

New Associates

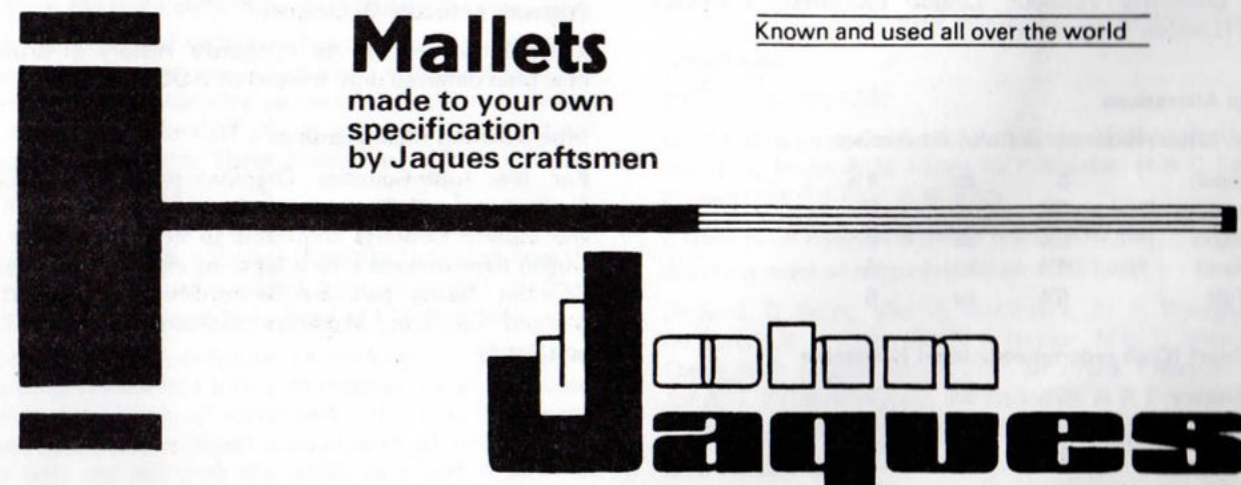
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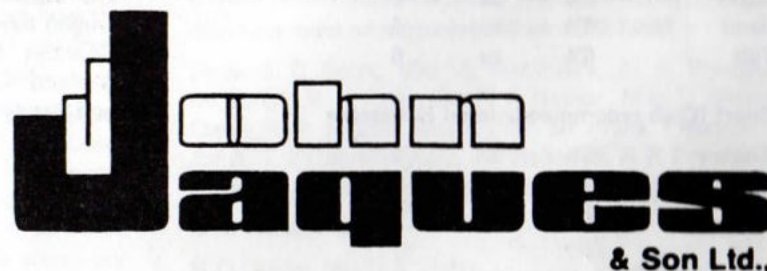


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THE CROQUET GAZETTE

ISSUE No 159

APRIL 1981

Chairman's Report 1980/81

The year 1980 contained a number of features, the most important, in my opinion, being the significant increase in the number of young players who have come into the game. The total number of new players who joined Clubs also increased very considerably, thanks to the recruitment drive — the great success of which was due to the immense amount of work put in by Lionel Wharrad and his committee and also to the excellent co-operation received and the work done by the clubs. In August last the new members of clubs numbered over 400 and it now remains to see how many of these will continue to play this year. The coaches at the clubs worked very hard instructing new members and I am sure the two seminars on coaching which were held recently will prove of considerable benefit.

For the first time the game has received sponsorship and both the Cheltenham Club new event of an Open Week-end for low handicapped players which was sponsored by a local firm and the Pimm's sponsorship of Home International matches proved most successful. They are both being repeated in the coming season. A new sponsored event in Ireland may also take place but plans are not yet finalised.

One innovation which appears to have been accepted quite happily by members is the power handicappers now have to increase handicaps without the consent of the players concerned. This is a move which many members of the CA considered long overdue. An interesting side-line on this is the much increased number of players who have requested their handicaps to be put up — and this has usually been readily granted. We are, therefore, gradually bringing handicaps nearer into line than they may have been in the past and this is now more than ever important since seeding in many events will be permitted in 1981 if the club management running the tournament wishes it.

Another introduction in 1981 will be having elimination rounds for entry to the Opens Singles Championship so that this will be truly open to all but will enable the final number of acceptances to be kept to a manageable number for the time available.

During the past year the BBC at their suggestion made a pilot film of croquet for television with a view to showing a series of matches if it was successful. I and some other members of Council have seen this and consider it certainly to be successful but whether it is acceptable to the powers that be is as yet unknown. Should any such a series be shown on television it would undoubtedly create an enormous interest in our sport and possibly an overwhelming demand by potential players. How the problem of shortage of courts would be met I do not know but publicity of this sort should be of general benefit to the game. We must, however, be ever vigilant that the amateur status of the game is not affected.

I am particularly pleased at the development of both the Midlands and the Northern Federations which have done much to further the popularity of croquet in their areas and long may this continue. We were very pleased to be able to arrange

to hold one of the Home International matches at Southport this year, that between Scotland and Wales on May 30th, and I hope it will draw spectators from afar.

We have been very concerned at the continued delay in the production of the Gazette and this really is due to factors beyond our control. Our editor should be congratulated on getting out the publications as quickly as he does. We realise very fully the importance of publishing results of tournaments as quickly as possible and to this end the format of the Gazette is being altered. We intend to publish small issues at least five times during the playing season in addition to larger issues in the Winter and Spring, so there will be nearly twice the number of issues this year. The smaller issues will primarily contain results.

While I am naturally concerned with inflation relative to the finances of the CA, I am more concerned as to the effects it may be having on our Registered Clubs. I have in mind particularly the rising costs of replacement of equipment and upkeep of courts. The CA is prepared to assist clubs when possible but can only do so to a very limited extent. It must, therefore, be up to the Clubs themselves to avoid succumbing to the situation.

I would close my remarks by thanking members of Council and particularly the hard working committees which do so much behind the scenes. Particular mention should also be made of our Treasurer — Alan Oldham — who guides our financial affairs so competently and of Richard Rothwell who puts in many more hours of work as Secretary than many realise.

To all of these I extend my thanks, and wish you all an enjoyable and successful season.

R A Godby

Gazette Changes For 1981

The Editorial Board have considered the means by which the results and reports of tournaments could more speedily be published to Associates. As a result the Board recommended to Council that in 1981 there should be; two main Gazettes, one in April/May and one in November/December, each having slightly more pages than the current standard issue; and four or five Gazettes, with fewer pages, appearing during the Summer and Autumn. The content of these smaller Gazettes would be almost entirely made up of the results and reports of tournaments. These recommendations have been accepted.

It is much easier to produce Gazettes containing 4, 6 or 8 pages than it is to compile a 20-page issue and there may even be a small saving in cost per page. On the other hand mailing charges will increase (by an estimated £500 to £600) because there will now be 6 or 7 issues per year instead of 4. The Editorial Board however feels that this price should be paid to meet the very reasonable wish of Associates to receive Croquet news promptly.

A number of minor changes are also being made in the

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. GL52 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.

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.

appearance of the Gazette to achieve economies, and the form in which results of tournaments are published will revert to the old style (with some modifications in the use of varying type faces).

A J Oldham
Chairman Editorial Board

New Zealand Trip

Martin Murray, Graeme Roberts and myself visited New Zealand last winter. We played two matches representing Cheltenham against Hawkes Bay — John Prince, Keith Woollet and Charles Crosbie; and Wellington — Paul Skinley, David Curtis and Jim Wardle. Cheltenham won both matches. Unfortunately the distance between Cheltenham and New Zealand makes an annual fixture unlikely.

We spent Christmas with the Roberts in Wellington and went swimming on Christmas Day. Martin and I then set off on a sightseeing and train spotting holiday of the South Islands (without our mallets). Both the hospitality and the weather were marvellous. We stayed with Mary Murfitt's brother-in-law, John Aspinall on his 26,000 acre sheep farm at Mount Aspiring. The Rowlings put us up for one night and Gordon took us for a trip in his speed boat along the north coast of the South Island and we stayed with Mary's parents in Christchurch where the sheep shearing was in full swing.

We returned to Auckland to take part in the North Island Championships. Martin and I (representing Scotland), won the doubles. I reached the final of both halves of the Opens and with my usual grace managed to lose to Martin in one side and Joe Hogan in the other. Joe beat Martin in the play-off. Paul Skinley beat Bob Jackson in the final of the Mens.

It was a fabulous vacation, everybody was so friendly — just one more reason to be thankful I took up croquet and not international weightlifting as a pass-time.

Andrew Hope

Editor's Note

There will no longer be shown a Deadline for contributions in the Gazette as it will not now be appropriate. It will be vital for tournament results and reports to be submitted immediately following the conclusion of tournaments in order that they can be published as quickly as possible.

Recruitment of New Croquet Players in 1980

The splendid efforts made by many clubs to increase playing membership in 1980 resulted in there being between 400 and 450 more people playing croquet on the 1st of August than

there were at the beginning of the season.

The results seem to justify the view expressed by Lionel Wharrad at the 1979 Croquet Association conference, that "any club can recruit as many members as it wants — all that is required is enough energy and enough cash harnessed to a well-thought out campaign". The C As publication 'Recruitment of Members 1980' appears to have been helpful to many clubs, those such as Colchester (who carried out many of the suggestions plus some very good ones of their own) have certainly been pleased with the results achieved.

There is some evidence from club reports on their recruitment efforts that once club members have accepted the need for new members, their own enthusiasm alone generates potential members from their own circle of friends. Some clubs found this to be the most potent source for new members.

The real problem arises when a club has badly declined in numbers and there are only a handful of members left. Such clubs do need outside help both with the recruitment campaign itself and with the subsequent coaching. Any club requiring help in 1981 should write to Lionel Wharrad, Chairman of the Publicity and Development Committee at the Croquet Association and he will organise assistance for any club requiring it.

Quite apart from the use of advertising by posters and leaflets, one quite successful idea has been to invite selected local organisations to an evening at the club. The main advantage of this method is that it does not cost very much, and that players recruited in this way do not find themselves isolated in the club but are already members of a familiar group within the club right from the start.

It is probable however that the real problem lies in retaining the interest of potential members after the initial visit. Demonstrating to and coaching beginners is hard work and not too many people have the flair and patience to do it well. There is some evidence that whereas we can now get people to come along in large numbers to try out the game, it is still relatively difficult to hold their interest after the excitement and involvement of members in the original coaching has waned.

A number of clubs have reported on this problem; it is clearly and essential element in the process of bringing new people into the game to maintain their interest by arranging special events, games and competitive tournaments and continuous coaching over several seasons.

The C A will be organising a brain-storming session in the spring at which clubs who have tackled this problem successfully will be invited to pool their ideas with a view to producing a useful coaching guide for all clubs.

Colchester Recruitment Drive 1980

Colchester was brilliantly successful in recruiting new members in 1980. They opened the season with about 50 members but less than 20 of these played more than infrequently and the vast majority of members were over 65; few members were helping in the day-to-day running of the club. The club has 4 courts.

Action was clearly needed before the club became too weak to fight for its existence.

The most important first task was to identify where most profitably to look for new members. The choice was narrowed by the need to attract people who would play frequently and help run the club. Experience suggested that the recruiting net should be cast as near to the club as possible . . . people living

near to the club were more likely to be regular players and to help run the club.

The club is in the middle of a good residential district much of which is less than 20 years old — most people in the immediate neighbourhood did not know that the club existed.

The next problem was to decide on the scale of the campaign. It is assumed that most club members would help, but so as not to bite off more than the club could chew, it was thought sensible to assume that few would be able to give more than 3 or 4 hours of their time.

So the decision was made that the recruitment effort should take 2 forms, firstly an open week-end to which people would be invited by advertisement, poster and leaflet, and secondly by specific invitations to suitable local groups to spend an evening at the club to see and try out the game.

It was thought that each of the 2 days of the week-end should provide 3 sessions. Four half lawns were to be set up with 4 pupils being invited for each lawn per session. Thus 96 visitors could be given an introduction to the game in one week-end.

Colchester had, as their target, the recruitment of 20 new members and it was decided that the distribution of 2200 leaflets would be made; a team of members distributed these to selected roads in the vicinity of the club between 7 and 14 days before the recruitment week-end.

The leaflet followed closely the C A draft leaflet and the recommendations made in the C A paper on 'recruitment of members 1980' which had been sent to all clubs. The leaflet highlighted the opportunity it gave for people to learn about the game free of charge and thereafter offered to those who showed most promise a free coaching course and virtually free membership for a month.

The leaflet was worded in such a way as to encourage people to book themselves for a particular session by telephone. In the event not all who turned up had booked, but sufficient did so to give the club a good idea of the likely attendance to enable them to arrange for enough instructors to be available.

Apart from the house-to-house distribution, some of the leaflets were displayed as posters in eye-catching positions.

The local sports shop, the brewer who supplies the club, the firm which services their mowers, and the club itself each paid about £40 for individual advertisements in the local paper. The paper allowed a feature article and photographs — in all this amounted to nearly a half-page spread. This paper was published on the Friday immediately before the recruiting week-end.

During the week both B B C and commercial television visited the club and both subsequently ran long and serious reports.

In the event introductory sessions were given to 82 people at this special week-end.

But there was also the second prong of the campaign, the invitations to local groups. The club felt that there were many business, recreational, educational professional and social organisations who might be persuaded to visit the club as a group . . . four special evenings were planned, but three of these were for dates after the recruiting week-end, and by the time the week-end was over about 60 people had been promised coaching sessions over the coming weeks. The club thus decided to treat these special invitation evenings as pleasant social occasions with no effort being made to recruit. This method of bringing people along to try out the game is not one that has been tried out by many clubs, and Colchester's success might encourage some clubs to try this

method of attracting new members in 1981. Altogether 53 people attended the Colchester evening sessions.

A brief statistical summary of the Colchester campaign of course disguises all the hard work and detailed organisation involved, but the basic figures are impressive.

167 people attended at the club.

114 were given instruction.

68 of these were booked for subsequent coaching sessions.

46 of these joined the club as a result.

In addition to those who joined as a direct result of their campaign, another 10 people joined the club during the season, so that Colchester more than doubled their membership in 1980.

Several other factors might have helped to persuade so many people to visit the club.

The date of the week-end was chosen so as not to clash with any national event and to a lesser extent with any major local event.

The rain on the Saturday of the week-end was torrential — this might have persuaded people to stay near to home both on Saturday and Sunday . . . the Sunday evening session had the most casual visitors.

The level of advertising and leaflet distribution seemed to have reached a point that the campaign became a local talking point thus the advertising became in a sense self-regenerating.

Members handling telephone enquiries were primed to give the impression of an efficient organisation — they were armed with answers to all likely questions and they were meticulous in collecting names and addresses even if the enquirers did not want to book a session.

Members were encouraged to ask their friends to visit the club, and it probably provided an easy opportunity for some to do so without feeling obligated to the member who introduced them.

Perhaps in a later edition of the Gazette, Colchester will report on their coaching methods and other activities which helped them to convert so many of the original enquirers into club members.

Obituary

Dr C A Boucher CBE

His many friends in the croquet world, and at the Phyllis Court Club in particular where he was past chairman of the Croquet Section, will be saddened at the death of Tony Boucher on 30th January at the age of 72.

He was a natural games player, county standard at Lawn Tennis and Squash and a very good Soccer player. He soon became formidable at croquet a game which he enjoyed more and more after he had to give up more active games. Up to a few years ago he played in tournaments with considerable success, particularly at Parkstone and Ryde. With a handicap of 2 he was difficult to beat and undoubtedly had he been able to devote more time to competitive play he would have reached the top ranks. He liked to win but was a cheerful loser, and how he hated to use those bisques when he had them.

He played for Berks and Oxon when it won the Inter-Counties Championship in 1974 and 1975 and he served on the Council from 1964 to 1968 when he retired to be able to give more time to his growing family.

Perhaps his greatest contribution to the game was his brilliant

idea to form the Caversham Club at his home in Derby Road. He and I used to play a lot there, often into the small hours under floodlights (it was one of the first floodlit lawns in the country). One day he remarked that it was an awful waste of a lawn with virtually only two people using it, and if I would form a club it could use his lawn. That is how it began.

It quickly became a force in the croquet world and soon players knew where Caversham was even if they had not before. As a club member Nigel Aspinall won the All England Handicap in 1972 off the record low handicap of -5 and so the New Zealand Tray for the club, and in 1973 the club won the Inter-Club Championship. During the ten years or so of its existence, and it only had to disband on Tony moving to Henley, many of its members were introduced to tournament play and it boasted a higher percentage of Associates than almost any other club in the country. Tony was very proud of the club's undoubted success and had planned a reunion party for ex-club members for the end of February.

Deepest sympathy is extended to his widow Cicely who, though not a croquet player herself, devoted much time as voluntary "groundsman" throughout those happy Caversham days. R F Rothwell

Croquet Quiz No 2 (Published in C A G Winter 1979)

The prize for the best solution is awarded to N O Hicks

Answers

- Australian & N Z MacRobertson Shield competitors in:—
 - Best 8 or 10. Australia: J C Windsor 1925 & 27; C J Miller 1937; S A Buck 1974.
N Z: A D Heenan 1948; A G F Ross 1954 & 56; Mrs W H Kirk 1956; G D Rowling 1956; Miss I Wainwright 1956; Mrs J Jarden 1970; R J Murfitt 1974.
 - Chairmans. Australia: H S Clemons 1967 & 72. N Z Mrs J Jarden 1970.
 - Surrey/Spencer-El. Australia: Lt-Col A A Saalfeld 1965; Canon R Creed Meredith 1959; R Sloane 1974.
- Venues:
 - Open Championship: Evesham, Moreton-in-Marsh, Crystal Palace, Wimbledon, Roehampton, Hurlingham.
 - Womens Championship: Bushey (1869), Wimbledon, Roehampton, Leamington, Buxton, Hurlingham, Cheltenham, Southwick.
 - Peels: Wimbledon, Queen's Club, Sheen House, Roehampton, Cheltenham, Southwick.
- Pseudonyms.
 - Bonham Carter; B C Evelegh
 - Cavendish; Henry Jones
 - A Bolde; Rev A Law
 - M Bear; M B Reckitt
 - I M Keen; B C Apps
 - Mrs E Peel; Mrs B L Sundius-Smith
 - Stonehenge; J H Walsh
- Groundsmen.
 - West; Budleigh
 - Adams; Southwick
 - Grey; Hurlingham
 - Proudfoot; Hunstanton
 - Wilf Wooler; Compton
 - Hartshorn; Nottingham
 - Vorat; Cheltenham ('Alec', ex-P O W)
 - Hobbs; Ranelagh
 - Baker; Roehampton

- Doody o' Tipperary; Vale of Clwydd (Denbigh).
- Calendar Fixtures 1979. Furthest North, Edinburgh; South, Budleigh; East, Colchester; West, Glasgow.
 - Calendar Fixtures 1979. Second furthest North, Glasgow; South, Parkstone (just S of Ryde); East, Hunstanton; West, Budleigh.
 - Answers to 5 above in:—
 1913. Edinburgh; Devonport; Felixstowe; Bude.
 1939. Rydal; Guernsey; Felixstowe; Bude.
 - The first:
 - Club; Worthing c. 1865
 - Woman in Open Champ; Miss O Henry 1897
 - Sextuple Peel in President's Cup; M Murray (1979)
 - Use of Bagnall Wild; Maidstone (1894)
 - Use of D & P; Camberley Heath 1934.
 - Clubs.
 - Highest above sea level; Cheltenham 250 ft (The upper pavilion at Budeigh is within a tiny 250 ft ring contour, but the courts are lower)
 - Oldest club on original site; Budleigh.
 - Longest span between winning same C A event; Miss L Gower (Mrs Beaton); Women's Peels 1903 & 1948 (45 years).
 - In 1908 because ambiguity in conditions allowed Mrs Beaton & Miss Coote to win Men's Gold Medals in 1907 & 1908.
 - Associates who were:—
 - M P's: R W Grosvenor (later Lord Ebury), Westminster 1865-74; James Dickson, Dungannon 1880-5; W B Du Pre, Wycombe 1914-23; C W H Glossop, Penistone 1931-35; Howdenshire 1945-7; Sir William Mabane (later Lord Mabane), Huddersfield 1931-45; G W Williams, Tonbridge 1945-56; T J F Jessel, Twickenham 1970 — Lord Desborough (as W H Grenfell) was an M P from 1880-1905 but, although President of C A, does not appear ever to have been an associate.
 - House of Lords. Lord Tollemache 1905-55; Earl of Essex 1916-66; Lord Mabane.
Lord Doneraile, being an Irish peer, was not a member of the House of Lords.
 - Competed in Olympic Games. J B Gilbert, Paris 1924. (The last time that Lawn Tennis was included in the Olympic Games). D M C P

Croquet Customs and all that — BEGINNERS ONLY

GENERAL

Seniority at croquet is based on handicap about to the same extent that normal life is based on age. It would be usual for a 'low' bisquer to invite a 'long' bisquer to play in a 'friendly' game rather than the other way round. This applies to acquaintances only, obviously not to close friends. Gender does not come into croquet.

BEFORE THE GAME

In any Club tournament a player must tell his opponent if he has played, or even practised earlier that day. It usually happens in afternoon or evening games. In that case the opponent is entitled to a period of practice on a 'neutral' lawn before the match begins.

The lower handicap player collects the bisques, sets them up and controls them throughout. Either side may collect the balls and arrange the clips. The lower bisquer tosses the coin, the higher bisquer calls. Women often have no ready access to a coin and/or have difficulty in spinning a coin, it is therefore

polite, even courtly, for a man to proffer a coin to a female low bisquer. She may take it and toss it, or, more usually, will say: "Oh, please will you toss it, I'll call Heads/Tails".

DURING PLAY

It is distracting to a player if his opponent remains standing on the lawn when his turn has ended, even standing just off the lawn can be distracting. It is usual to sit down when your turn has ended unless it is obvious that the next turn is likely to be very brief.

Speed of play is a difficult but very important subject. Wasting time or being un-time-conscious is wrong. Hurrying to the detriment of one's strokes is also wrong. Croquet is played at the halt. A general guide would be to watch other players. Emulate those who waste no time and eschew the habits of those who are slow players. For some reason slow players never realise that they are slow. It could be you!

No beginner is expected to know all the Laws of Croquet, but he should know what constitutes a foul. So read Law 32 on page 23 of the book of the Laws. It is reasonable to ask an experienced player to demonstrate the more complicated fouls, e.g. The 'crush'. No player minds being asked about a croquet problem. It enhances his ego.

Aunt Emma-ing is an expression that is in general use. It means, in effect, spoiling your opponent's game without attempting to make any progress with your own. When you are in play and your opponent's balls are together and you come across to them you must make a sincere attempt to make at least one hoop from one of the opponent's balls. If you merely scatter them and return to your own partner ball you are Aunt Emma-ing. It is perfectly legal, it is often profitable, but it carries the penalty that nobody wants to play with you.

AFTER THE GAME

At the end of the game it is the job of the winner to clear the lawn of balls and clips. It is usual for the loser to help a bit. The winner also reports, or writes up, the result if it was a match. In a tournament it is usual for the winner to offer a drink to the loser, only in the morning or evening games. In the afternoon it is not usual to offer tea to the loser.

AFTER THAT

It is perfectly permissible to give a ball by ball account of how you won or why you lost, but it is quite unreasonable to expect anyone to listen. G T W

Croquet In Literature: Another Find

(reproduced from the South African Croquet Gazette)

An amusing article copied from the New York Times was circulating at the Somerset West Club during Nationals week. Headed "With Mallets Aforethought, Croquet Comes Back", it remarks on the interest now being taken in the game in the States, and also goes into some historical detail. In Boston, for example, the clergy frowned on what was termed "the insidious wickedness of the game" and contrived some time in the 1890's to have it banned.

Which ties up neatly with an article I found in "History as Hot News", a book of reporters' items and drawings from the Illustrated London News and The Graphic between 1865 and 1897. It is compiled by Leonard de Vries. The piece from which I quote is about life in Boston, and was sent to London from 'Our Special Correspondent' in 1869. After somewhat patronisingly claiming that "... Yankee girls are not perhaps so devoted to those robust sports and lusty methodes of exercise which make the daughters of Britain the finest

physical examples of womanhood extant', he goes on to say: "Still, the New England damsels are fond of out-of-door past-times. In summer, go where you will, you will see at almost every turn, young ladies and gentlemen engaged in lively games of croquet — laughing and flirting, disputing good-humouredly on questions of law or of fact: that is, the rules of the game, and whether this ball hit that; . . ."

Maybe it was the flirting that needled the local clergy so!

J B (Gordon's Bay)

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Accommodation — Cheltenham Tournaments

In issue 151 of the Gazette the mother of a Cheltenham Club member (Mrs L M Hoole) offered Bed, Breakfast and Evening meal — being within walking distance of the club. Many have taken advantage of this and so a neighbour has decided to offer similar facilities — contact Mrs Joan Stringer on Cheltenham (0242) 513609 or Mrs Hoole on 512990.

Extracts From Proceedings Of The Council On 14th March 1981

- A "B" International England v Ireland will be played at Carrickmines on 16th/17th May. R F Rothwell was appointed captain and organizer for the English team.
- Medals have been ordered for those still entitled to them with spares for several years.
- John Solomon has presented a handsome silver trophy to

be awarded annually to the player who achieves the greatest number of peels in the Open Championships, (excluding the pre-qualifying rounds, the Doubles and the Association Plate).

4. The number of paid up Associates in the United Kingdom as of 31st December 1980 is 696. This figure is made up of 32% women and 68% men.
5. It is proposed to set up a fund raising Committee at the next meeting of the Council for the next Test Tour which leaves for Australia in October 1982.

6. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

a) Selection Committee:

National qualifications have been laid down for eligibility to play in the Pimms Internationals.

b) Laws Committee:

Amendments to Regulations 10 (Eligibility to Compete) 8(b) and 19 (double banking) have been recommended. Details appear elsewhere.

A Guide of Conduct for double banking has been prepared in anticipation of a reprint of the Laws book for inclusion in it. Copies meanwhile are being sent to all Registered Clubs.

c) Handicap Co-Ordination Committee:

The Steel Memorial Bowl for 1980 has been awarded to Mrs M C Cotterell (Harwell) and the Apps Memorial Bowl to M T Paddon (Cheltenham).

No fewer than 47 increases in handicap were approved during the 1980 season, and in their review of the season the Committee made a number of increases.

It is not proposed to make any alterations to Handicapping Procedures for 1981 to those of 1980.

d) Editorial Board:

The 1980 experiment of divorcing tournament reports from results in the Gazette will not be repeated in 1981, nor will the 1980 system of reporting results.

The introduction of newsletter Gazettes during the playing season is another effort to try and improve on the time taken to get tournament results to Associates is referred to elsewhere.

e) Finance and General Purposes Committee:

A grant has been promised to the Edgbaston Club towards the rebuilding of their pavilion which is in a very bad state.

The standard rate of subscription is to remain at £7.00 for 1982 but the junior rate will be increased to £5.00 and the qualifying age will be reduced to 21. Overseas rate also goes up to £5.00. Tournament Tribute and Levy are being raised and a new method of compounding Club Registration Fees is being introduced at 15p per croquet member as of 31.12.81 to exclude Country Members.

Proposed Alterations To Regulations

In accordance with Rule XIV (a) (i) the following alterations to Regulations for Tournaments, having been passed by the Council, are published in CROQUET after which they will be re-considered by the Council at the first possible occasion and shall become law if passed by a majority of 6 to 4:—

1. Regulation 8

At the end of paragraph (b) add:—

"In a double banked game the Manager may, however,

allow extra time at his discretion."

2. Regulation 10

Delete whole Regulation and substitute:—

"(a) The only payments in money or kind other than royalties that a croquet player is allowed to accept for his services to the game or for his activities as a player are reimbursements of expenses for:—

- (i) coaching or instruction
- (ii) managing a tournament
- (iii) being a member or official of a team participating in an exhibition, special event, broadcast, film or any other activity authorized by the Council
- (iv) travelling overseas at the invitation of a recognized Croquet Association
- (v) administrative business on behalf of the Council.

(b) A player accepting any other payment either as a fee or as an allowance without authorization by the Council shall not be eligible to play in any tournament or CA event until the Council has given its approval".

3. Regulation 19

After sub-paragraph (v) in Regulation 19 (f) add new sub-paragraph:—

" (vi) to allow extra time for doubled banked games. See Regulation 8 (b)."

ATTENDANCES AT COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS 1980/81

R A Godby, Chairman,	*C4, T2, F2, P1, L1, S3, Ed2.	Total 15/15
C B Sanford, Vice-Chairman,	*C4, T2, F2, P1, L0, Ed0.	Total 9/12
A J Oldham Treasurer,	*C4, T2, F2, P1, L1, Ed2.	Total 12/12
G N Aspinall	C4, T2, S3, Ed2.	Total 11/11
Dr R W Bray	C3	Total 3/4
Mrs E E Bressey	C2, F0, Hcp 1	Total 3/8
D C Caporn	C4, T2, F2, P1	Total 9/9
Mrs H B H Carlisle	C3, T2, Ed2	Total 7/8
A J Girling	C4, P1	Total 5/5
D J V Hamilton Miller	C3, S2	Total 5/7
A B Hope	C3, F2, P1, Ed2	Total 8/9
Mrs W Longman	C3, T1	Total 4/6
G B Martin	C4, T2, L1	Total 7/7
Mrs B Meachem	C3, P1, L1	Total 5/6
S N Mulliner	C4, P0, Ed2	Total 6/7
Prof B G Neal	C3, P1, L1, Hcp2	Total 7/8
T F Owen	C0, T1, L0	Total 1/7
Lt Col D M C Prichard	C4, L1, S3	Total 8/8
K S Schofield	C4, T2, L1	Total 7/7
E Strickland	C2, T1, F0, P1	Total 4/9
S S Townsend	C4, F2, Hcp 2, S2	Total 10/11
Mrs N Tyldesley	C4	Total 4/4
L Wharrad	C4, F1, P1	Total 6/7
Dr R F Wheeler	C4, F1, P0, L1	Total 6/8

Attendances at ad hoc Committees are not included.

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

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

From E P C Cotter's book, 'Tackle Croquet This Way'

HOOP APPROACH from behind the hoop. Sometimes the pilot we have rushed to the hoop ends up in the "worst than death position", dead behind the hoop. It may be close to the hoop or a little distance from it. Let us take three different situations.

A. Under Six Inches. Here you have no method of getting a position except by an Irish peel through the hoop. This in itself involves no difficulty, but after you have run the hoop you are likely to have no ball to roquet.

B. From Six Inches to a Foot. Here you have a special shot to take you back through the hoop, that works with mathematical precision. Place your ball in contact with the pilot, so that the "V" formed by the two balls points at the far wire. That is to say, if your ball is placed to the right of the pilot, point at the left hand wire and vice versa. Aim directly at the same wire, with sufficient strength to run the hoop. You will be delighted with the position you obtain.

C. Over a Foot. In this case place your ball in contact with the pilot (say left of it) so that the "V" points to a spot outside the left hand wire which you wish the ball to cross. Now aim at the centre of the hoop, with sufficient strength to take your ball to a desired position in front of the hoop.

D. Hoop Approach from Pilot Just Through the Hoop. If the pilot ball is just through the hoop, so that the striker's ball, when placed in contact with it, can be touched by a straight edge on the non-playing side, here is a special shot that you will find useful. Put your ball in contact as far as possible to one side of the hoop. Now play a gentle stab shot at the far wire, so that your ball hits the far wire and rebounds into position to run the hoop. You must, of course, be careful not to "make a crush," and you must not play it **without a referee to watch it.**

For Advanced Players — Combination Peg-Out. In a quadruple, delayed triple or straight triple, it is almost inevitable that you will be doing the final peel when you are yourself for the rover, and it does occur that your ball roquets your partner after it runs the hoop. This would appear to make the peg-out in that turn an impossibility, and force you to give your opponent another shot. But there is a last chance, to which I have given the above title. Send your partner ball as near as possible to the peg, and get a rush on one of the opponent balls near to your other ball but just a little further from the peg. Then, in the croquet stroke, cause the opponent ball to cannon your partner ball on to the peg, and then peg-out yourself. It is a shot that is fraught with danger, but it is extremely satisfactory to do so.

Playing Croquet

by Anna Millns

Don't try to win at any cost

Just play your best, and if you've lost

And

Aunt Emma has'nt been your game

Then you have lost, but without shame,

Don't be too timid or too rash

Go and have a jolly good bash.

You'll enjoy croquet all the more

And that's what the game is for.

The Party Match On Croquet Lawn

Labour members on Exeter's leisure committee evidently felt that croquet for the masses or even for the few was not something for which the city council should pay £3,000, especially as the money is coming out of the lottery fund.

Told that the nearest croquet facilities were at present available only at Budleigh Salterton, they seemed to feel that this was only confirmation of their feeling that croquet was something of an upper-class pastime.

However, the Conservative majority has ensured that the committee has collectively been driven through the croquet hoop, so to speak. Two tennis courts that have seen better days at Pines Gardens are now likely to be transformed into a croquet lawn for games in which — theoretically at least — all the family can take part.

Will it be classless or non-political croquet that will be played? It certainly should be.

There is no special reason why a game that involves hitting ball with mallet should forever be associated with Edwardian garden parties for high society any more than that darts should be thought to take place only in the back room of the public house.

Perhaps time will mellow attitudes and an all-party team of Exeter City Council politicians will sally forth upon the St. Thomas croquet lawn to give the project a send-off. On the other hand, there could be a dispute about the colour of the balls they use.

Treasurer's Commentary On The 1980 Accounts

A large part of the £1,600 increase in income from subscriptions, levy etc was devoted to the 1980 Recruitment Drive which, as reported to Council in October last, so significantly increased the membership of clubs. Further efforts to increase Publicity and develop membership of the Association are going to be made and to provide part of the cost of doing this, a number of proposals for increases in rates in 1982, principally those for Levy and Tribute, have been accepted by Council. It is expected, however, that the £7.00 basic rate of subscription and the reduced rate for non-tournament members can be maintained at their present level at least until 1st January 1983.

Sponsorship of the home Internationals by Messrs Pimms has made a useful contribution to the Association's income in 1980 and by taking advantage of the high rates of interest prevailing during the year our investment income has again been raised.

As expected, some general overhead expenses have increased but we are fortunate in being able to rely upon a matching increase in the Sports Council grant to assist in meeting these. The cost of the magazine has been contained at about the 1979 level but higher printing charges and the changes proposed by the Editorial Board mean that a larger budget is required for 1981.

The Association's investments in quoted securities increased in market value by over 16% during the year.

The Benefactors Fund has increased through the legacy of £2,000 from the late M B Reckitt and from the interest earned by the fund's investments.

The increase in Sundry Debtors arises largely from three items and payment of these was received very shortly after the end of the year.

A J Oldham
Honorary Treasurer
19th March 1981

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1980**

Year to 31.12.79			
	INCOME		
2,974	Subscriptions	4,250.44	
470	Affiliation Fees and Overseas Members	665.24	
733	Levy	862.40	
20	Tribute	32.20	
612	Sale of Books, Laws etc.	828.56	
817	Income from Investments (Net)	1,049.20	
234	Donations and Sponsorship (Net)	412.00	
56	Surplus on Tournaments	198.32	
<u>5,916</u>		<u>8,298.36</u>	
	LESS: EXPENDITURE		
3,009	Magazine, less Income from Advertisements	3,083.54	
<u>2,907</u>		<u>5,214.82</u>	
	GENERAL OVERHEADS		
917	Office Rent, Lighting, Heating and Cleaning	860.98	
4,519	Staff Salaries	6,204.65	
164	Committee Travelling Expenses	217.85	
415	Postage and Telephone	505.29	
1,110	Printing and Stationery	1,464.56	
265	Insurance	252.41	
335	Sundry Expenses	258.62	
230	Audit and Accountancy Charges	275.00	
129	Maintenance of Office, Furniture and Equipment	5.52	
<u>8,084</u>		<u>10,044.88</u>	
170	Publicity and Development	730.77	
<u>8,254</u>		<u>10,775.65</u>	
4,762	Sports Council Grant	5,993.00	
<u>3,492</u>		<u>4,782.65</u>	
585)	EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	<u>432.17</u>	
Deficit)			

INVESTMENTS HELD AT 31st DECEMBER 1980

Nominal Value			Market Value
	QUOTED INVESTMENTS		
141.75	Drayton Premier Investment Trust Limited Ordinary Shares of 25p each	186.64	1,207
168.00	Midland Bank Limited Ordinary Shares of £1 each	345.83	561
550.00	Temple Bar Investment Trust Limited Ordinary Shares of 25p each	1,811.74	2,574
400.00	The New Throgmorton Trust Limited Income Shares of 25p each	478.75	328
218.15	3½% War Stock	115.50	65
2,500.00	9¼% Treasury Stock 1983	2,492.87	2,300
1,500.00	12% Treasury Stock 1983	1,470.84	1,455
		<u>6,902.17</u>	<u>8,490</u>
	UNQUOTED INVESTMENTS		
10.00	Roehampton Country Club	10.00	
	Abbey National Building Society	1750.00	
	Britannia Building Society	8765.07	
		<u>17,427.24</u>	

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AS AT 31st DECEMBER 1980

1979			
	FIXED ASSETS		
300	Office Furniture and Equipment at written down value		300.00
10,000	Trophies, estimated to realise		10,000.00
16,762	Investments, as per attached schedule		17,427.24
<u>27,062</u>			<u>27,727.24</u>
	CURRENT ASSETS		
801	Sundry Debtors and Prepayments	4,023.83	
738	Cash in Hand and at Bank	944.33	
<u>1,539</u>			<u>4,968.16</u>
28,601			<u>32,695.40</u>
	LESS: CURRENT LIABILITIES		
290	Subscriptions Received in Advance	253.50	
2,284	Accrued Expenses	3,061.24	
137	Taxation	315.65	
<u>2,711</u>			<u>3,630.39</u>
25,890			<u>29,065.01</u>
	NET ASSETS		
			<u>29,065.01</u>
	REPRESENTED BY		
13,382	Accumulated General Fund, as at 1st January 1980		15,722.95
	ADD:		
3,000	Increase in Valuation of Trophies		-
-	Excess of Income over Expenditure for Year		432.17
<u>16,382</u>			<u>16,155.12</u>
	DEDUCT:		
585	Excess of Expenditure over Income for Year		-
74	Loss on sale of Investments		-
<u>659</u>			
15,723			16,155.12
1,955	Life Membership Fund		1,920.00
216	Apps Heley Memorial Fund		215.50
433	Test Tour Fund		467.74
5,701	Benefactors Fund		8,244.55
1,862	Tournaments and Trophies Fund		2,062.10
<u>25,890</u>			<u>29,065.01</u>

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

We have examined the books, vouchers and other records maintained by The Croquet Association for the year ended 31st December 1980 and obtained such further information as considered necessary. To the best of our knowledge and belief the Accounts on pages 1 to 3 give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the business at 31st December 1980 and of the Surplus for the year ended on that date.

Kipling House
43 Villiers Street
London WC2N 6NJ

2nd March 1981

NICHOLASS, AMES & CO.
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

+ + + + +

Round The Courts

The following are all incidents which have cropped up during 1980 which have given rise to discussion and uncertainty between the players involved . . . even some of considerable experience.

1. Red is on the corner spot. Yellow shoots and misses and comes on in contact with Red Black shoots and misses and does not go into the corner but comes on two inches away from Red. Before he starts his turn Red/Yellow asks: "May I pick up Yellow and place it so that it is in contact with Red and Black and then rearrange the balls for a cannon?"

The answer is "NO". As soon as he picks up Yellow it becomes the striker's ball and when he places it for the croquet stroke he must place it in contact with Red 'and with no other ball'. (Law 18 (a)).

2. Advanced play. An A class player plays a turn with Red and runs both 1 back and 4 back. He then stops and says to his opponent: "As I peeled Yellow through 1 back during this turn do I have to give you a contact?" The opponent said no, there was no contact, so the striker ended his turn with a conventional leave for a lift. Meanwhile the opponent ascertained that there was a contact (Law 36 (b) states 'and his partner ball has not scored one-back BEFORE that turn'). Neither could find the situation in the Law book. What should happen?

Law 35 is the answer. In para (d) it states: 'Further, if the striker makes any stroke or strokes in consequence of any other false information concerning the state of the game by the adversary, he shall be entitled to replay as in the preceding sub-law above'. And Law 45 (b) states 'a player should on

request give another player any information as to the state of the game'. So the striker, having been 'led into a line of play which he would not otherwise have adopted' . . . 'has the right to replace the balls where they were when he was first misled'. Note. The heading for Law 35 is Mistakes in the Score — Including Misplaced Clips. Perhaps it ought to have had 'And Other False Information' added to it to make it easier to find.

3. A Referee was asked to watch a hammer stroke. He judged it to be a fair stroke but as he was leaving the court the opponent asked the Referee if he had noticed that the shaft of the mallet was resting against the strikers shoulder and chest and was this permissible?

The adversary was quite right to draw the Referee's attention to something which he thought had been overlooked and his query brought to light a misapprehension as to what constitutes a fault which was widely held at one club. Law 32 (a) (i) (ii) and (iii) cover all the things one may not do with the hands and feet and mallet during the striking. You must not touch the head with your hand; you must not kick or hit the mallet. You must not put a hand or an arm or the shaft of the mallet on the ground (but you can kneel). You must not rest a hand or an arm, directly connected with the stroke, or the shaft of the mallet against the foot or leg. And that is all. There is nothing to stop you holding your elbows against your ribs or the mallet in the pit of your stomach or even under your chin if you like. The misapprehension probably arose because beginners are often advised to play a hammer stroke freely to avoid other kinds of fault such as pushing and pulling and double-tapping.

4. A Handicap Game. The bisque-receiver watches his A class opponent go round with one ball and lay up in a corner. Being a little short-sighted he says to his opponent; "I still have half a bisque left have'nt I? "Told that he had, he added "I shall have to use it now". He shot at the corner balls and missed: he indicated that he wanted to take his half-bisque, only to be told that he had indicated by word that he was taking the half-bisque and that his stroke into the corner must be deemed to be the first stroke of his extra turn.

This information was incorrect and quite contrary to the spirit of the bisque Laws which aim to protect the bisque receiver. The A class player based his interpretation on the last sentence of Law 38 (e) without having observed the import of the first:—

(e) If the adversary observes the striker about to play a bisque or a half-bisque before he has made all the strokes to which he is entitled he shall forestall play. If he fails so to forestall the striker shall be deemed regularly to have begun his extra turn. If the adversary had thought the player was forgetting the first stroke of his turn it was his duty to so warn him (Law 45 (b) also deals with this point). Further whatever he may have said out loud it was quite obvious that in his mind the bisque-receiver was taking a shot with the intention of taking a half-bisque if he missed. (A Referee should have been appealed to — an impartial decision avoids rancour).

5. The striker plays gently at a ball near a hoop. His ball curls round the object ball and stops behind it. The object ball then moves towards that ball and they touch. Has a roquet been made?

This incident has engendered lively discussion and the general consensus of opinion is that the roquet is made. The striker's ball has undoubtedly hit a ball which it was entitled to roquet even if it did so passively and Law 16 (b) makes it quite clear that a lucky roquet is as valid as one made from a brilliant

shot. Law 31 (c) adds 'the stroke includes the consequence of the striking and does not end until all the balls set in motion have come to rest . . .'. Further Law 16 (c) (ii) says 'the striker shall be deemed to have made a roquet if . . . during a turn . . . his ball is in contact with a ball which he is entitled to roquet.' If, however, the striker had replaced his clip or left the court or in any way indicated that his turn was ended (Law 22) then that would have been a Ball Moving between Strokes and the ball would be replaced and no roquet made.

Nestor

Selection for the Invitation Eight's Week

The following statement of policy, which appeared in the *Croquet Gazette No 152 of Summer 1979*, is republished for information.

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

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

The selectors base their choice on the following principles:—

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

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

D M C Prichard
Chairman, Selection Committee

One Solution to "What Would You Do & Why"

I play blue to try and hit black, because, in a tricky 2 way "stretch" situation, I prefer to see the ball which is ahead make further progress, thus preventing the backward ball from catching up. There seems to me to be adequate reasons for not retreating into corners 1, 2 or 3, nor for going off the boundary mid-way N E S or West.

A W D Nicholls

MALLET REPAIRS AND RESTORATION

Mr P Castro
178 St Leonards Road
East Sheen
London SW14
Tel: 01-878-1763

Wrest Park W/E 4-6 July

Block A. S N Mulliner 7 wins bt Foulser 7, Hands 16, Hemsted 24, Murray 17, Openshaw 23, Prichard 19 tp, Roberts 3. D Openshaw 6 wins bt Foulser 14, Hands 11**, Hemsted 26 tp, Murray 5, Prichard 7, Roberts 23. Capt W de B Prichard 5 wins bt Foulser 21 tp, Hands 25, Hemsted 4, Murray 17, Roberts 14. D Foulser 3 wins 35 pts bt Hands 12, Hemsted 26, Roberts 6. Dr M Murray 3 wins —2 pts bt Foulser 1, Hemsted 26 tp, Roberts 18. P W Hands 2 wins bt Murray 6, Roberts 25. Dr G Roberts no wins.

Block B. J Rose 6 wins 43 pts bt Bell 14, Girling 8, Green 8, Keen 4, Vincent 9, Wheeler 19. J A Wheeler 6 wins 37 pts bt Bell 2, Girling 4, Green 7, Keen 23, Meads 15, Vincent 5. A Girling 4 wins bt Bell 14, Green 24, Keen 6, Meads 7. Dr I Vincent 3 wins 21 pts bt Girling 20, Keen 26 tp, Meads 16. H C Green 3 wins 6 pts bt Bell 26, Keen 5 t, Vincent 17. J Meads 3 wins —4 pts bt Bell 16, Green 3, Rose 19. E Bell 2 wins bt Keen 3, Vincent 10, B A Keen 1 win bt Meads 5.

Block C. S Battison 6 wins bt Anderson 14, Audsley 8, Henshaw 6, Jones 20, Mrs Wheeler 14, R Wheeler 20. G Henshaw 5 wins bt Anderson 9, Audsley 2, Hudson 3, Jones 5, Mrs Wheeler 13. Mrs D A B Wheeler 4 wins bt Anderson 19, Audsley 7, Hudson 4, R Wheeler 16. C Hudson 3 wins 16 pts bt Anderson 15, Battison 3, Jones 16. E Audsley 3 wins 6 pts bt Hudson 4, Jones 15, R Wheeler 9. Dr R Wheeler 3 wins —12 pts bt Henshaw 23, Hudson 7, Jones 5. T W Anderson 3 wins —34 pts bt Audsley 5, Jones 15, R Wheeler 3. Dr R C Jones 1 win bt Mrs D A B Wheeler 1.

** Tripled out by Hands

Wrest Park Block A

So popular is the "Mini-President's" with the stronger players that the only absentee from last year was Phillips. He was replaced by Will Prichard, who was fancied to do well on the fast testing lawns with their firmly set hoops. Openshaw set the early pace by winning 4/4 on Friday including a win over Prichard, who had won his other 3 games. Mulliner kept in touch with 3 relatively sedate wins.

Saturday morning saw two unusual games. Roberts had all but beaten Mulliner when he stuck in Rover and presented him with a textbook double peel position which was gratefully accepted. Hands scored 30 points to Hemsted's 21 . . . and lost by 1! An attempted TPO failed so Hands now tried a QPO. This didn't quite work either and Hemsted sat by with a quiet smile until the antics ceased.

The holder, Murray, had a quiet time and it fell to Mulliner to bring Openshaw back to the field with another careful win.

By Sunday morning it had become a three man race and the Mulliner/Prichard game was clearly going to be vital. If Prichard won, a three way tie was possible. The game began with Mulliner getting the first innings but losing it by going off when trying to get behind a ball in Corner II. Prichard picked up a break most expertly and went smoothly round as far as 1—back when he was hampered and suffered the frustration of being unable to hit either of two balls within a yard of the hoop. That was the last error in the game. Mulliner took one ball round and after the lift was missed, performed his only triple of the week-end.

Openshaw returned from an unexpected business meeting to beat Murray in the twilight and ensure 2nd place. Foulser cast his eyes to the heavens as Roberts jumped Hoop 3 to hit a ball on the West boundary. However that was not enough and it says much for Wrest Park that Graeme could score 0/7 and still reckon he liked the place! As everyone went home the Wrest Park team cleared up. They and their catering corps deserve a very big thank you.

Block B

Block B was decided in the final round with John Rose, John Wheeler and Alan Girling still in contention. John Rose clinched it by beating Alan. The players in this block seemed

to be evenly matched, there were just two wins by 26 one by Harry Green over Eddie Bell and another by Ian Vincent over Barry Keen which included a fine triple peel. Only one game went to time.

Block C

Although the croquet in this block may not have been so brilliant (boring), the games were very fiercely contested. The closest was Ray Jones' one win against Dab Wheeler, who with both balls on the peg and her opponent's both on the fourth, felt safe in pegging one of them out. She never hit another thing and lost! George Henshaw proved it was possible against Tom Anderson, he eventually hit the stick from by the fourth hoop. Eric Audsley, who on Saturday morning was bending down to pick up a ball when a frog jumped up at him, later sat for so long waiting for Roger Wheeler to finish a turn that his mallet had gathered cobwebs. Indeed the croquet was so bad in this game that although both players gave the other contact with most balls in the lawn neither made a single hoop from it. Chris Hudson had the distinction of being the only person to beat Stephen Battison, however the block was in contention up to the last game between Stephen and Dab Wheeler. In spite of the manager's dire predictions not a single game went to time.

On the social side there was liar dice in the Lord Nelson and on Saturday evening almost all of the players plus some wives had a pleasant dinner in the Flying Horse.

Roehampton Evening 22-29 June

Event 1. *The Hussars Challenge Cup Open Singles (18 entries)*

Outright Winner: S N Mulliner

Runner-up: J G C Phillips bt D J Croker +5.

DRAW

Winner: S N Mulliner bt P L Alvey +23, Stevens +13, Battison +11, Croker +7.

Runners-up: D J Croker bt D J V Hamilton-Miller +10, Cousins +16, Bond +20 t.p., I D Bond bt P V Cozens opp. scr., G J Roberts +18, Phillips +3, J S H Battison bt M Ormerod +3, Maude opp. scr., C H J Cousins w.o., R A Godby opp. scr., J G C Phillips bt J Haigh +21, M J Stevens bt M G Pearson +7, R D C Prichard +9, J S Maude w.o. Prof B G Neal opp. scr.

PROCESS

Winner: Mulliner bt Haigh +17, Cousins +15, Ormerod +4, Phillips +14.

Runners-up: Phillips bt Alvey +17, Maude +5, Bond +25 t.p., Ormerod bt Roberts +10, Croker +21, Bond bt Battison +18, Prichard +7, Cousins w.o., Neal opp. scr., Cozens opp. scr., Croker bt Pearson +26, Maude bt Godby opp. scr., Stevens +18, Prichard bt Hamilton-Miller +7.

Event 2. *The Philpot Cup Advanced Play (3 bisques + over) (12 entries)*

Outright Winner: R M Hobbs

Runner-up: P Cordingley bt J D Gosden +14.

DRAW

Winner: R M Hobbs bt D C Caporn +14, Gosden +14, Mrs Mansfield +26, Cordingley +5.

Runners-up: P Cordingley bt Mrs D J Croker +9, Greenwood +4, Wharrad +13, L Wharrad bt Mrs B G Neal +17, Mrs B Mansfield bt P W P Campion +12, J Greenwood bt Mrs S R Hemsted +14, J D Gosden bt R J Smith +12.

PROCESS

Winner: Hobbs bt Wharrad +9, Mrs Hemsted +17, Smith +18, Gosden +23.

Runners-up: Gosden bt Mrs Mansfield +21, Greenwood +23, Greenwood bt Caporn +11, Smith bt Campion +11, Caporn bt Mrs Neal +4 (t), Mrs Mansfield bt Mrs J Bonser +17, Campion bt Mrs Croker +10.

Mrs Lenfesty +6, Robinson +10, J D Meads (2) bt M Smith (5½) +4, Mrs R F Wheeler (2) +14, McCullough +7, Dr G K Taylor (1) bt C Chamberlain (8) +9, Bennet +16, L Robinson (7) bt A J Girling (2) +5, Mrs Chamberlain +4, G Henshaw (3) bt D de Q Lenfesty (6) +18, Hallett +4, J McCullough (½) bt I H Wright (2) +3, Garrett +4, R A Gosden (9) bt Dr R F Wheeler (5) +20, A Bennet (4) bt Lady E Porter (10) +8, Mrs C Chamberlain (10) bt Dr R C Jones (5½) +22, Mrs D Lenfesty (8) bt P G Simpson (8) +4, G F Hallett (3) bt A J Bucknell (7) +10, Mrs A J Bucknell (10) bt C G Pountney (1) +10, S J Garrett (5½) bt Dr I G Vincent (0) +25.

Event 2. Open Singles (15 entries)

Play-off: Dr G K Taylor bt G W Noble +23.

DRAW

Winner: Dr G K Taylor bt McCullough +4, Vincent +25, Meads +4.

Runners-up: J D Meads bt G W Noble +8, Wright +8, Wheeler +22, Dr R F Wheeler bt G F Hallett +10, Mrs Wheeler +19, Dr I G Vincent bt Dr D A Parker +21, Girling +23, Mrs R F Wheeler bt P J Death +4, I H Wright bt C G Pountney +14, A J Girling bt A Bennet +24, J McCullough bt G Henshaw.

PROCESS

Winner: Noble bt Girling +16, McCullough +1, Wright +12 t.p.

Runners-up: Wright bt Henshaw +6, Wheeler +22, Meads +7, Meads bt Taylor +15 t.p., Death +25, McCullough bt Pountney +15, Vincent +10, Wheeler bt Parker +15, Death bt Bennet +12, Vincent bt Hallett +17, Girling bt Mrs Wheeler +17.

Event 3. Level Singles (4 bisques + over) (11 entries)

Outright Winner: Dr R C Jones

Runner-up: Mrs D Lenfesty bt J C Straw +6 (t).

DRAW

Winner: Dr R C Jones bt Bucknell +18, Chamberlain +6 (t), Mrs Lenfesty +20.

Runners-up: Mrs D Lenfesty bt L Robinson +7 (t), Garrett +1 (t), S Garrett bt Dr T W Smith +4 (t), M Smith +7 (t), C Chamberlain bt J C Straw +1 (t), M Smith bt P G Simpson +4, A J Bucknell bt D de Q Lenfesty +22.

PROCESS

Winner: Jones bt Mrs Lenfesty +17, Dr Smith +10, Lenfesty +1 (t), Straw +10.

Runners-up: Straw bt Robinson +1 (t), Garrett +5 (t), Bucknell +2, Lenfesty bt M Smith +17, Bucknell bt Simpson +11, M Smith bt Chamberlain +11 (t).

Event 4. Handicap Singles (9 bisques + over) (7 entries)

Play-off: R A Gosden (9) bt Mrs C Chamberlain (10) +15.

DRAW

Winner: R A Gosden (9) bt S Thomas (15) +12 (t), Mrs Gosden +7, Mrs Bucknell +7.

Runners-up: Mrs A J Bucknell (10) bt Miss Watson-Walker +4 (t), Mrs R A Gosden (10) bt Mrs C Chamberlain (10) +6 (t), Miss H Watson-Walker (16) bt Lady E Porter (10) +1 (t).

PROCESS

Winner: Mrs Chamberlain bt Miss Watson-Walker +6, Mrs Bucknell +1 (t), Mrs Gosden +5.

Runners-up: Mrs Gosden bt Lady Porter +15, Thomas +1 (t), Mrs Bucknell bt Gosden +2 (t).

Event 5. Open Handicap X Singles (31 entries)

Winner: Dr R F Wheeler (5) bt S Garrett (5½) +5 (t), M Smith +22, Simpson +3, Vincent +24, Taylor +24.

Runners-up: Dr G K Taylor (1) bt A J Bucknell (7) +2, Bennet +2, Meads +10, Death +7, Dr I G Vincent (0) bt J C Straw (7) +2, Noble +25, Girling +2, P J Death (2½) bt Lady E Porter (10) +16, Lenfesty +6, Parker +20, A J Girling (2) bt C Chamberlain (8) +15, Mrs Lenfesty +2, P G Simpson (8) bt Dr T W Smith (4½) +7, Jones +13, J D Meads (2) bt Mrs C Chamberlain (10) +15, Mrs Wheeler +7, Dr D A Parker (3) bt L Robinson (7) +13, C G Pountney (1) +23, G W Noble (0) bt Mrs R A Gosden (10) +5, Mrs D Lenfesty (8) bt G F Hallett (3) +13, Dr R C Jones (5½) bt G Henshaw (3) +6, M P W Smith (5½) bt I H Wright (2) +9, A Bennet (4) bt Mrs A J Bucknell (10) +15, Mrs R F Wheeler (2) bt

J McCullough (½) +13, D de Q Lenfesty (6) bt R A Gosden (9) +13.

Event 5. Handicap Y Singles (16 entries)

Winner: Garrett bt Wright +26, Dr Smith +10, Straw +10, Bucknell +14.

Runners-up: Bucknell bt Mrs Bucknell +11, McCullough +11, Pountney +8, Straw bt Mrs Gosden +16, Chamberlain +12, Pountney bt Robinson +14, Gosden +2, Chamberlain w.o. Hallett opp. scr., Dr Smith bt Henshaw +18, McCullough bt Mrs Chamberlain +12, Gosden bt Lady Porter +13.

Event 5. Handicap Z Singles (12 entries)

Winner: Wright bt Chamberlain +23, Henshaw +18, Noble +17.

Runners-up: Noble bt Bennet +21, M Smith +23 t.p., Mrs Chamberlain +15, Mrs Chamberlain bt Robinson +1 (t), Henshaw bt Mrs Gosden +16, Mrs Bucknell +11, M Smith bt Mrs Wheeler +26, Mrs Bucknell bt Lady Porter +8 (t).

Event 6. Handicap Doubles (15 pairs)

Winners: A J Girling & Dr R C Jones (7½) bt Meads & Bennet +22, Taylor & Mrs Chamberlain +5, Mr & Mrs Lenfesty +5.

Runners-up: Mr & Mrs D de Q Lenfesty (14) bt G Henshaw & C Chamberlain (11) +21, Hallett & M Smith +10, Dr Smith & Bucknell +1 (t), Dr T W Smith & A J Bucknell (11½) bt Mr & Mrs R A Gosden (19) +2, Death & Simpson +8, Dr G K Taylor & Mrs C Chamberlain (11) bt Dr I G Vincent & Miss H Watson-Walker (14) +7 (t), Parker & Straw +8, G F Hallett & M P W Smith (8½) bt C G Pountney & Lady E Porter (11) +10, P J Death & P G Simpson (10½) bt Dr & Mrs R F Wheeler (7) +6, Dr D A Parker & J C Straw (10) bt S Garrett & J McCullough (6) +11, J D Meads & A Bennet (6) bt G W Noble & Mrs A J Bucknell (10) +11.

Hunstanton 25-30 August

Event 1. Norfolk Challenge Cup Open Singles (13 entries)

Play-off: M Avery bt J Haigh +3.

DRAW

Winner: J Haigh bt A D Karmel +19, Mrs Wheeler +17, Avery +7, Miss Hampson +5.

Runners-up: Miss S G Hampson bt Henshaw +9, Townsend +20, S S Townsend bt Dr D A Parker +25, Croker +15, M Avery bt H B H Carlisle +22, G Henshaw bt Mrs A Neville-Rolfe +14, D J Croker bt Mrs H B H Carlisle +18, Mrs R F Wheeler bt Mrs B L Sundius-Smith +14.

PROCESS

Winner: Avery bt Mrs Carlisle +13, Henshaw +2, Townsend +22, Croker +7.

Runners-up: Croker bt Mrs Neville-Rolfe +6, Parker +6, Townsend bt Miss Hampson +8, Karmel +17, Parker bt Carlisle +16, Haigh +3, Henshaw bt Mrs Sundius-Smith +6, Mrs Neville-Rolfe bt Mrs Wheeler +7.

Event 2. Hunstanton Challenge Bowl Advanced Play (4 bisques to 8) (11 entries)

Play-off: D Turner bt Dr R A Wheeler +4.

DRAW

Winner: Dr R A Wheeler bt P Campion +3, Miss Assheton +3, Mrs Croker +3.

Runners-up: Mrs D J Croker bt Mrs A Zinn +17, Newman +2, MacDonald +1 (t), I P MacDonald bt Mrs A D Karmel +24, Miss J Assheton bt J Wood +9, R Welch +14, F H Newman bt D Turner +13.

PROCESS

Winner: Turner bt Campion +12, MacDonald +21, Wood +4, Newman +19.

Runners-up: Newman bt Wheeler +1, Mrs Karmel opp. scr., Mrs Croker opp. scr., Wood bt Mrs Zinn +15, Mrs Croker w.o. Miss Assheton opp. scr., Miss Assheton bt Welch +11.

Event 3. Silver Rose Bowl Handicap Singles (8 bisques + over) (12 entries)

Winner: J Walters (11) bt Mrs P Sheldon (9) +14, Gosden +18, Carlisle +9.

Runners-up: J Carlisle (16) bt Mrs S S Townsend (13) +14, Mrs Gosden +14, Mrs Newman +9, Mrs F H Newman (8) bt Mrs I P MacDonald (10)



The Old — John Solomon, the master, himself returns from retirement, to Hurlingham, scene of so many of his famous victories in command, during the Inter Counties Championship 1980 which his team (Middlesex) won.



The New — Liz Taylor, one of the many promising young players of the Bowdon Club, which has been particularly successful with its recruitment efforts.

Former New Zealand test match player, who died last February. She was a player of great determination with great match temperament who represented her country in the 1950 and 1956 series as well as appearing in the President's Cup in 1956. This photo was taken in January 1979 at Christchurch and is of historic interest as the pavilion was sadly destroyed by fire.





William Ormerod making a welcome return to the Open Championships after his recent ill health. He reached the singles semi-final and, with Nigel Aspinall, the doubles finals!

Photographs by Peter Alvey

Roger Murfitt, New Zealand Test player, playing in the Association Plate 1980 which he won, shortly after arriving from New Zealand.

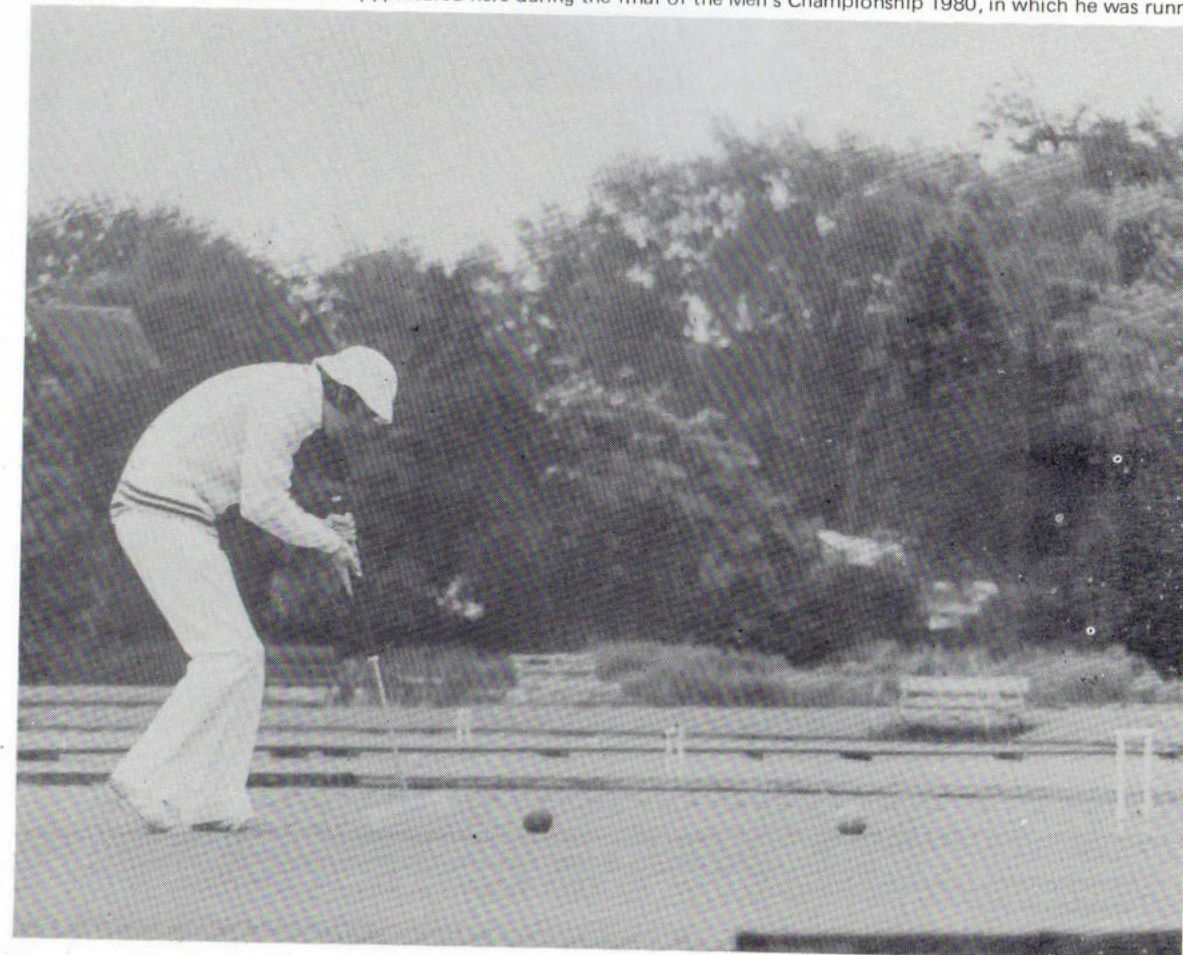


The Open Doubles Championship 1980

William Prichard and Stephen Mulliner (the eventual winners) arranging the balls for what was almost a mid-court cannon. William also won the Open Singles Championship and appeared in the President's Cup. Stephen was runner-up in the President's Cup.

Photographs by Peter Alvey

Ian Bond, winner of the Spencer Ell Cup, pictured here during the final of the Men's Championship 1980, in which he was runner-up.





The Golf Croquet Doubles Championship 1980 at Harrow Oak
The Holders (Martin Murray & Andrew Hope) look on in despair as the outsiders (Eric Solomon & Jean Wraith) score another hoop on their way to defeating them in the first round.

"Do you think it will attack if we get too close, Stephen?"
Bernard Neal and Stephen Hemsted during the 1980 Open Doubles Championship



Photographs by Peter Alvey

+5, D Godfree (9) +16, R Gosden (9) bt Barnett +4, Mrs R Gosden (10) bt Miss E Wood (10) +19, W Barnett (9) bt Mrs W G Jones (9) +11.

Event 4. Ingleby Challenge Cup X Handicap Singles (33 entries)

Winner: Dr D Parker (3) bt Mrs P Sheldon (9) +11, Mrs MacDonald +6, Townsend +5, Miss Hampson opp.ret., Miss Assheton +10.

Runners-up: Miss J Assheton (7) bt Mrs S S Townsend (13) +18, Wheeler +16, Mrs Newman +9, Avery +6, Miss S G Hampson (2½) bt P Campion (7) +4, Gosden +5, Mrs Neville-Rolfe +6, M Avery (3½) bt J Wood (6) +18, Mrs Zinn +18, Turner +3, S S Townsend (1½) bt Mrs W G Jones (9) +8, H Carlisle +19, Mrs A Neville-Rolfe (2½) bt Miss E Wood (10) +12, Newman +7, Mrs F H Newman (8) bt Mrs R Gosden (10) +8, Mrs Carlisle +14, D Turner (4) bt Mrs R A Wheeler (2) +20, Haigh +2, Mrs I P MacDonald (10) bt R Welch (7½) +23, H B H Carlisle (2½) bt J Walters (11) +7, F H Newman (5½) bt D J Croker (0) +11, R Gosden (9) bt Mrs Sundius-Smith +7, Dr R A Wheeler (4½) bt Judge A D Karmel (3) +18, Mrs H B H Carlisle (1½) bt I P MacDonald (7) +4, J Haigh (1) bt G Henshaw (3) +2, Mrs A Zinn (8) bt J Carlisle (16) +1, Mrs B Sundius-Smith (2) bt Mrs D J Croker (7½).

Event 4. Handicap Y Singles (16 entries)

Winner: Walters bt Mrs Jones +10, Mrs Sheldon +3, Croker +24, J Carlisle +3.

Runners-up: J Carlisle bt Wood +8, Henshaw +22, MacDonald +17, MacDonald bt Mrs Gosden +7, Mrs Townsend +16, Croker bt Miss Wood +13, Campion +10, Henshaw bt Mrs Wheeler +20, Mrs Townsend w.o. Karmel opp. ret., Campion bt Mrs Croker, Mrs Sheldon bt Welch +20.

Event 5. Hope Cups Handicap Doubles (18 pairs)

Winners: G Henshaw & J Walters (14) bt Dr D Parker & Mrs B Sundius-Smith (5) +6, Dr & Mrs Wheeler +4, Wood & Turner +3, Mrs Neville-Rolfe & Gosden +6.

Runners-up: Mrs A Neville-Rolfe & R Gosden (11½) bt Mrs & Mrs D J Croker (7½) +7, H B H & J Carlisle +18, Mr & Mrs Townsend +7, Mr & Mrs S S Townsend (14½) bt Miss S G Hampson & Mrs R Gosden (12½) +12, Haigh & Mrs Sheldon +19, J Wood & D Turner (10) bt Mr & Mrs I P MacDonald (15) +3, Welsh & Miss Assheton +1 (t), J Haigh & Mrs P Sheldon (10) bt Judge & Mrs A D Karmel (10) +12, H B H & J Carlisle (16½) bt P Campion & Mrs W Jones (16) +18, Mr & Mrs Newman +5, Dr & Mrs R F Wheeler (6½) bt D Godfree & Mrs H B H Carlisle (10½) +15, R Welch & Miss J Assheton (14½) bt W Barnett & Miss E Wood (19) +12, Mr & Mrs F H Newman (13½) bt M Avery & Mrs A Zinn (11½) +6.

Edinburgh 25-30 August

Event 1. Cramond Cup Open Singles (7 entries)

Play-off: R Williams bt S R C Malin +2.

DRAW

Winner: R Williams bt R O Calder +20, Mrs Rowe +9, Mrs Lauder +14.

Runners-up: Mrs M Lauder bt Malin +4, Mrs C A Rowe bt R E Wallis +2 (t), S R C Malin bt J E Rowe +9.

PROCESS

Winner: Malin bt Mrs Rowe +5, Mrs Lauder +15, Wallis +13.

Runners-up: Wallis bt Rowe +17, Calder +23, Mrs Lauder bt Williams +5.

Event 2. Silver Jubilee Salver Level Singles X (6 bisques + over) (7 entries)

Winner: J Lomax bt Mrs V M Macpherson +2 (t), C J Tait +4 (t), Forth +22.

Runners-up: R Forth bt A G M Hunter +8 (t), Roy +1 (t), G C Roy bt A D Lamont +6 (t).

Event 2. Level Singles Y (4 entries)

Winner: Hunter bt Lamont +3 (t), Tait +1 (t).

Runner-up: Tait bt Mrs Macpherson +14.

Event 3. Walter B Laing Cup Handicap X Singles (9 bisques + over) (7 entries)

Winner: Mrs M Wright (13) bt Mrs G Clark (14) +20, Fotheringham +7, Ramsay +15.

Runners-up: A Ramsay (16) bt Mrs J Morrison (16) +13, J C McCulloch (9) +9 (t), L J Fotheringham (14) bt Miss A M Murray (9) +16.

Event 3. Handicap Y Singles (4 entries)

Winner: McCulloch bt Mrs Morrison +20, Miss Murray +19.

Runner-up: Miss Murray bt Mrs Clark +20.

Event 4. Norton-Wright Trophies Handicap Doubles (12 entries)

Winners: Mr & Mrs J E Rowe (11½) bt Mr & Mrs L J Fotheringham (28) +7 (t), Calder & Lomax +1 (t), Wallis & Malin +16, Williams & Forth +11.

Runners-up: R Williams & R Forth (10½) bt Mrs V M Macpherson & Mrs M Wright (20) +14, Roy & Mrs Lauder +2 (t), G C Roy & Mrs M Lauder (13½) bt C J Tait & A D Lamont (16) +12 (t), McCulloch & Miss Murray +18, R E Wallis & S R C Malin (7) bt A G M Hunter & A Ramsay (24) +2 (t), J C McCulloch & Miss A M Murray (18) bt D Maguire & Miss S Carter (23) +15, R O Calder & J Lomax bt F V X Norton & R MacFarlane (14) +4 (t).

Event 5. Edinburgh Cup X Handicap Singles (18 entries)

Winner: R E Wallis (3) bt Mrs V M Macpherson (7) +5, Mrs M Lauder (6½) +5, Tait +21, Lomax +11, Milne +11.

Runners-up: R Milne (1½) bt A G M Hunter (8) +3, Malin +6, Rowe +7, J E Rowe (6½) bt A Ramsay (16) +7, A D Lamont (8) +3, Calder +13, J Lomax (7) bt Mrs C A Rowe (5) +7 (t), Williams +16, S R C Malin (4) bt G C Roy (7) +12, R O Calder (5½) bt C Morrison (16) +15, C J Tait (8) bt L J Fotheringham (14) +16, R Williams (2½) bt R Forth (8) +14.

Event 5. Handicap Y Singles (10 entries)

Winner: Lamont bt Ramsay +10, Morrison +6 (t), Roy +1, Mrs Lauder +9

Runners-up: Mrs Lauder bt Mrs Macpherson +1, Fotheringham +16, Mrs Rowe +12, Roy bt Hunter +7, Mrs Rowe bt Forth +8.

Southwick III 25-30 August

My first sight of the Southwick Croquet Club was a large sign which read, "WARNING, these grounds are patrolled by guard dogs". It was therefore with some trepidation that I looked at the green wooden gate, quite expecting that anyone who entered would be met by a pack of snarling Alsations in the charge of a handler wielding a four pound lignum vitae fully prepared to repel all borders. I thought too, perhaps there would be a battery of 18th Century canon specially converted to fire salvos of old croquet balls at unwelcome visitors. With these thoughts in mind, I said to my wife, 'you take a look around, I'll stay with the car'. Needless to say this suggestion was greeted with little enthusiasm, so together we pushed open the green wooden gate and nervously edged our way round the Pavilion.

The scene which met our gaze was one of complete tranquility, more than two acres of lush green turf bordered by well cultivated flower beds providing splashes of colour to the backdrop of carefully prepared lawns. To complete the picture the whole vista was bathed in the warm sunshine of an August afternoon. From a small wooden building there came that typical English sound, the rattle of tea cup to saucer and within a few seconds of our arrival we were enjoying a friendly hospitality that was to last throughout the whole tournament.

Whilst playing our first practise shots another friendly character introduced himself as Tristran Owen, at that particular moment he seemed to be taking a fiendish delight in driving hoops into the ground to make quite sure that the aperture between the two uprights was not a fraction of an inch more than the permitted standard.

Tournament play commenced promptly at 10 o'clock on Monday morning and continued in ideal conditions until Thursday. By this time the blue sky had clouded and a fine drizzle began to fall but this was not sufficient to dampen the enthusiasm and good humour of the competitors. On Friday morning conditions really deteriorated, play commenced on time in light rain which steadily increased until by mid-day the

Semi-Final: Mrs MacDonald bt Mrs S Townsend +6, Mrs Gosden bt Miss J Wraith +13.

Final: Mrs MacDonald Mrs Gosden +4.

PROCESS

Second Round: Mrs S Townsend bt Mrs K Townsne +10, Mrs Gosden w.o. opp. scr. Mrs W Jones bt Mrs Wharrad +3, Mrs MacDonald bt Miss J Wraith +10.

Semi-Final: Mrs R Gosden bt Mrs S Townsend +1 (t), Mrs MacDonald bt Mrs Jones +10.

Final: Mrs R Gosden bt Mrs MacDonald +2.

Play-off: Mrs MacDonald bt Mrs Gosden +16.

Event 4. X Handicap Singles (31 entries) Trevelyan Cup

First Round: A D'Antal (7) bt Mrs K Townsend (10) +14.

Second Round: L D Adams (1½) bt Mrs B G Neal (6) +5, S J Garrett (5½) bt Mrs H B H Carlisle (1½) +4, Mrs B G F Weitz (2½) bt Mrs L Wharrad (12) +11, D J V Hamilton-Miller (1) bt Mrs W Jones (9) +22, M G Pearson (3½) bye, I P MacDonald (7) bt Mrs R Gosden (10) +18, Mrs W Browne (8) bt L Wharrad (3) +2 (t), Hilditch bt Mrs S S Townsend (13) +14, D'Antal bt Miss P Shine (8) +6 (t), R D Bowen (*2) bt S S Townsend (1½) +12, R A Godby (0) bt R Gosden (8) +7, J G O Miller (8) bt S Godsi (7) +5 (t), P W Campion (7) bt Miss J Wraith (9) +5, Mrs W Longman (7) bt A D Karmel (3) +2 (t), Mrs B Mansfield (7) bt K F W Townsend (10) +15, Mrs P MacDonald (10) bt C Hudson (3½) +7.

Third Round: Garrett bt Adams +25, Hamilton-Miller bt Mrs Weitz +3, MacDonald bt Pearson +24, Hilditch bt Mrs Browne +7, Bowen bt D'Antal +17, Godby bt Miller +18, Campion bt Mrs Longman +19, Mrs MacDonald bt Mrs Mansfield w.o.

Fourth Round: Garrett bt Hamilton-Miller +14, Hilditch bt MacDonald +8 (t), Godby bt Bowen +19, Campion bt Mrs MacDonald +7.

Semi-Final: Hilditch bt Garrett +2, Campion bt Godby +26.

Final: Hilditch bt Campion +11.

Event 4. Y Handicap Singles (16 entries)

Second Round: Mrs B G Neal (6) bt Mrs H B H Carlisle +3, Mrs W Jones (9) bt Mrs L Wharrad +11, L Wharrad (3) bt Mrs R Gosden (10) +8, Mrs S S Townsend (13) bt Mrs K Townsend (10) +5 (t), S S Townsend (1½) bt Miss P Shine (8) +17, S Godsi (7) bt R Gosden (8) +15, A D Karmel (3) bt Miss J Wraith (9) +15, C Hudson (3½) bt K F W Townsend (10) +5.

Third Round: Mrs Neal bt Mrs Jones +9, Wharrad bt Mrs S S Townsend +20, Godsi bt Townsend +7, Hudson bt Karmel +9.

Semi-Final: Wharrad bt Mrs Neal +12, Hudson bt Godsi +2.

Final: L Wharrad bt Hudson +17.

Event 5. Handicap Doubles (16 pairs)

Second Round: A D Karmel & G Martin (6) bt A D'Antal & Mrs S Townsend (20) +2, R Gosden & Mrs B G Neal (14) bt S J Garrett & Miss J Wraith (14½) +2 (t), C Hudson & Mrs A Solomon (15½) bt Mrs W Browne & D J V Hamilton-Miller (9) +1 (t), Mrs H B H Carlisle & Mrs R Gosden (11½) bt P W Campion & Mrs W Jones (16) +9 (t), J G O Miller & K F W Townsend (18) bt Mrs B G F Weitz & Miss P Shine (10½) +15, J Hilditch & R D Bowen (5½) bt Mr & Mrs L Wharrad (14) +7, R A Godby & J Greenwood (4½) bt Mr & Mrs MacDonald (15) +4, L D Adams & Mrs B Mansfield (8½) bt Mrs W Longman & S Godsi (12) +8.

Third Round: Gosden & Mrs Neal bt Karmel & Martin +13, Mrs Carlisle & Mrs Gosden bt Hudson & Mrs Solomon +8, Hilditch & Bowen bt Miller & Townsend +6, Adams & Mrs Mansfield bt Godby & Greenwood +10.

Semi-Final: Gosden & Mrs Neal bt Mrs Carlisle & Mrs Gosden +12 (t), Adams & Mrs Mansfield bt Hilditch & Bowen w.o.

Final: Mrs Mansfield & Adams bt Gosden & Mrs Neal +3.

Wrest Park W/E 19-21 September 1980

The tournament got off to a good start, within minutes, there was a ball stuck in a hoop. We soon discovered that the green and brown second colour balls in particular were oversize and they were not round. The hoops had to be widened to accommodate them.

The tight hoops seemed to favour the lower handicap players

excepting Margaret Cotterell, of course, who won all her games with quiet efficiency.

There was the normal slightly late start on Sunday by some players who had a little difficulty in overcoming the previous evenings festivities at 'The Waggon and Horses' where about thirty of us had dinner and exchanged a few yarns, not all of them were about croquet. On one table we had recitations of 'Pudsey Jack' and 'Albert and the Lion'.

Tournament-goers will be pleased to hear that we have made a provisional booking of accomodation at the National College of Agricultural Engineering for September 1981.

Block A: B A KEEN (1) 5 wins (+63), J Haigh (1) 5 wins (+34), D K Openshaw (-2) 4 wins, Mrs E Taylor (13) 3 wins (+34), A G Dumont (5) 3 wins (-14), Mrs C Chard (5) 1 win, Miss J Assheton (6½) no win.

Block B: J A WHEELER (1) 5 wins, A Watkins (10) 4 wins, A Girling (2) 3 wins, P Hands (-1) 2 wins, D Turner (3½) 1 win (-37), Mrs N Tyldesley (7) 1 win (-40), J M Wilson (9) and N J Davren (½) scored 5 wins between them.

Block C: DR G ROBERTS (-½) 6 wins, T W Anderson (4) 5 wins, K Cotterell (5) 3 wins (+13), J Rose (0) 3 wins (-41), J Lyle (11) 2 wins (-28), Dr R C Jones (4½) 1 win (-54), P Stoker (2½) 1 win (-57).

Block D: P CORDINGLEY (4) 4 wins (+51), Mrs P Hague (7) 4 wins (+39), H C Green (1) 4 wins (-7), G E P Jackson (-½) 3 wins (-13), S Battison (2) 2 wins, M Coward (4) 1 win (-23).

Block E: MRS M COTTERELL (10) 6 wins, E Bell (½) 4 wins, Mrs J Anderson (8) 3 wins (+34), E Audsley (3½) 3 wins (+21), A Hope (-2) 3 wins (-18), R Welch (7½) 1 win (-50), A C W Davies (3½) 1 win (-78).

The final round of block D was played as a Swiss.

Roving Eye

Quotation from CLEMENTINE CHURCHILL by her daughter MARY SOAMES. "During the five years when the Conservatives were in Opposition . . . Croquet replaced tennis as the summer game, and the tennis court made a quick transformation into a 'regulation' croquet lawn. Clementine played very well, and most of all she liked 'real' croquet, but nearly all her friends (and certainly her children) preferred the shorter, more immediately rewarding Golf Croquet to the scientific longueurs of the classic game. She happily acquiesced in this compromise and many pleasant afternoons were passed in this way. New recruits were found in the growing grandchildren, and although Winston did not play himself, he was an attentive spectator, and particularly enjoyed seeing 'Monty' (a frequent and faithful visitor) out-manoeuvred as a strategist."

Mike Stevens was coaching two new players at Roehampton. They were both female and attractive and he soon noticed that a white-haired man had been drawn from his putting practice to watch their game. Alert to the possibility of a new recruit Mike invited him to make a four: "I can give you an appropriate handicap to make a good game of it." "I already have a handicap thank you . . . minus five! It was Patrick Cotter.

LEGERE. Triumphed Over Renowned Englishmen Anno Domini 1980. Quis est?

Croquet In Avon

While sparking dreams of croquet on Astro-turf, the sudden Bath City Council decision to make a start on building a Super Dome on Bath's Recreation Ground has dented the smooth progress of the Croquet Clubs expansion plans. A new lawn 3 and space for a lawn 4, both adjacent to the present ground, just a month ago seemingly "safe in the bag" are now to be test borehole sites for the engineers this summer (so bring earplugs if you visit). A 3rd lawn will be available this year though, some 150 yds away from the present site, on an old

bowling green (itself an even older croquet lawn).

On the foundation of good Longman Cup showings in recent seasons the club has decided this year to enter the inter-club tournament for the first time and looks forward to following in the footsteps of those other west country minnows and giant killers, Exeter City FC.

Meanwhile Bristol is looking forward to a busy year with an open day and publicity campaign in May and a 2 day weekend tournament (July 25th/26th), the first of its kind to be held in this neck of the woods for many a year.

We are all hoping that efforts to form a brand new club at Bristol's south western commuter suburb, Nailsea, will prove successful.

One of Bath's new members, Trevor Walker, had hoped to form a new club at Chippenham but has so far had little success in obtaining a suitable site. Trevor should make his mark this season however, in the shape of a revolutionary new mallet he's designed and produced. Your correspondent hopes to put this secret weapon to good use from Easter onwards.

Yes, things are stirring in the backwoods of Avon.

John McCullough

Cambridge Croquet "Cuppers"

Croquet continues to flourish in Cambridge, as evidenced by the popularity of the annual University knockout competition ("Cuppers") for the Luard Cup (on loan from the Croquet Association). The average entry for this level doubles event over the last three years exceeds 200 pairs, drawn from about 20 Colleges, per year; there were no fewer than 278 pairs in the 1980 competition. The early stages begin in late April, with the later rounds running on into early June. Few Colleges possess lawns of highstandard and the variability of the playing surfaces can pose interesting problems; there is frequently a great advantage associated with playing at home.

With such an enormous entry, the standard of play spans the spectrum from absolute beginner to quite strong. This was well illustrated by two consecutive first round matches between Sidney and Christ's pairs. In the first match, the winners of the toss chose to play with red and black; their opponents did not object and spectators were treated to the sight of yellow going back to blue at the end of numerous turns; this match ran to time (2 hours) and a total of only about 10 points were scored. The next match on the same lawn lasted only about an hour and ended with a delayed triple peel (from sixth hoop).

The holders, Corpus Christi, and Sidney Sussex have produced the strongest players in the last couple of years, though Churchill, Emmanuel, Kings and Pembroke also have fielded dangerous pairs. In the early rounds, Corpus 1 (Raoul Allin and Martin Coward) disposed of all opposition in convincing style. Their main rivals, Sidney 1 (Richard Bowen and Richard Hilditch), also hit good form and brought off peeling finishes in each of the first three rounds. Other highlights were a tense pegged out game between Kings 1 and Sidney 2 which Sidney just won +2 after being far in arrears and pegging out Kings' rover ball, and the +19 victory of Corpus 1 over Sidney 3 in which Corpus reached peg and peg before Sidney could score a point.

The competition became more intense after about round 4; strong teams to survive into this period, but who were eliminated before the semifinal stage, were Corpus 3 and 6, Emmanuel 1, Pembroke 1, Churchill 1 and Sidney 2. The semifinal results were as follows: (i) Corpus 1 beat Sidney 10 (+15); (ii) Sidney 1 beat Emmanuel 2 (+7, conceded with

Sidney for penult and Emmanuel for third).

The first game in the best of three final took place on June 11th on Emmanuel's lawn. Sidney took an early lead, but Corpus hit back, following a thunderstorm, and eventually won +7. Allin's excellent long shooting (particularly the lift shot when Sidney was laid up to go out) was the decisive factor in the later stages of this game. The second game had to be postponed until October 11th and was played on Corpus' lawn. After Sidney failed to capitalise on early opportunities, Corpus took a long lead and reached peg and peg with their opponents still on 2 back and first; Coward played a 12 hoop break in this period. Sidney fought back somewhat, with a 10 hoop break, but Corpus eventually ran out victors +7 to retain the Luard Cup for the fourth consecutive year.

The Reckitt Club

This club had its first active season this year, with just sufficient members to venture a team in the Inter-Club competition. To draw Cheltenham "A" in the first round didn't look too promising, but an invitation to play against Nottingham a week before the date fixed for this encounter gave most of us a chance to get in some match practice, and after a 6 - 2 win we felt that we at least would not disgrace ourselves the following weekend.

This feeling had all but evaporated when the big day arrived. Our devious strategy of playing six, hoping to overstretch the opposition (their second best four comprising the nucleus of the Cheltenham "B" team), was met by the appearance of further excellent players from Cheltenham's seemingly endless supply of experts, and we were still conceding between 2 and 2½ bisques throughout the team. By the end of the day however, with Cheltenham narrowly victorious 5 - 4, we were left sadly reflecting on what might have been. Next year, the draw will perhaps be a little kinder.

The season ended with a match against the Heley Club, on lawns generously made available by Parkstone. No-one involved on either side would wish to claim that they played their best croquet, but it was an enjoyable - if somewhat cold - day nevertheless. Reckitt went down 2 - 4; still, Oxford had twelve successive defeats before winning the Varsity match - though we have no intention of repeating that dubious feat! With new players emerging from the University each year, the club can only become stronger; and it is hoped that our activities will be extended accordingly.

Finally, a word of thanks to our hosts this year. As will always be the case, we rely on their interest in playing against us or watching us play; we very much hope that they enjoyed playing us as much as we have enjoyed playing them. IB

Clubs Near and Far

Essex & Suffolk Croquet League

In the Spring of 1980 the Clubs of Bentley, Colchester, Ingatestone and Ipswich decided to form a league to encourage medium and high bisquers and to improve the standard of croquet locally. It was decided that each of the four clubs should provide a team of four players, the sum of whose handicaps must be 38 or over and that each match would consist of eight half game singles and two three-quarter game doubles. Colchester, due to its much larger size, was allowed to field two teams, one of Suffolk members, one of Essex. The four matches to be played by each team were spread over the months of May to September, the dates being arranged on a flexible timetable to suit the convenience of the clubs concerned.

A Colchester firm, Harpers Sports, most generously agreed to provide a trophy and at a team-members party, held at the Colchester Club on 16th October, the Harper Shield was duly presented to the Colchester Essex side by the firm's Managing Director.

Thirty-two different players took part in the ten matches and the final league positions were: Colchester Essex 14 points (3 wins, 1 draw), Ipswich 10 points (1 win, 3 draws), Ingestone 9 points (1 win, 2 draws, 1 loss), Bentley 9 points (1 win, 2 draws, 1 loss) and Colchester Suffolk 4 points (4 losses).

Tournaments at Himley Hall

For the seventh successive season the West Midlands Federation held weekend tournaments at Himley Hall, near Wolverhampton. The former country seat of the earls of Dudley makes an ideal setting for croquet. The eight lawns have shown a marked improvement since 1974 when the New Zealand test team started the ball rolling with a visit to Himley. However, the playing conditions — with the absence of a club-house — are perhaps a little below what would be expected from an event in the Calendar. But the format of two-day weekend tournaments in a central area, well served by motorways, has attracted many visitors from neighbouring regions in past seasons and might well appeal to other readers of the Gazette. The likely dates for next year's tournaments are:—

Handicap Doubles May 16—17
Handicap Singles June 13—14
Class Singles July 11—12

Interested players can be sure of a warm welcome and should contact Peter Barnes, 14 Silver Poplars, Kingswood, Wolverhampton for further details.

In 1980 the cup winners were George Noble and Bill Weston (Doubles); Robert Jones (Handicap Singles); Harry Hawkins ('A' Class); Pat Hague ('B' Class) and Tony Watkins ('C' Class).

In addition the West Midlands entertained a Scottish team to a match at Himley on 27th September concluding the season with a Golf Croquet tournament the following day.

A J Girling

Autumn Meeting Of The Federation Of Northern Croquet Clubs

Six clubs were represented. The Chairman, Mrs Nell Tyldesley, said that we had had a very successful season in the North, and she especially congratulated Eddie Bell, Chris Hudson, Paul Stoker, Barry Keen and Pat Hague on their various activities. Pupils and some masters from the Cheetham School and Manchester Grammar School had taken part in several friendly matches at the Ellesmere Club. Such matches were enjoyable and well worth while in promoting the game. Continuing with her report, the Chairman said that she regularly attended C A Council Meetings and this gave her the opportunity to represent the views of the North, but she regretted that she was unable to take part in important Council Standing Committee work because of travelling difficulties in relation to the timing of the meetings.

The Federation League Cup was presented to the Ellesmere Club which won this handicap competition with a total of 10 points, the runners-up being East Riding. This competition was an important means for developing the skills of new players by associating them in competitive play with more experienced players. The other avenue for improvement was through tournament play and it was emphasised that high bisquers should be given every encouragement to enter handicap tournaments.

The Bowdon Croquet Club, whose membership now stands at over 100, said that the North West Council for Sports and Recreation had approved a grant of £10,000 and loan of £5,000 towards the £33,000 estimated cost of levelling and renovating their lawns and the repair and extension of their clubhouse. This scheme had the Federation's support in creating a mecca for croquet in the North. Work was to start immediately, and it was hoped that it would not interfere seriously with the club's programme for next year. The balance of the funds would have to be raised by the club.

The final of the Secretary's Shield, between Chester and Wallingford had been postponed to early next season.

The Southport & Birdale Croquet Club would host the Pimm's sponsored match between Scotland and Wales on May 30th next, and they hoped that the event would give rise to considerable publicity and interest in the game.

It was unfortunate that Mr Richard Rothwell could not attend the meeting because he was unwell. His presence was missed on this occasion but we look forward to his attendance at the Spring meeting.

A C M

Federation of West Midlands Croquet Clubs League Positions 1980

Division 1.

	P	W	F	A	Pts
Walsall	3	3	7	2	6
Edgbaston	3	2	5	4	4
Stourbridge	3	1	3	6	2
Wolverhampton	3	0	3	6	0

Division 2.

	P	W	D	Pts
Wolverhampton	3	1	2	4
Edgbaston	3	1	1	3
Bromsgrove	3	0	3	3
Stourbridge	3	0	2	2

Rover Notes

How Short Time Was

"We have 30 minutes to go" my opponent said — his leave had been as clever as his turn had been good and I was pondering . . . Amazed I ran to baulk; I took the shortest shot; I missed; he won.

After that I had plenty of time on my hands and I decided to do some research as to where all those humble minutes vanished. I started at 10 next morning — but I was the only one who did, the first game to start was 10.07 and the last after 10.30. Doubles was the order of the day and on one lawn it took nearly 5 mins before the fourth ball had been played in to the game and placed on the yardline. On the neighbouring lawn the fifth turn had started within 2 mins, and on that lawn the break to 4 back took 14 minutes plus another 3 minutes for arranging the tricky Hoops 2 and 4 leave. The other lawn took only 13½ mins to 4 back but with quite a bit of discussion, the more conventional leave took nearly five minutes. Discussion between one pair seemed to breed discussion between the other pair when they hit the lift. It seemed strange to see one mighty player place a ball for a take-off by another — but later I even saw another go on to do the same for a little take-off to a hoop! Some players waited until they had gained the innings before 'disappearing' for a few minutes (7 if they walked). The quickest triple peel I timed was 17 minutes, the longest 50! Neither made a mistake and each

played at his natural tempo but a Tournament could take three times as many players if they all played at the speed of the quicker than if they all played at the speed of the slower. Minutes disappeared like Young's beer at lunchtime, nobody reappeared in less than an hour and no game restarted in less than 67 minutes from the time they stopped. So the afternoon continued. I could not say that defensive play or even bad play caused much loss of time, it was discussion, indecision, inattention and extraneous matters such as tea. In the games that nearly went to time by far the most hoops were scored in the last quarter of the game. In one game which did go to time, time was called during a turn after which it took more than twenty minutes for that side to make one hoop and peg out one ball to draw level and for the winning point to be scored. After the game the losers were heard to say that the others had spent too long in discussion. I happened to have timed every turn and the losers had taken 27 minutes longer!

Metric Croquet

Much correspondence has featured in recent issues of the New Zealand Croquet Gazette about this subject. Published below are the various measurements and dimensions and I welcome any correspondence from Associates about croquet changing to the metric system:—

	Croquet Metric Equivalents	
Lawn Length	30 metres	32 yds, 2ft. 5 ins.
Lawn width	24 metres	26 yds, 9 ins.
Measuring tape	6 metres	6 yds, 1ft. 8 ins.
Yard Line	90 cms	35½ ins.
Ball size	92 cms	3 5/8ths ins.
Hoop size	94 to 100 mms	3 11/16ths to 4 ins.

Correspondence

Croquet Anagrams

from "Guess Who"

Dear As If Dud Lover

I enclose a selection of anagrams of the names of croquet players with handicaps between -2 and 2 (I think). The first correct solution sent to me wins a drink.

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Dark Vice Rod | 9. Sad Conga Jerk |
| 2. Lush Panda | 10. Ram Dull Lily In The Dome |
| 3. Panda Show Dive | 11. Boring Body |
| 4. New Zebra Dirt | 12. Bald Rich Reg |
| 5. Her Husky Chimp | 13. Beery Nark |
| 6. Moronic Sole | 14. Green Boogle |
| 7. Nuts Juicy Lemons Dish | 15. One Hard Pew |
| 8. Red Cane Tree | 16. Idle Bleed |

There are plenty more where these came from, but anyone with any more is invited to send them to me (with solutions, please!) for inclusion in a future collection.

94 Briggate Knaresborough
North Yorkshire

Yours sincerely
I Sunk Two Zebra Milks

with acknowledgements to No Jam Shed and New Net Brenda
Editor's Note — solutions appear on a later page.

Seeding will harm croquet

from J Fleming

Sir

I write to you as one who having recently been introduced to the delights of croquet, is now considering joining the Croquet Association. My earlier firm resolve to take this step

has, however, been somewhat weakened by what is apparently only a recent innovation in this game: seeding players in Open events. I note from the Summer issue of the Gazette that it was used in the Cheltenham May weekend, and understand that this is not an isolated instance of the practice.

My change of heart can, I think, be traced to two aspects of this development. I have — as all new players should — studied the Laws of Association Croquet carefully; and find, to my surprise, that seeding in first class level events is **expressly forbidden**. Is the Association which you, Sir, so ably serve aware of these breaches of its rules, and has it taken any action to ensure that they are not repeated? Secondly, and more importantly, is not seeding quite properly forbidden? While tennis professionals, for example, may insist on seeding so that the top players do not clash before guaranteeing themselves at least some of the prize money, this is surely no argument for its general adoption in Croquet. I foresee only endless difficulties and acrimonious disputes if seeding is widely adopted, thus largely excluding lesser players from the final stages of the main events. Has the Association fully considered the gravity of the situation, and the threat it might pose to the continuation of the present position, where all, regardless of ability, are treated equally?

I trust, Sir, that my fears are groundless, and that seeding will once again be banished from the game of Croquet. Unless it is, nothing but harm can come of it.

117 Bennerly Road

Battersea SW11

Yours sincerely

J Fleming

Editor's Note:

The subject of seeding in open events was the subject of much discussion at the Council meeting held on 29th November as a result of a motion put forward by Mr A B Hope "That Regulation 20 (a) be deleted". It was felt that rather than the Council possibly allowing seeding to take place in the future, without restriction, there should be a trial period first to see what effect it would have upon our game. Accordingly, the following amended motion "That Regulation 20 (a) be suspended for 1981" was carried by 12 votes to 9. This will allow clubs to have seeding in open events during 1981 in their own tournaments. The C A Tournaments Sub-Committee will have to decide to what extent, if any, seeding will be utilised in C A official tournaments such as the Open Championships, the Caskets etc.

Should mallets be entirely wood?

Dear Sir

In recent years there has been increasing concern over the durability of croquet balls. No one, as far as I know, has drawn attention to the great increase in the number of mallets faced with various very hard-wearing artificial materials instead of wood. As we know, wood is quickly worn down by its impact with a croquet ball. One would suppose that when a mallet is faced with something that **cannot** wear, the energy that previously injured the mallet now damages the ball. Or does it go somewhere else? Perhaps someone who **knows** about such things, as I certainly do not, would like to comment.

It would be interesting to see what happened if for a trial period the pre-1972 Law were restored, that the face of the mallet should be of wood only. Even more interesting would be to see how many of today's players would still be eligible to play.

104 Livingstone Road, Hove,
East Sussex BN3 3WL

Yours faithfully

J H Bowman

impressed by the performances of a couple of the best New Zealanders who are rock-solid throughout the most ferocious stroke. Speaking for myself I was amazed at the degree of consistency I was given simply by regarding my legs, trunk and head as a stable platform from which my arms and mallet could operate. I am quite prepared to concede (before Paul Hands says it for me) that having large feet, a big head and short legs may give me an unfair advantage - but do give it a try!

One point should be made about the weight of shot needed to straighten another ball a given distance compared with that needed to send S there directly. When S leaves M it is skidding, not rolling. In the course of a few feet friction between the grass and S causes S to roll. This distance varies according to the conditions and speed of S but rarely exceeds 3 yards. When S assumes rolling motion its linear speed will have dropped by 2/7ths due to that fact alone. This means that it is undoubtedly true that all but the shortest rushes DO need more force than the equivalent plain hit. However the point I wish to make is that this extra force will never exceed 7/5ths of that needed for a plain hit - even if the rush is long and the grass anything but smooth. So if faced with a rush-target 20 yards away don't hit S harder than necessary to send it 28 yards on its own.

Advice on cut-rushes should often follow Punch's to the young man contemplating matrimony. Speaking straight from the heart I shudder to think of the number of innings I have forced down my opponents' throats by attempting long and lunatic cuts. However those of under 2 feet need not terrify. Just remember that a half-ball rush (when the line of aim from M through S and beyond is a tangent to the circumference of R) needs twice the force of the equivalent straight rush. If you are wisely sticking to a 2 foot limit this will be almost the same as the equivalent plain hit because S should still be skidding when it hits R. Thicker or finer cuts need less and more force and are more and less sensible respectively. I have never yet been accused of over-cautious play but I do find the effect of a missed 18 inch fine cut sufficiently excruciating to make it worth avoiding where possible. I daresay that P Hands with his repertoire of trouser-flap misses in the 6 to 15 inch range will agree with me.

Concluding this contribution I would like to address a word to the higher-bisquers. Rushing is now socially OK. After intensive argument at all levels it has been decided by authority that it is no longer improper or indecent for a 14 bisquer to rush around - on court or elsewhere. Indeed the advantages of this practice are manifold. Breaks take longer to destroy and are easier to pick up. Opponents become depressed. Aunt Emma bleats about discrimination against a vanishing species in need of preservation. Its exciting. You will be in danger of entering tournaments, having your handicap reduced and getting a great deal more fun out of Croquet.

Steve Mulliner

Liar Dice

Anyone who has competed in a croquet tournament at Wrest Park in recent years will be aware that the Liar Dice played in the evenings is a major attraction. The following is therefore a useful contribution to croquet gatherings.

Liar Dice Associates (often referred to as John Wheeler and Smokey Eades) are concerned at the disorganised approach to Lying now prevalent at Croquet Tournaments! In order to ensure good order and discipline in the noble game of Liar Dice, we Associates restate the definitive rules:

- To commence, each player throws one dice and he who throws the highest starts the game (i.e. becomes "the thrower").
- The first thrower must throw **all** the dice. He may pass them to his left or right (i.e. clockwise or anti-clockwise) and the "receiver" is then obliged to pass them on in the same direction.
- The receiver, when he becomes a thrower, **must** pass on a higher call than he received. If he under-calls he can be challenged. He then has a chance to correct his call or, failing that, to lose a life.
- Dice are usually passed from thrower to receiver under the 'cup'. The thrower, however, always has the option of exposing dice to the view of all players. Any subsequent thrower, however, can re-hide the dice or expose more as he wishes.
- Each player has three lives. The first player to lose all three has an extra one "on the parish". Other players, however, on losing their three lives cease to participate in the game and the cup is passed **backwards** so that the previous thrower throws again.
- Only the receiver can ask the thrower how many dice were thrown but the thrower has **no** obligation to say.
- Only the receiver can ask the thrower what call was accepted by him. Other players are expected to listen and follow the game! **Any** player, however, can ask the thrower to repeat his call.
- The order of call precedence is as follows:—
 - A single
 - a pair
 - two pairs
 - three of a kind
 - a full house (i.e. a three plus a two of a kind)
 - four of a kind
 - a low straight (to king)
 - a high straight (to ace)
 - five of a kind

If a receiver accepts a call of, say, 3 kings and a ten, he will be passing on a higher call if he passes 3 kings and a jack, or even 3 kings ten, nine! Aces are, of course high.
- If a call of five aces is accepted the receiver has the opportunity to attempt to throw any five aces with three throws of the dice. If he succeeds the thrower loses a life.

PAGE FOR JUNIORS

By "Coach"

(Reproduced from the April 1980 New Zealand Croquet Gazette)

During the season I have moved about New Zealand quite a bit and had the opportunity to see many of our future seniors in action. One thing that has stuck in my mind has been not only the high standard of play, but also the nagging thought that it could have been even that much better. Having thought it over, I have come to the conclusion that failure to clinch matches has not necessarily been the result of faulty technique but rather because of psychological reasons.

For example, we hear talk about bright open croquet and the opposite - the stone-walker. Bright open croquet does not necessarily imply risky play, but rather an approach to play. The bright open player is the one who "thinks it out" and is constructive. He is not necessarily taking big risks, but he has thought out (a) what he is capable of doing (b) what he can do well, and (c) how he can do it. He watches his opponent playing and says to himself: (a) Why does she do that, and (b)

what will I do to counter it? In other words, this player is keeping in touch with the game. Time and time again I saw occasions at the tournament where players threw away possible success by not paying attention to their own game or "thinking" out what they were going to do.

Now immediately I can hear someone saying, "But we don't all play croquet to be champions, etc." . . . That is true. But croquet is a peculiar game. It is in itself a game of precision, and the main satisfaction in croquet as a game lies in the individual's pleasure at "achieving" something that is already known to be difficult. Even the humble beginner gets a thrill out of trying something over and over to the point of despair and then . . . suddenly it works. You don't have to be playing a match to experience that feeling.

Actually we talk about "social" croquet and "competitive" croquet as if they are entirely different games. In some ways they are, but whether a game be "social" or "competitive" you've still got to play the strokes the same way. What we mean is that each game represents a "conditioning" of the mind . . . In one, we are prepared to accept carelessness, whilst in the other we aim to be precise. Often we meet that peculiar chap who likes to play both versions of the game the same way . . . that is, he won't be careless at any time. Usually that poor fellow is dismissed in terms of, "Oh, he is always playing to win!"

We miss an awful lot of fun in croquet by sloppy thinking. There is only one way to play a precision game and that is, to the best of your ability. Each stroke is played with care, each move is thought out. And what about this business of thinking it out? Immediately most of us feel rebellious at the thought of thinking anything out . . . school days have gone . . . we're playing for relaxation . . . all the usual excuses we make to ourselves . . . But thinking it out is as simple as saying to yourself, "What will happen if I do this?"

Croquet is a game of common sense, and most problems in the game are solved by merely asking oneself that question before one makes the stroke . . . most of us ask it afterwards.

All this may sound very much like a sermon, but in conclusion let us apply this reasoning above to making a break.

Break Play

(a) **Aim:** The line of the aim should be clear in the mind. After all, the balls have got to travel in a definite direction to get to a definite place, so we might as well get it right by taking a little care over the line of aim. One way to fix it in the mind is to approach the balls from behind along the line of aim. You'll soon find out this way whether or not your sighting is faulty.

(b) **Strokes:** The key to any break is retaining possession of the balls, and this can only be done by playing those strokes **you know you can do**. In other words, build your break play round them and don't use matches to try out a completely new shot.

(c) **Pivot Balls:** Remember pivot balls need not remain in the centre of the court. Don't be frightened to take them with you up to the hoop. You may ask why is that done? Well, after all, it is easier to hit the pivot up beyond a ball and stop-shot it back to the centre. Watch a good player doing this and you'll see that when he stop-shots the pivot back to the centre, his own ball has to move only a short distance to get a rush on the next. In other words, he is making sure, or cutting down the margin of error to a minimum.

(d) **Hoop Roquets:** Always try and get the object ball as near as possible to a hoop. The nearer it is not only the greater the chance of success, but the margin of error is cut to the minimum. Further, the mere act of trying to get the ball close to the hoop is one of estimating distance. In other words, attempting to achieve a definite goal.

(e) **Care:** Taking care doesn't necessarily mean being serious, or intense. It merely means, again trying to achieve in

an unguarded moment one's best stroke can be a liability.

(f) **Keeping Calm:** Here again, if you have a tendency to fluster in a difficult situation, this means trying to achieve a definite goal. Probably the hardest goal of all, namely control of one's self. Curiously enough, this appears to give the greatest satisfaction to one. We all have some hidden pride when we can "mess it up" but still remain calm.

There is another aspect of this "keeping calm" that can be one's strongest weapon. Just think, which is the player you fear most? The one who always reveals one's feelings or the other who never reveals a thing. One can sometimes pull off the biggest fluke shot and turn it to advantage by not giving away a thing. If your opponent thinks you meant to do that then he will credit you with being able to do more like it, and once your opponent begins to think that, you have an advantage. The advantage being that he is never quite sure what you can or can not do.

Which brings me right back to my basic observation of juniors this season. I saw more games lost through lack of confidence than lack of good stroke play. The fear of what the other person might think is really the major problem the junior must overcome. How is this overcome? By sheer commonsense.

Does this commonsense work? Well, that is for you to decide, but in conclusion here is a story against myself that may help you decide. I suppose I could say that this year's Dominion tournament has been my happiest one as far as personal form is concerned. But at the height of my best play I received a salutary lesson. In one open championship match I played against a very good player who was rather nervous of me in the first game. Result was that I won very easily, 26-0. We then adjourned for morning tea, during the course of which my opponent obviously thought the morning's proceedings over and decided that with nothing to lose why not give it a go? The result was that I had the most uncomfortable four hours I would ever wish to have again. She hit everything on the court, played those strokes she knew she could do well, and played with commonsense. Her complete relaxation enabled her to achieve more than she, or I, expected. The object lesson is there. In the first game, she worried too much about what I might be thinking, whilst in the second she didn't care what I might be thinking, result? She lost the first game, but gave me a thrashing in the second.

So next season, read this article before you start your play, and remember, success can be yours if you believe in yourself and what you **can** do. Don't worry about what you **can't** do.

Gymkhana For The Smaller Club

The success of our end-of-season gymkhanas at the Bath Club prompts me to make a few suggestions which may appeal to small Clubs wishing to stage similar events.

At the planning stage, several important factors should be borne in mind. The events should be arranged to ensure that all the participants have, as far as possible, some chance of success and that the low bisquers don't have it all their own way. Equally important, the whole company should be as fully occupied as possible and people should not be kept 'hanging about' awaiting their turns. The event should not be unduly prolonged - about 3 hours is probably enough and if at all possible tea should be made available whilst the competitions are taking place.

To satisfy these requirements for an attendance of about 25 or 30, some four or five events should be mounted, most of which will operate continuously. Lengthy competitions, such as golf croquet, should be mixed with shorter operations in which the 'course' is completed in one or two minutes and competitors are tempted to make numerous attempts. At our most recent gymkhana we had four competitions, two long

ones and two short ones. The long ones were golf croquet and what we termed 'obstacle race'; the short ones, 'target croquet' and 'the zig-zag'. Entrance fees of 5p for the golf croquet and "2p a time" for the other events realised about £4.50, which just covered the cost of the prizes.

The golf croquet brings everyone into the event and can be adjusted by varying the number of hoops and by playing it as a singles or doubles competition, according to the number of players and the time available.

The 'obstacle race' is played with one ball and consists in running the first six hoops in order and then hitting the stick. But obstacles have to be negotiated on the way. Corner pegs, bisque sticks, flag sticks and the like are firmly hammered into the ground at strategic points, making it necessary to wander from the straight path and to run hoops from angles, etc. The start is from a set point near Corner 1 and each competitor is accompanied by a marker, who records each stroke made and at the end of the round deducts half the competitor's handicap from the total number of strokes taken to give the nett score; the marker then signs the finished card. This method of scoring usually favours the long bisquers, who have at least as good a chance of winning as the more expert performers.

The 'target croquet' can be arranged in many ways. Three circles or squares are marked out concentrically on a strip of smooth lawn. The innermost should be about 2 feet in diameter, the middle one 3 to 4 feet and the outer about 5 feet in diameter. The boundaries are defined by tapes held firmly to the ground by staples which can conveniently be made from wire coat-hangers. A starting-line is marked out at the far end of the grass strip and a few experimental shots will help to decide the best distance of the line from the target.

Each competitor hits four balls and scoring may well be:

- 6 for a ball in the "bull's eye";
- 3 for a ball stopping in the middle area;
- 1 for a ball in the outer ring.

A skilful player may of course cannon an earlier ball towards the centre. The member in charge of this event will only need to record the leading scores and most competitors will wish to make a number of attempts.

The 'zig-zag' is a competition we devised for the occasion and which proved very popular. (The term 'zig-zag' has been used before for another kind of competition.) For this one, between 15 and 20 corner-pegs are used. These are hammered into the ground at intervals varying from 6 inches to about 2 feet and forming an irregular pattern similar to that shown in the sketch. The object of the game is to hit a single ball in the least number of strokes from the base line, between the pegs in a zig-zag manner and finally to hit the peg. To ensure that competitors follow the correct path, this is marked by a length of string pegged into the ground as shown in the sketch. Needless to say, the nearer the pegs are to each other, the more difficult is the task, and there are endless ways in which the course can be laid out.

The course shown in the sketch has a "par" of 13, but it would require 13 perfectly executed strokes to achieve a par score and this is unlikely to be achieved.

Finally, a word about organisation. A gymkhana requires a lot of careful preparation and the willing help of a team of workers. Each competition should be in the hands of a manager — preferably with an assistant. The rules of procedure for each competition should be set out fully on a large card, displayed near to the starting point, so that competitors can understand what is required without having to wait for lengthy explanations from the manager.

W A Scarr

A Little of Everything

Determination is, of course, a vital ingredient in the make-up of any successful player, but it is worth stressing that this should be directed towards the successful accomplishment of constructive manoeuvres and not wasted on tactics that can only result in a lack of progress by both sides.

Then there is the matter of the take-off; one must have a clear picture of how this type of stroke should be made before one can hope to succeed in making it consistently. In a take-off the balls always go off at right angles, so there is never any question of forcing the striker's ball as is the case with most other croquet strokes, and the placing of the balls becomes even more important than ever. In the case of the fine take-off, the very greatest care should be taken to place them exactly at right angles to the line the striker's ball is to follow; if this is done and the mallet is aimed exactly in the direction that ball is to follow, the other ball will always move, but as many players are nervous about the possibility of a foul, it is suggested that if they place them as described and then move the striker's ball back a fraction of an inch, they will be able to hit in the right direction with absolute confidence. When faced with a hoop approach from directly behind the hoop, place the balls so that the striker's ball will just clear the hoop if the stroke is made in the ordinary way and then aim the mallet at the near wire instead of exactly in the direction the player wishes his ball to follow. If this is done and the stroke executed by means of a swing through rather than a stop-shot movement, it is surprising how often the striker's ball will swing round in front of the hoop. When making the thick take-off that follows the hitting of the tice at the beginning of a game, if the balls are not more than half-way up the lawn and are arranged correctly at right angles to the direction in which the striker's ball must go, it will be found that the peg is the proper aiming mark for the mallet, a swing through with the mallet aimed in this direction will always result in the croqueted ball going towards hoop two, while the striker's ball will go in the proper direction — one cannot give an exact tip regarding strength, but the player should remember that the bulk of the power imparted will inevitably go into the mallet ball, so he will have to hit very little harder than he would if he were playing a single ball stroke to the spot selected.

A little tip regarding finding out the "speed" of the lawn. When playing your first ball on to the lawn, try to land it exactly on the boundary line at the spot chosen, the result of this has often given me valuable information.

Hoop approaches: One frequently sees quite good players experiencing difficulty over this and resorting to ugly little roll-up strokes as the only answer they can find to the problem. Here are some ideas on the subject that are well worth trying out.

If you approach, say, the first hoop from any ordinary position and the ball from which you are taking croquet is not more than four feet from the hoop, line the two balls up aiming at a spot, directly behind the hoop, which is the same distance from the hoop as are the balls at that present moment, and aim the mallet at the near wire of the hoop. Make the stroke by means of a little swing through movement that will move the striker's ball the required distance, and you will find that it will always go in the right direction, while the other ball will be well beyond the hoop in a position that should be useful after the hoop has been run. If the approach is from a spot some feet further away, arrange the balls in similar fashion, but aim the mallet for a spot directly behind the hoop and eighteen inches from it (two average mallet-heads from it). These two mallet-aiming-marks are constant irrespective of the direction from which the approach is being made, provided the stroke is made by means of a swing and not a stop-shot movement — a stop-shot will always result in the striker's ball going wide of the selected mark, so my advice is to shun it!

Peeling: This is not difficult if the business is studied in a common-sense manner, but please remember that when you

are peeling from any reasonable distance and you want your own ball to go off at an angle, you will be almost certain to pull the ball you are peeling about the width of a hoop upright towards the direction in which your ball goes so, when lining them up, allow for that amount of deflection. Remember also that if you are to the right of straight in front of the hoop, you will get better results if you hit your own ball off to the right when making the peeling stroke, and vice versa.

Robber Croquet

Reproduced from G.F. Handel Elvey's book published in 1949 "Croquet — Association Croquet" — As he said "Is an excellent game for the odd half-hour". It is useful too at parties and gymkhanas.

The balls are played in sequence (blue, red, black, yellow) from A Baulk (south). Each player has one ball and there are no partners. At the start of the game each ball must make the first hoop before it becomes a LIVE BALL.

As soon as a ball becomes Live it can score points and make roquets. A Live ball can score points by hitting the peg (one point) or running a hoop (2 points). When it hits the peg, makes a hoop or roquets another ball it is entitled to another shot. Both balls remain where they lie after a roquet (there is no croquet stroke).

A player having run a hoop cannot run the same hoop (in the reverse direction) in the subsequent stroke nor hit the peg again in the subsequent stroke after hitting the peg.

When a Live ball hits another ball it makes that ball DEAD and robs it of any score above ten (or multiples of ten) which score is added to the player's total.

Hoops and peg are not made in order but as the player wishes, subject to the player not being allowed to make a hoop in the opposite direction nor hit the peg again in the subsequent stroke.

When a Live ball is hit by another Live ball and so becomes DEAD it must, in its next turn, start from A Baulk and remake the first hoop before becoming Live again.

Once a player has reached a score of ten (or multiples of ten) he cannot be robbed of that score. The game is won by the player who first reaches a score of forty (or any other agreed figure).

A player is responsible for keeping his own score, and must declare it when asked by another player.

A Live ball can roquet another ball Live or Dead and so qualify for a further stroke in his turn. If it roquets a Dead ball it cannot, of course, rob it of any points.

Croquet Balls

At present only two requirements for croquet balls are laid down in the Laws, namely that they shall weigh 16 ounces + or — three-quarters of an ounce (and be of even weight), and that they shall have a diameter of 3 and five-eighths inches + or — 1 thirty-second of an inch. There is no mention of milling or elasticity (bounce). Both these qualities have been considered for inclusion in the Laws but at present it has been decided not to do so.

Potential manufacturers will be given an acceptable coefficient of elasticity. The test for this would be that when a ball is freely dropped from a height of 60 inches onto a still plate embedded in concrete, it shall rebound to a height within the limits of x and y inches. (The writer being several thousand miles from his office cannot recall the measurements of x and y, but Jacques balls come within these limits).

Jacques have had a complete monopoly of manufacturing

acceptable croquet balls since 1938 (a set of balls now costs £45.50 including 15% Value Added Tax). The firm has long been concerned over the poor lasting qualities of their 'Eclipse' balls. Up to late 1979 a ball consisted of a core made from a secret formula covered with a layer of coloured plastic of approximate thickness 1 sixteenth of an inch. Before completely hardened, the milling was added by a hand process. On average the thickness of the plastic cover was reduced to about 1 thirty-second of an inch at the bottom of the milling. Balls were very liable to split particularly along the seam produced by the milling process.

Late in 1979 a new type of ball went into production. Using a slightly smaller core, a thicker plastic cover was possible still complying with the legal specification for size and weight, doubling the thickness of the plastic cover at the bottom of the milling. It is understood that this new ball is now the standard 'Eclipse' ball being manufactured but it is understood from Jacques in January that any orders despatched by them in 1980 and onwards will be of the new type.

In an effort to produce an even stronger and longer-lasting ball, Jacques have made an experimental set with no milling but with a slightly roughened surface. Exhaustive practical tests have yet to be made with this set but first impressions are that they do not react any differently from milled balls for any of the different croquet shots and so in due course may be accepted by all national Associations and become standard, even for international test matches. By not having to add milling, this new ball should be slightly cheaper to produce and would certainly be stronger and longer lasting.

Over two years ago an Australian firm produced a homogeneous ball (solid, of one material and therefore with no separate casing) with no milling. Unfortunately, these balls had a co-efficient of elasticity unacceptable and experience has found that they do not stand up to hot climatic conditions and it is believed that their manufacture has been discontinued. Another English firm (Reader) produced a homogeneous un-milled ball which complied with the size and weight specifications, but not to the elasticity limits of the Jacques 'Eclipse' balls. The English Sports Council is presently investigating the possibility of producing economically a homogeneous ball that fulfils all the required conditions of size, weight and elasticity, but it looks as if for some time at least, the Jacques 'Eclipse' ball, whether milled or un-milled will remain the standard ball for Association Croquet world-wide.

R.F. Rothwell

Technical Notes

Deformation of a Croquet Ball

In the Spring 1980 issue of the Gazette (Rover Notes) there was speculation about the deformation of a croquet ball when struck by the mallet. To examine this I carried out a simple experiment without recourse to high speed cinematography. As shown in Figure 1 a steel disc, a piece of carbon paper, and a piece of plain white paper were assembled on the end face of a round boxwood mallet. A particularly smooth croquet ball in otherwise good condition was struck and the distance travelled by the ball was measured. The stroke left a trace, or impression, on the white paper from which the diameter of the circular flattened area of the ball could be measured. The experiment was repeated for different strengths of stroke, each time a new assembly of carbon and plain white paper being used.

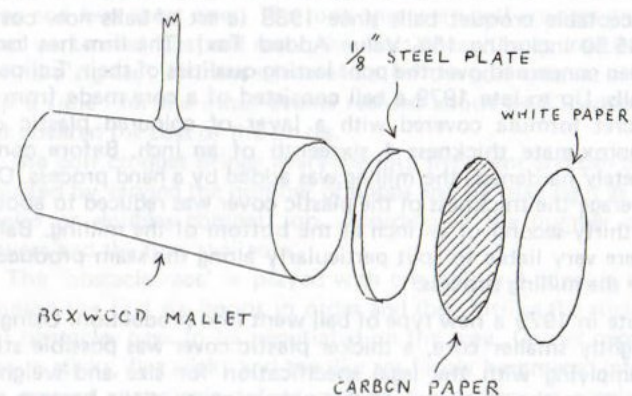


FIGURE 1 EXPERIMENTAL ARRANGEMENT

To determine the depression of the mallet face the experiment was repeated without the steel end face. Graphs of impression diameter versus distance travelled by the ball are presented in Figure 2.

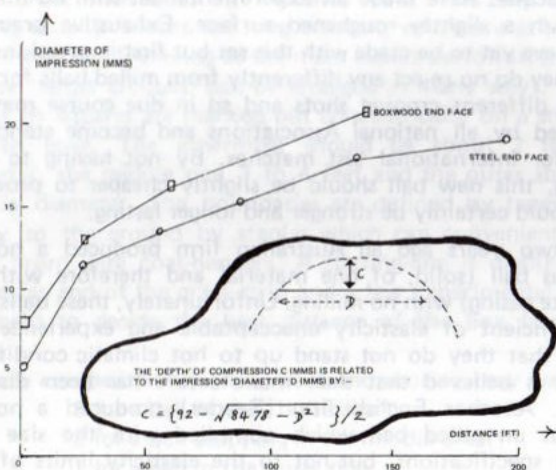


FIGURE 2 THE RESULTS

The experiments were carried out on the lawns at Harrow, which adjoin with common boundaries, and the trials were completed in a single session so that the lawn conditions (slow) were constant. Care was also taken to strike the ball horizontally. The graph points for very small distances (about one foot) indicate the non-zero diameter of the contact circle between an almost stationary ball and mallet due to surface irregularities and slight compression of the paper.

The same experimental technique has been used to determine how the striker's ball moves during a split croquet stroke. The results indicate a considerable degree of sliding across the face of the mallet, and also that double taps are frequent, if not inevitable, in a split roll. These double taps seem to be quite undetectable to the senses.

A similar series of experiments with the carbon and plain paper laid on a hard flat surface have also indicated how the balls move after they have parted from the mallet and from each other. These might be the subject of a further note.

Reverting to the ball deformation experiments. The largest impression produced had a contact diameter of 21 mms. corresponding to a depth of compression of 1.2 mms. This was obtained by playing a 4-ball cannon with all the balls in a straight line, and swinging the mallet as a golf driver. This result is not included in the graph of Figure 2. It seems unlikely that permanent deformation will directly result from contact between ball and mallet. Hitting a ball hard against a hoop upright is, of course, another matter.

Eric Solomon

Secretary's Notes

Changes In The Clubs

Aldermaston C C New name of A W R E (Aldermaston). Secretary: N A MacLean, MoD (PE) Building N56, AWRE, Aldermaston, Reading, Berks, RG6 4PR. Tel: (Evenings) (0734) 29712.

British Airways C C Secretary: D Goulding, British Airways, Runway House, Bealine House, Cavendish Avenue, Ruislip, Middlesex, HA4 6OL. Tel: 01 845 1234 Ext. 5649. Home: 167a Whitby Road, Ruislip, Middlesex, HA4 9EB.

Wellcombe Research Laboratories (Beckenham) New Secretary: S M Russel.

Subscriptions

By mid-February over 200 Associates have still not paid their annual subscriptions for 1981. THESE WERE DUE ON 1st JANUARY. PLEASE send to the C A Secretary without further delay. Your subscription is needed to keep the Association going.

Standard Rate	£7.00
Reduced Rate	£3.50
Junior Rate	£3.50
Overseas Rate	£4.00

There are also a number of REGISTERED CLUBS that have not yet paid their Annual Registration Fee for 1981 (£4.00) also due on 1st January.

Closing Date

Clubs are reminded that the closing date for the ALL ENGLAND HANDICAP (numbers taking part in Preliminary Competitions with entrance fees of 50p per competitor) close on 20th MAY.

Handicapping Procedures

There will be no change in handicapping procedures for 1981, and they therefore remain as set out on pages 2 & 3 of the Spring Gazette 1980, No. 155.

S S Townsend

Chairman, Handicap Co-ordination Committee

Resignations

Resigned 31/12/1980

Miss E M Brumpton, F Harrison, Colonel W R Healing, Mrs F Harrison, Major A M Hicks, N P Rhodes, H A C Evans, D C Russell, Mrs F S Fox, C M Slack.

Ceased to be Associates under Rule XXIII (iv)

(Non payment of subscription) on 1.10.1980.

Howard C Betts, Mrs A MacIntyre, M A Brougham, J M McDonald, R H Cox, Mrs W A Naylor, Miss D Elleray, F B B Oxley, W R English, Mrs C Parr, Sir Frank Figures, Mrs E St John, T J Fotheringham, J E Walker, E A R Fryer, W Weber, J S Gordon, Ewan Wilson, B G Hallam, S K Sadek, A W Lee.

New Managers

R O Calder, Mrs G S Digby.

New Handicappers

P W Hands, B A Keen, Miss I M Roe, D Willetts.

Deaths

Dr C A Boucher, CBE, Miss Joan Ingram.

Inter-Club Championship

The draw with dates by which rounds have to be played is:-

1st Round to be played by 17th MAY

Hurlingham 1 v Southport, Roehampton v Heley Club, Wrest Park v Reckitt Club.

2nd Round To be played by 7th JUNE

Hunstanton v Harrow Oak, Southwick v Compton, Cheltenham 1 v Bath, Hurlingham 1/Southport v Roehampton/Heley Club, Wrest Park/Reckitt Club v British Airways, Nottingham v Hurlingham 2, Colworth v Bowdon, Cheltenham 2 v Colchester,

3rd Round to be played by 12th JULY

Semi-Final to be played by 23rd AUGUST

Final to be played by 4th OCTOBER

Longman Club Team Cup

The draw with dates by which rounds have to be played is :-

1st Round to be played by 17th MAY

Bristol v Cheltenham, Wolverhampton v Ellesmere, Bath v Chester, Walsall v Bowdon, Bretby v Edgbaston.

2nd Round to be played by 7th JUNE

Bristol/Cheltenham v Wolverhampton/Ellesmere, Bath/Chester v Coal Research, Southport v Stourbridge, Walsall/Bowdon v Bretby/Edgbaston, Wrest Park v Bentley, East Riding v Hunstanton, Compton v Woking, Roehampton v Southwick, Parkstone v Ryde, Reigate Priory v Parsons Green, Phyllis Court v British Airways, Aldermaston v Hurlingham, Oxford Univ. v Harwell, Maidenhead v Harrow Oak.

3rd Round to be played by 5th JULY

Colchester v Colworth.

4th Round to be played by 4th AUGUST

Semi-Final to be played by 6th SEPTEMBER

Final To be Played 4th OCTOBER

Secretary's Shield

The final of the 1980 competition will be played at Edgbaston on 17th May between Chester (Northern Federation) and Wallingford (London League). The semi-finals of the 1981 competition, to be played by 14th June will be Ellesmere (Northern Federation) v Walsall (West Midlands Federation) Oxford University (London League southwest) v British Airways (London League north).

Handicap Alterations

Compton (Club recommendations) November

R P Chappell	5	to	4½
Mrs E Tyrwhitt-Drake	5½	to	5
W Nicholson	6½	to	6
E Strickland	6½	to	6
Mrs H Wills	6½	to	6

Phyllis Court (Club recommendations) November

Miss A Searle	6½	to	5
L Greenbury	9	to	6
J Young	11	to	9

Scottish CA December

R N McLean	1	to	½
I Howard Wright	2½	to	2

Edgbaston (Club recommendations) December

Miss J E Assheton	6½	to	6
Miss C Templeton	9	to	15 (D14)
Miss V Worsley	14	to	13

Cheltenham (Club recommendation) January

S G Jones	2½	to	2
M T Paddon	9	to	8
Arthur Warren	10	to	9

Hurlingham (Club recommendation) January

Mrs A Solomon	14 (D11)	to	11
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New Associates

A H M Adam	8
Dr R D Bowen	2
James W H Carlisle	13 (D12)
G K Collin	7½
Mrs J Walker	16 (D14)

Colchester (Club recommendations) February

Mrs I L B Chadwick	8	to	9
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Southwick (correction) February

Mrs C J Chandler	8	to	9
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Bristol (Club recommendations) February

W J Eggleston	9	to	8
Miss B E Setter	12	to	14 (D13)

Budleigh (Club recommendations) February

Mrs P J Devitt	8	to	7½
A Ormerod	12 (D11)	to	13 (D12)
Mrs D Wallace	9	to	8
C J Waller	4	to	3½

Handicap Co-Ordination Committee February

P J M Fidler	-½	to	½
C H L Prichard	-1½	to	-1
J H J Soutter	0	to	1
Dr W R D Wiggins	-½	to	½

Prichards's History Of Croquet

The publication date for Prichard's History of Croquet has now been deferred until the end of AUGUST 1981.

Inter-Counties Championship

For the Inter-Counties Championship to be played at Hurlingham and Roehampton 2nd to 5th June both Sussex and Eastern Counties are unable to field a team, but County Dublin have entered after a lapse of eight years. The other six Counties taking part are Bedfordshire, Berks and Oxon, Midland Counties, Middlesex (holders), Northern Counties and Surrey.

Croquet Anagram Solutions

Dear David Foulser

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. David Croker | 9. Edgar Jackson |
| 2. Paul Hands | 10. Dudley Hamilton-Miller |
| 3. David Openshaw | 11. Robin Godby |
| 4. Bernard Weitz | 12. Gerald Birch |
| 5. Humphrey Hicks | 13. Barry Keen |
| 6. Eric Solomon | 14. George Noble |
| 7. Jocelyn Sundius-Smith | 15. Andrew Hope |
| 8. Terence Read | 16. Eddie Bell |

(with acknowledgements to
John Meads and Andrew Bennet)

Yours sincerely
Martin Kolbusewski

Could You Be A Regional Correspondent?

from John McCullough

Dear Sir

I have felt for some time now, that there is a gap in the Croquet Gazette's coverage of events in the world of croquet. That gap, in my opinion, is a lack of coverage of what is happening at club and regional level around the country. Why, I ask myself (referring to Winter Gazette P. 18 "Changes in the Clubs"), has the Unilever Club disbanded. Who are Barbican, Eaton Hall and Trauscoed? These are things that would interest me.

I would stress, Mr Editor, that I imply no criticism of you, but possibly on your croquet travels in 1981, you could say to a colleague at a tournament "Well, Bill, how about sending me some info on what is happening on the Lancashire croquet scene?" I shall happily volunteer as Regional Correspondent No. 1 and enclose some up to date information from that croquet hot bed, the County of Avon.

100 Queensdown Gardens
Brislington Bristol BS4 3JG

Yours faithfully
J McCullough

Editor's Note: The article on Avon croquet appears elsewhere in this issue. I think this a fine idea and welcome similar contributions from associates in other counties (plus Wales, Scotland and Ireland).

Advanced Tournaments

With reference to front page article in Winter Gazette, retrospect 1980, paragraph 3, I would draw the attention of B & C class players to the Woking 'Irish Week Tournament' in July.

The weekend 4/5 and following evenings to 9th has both 'A' class open and advanced play for 4 to 8 bisquers, whilst Monday 6th to 8th finishing by 6.25 pm has similar events but in latter case handicaps of 5 to 10 so presents an opportunity for advanced play to high bisquers. So, what about trying your hand and entering for these tournaments and likewise how about some of our top players having a go to wrestle the historic Woking Open Challenge Cup from the chairman of the C A!

1 Pinelands, 12 Beechwood Ave.
Weybridge, Surrey.

Yours sincerely
D C Caporn

Some more aspects of handicapping

from Dr W R Bucknall

Sir

Some of the problems of handicapping were raised in "The Croquet Gazette" in April 1974 by Mr I Howard Wright and answered by Mr S S Townsend, the then Chairman of the Handicap Co-ordination Committee, in April 1975. Some

further problems have recently arisen that suggest that the subject should be re-opened, for further discussion and comment.

Mr Wright had suggested that there should be "benchmarks" which would be useful in determining the rough level of handicap, but Mr Townsend felt that it would not be possible to assess a player's handicap by such means. Whilst I accept the position that an exact fit is not possible, I think that there are criteria that would help to indicate the area in which a player's handicap should appear.

For instance, anyone who can do a triple peel should obviously be scratch or better, whilst anyone that cannot do a triple peel would not be expected to be in that category. Again, a player who can create a 4-ball break out of nothing very much, and can also keep it going, ought not to be appreciably above a handicap of 4. Also one who can keep a 4-ball break going, even if he has to use bisques to get it going, ought not to be appreciably above handicap 8. Such a classification gives only a rough guide to the level of handicap, and, of course, finer adjustments than this can only be determined by the results of games played under competitive conditions, as Mr Townsend maintains.

However, it is in the higher levels of handicaps that some sort of more definite formula would be a great help, and the following points are deserving of discussion:

1. **Beginners & 16-bisquers.** As a result of the Recruitment Drive, many Clubs will now have an appreciable number of beginners. The problem is to decide when they are sufficiently competent to justify giving them an official handicap of 16. What do we expect a 16-bisquer to be able to do? Would it not be possible to devise a formula, on the lines of a "Job Description"? Such a formula might well be:

"A player should not be given a handicap of 16 until he knows enough about the game to be able to decide for himself what shot to play, and to be able, most times, to play that shot properly. He should know enough about the "Laws" to be aware of "Faults" and to recognise them, and to know when he should ask for a referee to watch a shot. After all, a player is expected to be, on many occasions, his own referee, and he should be capable of carrying this responsibility. He should know how to use his bisques and have a good idea of how to make a 4-ball break, although many of his shots in the break will go wrong, and he will therefore have to use bisques to keep it going. He will be able to run straight-forward hoops most of the time, but will probably be very weak at hitting-in, and will need bisques to get the innings. He should be able to have a reasonably close game with an 8 or 10 bisquer."

2. **12-bisquers.** A criterion for the 12-bisquer, on the above lines, would also be a great help. Can anyone suggest a "Job Description" for this level of player?

3. **Reducing a 16-bisquer.** I think there is a tendency to reduce the 16-bisquer to 15, or even to 14, too soon. One body of opinion holds that such a reduction encourages a new player, whilst the opposite opinion is that such a reduction positively discourages a new player, because he will be beaten so often by lower bisquers.

Often as a result of a beginners' competition, the winner is reduced, although it may well be that the other players are already too optimistically rated at 16. If there were a performance criterion for a 16-bisquer, this particular problem might well disappear.

4. **Handicaps above 16.** The Laws of Association Croquet indicate that no handicap above 16 (D 14) should be given, but as this statement appears in the section on "Regulations for Tournaments", it presumably only applies to Tournaments. Is there any objection to Clubs giving official Club Handicaps in excess of 16, and using such handicaps in purely Club Competitions? In conjunction with the "Job Description" for the 16-bisquer, such an arrangement might solve a lot of handicap problems connected with beginners.

5. **The Rapidly-Improving Player.** This problem mainly concerns small Clubs, but larger Clubs have the problem inflicted upon them.

Almost every year, at Budleigh Salterton Week-end Tournament, we have had the experience of an entrant with an entirely false handicap. This year, a young man from a small Club, who had only been playing since June, but who had picked up the game remarkably quickly, came with a handicap of 11. He won all his games by +23, +24 or +25, which was not good for him and no fun for his opponents.

In one game he had 7 bisques. He used a bisque early on to get in, and then proceeded to go right round to 4-Back, with his first ball, without any error at all. He ended this break by leaving his opponent's ball wired round Hoop 1, and retired both his balls to a distant point. (Not the sort of play one would expect from an 11-bisquer!!) He used another bisque and took his second ball right round to the Peg, and attempted to leave his opponent's balls wired at 4-Back. This was not quite successful, but he won by +24, having used only 2 bisques.

Obviously his handicap was quite wrong. In a larger Club, it would probably have been realised that he was improving so rapidly that his handicap needed altering every week or two, but in a small Club this might not have been appreciated. However, this example indicates that it behoves the Official Handicappers at small Clubs to pay great attention to their young men, and adjust their handicaps very frequently. If there had been in existence an accepted criterion for a 12-bisquer, as advocated above, it would have been obvious that this young man was much better than 11, and the spectacle of a Tournament entrant with 5 bisques too many could have been avoided.

Norton House, 21 Vision Hill Road
Budleigh Salterton

Yours sincerely
W R Bucknall

Promoted

from H E Ovens

Dear Sir

I have just received the Association Fixture List for 1981 and am amused to see (page 20) that I have been promoted to Colonel!

I say "promoted" because I was, infact, a wartime Major, but I do not use the title.

Cliffe Cottage, Cliff Road
Sidmouth

Yours faithfully
H E Ovens

Another Unwelcome Appearance

Dear Sir

The Winter 1980 Gazette reports the unwelcome appearance of the infamous MR BLADDER? at the Cheltenham September weekend Tournament.

I would suggest it is time that someone pricked this imposter's balloon, exploded his myth, and finally deflated him to leave the lawns free for those who, willy-nilly, often fail to rise to the occasion under their true names.

5a, Fore Street Hill,
Budleigh Salterton, East Devon

Yours dirigibly
Sam Blackler

Rushing around

The rush stoke distinguishes the Association game from coarser brethren more clearly than any other. Inside the world of 'proper' Croquet it also distinguishes the good or potentially good players from the rest with equal clarity. Yet even the experts are only too willing to admit that their rushing skills tend to come and go and that it is not always very easy to work out why this most important part of their armoury has gone sour when it does. This article attempts to analyse the mechanics of the rush stroke to sufficient depth to help players help themselves when things go wrong. Below M refers to the mallet head, R to the rushee or object ball, S to the striker's ball and the length of a rush to the distance from S to R before the stroke is made.

A successful straight rush occurs when S hits R equatorially at the appropriate speed. On a flat and level lawn such equatorial contact will occur if S has travelled horizontally from M to R. This can only occur if the directional impulse given by M to S is also horizontal, which can be guaranteed only if M is travelling horizontally during the short but physically appreciable time in which M and S are in contact. It is only this last element that is under direct human control and the problem lies in recognising why it is so hard to achieve consistency.

Most imperfect rushes are caused by hitting-down on S so that a tiny jump-stroke results. S is squeezed into the turf, rebounds there from and rises into the air. Whether S touches ground again before reaching R or not the chance of equatorial contact between the two balls is remote. Why, then, does this hitting-down occur? The immediate cause is that M is still descending when it strikes S. On the assumption that the player has maintained constant foot-positions, which have given satisfactory hooping, shooting, and gentle rushing, the indication is that in hard rushes the mid-point and pivotal point of the swing move forward relative to the feet and S. This is probably the natural result of a subconscious belief that considerably more force is needed to rush a ball 20 yards than to hit it there directly. This leads to exaggerated body-sway in both directions - backwards to accommodate the extra back-swing and forwards in sympathy thereto with detrimental effect on the rush.

What is the cure? Traditionally players are advised to stand further back to allow for the extra forward sway. This has always bothered me because it is a deliberate interference with a player's standard feet-position which is one of the most important bases to his or her swing. At best it is a rather coarse adjustment which in theory needs variation for each weight of shot employed. I have found it much easier to try to eliminate or at least greatly minimise the forward sway in hard rushes. This is achieved by concentrating on two equally important points. First - maintain an even tempo in the two halves of the swing. Inevitably harder shots call for a faster as well as longer backswing, but try to ensure that the forward swing mirrors the backswing. In practice this means ensuring that a smooth backswing is not followed by a snatched forward swing. Second - as far as possible avoid shifting your weight during the stroke. I am well aware that stiff, straight legs are not encouraged in English croquet but no one can fail to be