20–22 June****Advanced Play**

Block A: K. JONES (6 wins) bt Hare +16, Mrs Lenfestey +24, Collin +12, R. Jones +25, Coutts +8, Girling +15; A. Collin (5 wins) bt Hare +17, Mrs Lenfestey +1 (t), R. Jones +8, Coutts +13, Girling +5; J. Coutts (4 wins) bt Hare +23, Mrs Lenfestey +16, R. Jones +13, Girling +11; A. Girling (3 wins) bt Hare +14, Mrs Lenfestey +23, R. Jones +24TP; S. Hare (2 wins) bt Mrs Lenfestey +6, R. Jones +17; Mrs A. Lenfestey (1 win) bt R. Jones +3 (t); R. Jones (Nil).

Block B: H. HAWKINS (5 wins) bt Assheton +5 (t), Lenfestey +23, Meads +2, Brown +18, Kolbuszewski +23; M. Brown (4 wins +39) bt Assheton +21, Lenfestey +13, Miss Hewitson +10, Kolbuszewski +15; J. Meads (4 wins, +11) bt Assheton +9, Lenfestey +2, Brown +2, Kolbuszewski +13; Miss H. Hewitson (3 wins) bt Hawkins +13, Assheton +2, Meads +13; D. Lenfestey (2 wins -29) bt Miss Hewitson +10, Kolbuszewski +18; M. Kolbuszewski (2 wins, -31) bt Assheton +20, Miss Hewitson +18; J. Assheton (1 win) bt Lenfestey +19;

**Final: K. Jones** bt H. Hawkins +1.

Although the weather was showery, no time was lost in this two-and-a-half day weekend beginning at 6 o'clock on Friday – a format well worth trying since it minimizes the time taken off work. This year 3 visitors from Chester and Southport joined the West Midlands contingent, but the final saw a close contest between two local players. Ken Jones was lucky to win after Harry Hawkins inadvertently rushed a ball on to the peg, but he deserved his victory for the convincing way he had reached the final, winning all his games in block A. In block B the situation was less clear-cut with no-one playing consistently well throughout, although Harry proved a worthy runner-up with two well-controlled, breaks in the last game of all. One notable feature of the weekend was the triple peel by Alan Girling – against Ray Jones – after he had completed all 3 peels in an earlier round, only to stick in 3-back; another was the promising play of Andrew Collin from Chester who lost just one game – to the eventual winner.

**The South of England Championships held at Devonshire Park, 7–19 April****First Week**

The South of England Championships got under way on Easter Monday – the first ball being struck at 9.40 a.m., i.e. 20 minutes before the scheduled start, which from the Manager's point of view is so much nicer than 20 minutes after the scheduled start! The fact that the tournament commenced at all was due in no small part to the efforts of John Howe, the head groundsman and his team who had to combat the very wet period preceding the tournament and had to pump water off several lawns (your correspondent was somewhat unnerved to learn that this is necessitated by the fact that Devonshire Park is below sea-level!). The ground staff worked hard to ensure that playing conditions were of a high order throughout the week and I am sure all competitors will wish to accord our gratitude and, additionally, to convey to John Howe, who retires in 1980 after eleven years in charge of the lawns at Devonshire Park, a long and happy retirement.

My first impression was that all competitors had put on at least a stone in weight during the close season. This, however, proved to be no more than the various and numerous layers of clothing adopted to combat the cold. Although blessed with fine weather this cold was to remain with us for most of the week.

My second impression was the unbelievable degree of generosity on the part of players in a winning position. This frequently so shocked the opponent that he or she reciprocated with further generosity – or do I mean mistakes? Still it was early in the season and it was cold, and all these factors contributed to many of the games – particularly in the Open

Singles, taking longer than they should have done. It was good to see some younger players in the tournament and it is to be hoped that they will be encouraged and helped by their elders and, as a result of the recruitment and training scheme, be joined by others for the good and future of the game. The two junior Tapps displayed their well known skills; Patricia Parker has an encouraging fluency and confidence in her play and, if Stephen Hobson can stay with the game, he must have a good future.

Day 1 commenced with the Handicap X with 3 Tapps, 3 Parkers (with one in reserve) and 26 others. This produced some convincing wins by Frances Joly (+25 v. Giles Borrett), Arthur and Matthew Tapp by +23, Ethnie Hodgens by +23 and Vera Tyrwhitt – Drake who disposed of John Haigh +24. There was also a certain amount of hoop trouble. Dab Wheeler was confronted with three hoops which would not permit the passage of the ball and in the game between Alec Coleman and Patricia Parker all balls passed through hoop 5, but as Rover it refused to accept black.

The semi-finalists were Messrs. Colman, Hobson, Wharrad and Simon Tapp, the latter running out a comfortable winner against Coleman. The Trevor Williams Cup with 4 entries was run as an American and for 3 of the competitors proved to be a case of "Hobsons" choice – he winning by convincing margins despite a handicap reduction from 12 to 10 for this event.

The Open Singles saw varying fortunes but from the consistency of his play there seemed little doubt that Tristram Owen would emerge as the victor which he duly did. Frances Joly and Giles Borrett seemed to have a certain affinity, meeting again in the draw, Frances again being the winner but by a much narrower margin. This game was punctuated by the intimate scene of Frances prising Giles out of the frame of his chair, the canvas having torn asunder. In the Luard Cup the semi-finalists were married under the 2 – life variation, Bill Nicholson being the eventual winner. Sarah Hampson was the dominant figure in the Devonshire Park Salver winning the draw and reaching the final of the process where she lost to Eric Knight thus having to meet him in the Play-Off. Sarah was the ultimate winner but it was disappointing that this had to be determined by a third game.

The handicap doubles contained a number of strong pairings: Arthur and Matthew Tapp, Ted Rees and Roy Wallis; Roger and Dab Wheeler and Lionel Wharrad and John Bowman. The latter eventually ran out winners against Rees and Wallis, to take the Anna Millns Salver.

How was all this achieved? Inevitably by the quiet and efficient management of Dab and Roger Wheeler and much back-room assistance by Ed Strickland to all of whom on behalf of all competitors sincerest thanks and, in the case of Dab and Roger, incredibly they both played a vast amount of high quality croquet, Dab earning a reduction in handicap from 2½ to 2. Dab in fact was still playing when most others had departed, to beat Alan Parker in the final of the Y Handicap Singles.

All in all a splendid week's croquet. May Devonshire Park receive the increasing support it deserves.

**Second Week**

Giles Borrett and Mrs Elvey now took over the management and we settled down to what was to prove a perfect week of Spring weather and what a rare experience it was to find oneself playing on such good and reasonably fast lawns in the opening tournament of a new season. Tristram Owen continued his run of success by winning the Draw and Process finals of the O'Callaghan Gold Cup against Cyril Pountney and Ted Tucker. Pountney, playing very well in the Draw Final, held a commanding lead with his clips on peg and penultimate and when he hit in with a long shot appeared to have settled the issue. But no! having taken off to his opponents two balls,

he then missed an incredibly short roquet and Owen whose two clips were on third hoop, played two breaks with great accuracy to level the situation, peg out his opponents front ball and eventually win a most exciting game. In an earlier round Borrett had his game against Owen virtually won but then played an easy approach too close to the rover hoop, made it with difficulty and was stymied from everthing! Tucker won a spirited encounter with Pountney to take the runner-up position.

In the Franc Challenge Trophy, the Women's Singles Championship of the South of England, Lady Bazley showed the measure of her upward progress and improved play by a most determined display against Frances Joly. After narrowly losing the first game in which her opponent was pegged out, she won the second and it was not until the third and final game that Miss Joly established her superiority. The Felix Cup Handicap Singles for players with 3½ bisques and over is always an important feature of this week's play and the earlier rounds showed the probability that A.W.D. Nicholls, R.P. Chappell and Mrs E.E. Bressey would be concerned in the final stages. Nicholls and Chappell only met in the semi-final, where Chappell – a most promising and improving player – on this occasion outplayed his opponent by a fine exhibition of croquet. He now met Mrs E.E. Bressey in the final and on this form and in receipt of two bisques might well have been considered the favourite. Mrs Bressey however had been in excellent and consistent form all the week and she also possessed an added advantage in her knowledge of tactics. Play was level for some time but when the bisques were gone, Mrs Bressey went ahead and Chappell was now making some mistakes. Finally, Mrs Bressey (for 4 back) took a long shot at her opponent's ball near that hoop, missed but ran the hoop! It was just her day! Chappell could do no more after this.

Owen and Borrett combined well and played well to win the Open Doubles. After an excellent all-round break by Owen at the beginning of the game, Miss Joly and D.J.V. Hamilton-Miller were always in arrears and found little coming their way.

In the Handicap Doubles Nicholls and Brown proved too strong for the Mallinsons. Nicholls was the dominating player and received good support from his partner. A small extra event was won by Lady Bazley, deservedly. It was unfortunate that a good prospective final for the Sussex Union Handicap Singles Cup between Dudley Hamilton-Miller and Cyril Pountney, both of whom had played well in this event, was unable to take place on the Saturday owing to the sudden indisposition of the former. After the prize-giving, Mrs Bressey in a short speech of thanks paid tribute to all those who had been responsible for giving us such an enjoyable week and to Ed Strickland for his work in advance with the ground staff of Devonshire Park. Beautiful lawns, beautiful weather – all that is needed now is a larger entry. It is a tournament strongly to be recommended to all associates.

**Southwick I, 28 April – 3 May.**

The first tournament of 1980 was played in the swiss system which guaranteed 8 singles for everyone. There was also XY Doubles.

The weather was far from springlike, with a bitter north east wind and on the friday the weather was appalling with a gale and torrential rain. This put a stop to many folk playing their games. One however J.S.H Battison won all his 8 games +120 points thus averaging each win by 15 points.

One of our own stalwarts of 88 years H.A. Sheppard played remarkably well winning 5 of his games.

The weather was too bad for any triple peels to be made. Of the Ladies, Miss Connie Cox (6) came out on top with 6 wins. She played a friendly afterwards with Battison (2½) and beat him +10.



It was a pity that our Spring Tournament had to be sandwiched between Devonshire Park and the Peels with only a week between, and a month earlier at that, to bygone years.

#### Budleigh Salterton 5-10 May.

There was a slightly smaller entry this year for the opening tournament at Budleigh, but participants found the lawns in splendid condition, thanks to our new groundsman, Mr Bedwell. Some first class croquet was enjoyed, no fewer than 15 of the 114 games played being decided by a margin of only one point.

In A Block Ray Stevens, our new Tournament Secretary, won all his matches, but in the play-off found 4½ bisques too many to give to Bill Owens who had won all his matches in B Block. Bill duly received the handicapper's attention.

The next play-off was between their wives — this time Myrtle Stevens won; in winning her block Marion Owens showed a welcome return to form, though four games, three in her favour, were decided by one point. One felt some sympathy with Enid Pursey who with one win less had a much higher points score than anyone else.

The third final was won under Reg. 20(b) by Philip Dwerlyhouse from Sidmouth; he moved up from fourth place last year and showed much improved form in this his third season.

Joan Simpson piloted her 12 handicap partner, Dot Wallace to victory in the Doubles, while a new event, Y Doubles was won by the Newmans, a rapidly improving couple from Woking.

There were various cliff-hangers, but one should mention the win of Ray Stevens against Charles Waller to whom he was giving 2½ bisques. Ray was on 3 with yellow and had not started with red. Charles was on rover with black and 2 back with blue. The latter then fouled a hammer shot near yellow, which Ray promptly took round to the peg, peeling and pegging out black on the way. He then took red round by stages and won, in spite of Charles' remaining bisque with which he had taken blue to penult.

Tessa Blackler won a match by making three hoops after time was called. Marion Owens drew level by making three difficult hoops after time was called, finally making the winning point by a successful long take-off to rover.

It was generally felt that though a high standard of expertise was shown the same could not be said of tactics. Here we saw many instances of neglect of established policies, often to the detriment of the player concerned.

#### Golf Croquet Championships

##### Played at Harrow Oak 10-11 May

With the 1980 Golf Croquet Championships Harrow have staged their first calendar tournament. The event attracted four President's Cup players, three Chairman's Salver players, and Miss Jean Wraith. Was the lady overwhelmed? Not at all — as the reigning doubles champions, Andrew Hope and Martin Murray, soon discovered when beaten in two games by the Harrow 'team' of Jean and Eric Solomon. With the lawns playing fast and not quite true, local knowledge no doubt contributed. Perhaps 'not quite true' gives a false impression. The courts provide a pleasant surface for croquet, but there are slopes to be 'read'.

Golf croquet is second to none when it comes to the incidence of flukery, telekinesis, and other strange happenings. The unkindest cut, or cut rush, came with the last shot at the last hoop of the last game of the Hope and Murray versus Wright and Roberts match. With Murray's ball in position for the hoop, but some two feet away, an opponent obligingly rushed it through with a shot from corner three!

Graham Martin managed ably and affably, and made uncountable pots of tea. The sun shone throughout, and everyone finished nicely tanned since the block system ensured that there was no 'knocking out' until last thing on Sunday.

E.W.S.

#### Event 1. The Ascot Challenge Cup. Level Singles. (8 entries).

##### BLOCK A

3 wins Dr. E.W. Solomon, 2 wins S.N. Mulliner, 1 win J.C.G. Phillips, 0 wins Miss J. Wraith.

##### BLOCK B

3 wins Dr. M. Murray, 2 wins A.B. Hope, 1 win S.J.H. Wright, 0 wins Dr. G.F. Roberts.

FINAL Solomon bt Murray -2, +3, +1.

#### Event 2. The Delves Broughton Challenge Cup. Level Doubles (4 pairs).

3 wins Phillips and Mulliner, 1 win Miss Wraith and Solomon, Hope and Murray, Wright and Roberts

#### Southwick 'Peel Memorials' 12-17 May

The rather disappointing entry (11 men and 16 women) for this year's Peel Memorials Tournament was probably due to the change of venue from Cheltenham, where it has been held for several years.

Southwick, however, proved a most welcoming host and if the Peels are held at this Club again they will undoubtedly attract a larger following. The sun shone throughout the whole Tournament and the lawns looked quite perfect — rather better in fact than they played, and the uneven pace and the lazy sunshine made the Croquet throughout like the flag at the pavilion mast — brave but a little tattered.

The fast lawns and sometimes slow play were responsible for many competitors "going off" and a few spectators nodding off and it is said that, when watching one of the more exciting matches, Tiny Tyrwhit Drake went to sleep and fell off his chair!

In the heat and excitement a few players became confused by the very clear lists put up by the Tournament Manager, mistaking the column denoting time of play for that giving handicaps. It is hard to say who was most ruffled — Mr A.E.R. Watkins who had hoped to start his game with Mr T.F. Owen at 11 a.m. and found himself rushed on to the court at 10, or his opponent who had to concede 11 bisques in a timed game. It is also reported that one competitor on pegging out found that he had given away one bisque too many by mistaking the time of start.

This gentle, inconsequential and quite delightful atmosphere was only seldom shattered by a ball struck in anger or when Colonel Pritchard was savaged by Miss Hazel Parker's miniature dachshund. Fortunately Bella was none the worse for the encounter.

If there was nothing outstanding in the play — no triple peels or remarkable breaks — the general level of play was good and many of the games held interest.

The difficulty of reporting a tournament at Southwick, when its eleven lawns are kept on constant play by a slave-driving Manager, is the impossibility of seeing any but a small proportion of the games. It can be stated, however, that the week though busy was not taken over seriously and was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

#### Parkstone 1, 2-7 June

Entries for this tournament were down in number a little this year, but there was a well balanced representation of home players and visitors, and also of classes. The tournament was managed by Pat Newton with his usual efficiency, Mrs Allen and Mrs Newton taking care of the catering arrangements, the whole affair being benignly guided by Margaret McMordie. Throughout, one had the impression of a maximum utilization of time and space, and it became possible to extend the Handicap Singles XY event to provide also for a Z. This was greatly appreciated by those whose active croquet would otherwise have been cut short on Thursday or so. It was pleasing that throughout the tournament a request for a referee or an umpire (according to the appropriate signal) received attention with such promptitude.

A dry week with plenty of warm sunshine provided excellent croquet weather, and we all finished with faces several shades darker. The sunshine had its usual magical effect on everyone's good spirits, and was reflected in the beautifully polished brass rings of Alex Coleman's mallet.

From the beginning John McCullough seemed to be on the road to Success. He showed considerable skill in all his games, winning the Class A Process against William Ormerod +5 against expectations, until he met Keith Wylie in the final of the Draw when he failed to score a single point. The play-off on Saturday afternoon took place in the only hour of rotten weather. In the early stages during a very vulnerable situation Wylie with his usual rigid and impeccable self-judgement declared himself to have made a foul stroke. From this point McCullough swiftly took control of the game taking his first ball to four-back. At the lift shot Wylie failed to hit and McCullough took his other ball round. Wylie again failed to hit and McCullough won +23.

McCullough also played well in the doubles with his partner Mrs Joy Barnes, but they were beaten in the final after some very good play by Rev. W.E. Gladstone and P.J. Shephard. With Shephard's clip on the peg and Gladstone's on rover, McCullough and Mrs Barnes were well behind when McCullough was able to make a start, scored 12 points and pegged out the opponent rover ball. Mrs Barnes continued to make exciting progress until at last Gladstone hit in and finished the game.

Another outstanding player was John McMordie who won the Class B level singles. He also won the X handicap singles, flattening McCullough on his way to a very hard-won final against Bob Carder. Mention must also be made of Frank Shergold who came into view only this season and, playing in his first tournament as 11\*, which was reduced to 8 after his first game, went on to win the Class C singles.

One final reflection — what a splendid team effort a Parkstone tournament is!

#### The Challenge & Gilbey Cups Tournament

##### Budleigh Salterton 9 - 14 June

This event was again held at Budleigh, with the lawns in first class condition, and the weather conditions, ideal until the last day, in spite of several nights of heavy rain. However, on the finals day (Saturday) we had 2 inches of rain, and at lunch time all ten lawns were under water. This caused great problems for our manager, Ken Schofield, but he succeeded, with one exception, in getting all the finals played off, either quite late on the Saturday, or on the following day.

The exception was the senior event, the Roehampton Cup, which had to be shared between Bill Perry and John McCullough. This was a great pity, as an exciting final was in prospect, as John had beaten Bill in the Process, and the reverse had occurred in the Draw. In the Draw, McCullough, straight from his successes at Parkstone, beat John Cooper +26, John never taking croquet. McCullough went to 4-Back in the fifth turn; John missed the lift shot by a whisker, and then McCullough went out with the only triple-peel of the tournament, Bill Perry was back to something like his old form, beating Ray Stevens +23 in the first round of the Draw, and Bunny Vulliamy +24 in the semi-final. In the final, Bill was in tremendous form, beating McCullough +26, the latter never taking croquet. McCullough won the Process fairly comfortably.

The Council Cup was won by Martin Granger Brown, whose play improved steadily as the week went on. He always does well at Budleigh, and it is a pity that he cannot play more frequently. He beat Christine Bagnall in the final, who had had a very narrow win over N.J.C. Gooch in the semi-final.

Roger Berkeley, an 8 handicap player from Bath, won the Reckitt Cup in his first major tournament, and only his third season. He was warmly congratulated on winning both the Draw and Process of this event.

The Stevenson Cup, with only 6 entries, was won by Dr. Charles Marshall, who won both Draw and Process after some very close games.

The Gilbey Goblet was won by Reg Peirce of Sidmouth, who beat the holder, Frances Joly, in the final. Reg Peirce had had a somewhat adventurous journey to the final. In the second round, he was about 10 points behind Col. Vulliamy, with all his bisques gone, when the latter had only to peg out, but something went very wrong. Peirce managed to hit in and took one ball round to the peg and pegged out one of his opponent's balls. Vulliamy had several shots at the peg, while Peirce got his other ball round, but they all just missed and Peirce won by +1. The final was played in extremely wet conditions, and Miss Joly did not maintain her very good form of earlier in the week.

The Doubles was won by Ken Schofield and Enid Pursey who just beat Martin Granger Brown and Capt. Forrest Tucker from USA in an exciting final played in very bad weather conditions.

#### Compton 9 -14 June

Once again a Tournament at Compton meant a pleasurable, pleasant and pleasing week. Run courteously and helpfully by R.E. Wallis assisted by Dr R. Wood.

The weather varied considerably. In fact on Tuesday morning the courts were literally flooded and were only playable after lunch thanks largely to Roger Wood and a highly effective sweeping brush! However, the games were completed by Saturday evening although time-limits were imposed later in the week.

The Open Singles was won by E.J. Tucker who also reached the semi-final of the Handicap Singles (unrestricted) but scratched from this event in order to concentrate on winning the Open which he did by +25.

The Level Singles 'B' event produced some interesting and exciting moments. When Mrs E.M. Temple played T.G.S. Colls, their combined ages on court totalled a marvellous 166 years. In the final of the Process Mrs E.C. Tyrwhitt-Drake (whose handicap was reduced to 5½) played R.F.A. Crane. After time was called Crane made 3 back, 4 back, penultimate and rover. He then peeled his partner ball through penultimate, heaved a sigh of relief and shot his other ball straight into baulk — forgetting such things as lifts. Mrs Tyrwhitt-Drake instantly made contact, took off to her ball by rover, made a neat approach and struck — that was that. Mrs N.W.T. Cox ultimately won the Cup.

The Handicap Singles (unrestricted) was won by P. Chappell who having got as far as the semi-final of the Draw of the B Event and faced with the prospect of a possible four games (plus a doubles) all on the same day, scratched from the Level Singles. Needless to say his handicap was reduced to 5½.

The Handicap Doubles, Kirk-Greene Bowl, was won (unhurriedly!) by E.C. Tyrwhitt-Drake and Miss E. Hodgens (whose handicap was subsequently reduced to 5½). This event produced a somewhat unusual occurrence during the second round. Partners A and B left the court as winners by 1 on time — after a drink and consultation the game was resumed where it had ended and partners C and D then left the court as winners by 1 on time.

Finally, the Compton Plate was carried off by Comdr. G. Borrett. And lastly, many thanks to the caterers and to the friendly and welcoming members of the Club.

#### Men's and Women's Championships played at Cheltenham 16-21 June

It wasn't exactly "flaming June", rain falling (sometimes heavily) at some stage on each of the six days. We still had an enjoyable week though — even when you were not playing yourself there always seemed to be a match worth watching.

Monday saw some fine battle to open the Championships. Frances Joly produced that 'never-say-die' spirit of hers to fight back from a game down to Jocelyn Sundius-Smith who,



it must be said, was playing below her best. Ian Bond set the Reckitt Club's charge for honours on its way by despatching George Sisum +26, +25 in only one and a half hours. Francis Landor beat Bill Gladstone in straight games as did Robin Hobbs against Peter Alvey. Bryan Sykes was their only loss — beaten by Martin Murray. Bryan appeared to have the first game sewn up having done the 3 peels of a triple before getting to 3-back, but then it all went wrong with rushes going all over the lawn and an eventual blob at 4-back. Graeme Roberts sequence of victories over Dave Foulser moved to seven out of seven with his two games to nil win in the first round. The second game resumed on Tuesday morning with Dave on peg and 4-back against Graeme's 2 and 4-back. Graeme only allowed his opponent one more shot, so Dave, who had come to the club at 10 am straight from work, was on his way back there soon after half-past! Caskets managers past and present also met in the first round. Paul Hands tripled Edgar Jackson's ball out in the first game, which soon proved a winning move, but in the second only Edgar's failure to run a straightforward second hoop with a break in front of him and partner ball on the peg, prevented the match going to three games.

The first major shock came on Tuesday, Humphrey Hicks producing a high quality performance to beat Bernard Neal in straight games. Bernard had one of those days where shots about to hit somehow don't, while Humphrey gave virtually nothing away. Meanwhile Andrew Hope was beating Welsh captain Robin Godby +24, +20. As Robin pointed out later — 'I seem to play much better when I'm representing somebody else — as soon as I play for me I lose'. The answer, Robin, is to play under an assumed name! In the Women's event, holder Barbara Meachem, having struggled to beat Betty Prichard in the second round, was having another hard battle in the third round, this time against Heather Handley — but, after winning the first game by 2 on time, asserted more authority in the second. Frances Joly was involved in several thrillers during the week, but none moreso than against Edith Arkell. The first two games both involved peg-outs of opponents, Frances winning the first by 2, Edith the second by 1. The decider was also close with Frances scraping home by 7. Jane Neville-Rolfe played splendidly all week, and had a good win over Dab Wheeler to reach the semi-final.

Wednesday was doubles day, with both the X and Y being played through (bar one game) to the final. It was a day full of thrills — Andrew Hope and Pat Asa-Thomas had an exciting win over Paul Hands and Veronica Carlisle in their quarter-final. Paul pegged Andrew out, leaving Pat on penultimate. Veronica got to rover before overdoing her approach, so left her ball in position. Pat hit in from 25 yards, mishit her rush to penult, then did a backward take-off which went 4 yards past her hoop — but she ran it, hit the 8 yard roquet and went out, to put herself and Andrew into the semi-finals — where they trampled John Haigh and Sarah Hampson +25. Bryan and Sue Sykes battled their way to the final, notably beating the holders, Martin Murray and Barbara Meachem, en route. Martin didn't have too bad a day however, for he beat Les Butler with two triple peels in the second round of the Men's.

Thursday was Men's Quarter-Finals day. Andrew Hope polished off Robin Hobbs +26, +24 with two triple peels in just under one and a half hours. Martin Murray made full use of the fact that Paul Hands stuck in hoop 1 three times during their match. Graeme Roberts also produced a triple peel to clinch a semi-final place at the expense of Eddie Bell — who has played well this season, notching up some fine wins. Humphrey Hicks appeared to be marching on, winning the first game by 4 against Ian Bond, but drifted out of the competition by losing the next two games by 10 and 9 — both games having their share of mistakes. Attention was drawn to Lawn 9 where Frances Joly and Sue Sykes were locked at 1 game each. In the decider both players had the lead at various stages but Sue just proved to be the better shot in the end to get through to the semi-final. The other Womens semi-final saw Veronica Carlisle outgunning Jane Neville-Rolfe with some accurate play.

Friday saw the top match of the week, Martin Murray versus Andrew Hope in the Mens semi-final. Andrew won the first game +17 with a copybook triple peel. Martin took the second game +26 with Andrew missing the few shots offered. The third game saw chances come and go for both, ending with Martin only able to peg out one ball but leaving the other very close to the peg — so that Andrew could only just see that ball behind the peg from about 15 yards. Andrew's luck was out as he watched his shot miss the peg but still avoid hitting the ball. So Martin was in the final. Ian Bond was in good form in the other semi-final against Graeme Roberts, winning both games +8, narrowly missing a triple peel in the first game. Graeme never felt at ease on the lawn as it seemed a faster pace than all the others he had played on during the week. In general the lawns were much grassier than usual due to the Cheltenham club's so far unsuccessful quest for a suitable groundsman and extra labour. Barbara Meachem appeared to have her semi-final against Sue Sykes under control with a comfortable win in the first game, but the second proved quite dramatic. Barbara made 1-back, 2-back and 3-back before time was called during the turn splitting up all 4 balls as best she could. This put her 1 hoop ahead with Sue for 2-back and penult. Sue decided against a lift — hitting a 7-yard roquet into the second corner. She took off to the other balls near the fourth corner, but didn't quite get a good enough rush to 2-back. The tea-time crowd held its breath as her take-off to the hoop went a couple of yards passed — but the sickening thud of ball against hoop was the end result, so Barbara went on to the final. Sue Sykes had played some good breaks during the week and it is surely only a matter of time before she wins this event. Immediately after this disappointment Sue took part in the Mixed Doubles Final. This proved to be an excellent game. Pat Asa-Thomas (partnering Andrew Hope) whizzed (yes, I said whizzed) round to 4-back with a lovely break. Bryan Sykes hit the lift and there following a bit of hoop scrambling before Sue Sykes got a break going, and under the brightest rainbow I've ever seen, she went to 4-back. Now it was up to the men. Bryan it was who took charge, and despite getting into apparent difficulties finished the game with a triple peel. I have a strong suspicion that this will not be the last time that Bryan and Sue are Mixed Doubles champions.

The Du Pre was also now in full swing — though it seems wrong to me that people should have to pay extra to play in what is, after all, a consolation event — with Bernard Neal beginning to regain form on his way to the final of the Draw, beating Bryan Sykes, John McCullough, and Dave Foulser to get there. Betty Prichard scored a shock victory over Edgar Jackson to move into the Draw semi-final, to await the outcome of other games. Saturday had its share of rain and sunshine — but more than its share of excitement. The Mens Final was played on court 1 this year with the "centre court" for the Womens Final. In the Mens final Martin Murray was quickly round to 4-back against Ian Bond, but Ian fought back until both players were for 4-back and peg. At this stage Martin got the innings to go a game up. The second game was all Martin by +25 with a triple peel. He is playing very confidently this year (as well he might — still fresh from his win over Nigel Aspinall in the England versus Scotland international at Nottingham) and always looked likely to win the event. Ian has continued to improve and is now a difficult opponent for anyone. The Womens Final ended in exciting fashion — despite the final game being on time. Barbara Meachem had won the first game easily, with Veronica Carlisle unable to hit the ball straight (I thought I'd mention this — retaliation for being told off by Veronica for not concentrating in a doubles match, although she was right!). Lunch, not that Veronica ate any, evened things up with a splendid game. Veronica got to 4-back quickly, Barbara soon followed suit, but it was the former who got going with her second ball to bring the match to 1-1 at tea. Everyone watching seemed to have a drink in their hand as the third game moved towards time. Barbara seems to thrive when time is imminent, and once again a useful few hoops were made before David Prichard

shouted the word. Veronica narrowly missed the long roquet she needed to give her a chance, so Barbara retained her title as Women's Champion. It was noted that the combined age of the 2 lady finalists was under 100 for the first time since 1922. The final stages of the Du Pre saw Dave Foulser beating Edgar Jackson +26, Bryan Sykes +17, and Bernard Neal +24 to reach the play-off, where he was to meet Bernard Neal again after the latter had beaten Betty Prichard in the Draw Final +24. Betty had done well to get to the final of one side — but then a Du Pre final without a Prichard is unthinkable! The play-off saw Bernard playing very accurately, giving Dave Foulser very few shots. Bernard eventually triumphed +25. As he pointed out afterwards 'That was a game I just had to win' — I wish I could think like that sometimes.

At the end of it all we were left wondering if the Caskets will be at Cheltenham again next year, or perhaps at Southwick — but, as usual, time will tell.

#### Results

##### Event 1. Mens Championship (23 entries)

Winner: **Dr M. Murray** bt (1) B.C. Sykes +5, +11; (2) L.S. Butler +23 (TP), +12 (TP); (3) P.W. Hands +17, +16; (SF) A.B. Hope —17 (TP), +26, +7; (F) I.D. Bond +5, +25 (TP).

Runner-UP **I.D. Bond** bt (2) G.W. Sisum +26, +25; (3) H.O. Hicks —4, +10, +9; (SF) Dr G.J. Roberts +8, +8. **A.B. Hope** bt (2) R.A. Godby +24, +20; (3) R.M. Hobbs +26 (TP), +24 (TP) **Dr G.J. Roberts** bt (1) D.R. Foulser +10, +5; (2) J. McCullough +11, —15, +11; (3) E. Bell +21, +13 (TP). **R.M. Hobbs** bt (2) P. Alvey +13, +14. **P.W. Hands** bt (1) G.E. P. Jackson +10 (TPO), +11; (2) F.J.R. Landor +9, +19. **E. Bell** bt (1) J. Haigh +20, +5; (2) T.F. Owen +15, +3 O.T. **H.O. Hicks** bt (2) Prof. B.G. Neal +15, +12. **L.S. Butler** bt (1) J.H.J. Soutter —20, +12, +9. **F.J.R. Landor** bt (1) Rev. W.E. Gladstone +18, +24. **T.F. Owen** bt (1) L.V. Latham —11, +26, +7.

##### Event 2. Womens Championship (18 entries)

Winner: **Mrs B. Meachem** bt (2) Mrs D.M.C. Prichard —2, +24, +11; (3) Mrs H. Handley +2 O.T., +17; (SF) Mrs B.C. Sykes +12, +1 O.T.; (F) Mrs H.B.H. Carlisle +18, —8, +3 O.T.

Runner-Up: **Mrs H.B.H. Carlisle** bt (2) Mrs B.G. Neal +11 O.T., +14; (3) Mrs E. Asa-Thomas +17, +15; (SF) Mrs J. Neville-Rolfe +2 O.T., +7. **Mrs B.C. Sykes** bt (2) Mrs E. Bressey +16, —5, +16; (3) Miss F. Joly —7 O.T., +19, +5. **Mrs J. Neville Rolfe** bt (2) Mrs J. Povey +13, +21. (3) Mrs R.F. Wheeler +17, +2 O.T. **Mrs H. Handley** bt (2) Miss S.G. Hampson +2 O.T., —16, +1 O.T. **Miss F. Joly** bt (1) Mrs B.L. Sundius-Smith —13, +11, +12; (2) Miss E.H. Arkell +2, —1, +7. **Mrs E. Asa Thomas** bt (2) Lady Bazley —21 O.T., +11 O.T., +3 O.T. **Mrs R.F. Wheeler** bt (2) Mrs G.T. Wheeler +9, +11. **Miss E.H. Arkell** bt (1) Mrs J.H.J. Soutter +11, +7.

##### Event 3. Mixed Doubles Championship (18 pairs)

Winners: **B.C. Sykes & Mrs B.C. Sykes** bt (2) P. Alvey & Lady Bazley +9; (3) E. Bell & Mrs J. Povey +5; (SF) Dr M. Murray & Mrs B. Meachem +16; (F) A.B. Hope & Mrs E. Asa-Thomas +17 (TP).

Runners-Up: **A.B. Hope & Mrs E. Asa-Thomas** bt (1) G.W. Sisum & Mrs H. Handley +14; (2) T.F. Owen & Miss F. Joly +16; (3) P.W. Hands & Mrs H.B.H. Carlisle +3; (SF) J. Haigh & Miss S.G. Hampson +25. **J. Haigh & Miss S.G. Hampson** bt (2) G.E.P. Jackson & Mrs R.F. Wheeler +1 O.T.; (3) Dr G.J. Roberts & Mrs D.M.C. Prichard +7 O.T. **Dr M. Murray & Mrs B. Meachem** bt (2) L.S. Butler & Miss E.H. Arkell +20; (3) J. McCullough & Mrs J. Neville-Rolfe +1 O.T. **Dr G. Roberts & Mrs D.M.C. Prichard** bt (2) L.V. Latham & Mrs E. Bressey +10 O.T. **P. W. Hands & Mrs H.B.H. Carlisle** bt (2) R.A. Godby & Mrs B.L. Sundius-Smith +7. **J. McCullough & Mrs J. Neville-Rolfe** bt (2) Prof B.G. Neal & Mrs B.G. Neal +3 O.T. **E. Bell & Mrs J. Povey** bt (2) Rev W.E. Gladstone & Mrs G.T. Wheeler +14. **T.F. Owen & Miss F. Joly** bt (1) J.H.J. Soutter & Mrs J.H.J. Soutter +19.

##### (Event 4. Mixed Doubles Y (9 pairs))

Winners: **G.E.P. Jackson & Mrs R.F. Wheeler** bt (2) L.V. Latham & Mrs E. Bressey +21; (SF) R.A. Godby & Mrs B.L. Sundius-Smith +15; (F) Rev W.E. Gladstone & Mrs G.T. Wheeler +19.

Runners-Up: **Rev W.E. Gladstone & Mrs G.T. Wheeler** bt (2) P. Alvey & Lady Bazley +9; (SF) Prof B.G. Neal & Mrs B.G. Neal +18. **R.A. Godby & Mrs B.L. Sundius-Smith** bt (2) G.W. Sisum & Mrs H. Handley +16. **Prof B.G. Neal & Mrs B. G. Neal** bt (2) L.S. Butler & Mrs E.H. Arkell +1 O.T. **G.W. Sisum & Mrs H. Handley** bt (1) J.H.J. Soutter & Mrs J.H.J. Soutter +2 O.T.

##### Event 5 Du Pre Cup

PLAY-OFF: **Prof B.G. Neal** bt D.R. Foulser +25.

#### DRAW

Winner: **Prof B.G. Neal** bt (2) B.C. Sykes +5; (3) J. McCullough +17; (SF) D.R. Foulser +6; (F) Mrs D.M.C. Prichard +24.

Runner-Up: **Mrs D.M.C. Prichard** bt (2) Mrs R.F. Wheeler +7 O.T.; (3) G.E.P. Jackson +14; (SF) L.S. Butler + O.T. **L.S. Butler** bt (2) R.A. Godby +11; (3) J. Haigh +5. **D.R. Foulser** bt (1) T.F. Owen +26; (2) G.W. Sisum +12; (3) P. Alvey +20; **J. Haigh** bt (2) R.M. Hobbs +5. **G.E.P. Jackson** bt (1) Rev W.E. Gladstone +8; (2) Mrs B.G. Neal +10. **J. McCullough** bt (1) Mrs E. Asa-Thomas +10; (2) L.V. Latham +19. **P. Alvey** bt (1) Mrs J. Povey +18; (2) Mrs J.H.J. Soutter +10. **L.V. Latham** bt (1) Mrs E. Bressey +9. **G.W. Sisum** bt (1) Miss S.G. Hampson +1 O.T.

#### PROCESS

Winner: **D.R. Foulser** bt (2) J. McCullough +13; (3) G.E.P. Jackson +26; (SF) Prof B.G. Neal +24; (F) B.C. Sykes +17.

Runner-Up: **B.C. Sykes** bt (2) J.H.J. Soutter +19 (TP); (3) J. Haigh w.o. opp. scr. by manager (SF) Miss S.G. Hampson +22. **Prof B.G. Neal** bt (2) Mrs J. Povey +17; (3) L.V. Latham +3 Miss S.G. Hampson bt (1) Mrs R.F. Wheeler +9; (2) Mrs G. T. Wheeler +3; (3) L.S. Butler +12. **G.E.P. Jackson** bt (2) Mrs J.H.J. Soutter +20. **L.V. Latham** bt (1) R.M. Hobbs +19; **G.W. Sisum** +7. **L.S. Butler** bt (2) P. Alvey +12. **J. Haigh** bt (1) Mrs E. Asa-Thomas; (2) T.F. Owen +7. **J. McCullough** bt (1) R.A. Godby +16. **G.W. Sisum** bt (1) Mrs D.M.C. Prichard +4. **Mrs J. Povey** bt (1) Rev W.E. Gladstone +4. **Mrs G.T. Wheeler** bt (1) Mrs E. Bressey +9. **P. Alvey** bt (1) Mrs B.G. Neal +14.

#### Varsity Match 9th June 1980

Like an imaginary Agincourt the tented fields of Hurlingham once more became the battleground for the clash between Oxford and Cambridge. How refreshingly unfriendly the match still is, entirely free of the genteel rivalry which normally masks the same desire to win.

Emerge first the knights of Oxford, brilliant in the morning sun, led by the brave Sir Francis. Then, not striding, rather shuffling onto the field around the dastardly Sir Richard, the once proud might of Cambridge, scarce white between them. A mutual agreement had set a three year appearance limit yet, lest the other should renegue, each had brought their aging heavy cannon, artillery that however remained silent through the day save for collecting the sandwich orders.

Battle was joined at 10.40 and by a little after noon the prowling Burn had demolished Aiton on lawn 5. A little late Rhodes pegged out against Coward who had till then never lost a singles game. Two up to Oxford but remembering that neither an early lead nor sartorial superiority had given them the match last year attention shifted to the other games.

Obviously important and prosperous gentlemen materialised around lawn 4 where the two captains faced each other. There could have been no greater contrast of style or appearance between them but Landor's graceful play did not suppress the wristy but effective jerks from the opposition. Increasingly annoyed with himself, Landor set up break after



break only to stick in a simple hoop or commit some other folly. Hilditch improved as the game went on and finally finished off the luckless Landor with a nice single peel. Oxfords consolation was that for the past three years whoever lost the top singles won the match.

As if to confirm this trend two more results came in. The admirably unhurried almost languid Hobson had ambled to victory over Wormald while Hardcastle eventually beat Allim after failing on a triple peel. At 4-1 to Oxford it became clear that the match could be decided before lunch and the spectators drifted over to lawn 2 where Atkinson and Macdonald had contrived to provide a well-timed nail-biting finish. With Cambridge for penultimate and peg, Oxford hit in and displaying a sang-froid that seemed to increase with the attention paid to the game, Atkinson played through his last few hoops and, to a deliberately restrained ripple of applause, clinched the match for Oxford.

The result decided and the tension gone the teams, and your correspondent, drank freely. This time there were no anxious conferences to rearrange the pairings for the afternoon doubles. In the event Oxford won all three though no one can remember much about how they did it.

The crushing margins in both games and points do not do justice to a lot of good play from Cambridge particularly by Hilditch and Coward but Oxfords strength in depth was in the end decisive — a reflection of the organisation and enthusiasm which has brought the club such a long way in the last three years and which has now emphatically ended Cambridges long reign at the top. Will Cambridge strike back in the years to come? Almost certainly not without a similar effort and a rather more outward looking attitude than has recently been obvious.

#### Results; Oxford names first

F. Landor lost to R. Hilditch -17. N. Rhodes bt M. Coward +19. M. Atkinson bt F. Macdonald +4. P. Hardcastle bt R. Allim +16. M. Burn bt K. Aiton +25. S. Hobson bt N. Wormald +20. F. Landor & M. Atkinson bt R. Hilditch & F. Macdonald +16. N. Rhodes & M. Burn bt M. Coward & R. Allim +17. P. Hardcastle & S. Hobson bt N. Wormald & K. Aiton +17.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY bt CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY 8-1

#### C.A. (Scotland) v C.A. (England). Edinburgh 28-29 June

Edinburgh City Council sponsored the annual fixture between the Scottish and English C.A.'s by letting the Scottish C.A. have the use of three very good bowling greens not far from the city centre, the hire of which would normally have been considerably expensive. The English team thought that the lawns were superb, as was the Scottish hospitality.

For the second successive year the event was won by the English team, who led 3-0 after the doubles on Saturday, and who eventually triumphed 6-3. In the top doubles, David Foulser hit in and went straight to 4 back, but Paul Hands broke down at 3 back, being hampered by a hoop, after completing two peels. Michael Heap and Stephen Wright had their chances but Hands soon hit in again to finish. In the second, Heap and Wright played far better and won comfortably, although Foulser had got to 4 back and Hands would have had a triple opportunity if he had not been hampered after running the first hoop. The deciding game was won by the visitors without the Scots taking croquet. Hands went to 4 back, Foulser did an all round break, including the 4 back peel, and Hands finished off after Heap missed the short lift shot. Tim Haste and Nick Norman were in impressive form in their doubles, taking the first game +26 without David Nichols and Stuart Malin taking croquet. The second game was somewhat closer but still a defeat for the home pair. Ian Wright and Bob MacLean also lost their match in straight games but made George Noble and Vincent Camroux fight all

the way in a lengthy battle.

On Sunday Michael Heap and Stephen Wright were both in better form. The latter hit Foulser's long tice, left it a yard west of hoop 2 and joined wide in the 4th corner. Foulser shot at his partner ball and went into the 2nd corner. Wright immediately went to 4 back, Foulser missed a long lift shot and Wright executed a splendid triple peel getting all the peels done before he made 3 back. In the second game both players got round to 4 back but Wright hit the lift and went to the peg, having only narrowly failed another triple peel. The peels had not gone smoothly and he ended up having to try a straight double peel, but the rover peel did not succeed. Foulser hit the short lift, made the 1st hoop and then missed a short roquet to give Wright victory. Hands was unable to concentrate in his singles whilst Heap looked most impressive. In the second game Hands went to the peg whilst his other ball was still for the first hoop. Heap duly pegged him out and that was virtually the end for Hands. Ian Wright played well to beat Camroux to obtain Scotland's only other success. George Noble tried triples against MacLean but did not complete them.

Results: Saturday

M.E.W. Heap and S.J.H. Wright lost to P.W. Hands and D.R. Foulser -19 +15 -26, I.H. Wright and R.N. MacLean lost to G.W. Noble and A.V. Camroux -9 -4 Dr. D.I. Nichols and Dr. R.S.C. Malin lost to Dr. T.J. Haste and N.A.J. Norman -26 -13

Sunday

M.E.W. Heap bt P.W. Hands +15 +11, S.J.H. Wright bt D.R. Foulser +26TP +16, R.N. Maclean lost to G.W. Noble -3 -22, I.H. Wright bt A.V. Camroux +9 +2, Dr. D.I. Nichols lost to Dr. T.J. Haste -13 -12, Dr. R.S.C. Malin lost to N.A.J. Norman -21 -6.

#### Obituaries

Dr. Robert Smartt of Budleigh Salterton died on 30th April, 1980, at the age of 87. Taking up croquet with enthusiasm on his retirement he soon became a familiar figure with his first wife at tournaments. At his best he played at +1, but his tactical skill enabled him to continue playing well into his eighties. He was also a competent water-colour artist and will be much missed as his genial personality made him many friends.

He is survived by his second wife, Audrey, to whom with his numerous descendants our sympathy is extended.

C.W.M.

#### The Editor's Dream

Within his sanctum's shade he sat,  
With pen and ink at hand,  
His head was nude, his attitude  
Was infinitely grand.  
The Editor slept and he dreamed of the things  
The new Gazette had planned.

He dreamt that, month by month, he watched  
Its circulation soar —  
Twas sold by newsboys in the street  
At bookstall shop and store.  
And with gratitude deep he relaxed in his sleep.  
What could he wish for more?

He dreamt that all old clubs revived  
Whilst new clubs came to stay,  
And hundreds stood in queues to join  
The flourishing C.A.  
And croquet became a most popular game  
Which thousands learned to play.

His journal Croquet proved itself  
An influence supreme  
The Council too had now become  
A most harmonious team.  
Then he woke — and he sighed to think all this  
Was nothing but a dream.

#### CORRESPONDENCE

##### Thanks from the South African Croquet Association

from Mrs D. C. Hobbs (Hon. Sec.)

Dear Sir

Once again I would like to state sincerely the pleasure it was to have a return visit by Richard Rothwell of the U.K. Croquet Association here with us for the Western Province Croquet Championships which took place from the 15-22 March 1980, and am sure we all feel he can be classed now as a "friend in need" ... as he toured and assisted help where necessary at all our clubs in South Africa.

Rather late results from the South African National Championships:—

S.A. Champion (7th time) T.Barlow  
Doubles Champions L. Sullivan and Mrs P. Hooper  
(Played in November 1979)

We would like to put forward our appreciation of the good work done by your past Editor, Betty Prichard, and wish you every success in this major task you have undertaken as Editor of the U.K. Gazette which we in South Africa enjoy to the full and find most instructive.

Yours sincerely  
Dilys Hobbs

##### Western Province C.A. Tournament 1981.

from Mrs D.J. Martin.

Dear Sir,

The dates of this tournament for 1981 are 7 — 14 March. I mention this now as players who wish to participate need to book flights in advance. Anyone wishing to enter may contact me.

We were happy to have Richard Rothwell with us this year and we are always pleased to welcome players from abroad. May I wish you a long and happy term as Editor of the Gazette.

P.O. Box 93, Observatory,  
Cape Town, 7935,  
South Africa.

Yours sincerely,  
Jean Martin,  
Hon. Sec.

##### Croquet in California

By Bryan Sykes

A game of croquet in England in February usually means playing under several layers of clothing and wishing one had had the sense to stay at home. Unfortunately for us England doesn't share the same climate as Southern California where shirtsleeves are the rule all year round. It was my good fortune to play under these conditions as a visitor to the Birnam Wood Country Club in Santa Barbara. As soon as I entered the vast grounds of this opulent club with their croquet supreme Capt Forrest Tucker, all thoughts of the serious business of science being conducted a mile down the road vanished from my mind.

The famous marble boundaries surround a lawn which is pampered almost as much as the guests. Almost optically flat, the crew cut surface is clinically free of weeds, the chance appearance of which one felt would lead to the summary dismissal of the entire ground staff.

I spent two idyllic afternoons there playing some relaxed doubles with Capt. Tucker against the affable pairing of Charlie Webber and Hector Cameron. The lawn is in such magnificent condition that rushing and pioneers seem superfluous and I well remember Hector Cameron winning a game with a ten hoop two ball break after his partner had been pegged out.

Both sessions were capped with exotic cocktails on the terrace of the lavishly appointed club house. In the palm trees, colourful woodpeckers hollowed out the bark to store acorns for the winter. They forget where they hid them or why because

winter never arrives. It was easy to forget why I was there either but all too soon I was back at the conference and then back home to the winter we all know too well, but bringing with me the memory of magnificent hospitality in magnificent surroundings.

B.S.

##### Are All players their own Referee?

from an anonymous associate

Dear Editor

As a novice and relative newcomer to croquet I write with some trepidation to the Editor. However, I am aware of the possible fouls and faults which can be made by a player but I am not sure that I would always recognise all the fouls, which is extremely worrying as it certainly would be a hollow victory if, after winning a game, somebody of experience suggests that one of the shots taken may have been suspect. Some fouls are very easy to determine, a common one made by novices being the "take-off" without moving the roqueted ball, but "double-taps", "shepherding" and hampered shots are not so easy to recognise. With hampered shots the solution is to call a referee to watch the shot, although referees are not always available when members are playing club events, the playing times of which are organised to suit the players involved.

My purpose in writing is to ask the question "should players, when receiving a handicap for the first time, be questioned on their awareness of (a) the existence of faults and fouls, (b) on their ability to recognise, foul shots which can occur at any time during a game, and (c) when it is necessary and correct to call a referee on to watch a shot". I realise that this would not be an easy task for the handicapper but, is it right that a player be given a handicap which gives him the privilege to play in tournaments and serious club events if he is totally unaware of the existence of foul shots. After all, he is his own referee, is'n't he?

Yours faithfully  
U. B. De Judge

##### Tournaments and the small club Member

by Mr K Cotterell

Dear Sir

It is with some trepidation that a newcomer to the game joins the correspondence in the gazette (average handicap of recent contributors is about 1). However, I would like to comment on tournaments from the point of view of the new player in a small club, who has only limited opportunity to meet good players.

His/her objective could be to win, to play attractively or hopefully both. Surely to win unattractively should not be in one's mind, but to my regret I found that in a knock-out competition this is just what I tried to do. It was more important to "have a game tomorrow" than to go for breaks. This is not perhaps entirely reprehensible when one considers that one is looking for experience, that precious leave has to be taken in order to play, and that travelling or accommodation costs can be considerable (see Chairman's report, Issue 155).

I therefore suggest that Club Committees consider the Knock-Out with a Swiss sweeper system pioneered at Cheltenham recently, where two games a day can be guaranteed. This should foster an adventurous spirit and lead to better play. After all, the top tournaments are all in blocks, not X and Y.

26 Edwin Road  
Didcot Oxon

Yours sincerely  
Ken Cotterell

##### More Experiments

from Edgar Jackson

Sir

I was interested in Mr Ian Howard Wright's experiments with hoops having wider uprights than normal. With the same



objective in view, Kitty Wheeler and I did a few trials along these lines, several years ago. We placed standard metal clips at the foot of each upright so that the effective width of the whole hoop, at ground level, was about 8½ inches while the depth (playing side to non-playing side) was only increased by about 1/8th inch.

We found that it was not so much hoop approaches that had to be improved, as the previous shot – the rush. But then we didn't do much work on the idea.

The scheme we used had the advantage, however, that clip or clips could be removed by the out-player. Thus wiring circumstances remained unaltered. It would also facilitate change back to the normal setting.

I too have long thought that developments along these lines are worth trying out. And what about the ground level East and West width of the Peg being 12 inches or so? Detachable of course.

Park House Thirlestaine Road  
Cheltenham Glos GL53 7AS

Yours faithfully  
G E P Jackson CBE

#### Four Ball Cannons.

Dear Sir,

I admire Mr Mason's attempts to fathom the intricacies of the 4 ball cannon by experimenting on his carpet. When I was rash enough to write my book, I did so in the close season and had no opportunity of testing exactly some of the shots I was describing, but which I knew how to play instinctively.

Aiming points will differ according to how the balls are placed. I can only say that the set-up described on page 107 of my book for a 3 ball cannon for the 1st hoop from the 4th corner will work. What I now regret is that I did not go on to describe the 4 ball cannon, which almost invariably arises in the same position.

Almost all players seem to find this difficult. Pat Cotter used to claim that the 3 ball cannon from the 4th corner for the 1st hoop never really worked and he more or less dismissed the 4 ball cannon so far as getting a ball to the 1st hoop was concerned.

I believe the problem lies in the fact that players think of cannons in terms of the 1st corner cannon for the 1st hoop. This is an extraordinarily easy cannon which anybody can master in half-a-dozen attempts. This is played with a free swing, with hardly any follow through.

Transferring this to the 4th corner cannon for the 1st hoop, almost all players play the same stroke, only harder. The croqueted ball goes almost to the 2nd hoop, but the roqueted ball hardly reaches the half-way mark. Play it with a full roll, or even as a pass-roll, and it will result in a perfect cannon.

The 4 ball cannon is exactly the same. You don't have to get it right up to the 1st hoop, because you still have an opportunity to get a rush on it, but it is very satisfying if you do. On a fast court, you may even send the promoted ball (or the roqueted ball in a 3 ball cannon) off the West yard line.

Pipersfield, Rusper Road,  
Newdigate, Dorking, Surrey. RH5 5BX.

Yours sincerely,  
John Solomon.

#### The Croquet Machine

by Mr F Fraser Ross

Dear Sir

The Croquet Machine has now, in principle, been designed, although not yet constructed. It will stand on two flat feet, each side of the ball, with the left foot shorter to give room for croquet shots. The mallet will be swung from a rigid axle about 125 cm (4 ft) from the ground, and pulled forward by a cord attached to a bell crank. The other arm of the bell crank will be pulled upward by another cord attached to an arm which is horizontal in mid-position and centrally pivoted; to the other end of this arm will be attached a weight, which will be roughly over the mallet-head in the drawn-back position.

The ball(s) will be positioned by means of a sheet of perspex hinged to the right leg at such a height as to be horizontal when resting on a ball, and equipped with a protractor for measuring angles. The mallet must be released from the drawn-back position in such a way as to impart no wobble, and preferably by remote control. This problem has not been completely solved.

Barbrona Coppice Lane  
Reigate Surrey RH2 9JF

Yours sincerely  
F Fraser Ross

#### Repair of Balls

by Mr M J Duck

Dear Sir

It was suggested in the Summer 1979 issue that if a piece breaks off the outer skin of a ball, a durable repair can be made using Araldite.

If the piece is recovered, one can do even better by dissolving it in Acetone (overnight) and pouring the resultant paste into the hole.

Arabis York Road  
West Hagbourne Oxon

Yours sincerely  
Michael Duck

#### Croquet In Foreign Parts

from Philip Robb

Dear Sir

I do not know whether you have much circulation beyond the British Isles. If you have, it would seem to me as a Canadian that a small section of your chronicle could refer to other clubs or individuals involved in the game of British croquet, residing in other parts of the world. I do not refer to tournaments or who competitors are, but general observations.

When I was visiting Bermuda with my wife this past spring, we stopped for luncheon at a delightful spot in Somerset. I had the pleasure of meeting the owner and his wife; and I immediately spotted a lovely croquet ground, and he said they had another one up the hill. I asked if their rules were the same as yours, and he replied, "Well, we play the British game under Palm Beach, Southampton and Bermuda regulations". Facetious, perhaps?

We have a small summer group of croquet enthusiasts here, on the north shore of the St. Laurence River below Quebec City. I confess we play our own regulations, which I am sure would amuse you immensely: . . . but it is fun,

Cap à l' Aigle  
Charlevoix PQ Canada GOT 1B0

Sincerely yours  
Philip H Robb

#### Opposition to timed matches in the Caskets!

from various competitors

Dear Sir

We are strongly opposed to the 3 hour time limit on every game in the Men's and Women's Championships.

Yours faithfully

H.O. Hicks, J. Haigh, L.S. Butler, I.D. Bond, P. Alvey, G.E.P. Jackson, Mrs L. Neal, Prof. B.G. Neal, Mrs S.Soutter, Miss S. Hampson, Mrs J.N. Rolfe, Mrs J. Sundius-Smith, Mrs D.A. Wheeler, Mrs K.M.O. Wheeler, Mrs S. Sykes, J.H.J. Soutter, Mrs E.E. Bressey, Mrs J. Povey, T.F. Owen, Mrs B. Meachem, Lady Bazley.

#### Further Opposition to Timed Championship Doubles

from Edgar Jackson

Sir

The decision to limit to 3 hours the Mixed Doubles Championship matches in the 1980 Caskets really surprised me. From experience this is a very tight allowance. Only once in the 8 years that the event has been played at Cheltenham has the average duration of the matches been less than 2 hours 50 mins. In 1975 when the entry was small, only 17 matches in the event, about 30 being the usual, the average was 2 hours 37 mins. In the other years the average duration has ranged

between 2 hours 51 mins, to 3 hours 10 mins.

Unless it is to be policy to introduce into the Mixed Doubles Championship the skills of the end play involving the calling of TIME, which I would regret, and I know I am not alone in this, a limit of nothing less than 3½ hours should be adopted.

But is a time limit in a Championship appropriate? Would it not be best to plan the detailed requirements of the Week so that an overall time limit is not laid down, allowing the Manager to cope in the circumstance of the time, if need be.

Park House Thirlestaine Road  
Cheltenham Glos GL53 7AS

Yours faithfully  
G E P Jackson CBE

#### Croquet in Clissold Park

In the heart of the badlands between Hurlingham and Colchester lies a small public park administered by Hackney council. When the writer arrived to live in Clissold Court, adjacent to the park, his experience of croquet was limited to the old 'balls in sequence' game played, furtively and at dusk, on the fairways of Woodford Green golf course. On asking a park keeper if he could play croquet on the rough grass of the park he was answered in the negative. Croquet was only permitted on the croquet court!

Situated between a large house inside the park and a beautiful spired church, the setting was truly picturesque. Apparently the lawn had been used regularly by two clerical gentlemen. They had not been seen for some time, but the lawn was still fit for the game. There were a few impediments such as the huge Cedar of Lebanon situated between hoops four and five, and the manhole cover coincident with the peg. The cedar, which was dead, has since been felled. The authorities subsequently planted several new trees, but were persuaded that they did not improve the game and removed them. Croquet in Clissold Park has a considerable history by all accounts. Elderly passers-by sometimes mention that they saw the game being played between the wars, and there is some evidence in County Hall records that the game was played here as early as 1906. Next to the court is an old bowls green, since converted to flower beds. Clissold Park seems to be the only park within the greater London area to offer croquet.

The writer and his friends played their old-rules croquet for several years until 1971. In that year the Chairman of the London Inter Varsity Club, Alan Martin, started an Association Croquet section, which met in Clissold Park. The club still meets on Sundays, and is currently organised by the writer. A previous organiser for some three years was Michael Stevens.

Recently Michael suggested to me that the Inter Varsity Club (IVC) must have introduced more newcomers to the game than any other club. We still have the attendance book which has been used continuously since 1971, and it appears that we have instructed some 265 members over the past ten years. The nature of IVC is such that members can attend any of a large number of different activities. Quite a few try croquet, but some find it rather demanding and disappear from view. Many are young people on the move, changing jobs and getting married, so we do not expect a large number of regulars. Nevertheless, some 30 members have attended regularly, at different times, over a period of years. Eight players have entered CA tournaments, and one hopes that many of the others will eventually take up the game on a more permanent basis.

Croquet in Clissold Park is somewhat different to the game played in the confines of a private club. We have to tolerate a certain amount of attention from Hackney 'youth'. Some cheer every shot in the 'game with six goals'. Others adopt a more truculent attitude which can generally be dispelled by explaining that croquet is like snooker, but more robust. Some disbelievers have been invited to try a simple shot, such as a split roll from corner one sending the balls to corners two and three! There have been several 'incidents'. Once we had a

parade of elephants around the boundary. On another occasion there was a minor race riot in which hoops were pulled up and thrown at us. Luckily we had our mallets!

In recent years the court has deteriorated. The severe droughts of 1976 and 1977 reduced the court to bare earth, and the ever-tightening parks budgets have made it impossible to provide the proper amount of maintenance. Nevertheless, we are grateful to the head park keeper, Mr Boyle, who sees that the lawn is cut each week, and that the boundary is kept marked. The writer is permitted to use one of the rollers from time to time, though the effect is marginal. A really heavy roller is badly needed. Nevertheless the court is playable, and several groups in the neighbourhood have expressed an interest in getting some equipment and taking up the game. In fact the local church organist and some friends have made their own hoops and mallets and play a very creditable game. Perhaps, in a year or two, there may be a Clissold Park Croquet Club.

Eric Solomon

#### One Hundred and Twenty Years Ago

(being extracts from a popular handbook of the day)

Costume:— "Some of our readers may consider that we are scarcely justified in suggesting the proper croquet costume for those young ladies whose participation in the game has materially aided in imparting to it the popularity it now enjoys, but as our suggestions will be quite rudimentary, we trust that they will be received in a gentle spirit. As one of the most prominent reasons of the pleasure that men take in the game is the sight with which they are indulged of a neatly turned pair of ankles and pretty little boots, we hint that young ladies, when playing croquet, should don their prettiest boots, provided that they are adorned with good strong soles. We respectfully request, however, that they banish from the game those hideous boot-coverings known as goloshes, or (vulgarily) beetle-crushers. The dress should be looped up, or not only will it spoil many a good stroke, but with its sweeping train will probably disturb the position of some of the balls – a very common, but very aggravating circumstance, as many young players know to their cost."

"The best costume for gentlemen is that which the late Mr Thackeray characterised as "the prettiest dress for boys that has been invented these hundred years" – knickerbockers. Many men will look almost graceful when dressed in white flannel knickerbockers with jacket, shirt and cap to match. Cricketing shoes, minus the spikes, which would chip the balls, and perhaps stick into them, are to be recommended, in consequence of the softness of the leather. A game of croquet, played by people dressed as we have suggested, presents a more charming appearance than possibly most people imagine."

The Hoops:— "The hoops, ten in number, are made of iron. They are about sixteen inches high, and twelve inches wide; although these dimensions are not of much importance . . . When the hoops are painted white, the play can be continued to a late hour without the chance of such a casualty as the breaking of one's shins against the iron hoops."

Clips:— We do not recommend the use of these, as they are liable to cause much confusion, and certainly give a great deal of trouble to those players who adopt them."

Marking Board:— "A gentleman has invented a marking board, on which is placed the position of each player after his stroke is made; but as this requires an umpire to mark the positions of the balls, we do not think the plan worth adoption."

Notes on Play:— "It must be evident to anybody who knows anything about the game, that it is a more difficult task to strike the post than pass through a hoop." "The excitement towards the end of the game is almost inconceivable; each stroke is watched with the keenest interest. Gradually one by one the players hit the post until, perhaps, only two remain,



and now occurs an opportunity for skilful play. If the two opponents are good players, they afford a rare treat to the bystanders . . . At length one plays at the post, misses it and sends his ball near his adversary, who first hits it, next croquets it away, and then strikes the post, while all his side wave their mallets aloft, and loudly shout "Victory!"

## DOUBLE-DOUBLES

What on earth is 'Double-Doubles'? To the initiated it is a particularly rewarding form of practice and instruction in the game of Croquet.

The writer has seen one of our leading young players come home from his daily work and 'play himself' a perfectly strict game of croquet, playing both sets of colours, trying the triple peel, and breaking down occasionally, as even the best players do.

Double-doubles is a similar pastime for two people, usually one low and one high bisquer, in which let us say the senior partner takes red on the one side, and blue on the other, and the junior partner plays black and yellow and they play a strict game of doubles in this way — just the two of them. Although strictly speaking both sides have the same ability, it is sometimes fun for one side to be given say two or two and a half bisques so that the use of them can be explained in the course of the game by the 'instructor' for that is what the lower bisquer really is intended to be in this form of amusement. Yet the fact that they are both on the same side makes all the difference to the atmosphere of instruction. It becomes a real partnership in an amusing enterprise.

The participants may even toss as to which colours start, and then probably make a conventional opening. Let us suppose it is red and yellow to the fourth corner, black laying a tice, and blue missing it. It is suggested that red will roquet yellow, and roll them over to the south baulk line, and leave yellow a 'dolly' rush to hoop one, explaining to him that he as the senior partner (red), will endeavour to get yellow round to something like four back, before starting himself, unless circumstances dictate it to be otherwise desirable. The tice black, will probably be instructed to shoot his ball half way along the north boundary, and be asked why? It is hoped that the answer will be — "so that if we are not moved by our opponents, blue will be able to shoot at black, and go off into the third corner if he misses".

This talk and discussion is the essential part of the game, although it must not be lengthy to spoil the rhythm of either side. Let us suppose that yellow has got going and is approaching the third hoop off his particular ball, but fails to get position. Blue is near the peg, black is near hoop four. Now blue asks black what is the correct shot to play. Black may say, "shoot at red and go into the third corner if you miss". If blue is a very good shot, it might be the right answer, but fundamentally, blue should say to black — "No, you are at yellows next hoop, so you must move — what do you think is your best shot?" The answer probably should be "shoot hard at your blue, near the peg, and go off if I miss". "Quite right" says blue and they act accordingly.

Red will then instruct yellow the best way to make his hoop, and get a rush towards blue, (assuming that black did not hit) and to set up the three ball break to make four and five.

This goes on all through the game; it means that both players are continually involved, the junior partner is asked for his opinion, which makes him think, he can be corrected if he gives the wrong answer, or commended if he gives the right one. It has proved a very satisfactory way of getting fundamental tactics over to the higher bisquer. The strange thing is that one or other side always seems to have a fairly easy win, there seem to be few close games. But the great thing is that one side has the satisfaction of winning to the great joy usually of the higher bisquer and gives him encouragement.

## Secretary's Notes

### New Associates

- J Simon W. Down, 12 North Lawn, Ipswich, Suffolk.  
 J John O. Walters, 17 Wroxham Road, Ipswich, Suffolk.  
 J W.O. Aldridge, Uplands, 35 Hartley Road, Altrincham, Cheshire. Tel: 061-928-3146.  
 J Martin J.H. Burn, Needham Lodge, Ferry Road, Bray, Berks.  
 S Mrs T.F. Owen, Frondeg, 18 Raddinden Manor Road, Hove, Sussex, BN3 6NH. Tel: (0273) 502535.  
 S Mrs P.E. Jagger, 6 Chalfont Drive, Hove, Sussex. BN3 6QR.  
 S W.B. Denison, Foxheath, Brook Drive, Bracknell, Berks, RG12 3JJ. Tel: (0344) 29018.  
 J Mrs L.V. Latham (D), Flat 1, Oldway House, Wellington, Somerset, TA21 8EB.  
 S B.R. Lawrence, Keepers Cottage, The Shaw, Leckhampsted, Buckingham. MK18 5PA. Tel: (028 06) 2544.  
 R Lt. Comdr. R.M.D. Ponsonby, RN. 172 Rivermead Court, Ranelagh Gardens, London. SW6. Tel: 01-736-5344.  
 R Mrs A. Rimmer, 23 Manchester Road, Southport, PR9 9AY  
 S Martin Abram, 37 Marylebone Lane, London. W1M 5FN. Tel: 01-935-3598.

### Deaths

- Mrs C. Gratrix  
 Horace G.B. Wagnall  
 Mrs Walter Jones  
 Captain Colin Maud, DSO, DSC, RN.

### New Referees

- Dr. C.W. Marshall  
 G.J. Roberts

### New Registered Club

- Coal Research Establishment National Coal Board, Stoke Orchard, Near Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL52 4RZ. Tel: Bishops Cleeve (0242 267) Secretary: S.G. Jones (extension 248). Home: 27 Innsworth Lane, Longlevens, Gloucestershire. GL2 0DG.

### Disbanded Club

- Unilever Unilever Research Laboratories, Isleworth, Middlesex.

### Changes In The Clubs

- Bentley New Secretary: F. Hugh Northcote, MBE, TD., Millbrook, Hillwood Close, Hutton, Brentwood, Essex. Tel: Brentwood (0277) 212864.  
 British Airways New Secretary: D. Goulding, British Airways, Bealine House, Ruislip, Middlesex. HA4 60L. Tel: 01-845-1234 Extension 5501. Home: 167a Whitby Road, Ruislip, Middlesex, HA4 9EB.  
 Budleigh Salterton New Croquet Secretary: S.F. Blackler, 5a Fore Street Hill, Budleigh Salterton, Devon. EX9 6PE. Tel: (039 54) 2688.

- Harrow Oak New Secretary: Dr E.W. Solomon, 3 Clissold Court, Greenway Close, Green Lanes, London. N4 2EZ. Tel: 01-800-3362.  
 Reckitt Club New address of Secretary: I.D. Bond, 19 Tintern Street, Clapham, London. SW4 7QQ. Tel: 01-737-0423.  
 Stourbridge Address of Secretary: G.E.P. Young, Avondale, Vale Street, Ruiton, Sedgley, Worcestershire. Tel: Sedgley (090 73) 4829.  
 Woking Club Tel: (048 62) 60574.

## Handicap Alterations

- Cheltenham (W/E 5-7 April)* Mrs T.W. Anderson 9 to 8; A.J. Collin 6 to 5½; S.J.W. Hoole 4½ to 4;  
*Handicap Co-Ord Committee (April)* D.W. Archer 3;  
*East Riding (Club - Feb)* E.E. Scott 6 to 5; Rev. D. Anderson 8 to 7;  
*Ellesmere (Club - Feb)* Mrs W. Hague 10 to 9;  
*Rondebosch, Cape Town (March)* C. Abderhalden 6½ to 5½; Mrs C. Abderhalden 10 to 9;  
*Scottish CA (April)* R.N. McLean 1½ to 1; Dr D.I. Nicholls 2 to 1½; D. Reeves 5½ to 5; Mrs C.A. Rowe 6 to 5;  
*Southwick (Club-April)* Major T. Vale 12 to 9;  
*Devonshire Park (7-12 April)* S.J. Hobson 12 to 9; Mrs R.F. Wheeler 2½ to 2;  
*Woking (Club-May)* W. Denison 5; Mrs I.G. McDiarmid 14 to 13 (D11); Mrs H.F. Nalder 7 to 8; C. Newman 13 to 8;  
*Roehampton (24-27 April)* Miss J.E. Assheton 8 to 7; Mrs I.P.M. McDonald 9 to 10;  
*Harwell (Club - May)* Mrs K. Cotterell 15 to 14;  
*Southwick (28 April -3 May)* J.S.H. Battison 2½ to 2; Dr C.J. Chandler 9 to 8; Miss C. Cox 6 to 5;  
*Thames Valley (10-11 May)* L.B. Barnes 10 to 9; Mrs L.B. Barnes 14 to 12. Dr G.D. Coley 9 to 8; Mrs H.A. Pim 7½ to 8; R.J. Smith 8 to 7; J.L. Wankling 9 to 8; R. Harris 5½ to 4 (Non-Associate);  
*Cheltenham (W/E 3-5 May)* M.J. Evans 1½ to 1; T. Griffith 4; M.T. Paddon 14 (D12);  
*Hurlingham (Club - May)* D.C. Cross 8 to 7; Dr H.J. Elverson 6½ to 5½; Lt. Col. C.M. Fox 11 to 10; Prof. A.W. Skempton 5 to 6;  
*Budleigh Salterton (5-10 May)* P.A. Dwerryhouse 11 to 10; R. Forth 7 to 8; M.M. Hawthorne 12 to 11; H.E. Ovens 6 to 4½; Mrs H.E. Ovens 9 to 8; Mrs S.R. Stevens 8 to 7½; Mrs D. Wallace 12 to 11;  
*Southwick (12-17 May)* Mrs W.A. Scarr 6½ to 6;  
*Cheltenham (12-17 May)* K. Cotterell 10 to 8; F.J. Exell 10 to 9; M.T. Paddon 14(D12) to 12(D10); G. Sisum 6½ to 5½; Mrs K.G. Yeoman 8 to 7½;  
*Compton (W/E 8-11 May)* J.H. Bowman 6 to 4;  
*Hunstanton (Club - May)* J.W. Wood 8 to 6;  
*Colchester (Club - May)* Mrs G.S. Digby 3 to 4; G.F. Hallett 2 to 3;  
*Colchester (W/E 24-26 May)* Mark Avery 7 to 6; R.A. Girling 5½ to 5 (Non-Associate);  
*Himley Hall (17-18 May)* K.F.W. Townsend 8 to 10;

*Cheltenham (W/E 24-27 May)* P. Cordingley 6½ to 6; R.B.W. Gladstone 5 to 5½; S.J.W. Hoole 4 to 3½; S.G. Jones 5 to 4; Dr C.W. Marshall 9 to 10; W.Morton 11 to 12; Mrs E.M. Pursey 9 to 8; G. Sisum 5½ to 5; Mrs B.C. Sykes 5 to 4; Mrs M.A.L. Warren 10 to 9;

*Nottingham (W/E 30 May - 1 June)* Mrs W. Hague 9 to 8; J.R. McCullough 2½ to 2; Mrs N. Tyldesley 5 to 6;

*Parkstone (2-7 June)* R.H.C. Carder 4½ to 4; J.R. McCullough 2 to 1; Dr J.A. McMordie 7 to 5½; Mrs B.R. Sanders 14 to 14(D12); F.L. Shergold \*11 to 8 (During Play)

*Hunstanton (W/E 6-8 June)* J. Gosden 3½ to 3; S.G. Jones 4 to 3;

### Men's & Women's Championships (16-21 June)

E. Bell 1 to ½, I.D. Bond 1 to ½, D.R. Foulser 0 to -½, A.B. Hope -1½ to -2, Dr M. Murray -2 to -2½, G. Sisum 5 to 4½, B.C. Sykes ½ to 0, Mrs S. Sykes 4 to 3.

## Longman Cup 1980

### 1st Round

Coal research (Cheltenham) bt Bristol 3-2  
 British Airways bt Woking 3-2  
 Roehampton bt Parsons Green 3-2

### 2nd Round

Ellesmere bt East Riding 4-1  
 Bowdon bt Southport & Birkdale 4-1  
 Chester bt Stourbridge 3-2  
 Walsall bt Wolverhampton 3-2  
 Bath bt Coal Research 3-2  
 Oxford University bt Cheltenham 3-2  
 Harwell bt Bretby 3-2  
 Edgbaston bt Nottingham W/O  
 Southwick bt Ryde 4-1  
 British Airways bt Compton 3-2  
 Hurlingham bt Roehampton 3-2  
 Harrow Oak bt West Park 3-2  
 Hunstanton bt Colchester 3-2  
 Colworth bt Ingatstone 3-2  
 Phyllis Court bt Reigate Priory 3-2  
 AWRE Aldermaston bt Maidenhead 5-0

### 3rd Round

Ellesmere bt Bowdon 3-2

## Inter-Club Championship

### 1st Round

Cheltenham 2 bt Heley Club 5-2  
 West Park bt Southport & Birkdale 4-3

### 2nd Round

Compton bt Southwick 5-4  
 Harrow Oak bt Phyllis Court W/O  
 Roehampton bt Bowdon 7-0

## Apps and Steel Bowl Awards 1980

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